College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Celebrates the Second Annual
Wall of Honor

2012 Wall of Honor Inductees John Holcombe (his niece Melissa Blohm pictured), Ron Koska, Bob Gammage, and Jim Olson.
How blessed it is to be allowed to dwell in the halls of academe, where, of all places we might labor, none permits so easily the cultivation of the virtues men are measured by.

Of all the virtues we possess, none ranks higher than honor, that divine spark that sets us apart from others who may speak louder, wave banners of wealth and power, and serve their greater needs.

It is the virtue that thrives even behind closed doors, where none might witness its exercise.

And when we reach that final door---where we must lay aside all our virtues and our knowledge, and passion, beyond which lies the vast unknown, honor will be the last we relinquish, Surrendered only when we step through.
Wall of Honor Induction Ceremony

Sam Houston State University President, Dr. Dana Gibson speaks to family and friends at the award ceremony.
College of Humanities and Social Sciences Wall of Honor is a Celebration of the Success of Faculty and Alumni

College of Humanities and Social Sciences Dean, John de Castro welcomes honorees and their families and friends.

Mr. Herbert O’Quinn talks about the CHSS Advisory Board and the Wall of Honor.
Mr. Robert “Bob” Gammage
Wall of Honor
Alumni Recipient

"Bob Gammage is a native of Houston, Texas, and a graduate of Houston's Milby High School. He worked his way through college, graduate school and law school, earning degrees from Del Mar College, the University of Corpus Christi (now Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi), Sam Houston State University, the University of Texas School of Law and the University of Virginia School of Law. He did additional graduate work in American Studies at the University of Texas, and completed advanced legal and judicial education programs at the New York University School of Law, the Harvard Law School, Northwestern University School of Law, the National Judicial College, and the U.S. Naval Justice School.

Bob served on active duty with the U.S. Army Infantry Human Research Unit and the Korea Military Advisory Group (K MAG), and is a Captain (Retired) in the U.S. Naval Reserve, where he served in both the Intelligence Service and the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps, including service as a military judge and as commander of the Naval Reserve Admiralty Law
Dr. John Holcombe
Wall of Honor
Faculty Recipient

Dr. John W. Holcombe was a Professor of Political Science at Sam Houston State University and received a B.A. degree from the University of Texas in 1963 and his Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate School in 1972. He was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award at Sam Houston State University in 1991.

Holcombe taught classes in American politics, legislative politics, and political participation. His research interests included state legislatures and the U. S. Congress. He served as faculty adviser to the local chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha national political science honor society and to the campus Episcopal Canterbury Club.


Holcombe, who was serving as acting chair of the political science department, died on December 11, 2008.
A charter member of the SHSU chapter of Delta Tau Delta fraternity, Ron Koska is a 1961 graduate with a bachelor's degree in sociology. After graduation, he began his career in the food service industry and founded his own Houston-based firm in 1969. His business, Institutional Sales Associates, now has 105 employees and offices in Houston, Austin, Lubbock, Dallas and Albuquerque and has sales in excess of $400 million.

Mr. Koska has shown SHSU, and his community, financial support by sponsoring the Student Technology and Lobby areas in the College of Business Administration, supplying food and labor for Athletic Department fundraisers and serving as a lifetime member of the Alumni Association and on the Sam Houston Memorial Museum's “Friends of the Museum” board.

In addition, he serves as a benefactor for Delta Tau Delta National Fraternity, the Brookwood Community, the University of St. Thomas, Pines Montessori School, the Marine Military Academy in Harlingen, Lutheran High North, Houston Choral Showcase, Special Olympics, Pilgrim Baptist Church, Port Mansfield Chamber of Commerce, Zion Lutheran Preschool and Zion Lutheran Church in Houston.

“His drive, determination and integrity have contributed to his personal and business success,” said his nomination form. “Ron has consistently shared his business success with his community and Sam Houston State University in hopes of helping improve the quality of life for those around him.

Mr. Koska and his wife, Donna, have two sons.
Dr. James “Jim” Olson
Wall of Honor Faculty Recipient

Dr. James Olson received his B.A. from Brigham Young University, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Dr. Olson came to Sam Houston State University in 1972 as an assistant professor and is today Regents Professor of History. He is the recipient of the university's Excellence in Teaching Award and Excellence in Research Award. In 2004, the Council for the Advancement of Education and the Carnegie Endowment for Education named him "Professor of the Year, Texas, for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching."

Jim is the author, co-author, editor, or co-editor of more than thirty books, including *The Ethnic Dimension in American History* (St. Martin's Press); *Saving Capitalism: The Reconstruction Finance Corporation and the New Deal, 1933-1940* (Princeton University Press); *Catholic Immigrants in America* (Nelson-Hall); *Winning is the Only Thing: Sports in America Since 1945* (The Johns Hopkins University Press); *Where the Domino Fell: America and Vietnam, 1945 to 1990* (St. Martin's Press); and *John Wayne American* (The Free Press), which won the Ray and Pat Brown National Book Award from the Popular Culture Association. His book *A Line in the Sand: The Alamo in Blood and Memory* (The Free Press) won the Diolecce Parmelee Award from the Texas Historical Foundation. Finally, his most recent book *Bathsheba’s Breast: Women, Cancer, and History* (The Johns Hopkins University Press) was nominated by The Johns Hopkins University Press for the Pulitzer Prize in History, won the 2002 History of Science Category Award from the Association of American Publishers, and was recognized by the *Los Angeles Times* as one of the best non-fiction books in America for 2002.

Jim teaches courses on the Vietnam War, World War II, America Since 1945, and ethnicity and immigration in U.S. history.
2012 Wall of Honor Ceremony

Dean John de Castro says a few words at the Wall of Honor Ceremony.

Dr. Jim Carter talks about his experiences with Mr. Bob Gammage.

Mr. Bob Gammage is presented with the Wall of Honor plaque. From left to right: Herbert O’Quinn, John de Castro, Bob Gammage.
2012 Wall of Honor Ceremony

Dr. Richard Cording talks about his friendship and academic experience with Dr. John Holcombe.

Ms. Melissa Blohm (niece) speaks for the family of Dr. John Holcombe.

Dean de Castro presents the Wall of Honor Plaque to Ms. Melissa Blohm.

Mr. Bill Daniels speaks of his friend, Mr. Ron Koska.
Mr. Joel Barnard talks about some of his experiences with Mr. Ron Koska.

Dr. Terry Bilhartz talks about Jim Olson’s love of students and history.

Dean John de Castro presents the Wall of Honor plaque to Mr. Ron Koska.

Ms. Lisa Prier tells of her academic experience with Dr. Olson.
2012 Wall of Honor Reception and Dinner

Wall of Honor reception guests being served hors d’oeuvres by students from the Family and Consumer Sciences Department.

Friends and family gather at the Wall of Honor reception.

Wall of Honor. From left to right: Ms. Melissa Blohm (for Dr. John Holcombe, Mr. Ron Koska, Mr. Bob Gammage, Dr. Jim Olson.

From left to right: Mr. Herbert O’Quinn, Ms. Melissa Blohm, Mr. Ron Koska, Mr. Bob Gammage, Dr. Jim Olson, Dean John de Castro.
2012 Wall of Honor Reception and Dinner

Dean John de Castro speaks at the Wall of Honor Dinner.

From left to right: Mr. Bill Daniels, Mr. Joel Barnard, Mr. Bob Gammage, Mr. George Miles.

Dean John de Castro and Mr. Ron Koska.

Dr. Jim Olson and his family enjoy the Wall of Honor dinner.
2012 Wall of Honor Reception and Dinner

Mr. Ron Koska and friends at the Wall of Honor dinner.

Mr. Bob Gammage in conversation with Ms. Geanie McManners.

University President Dr. Dana Gibson with CHSS Advisory Board member Ms. Paula Lentz.

Members of the CHSS Political Science Junior Fellows serve as hosts for the evening. Shown above with Dean de Castro.
The College of Humanities and Social Sciences encourages you to nominate Sam Houston State University (SHSU) alumni for our Wall of Honor to be displayed in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Building. This honor is for alumni (including posthumous nominees) who have distinguished themselves throughout their careers through personal and professional achievements and who have made significant contributions to SHSU, the students, society, and thus have brought honor and distinction to our university.

Also, you will find selection criteria and forms to nominate a faculty member at Sam Houston State University for the Distinguished Faculty Award. This honor is for faculty who have distinguished themselves throughout their careers through personal and professional achievements and who have made significant contributions to SHSU, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the students, society, and thus have brought honor and distinction to our university.

Online Nominations may be accessed through this site: http://www.shsu.edu/~hss001/honor or by contacting Toni Abshire, College of Humanities and Social Sciences at 936-294-2205 or by e-mail at abshire@shsu.edu.

The deadline for nominations is October 1st, 2012.

The honorees will be presented at the Wall of Honor ceremony to be held on Thursday, March 7, 2013.
College of Humanities and Social Sciences Celebrates May 2012 Graduation with Awards Convocation

Dean John de Castro welcomes families and friends to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Graduation Convocation. Departments within the college honored graduating students, and students receiving their Master’s degrees were “robed” by graduate faculty.
May 2012 Graduation Awards Convocation

Amanda Howard, Kristin Dove, Dr. Paul Child, Kodi Saylor, and Dean de Castro. Outstanding Undergraduate Students in the Department of English.

Diedre Cuthbertson, John Rhine, Logan Mehringer, Austin Munoz, Dr. Brian Domitrovic, and Dean John de Castro—Outstanding Undergraduate Students for the Department of History.

Dr. Brian Domitrovic, Russil Alden, Kevin Tucker, Michelle Johnson, Gonzalo Tamez, and Dean John de Castro—Masters Students for the Department of History.

Dr. Christopher Wilson, Ernie Gonzalez, Jr., Dr. Ramona Noland, Michelle Farrell, Sherzine McKenzie, Dr. James Crosby and Dean John De Castro—Masters Thesis Students for the Department of Psychology.
May 2012 Graduation Awards Convocation

Dr. Christopher Wilson, Patricia Manzur, Laura Kuhala, Danelle Darvishian, Dr. Ramona Noland, Lisa Prock, Debbie Atrobius, Emily Dolphin, Megan Elzner, Kelsey Quitugua Ramirez and Dean John de Castro—Masters Non-thesis Students for the Department of Psychology.

Dr. Christopher Wilson, Terra Bowen, and Dean John de Castro—Outstanding Undergraduate Student for the Department of Psychology.

Dr. Douglas Krienke, Christopher Marek, Dr. April Shemak, Timothy Ponce, Dr. Lee Courtney, Wendy Hanks, Dr. Paul Child, and Dean John de Castro—Masters Students for the Department of English.

Dr. Janis White, Tina Barton, Kristen Finch, Tamara Griffin, Michelle Greenawalt, Joy Smith, and Dean John de Castro—Outstanding Undergraduate Students for the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.
May 2012 Graduation Awards Convocation

Dr. Rhonda Callaway, Sarah Macha, Dr. Stacy Ulbig, and Dean John de Castro—Masters student for the Department of Political Science.

Dr. Rhonda Callaway, Travis Watson, Justin Beiser, and Dean John de Castro—Outstanding Undergraduate Students for the Department of Political Science.

Ely Dorantes, Dr. S. West Gurley, Jeffrey Garrett, and Dean John de Castro—Outstanding Undergraduate Students for the Department of Philosophy.

Dly Dorantes, Krystal Stephen, Jennifer Cooks, Danielle Brush, Jennifer Yepez, and Dean John de Castro—Outstanding McNair Scholars.
May 2012 Graduation Awards Convocation

Jessica Burk, Heather Deelena, Dr. Gene Theodori, Twyla Harvey, and Dean John de Castro—Outstanding Students in the Department of Sociology.

Monica Aguilar, Dr. Frieda Koeninger, Jessica MacKenzie-Williams, and Dean John de Castro—Outstanding Undergraduate Students for the Department of Foreign Languages.

Rachel Kiely, Laugen Bloom, Dr. Rick Bello, Cassie Shimek, and Dean John de Castro—Outstanding Undergraduate and Masters Students for the Department of Communication Studies.

Family and friends celebrate May 2012 Graduation Convocation.
Sam Houston State University’s
College of Humanities and Social Sciences Advisory Board

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Sam Houston State University is a member of the Texas State University System
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. graduate students are well regarded by employers and graduate and professional schools,
4. faculty who take equal interest in instructional, scholarly, 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

Dean: Dr. John de Castro
Associate Dean: Dr. Terry Bilhartz
Associate Dean: Dr. Jerry Bruce
Assistant to the Dean: Brenda Lowery
Administrative Assistant: Toni Abshire
Administrative Assistant: Christine Reeder
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