



# Kat K<sup>on</sup>nection

Sam Houston State University Alumni Association Newsletter • MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM™ • [alumni.shsu.edu](http://alumni.shsu.edu) • 800.283.7478

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI GALA

Sam Houston State University honored five alumni who have brought pride to the university through their achievements, examples of good citizenship, and their contributions to society at the Distinguished Alumni Gala on Oct. 11 as part of homecoming activities.

The honorees are Distinguished Alumni Damian Mandola '77, W. Sam Monroe '65 and Trisha Pollard '74; the Outstanding Young Alumna Jenna Jackson '97; and the Distinguished Service Award recipient Wilfred O. Dietrich '47, '48.

Full biographies for the recipients can be found online at: [alumni.shsu.edu](http://alumni.shsu.edu)

Videos of the recipients are available through the SHSU YouTube channel at: [youtube.com/user/SamHoustonStateU](http://youtube.com/user/SamHoustonStateU)



▲ Distinguished Alumni Gala committee members: Estella Koryciak '71 Alumni Relations Event Coordinator Casey Hughes '12, Carolyn Faulk '70 and Leanne Woodward '74, '78



▲ Over 300 guests attend the 2013 gala to honor this year's award recipients.



▲ SHSU President Dana Gibson visits with Distinguished Service Award recipient Dr. Wilfred Dietrich and Distinguished Alumna Trisha Pollard during a breakfast held in the recipients' honor.



▲ The 2013 honorees include Distinguished Alumna Trisha Pollard '74, 2013 Outstanding Young Alumna Jenna Jackson '97, Distinguished Alumnus Damian Mandola '77, Distinguished Alumnus Dr. Sam Monroe '65 and Distinguished Service Award recipient Dr. Wilfred Dietrich '47, '48

## The SHSU Alumni Association would like to thank our sponsors for their generous and ongoing support of the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Gala

### PLATINUM SPONSORS

Carolyn (*Chipman*) Faulk '70  
Randy '74 & Trisha S. '74 Pollard  
John R. '59 & Judy Ragsdale

### GOLD SPONSORS

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Texas State University System and Board of Regents  
The Black Alumni & Friends Club - *In Memory of Dean William R. Powell*



▲ The Alumni Association would like to give special recognition to our platinum sponsors John and Judy Ragsdale (L), Carolyn Faulk (M) and Randy and Trisha Pollard (R) pictured with SHSU President Dana L. Gibson for their generous gift to the 2013 Gala and their ongoing support of the Alumni Association.

*Life Member  
Celebration*



**Save the Date**

Thursday, February 20, 2014

**The Woodlands  
Waterway Marriott**





# Welcome To Our Newest Life Members

*(New Life Members from August 1, 2013 through October 31, 2013)*

## 50s

Jeanine Dillenback Lawrence '57  
Emma Lou Scott '57 '65  
Barbara Jean Lloyd '58  
Virgie Lynn Miller '59

## 60s

Glenda Ann Cammack '63  
Michael A. Rhodes '64  
Rosemary Grigson Welch '66  
Joyce Ellen Winslow '68 '74  
Gerald Wayne Fauss '69 '73  
Mickey Wayne Keeling '69 '10

## 70s

Jerry Lynn Broxson '70  
Virginia Lee Keeling '70  
John A. Spears '70  
Susan McBay Fauss '72  
Larry Wayne Pauley '72  
Angelo Joseph Amato, Jr. '76  
Samuel P. Johnson '77  
Patricia Driscoll Johnson '77  
Gary Steven Myrick '77

Edward G. Oliver '77  
Leslie Stuart King '78  
Brian Bennett Smith '79  
Gary Mason Wyatt '79

## 80s

Patricia Moran Westbrook '80  
Robert Glynn Hamlin III '81  
Wendell Thomas Stewart, Jr. '81  
Willard Taylor, Jr. '81 '82  
Kellee Hall Hamlin '82  
Lisa J. Tatom '83  
Garlaine Brown Kelly '87  
Julia A. Woods '88 '97 '00  
Bryan Keith Brown '89

## 90s

Keith Austin Hayden '92  
Joseph Edward Adams III '93  
Walter Hugh Bennett, Jr. '93 '96  
Cynthia Ann Bennett '93 '96  
Joe Alan Chick '93  
Delynda Simmons Chick '96 '12  
Fabian Jesus Borrego '97  
Jenna Lynn Jackson '97

## 00s

Jacob Ross Chandler '00 '04 '13  
Lucrecia Kay Chandler '00  
William Andrew Zimmer '02  
Riley Rene' Kleppelid '06  
Steven Blaise Volanski '07  
Edgar Sanchez '09 '13

## 10s

Seth Colton Newsome '10 '12  
Brittany Elise Allen '11  
Chrystal Michelle Barragan '11  
Lindsey Picone Clements '11  
Daphne Lynn Kohring '11  
Valarie Michelle Lott '11  
Lindsay Elaine Smith '11  
Dennis Odell Stepp '11  
Eric Neal Sullins '11  
Mandi Ann Sullins '11  
Tracy C. Blakely '12  
Patrick Lawrence Cardenas '12  
Cody D. Carpenter '12  
Kristine Anne Hall '12  
Andrew Scott Henderson '12  
Ryann Kaianui Kaaa '12

Anthony Thomas Noto '12  
Jason Trevor Tucker '12 '13  
Christopher Allen Ashmore '13  
Terra Crystal Breashears '13  
Lise Fischer '13  
Jase Ryan Reeves '13  
Elizabeth Anne Russell '13  
Rocco Joseph Verducci '13  
Chelsea Dawn Williams '13  
Angel Marie Frezia '13  
James W. Gaskins '13  
Sarah J. Owen '13

## Friends & Family

Lynn Amato  
Sara Ann Hart  
Linda Richardson Smith  
Stuart F. Williamson  
Norma Beth Williamson

## Alumni Tuition Raffle in 8th Year



▲ This year's tuition raffle winner Laurie Grawl was surprised during class with an oversized tuition check and balloons presented by Sammy. Pictured (l-r) Donna Gilbert, Asst. Director of Alumni Relations; Charlie Vienne, Director of Alumni Relations; Cutty Gilbert, Alumni Board Member; Melissa Warak, Asst Professor; Leanne Woodward, Alumni Board Member and COFAMC Dean Ron Shields.

Laurie Grawl of Iola, TX will not have to worry about paying for classes at Sam Houston State University next year. That's because her name was selected during the Eighth Annual SHSU Tuition Scholarship Drawing on Nov. 8.

The Alumni Association has awarded more than \$125,000 in scholarships to individual students as a result of the tuition raffle during the program's history.

This year's award of 24-hours of undergraduate in-state tuition has an approximate value of \$4,680. The SHSU Alumni Association will award net proceeds from the tuition raffle in \$1,000 increments to eligible students for the following fall. Students interested in applying for alumni scholarships should complete the ScholarX Application by Feb. 1, 2014, to be considered. Criteria for alumni scholarships can be found on the alumni website at [alumni.shsu.edu](http://alumni.shsu.edu). For more information on the tuition drawing or alumni scholarships, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 800.283.7478.

# Alumni & Friends

The Alumni Association is excited to announce the formation of five new alumni clubs. The Conroe/Montgomery Alumni & Friends Club, the Tomball Area Alumni & Friends Club, the Fort Bend County Alumni & Friends Club, the Bryan/College Station Alumni & Friends Club, and the Military Science Alumni Club were chartered in July 2013.

The Sam Houston State University Alumni Association club network is stronger than ever and growing. For more information, or to start a club in your area, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at [alu\\_kat@shsu.edu](mailto:alu_kat@shsu.edu) or 936.294.1841. You may also visit our website at [alumni.shsu.edu](http://alumni.shsu.edu) and click on the alumni chapter/club link to find a club in your area.

## HOUSTON, TX | YOUNG ALUMNI & FRIENDS CLUB KICK-OFF | OCTOBER 24, 2013

*Sponsored by: Joe Amato '72, Ryan N. Elder '11, David '05 & Megan '03, '05 Greene and Reuben C. Tamez '90, '94*



▲ Jordan Green '08, Kyleen Sims '08, Ryan Elder '11, Erik Johnson '12, Megan Lee '12, Trina Silva '06 show their Bearkat paw spirit with SHSU President Dana Gibson.



▲ Over 60 young alumni attended the Young Alumni & Friends Club Kick-Off Reception, October 24, 2013 at the Capital Bar - Midtown in Houston to support the newly formed club. For more information, please contact [SHSUyoungalumni@gmail.com](mailto:SHSUyoungalumni@gmail.com).

## WACO, TX | ALUMNI & FRIENDS CLUB KICK-OFF | OCTOBER 17, 2013

*Sponsored by: John Hoyt '75*



▲ Close to 100 Alumni attended the Waco Area Alumni & Friends Club Kick-Off Reception, October 17, 2013 to support the newly formed club. For more information, please contact [SHSUwacoarealumi@yahoo.com](mailto:SHSUwacoarealumi@yahoo.com).



▲ Net proceeds from the reception benefit the Waco Area Alumni & Friends Club scholarship fund. Pictured are Waco Area club leaders (l to r) Alta Vann '99, Gary Herwald '00, Art Mann '79 and Randy Merrill '69.



## BLACK ALUMNI & FRIENDS HOMECOMING RECEPTION | OCTOBER 12, 2013

*Sponsored by: Chester Crawford '80 – Chester Crawford Insurance & Income Tax, Preston '77 & Joslen Johnson, Ed '80 & Rissie '80 Owens, Johnnie '80 & Karen Sandles, Reuben C. Tamez '90, '94 and Pamela Williams '81*



▲ Sam Houston State University Alumni Association, The Office of the Vice President for Student Services, and the Black Alumni and Friends Club hosted a Homecoming Reception on October 12 in the Lowman Center Ballroom immediately following the game.



▲ The club hosted a golf tournament in conjunction with homecoming with all proceeds benefitting the African-American Friends of SHSU Scholarship Fund. Pictured are: Coleman Porter '74, Terry Williams '83 and Ed Owens '80.

## HUNTSVILLE, TX | STUDENT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



▲ The Student Alumni Association kicked off the fall semester on September 3 with a party in the John R. Ragsdale Alumni and Visitor Center to introduce the new officers and welcome students back to campus.



▲ The SAA show their support for "Bearkat Dynasty" during the Homecoming parade on October 10.

## Upcoming Events

REGISTER ONLINE AT [ALUMNI.SHSU.EDU](http://ALUMNI.SHSU.EDU)

January 13.....	Walker County Area Alumni Club Reception – Huntsville
January 25.....	Dallas Area Alumni & Friends Reception – Irving
February 20 .....	Life Member Celebration – The Woodlands
March TBA.....	Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Reception - Houston
March 22.....	SHSU Alumni Golf Tournament – High Meadow Ranch Golf Club, Magnolia
April 3 .....	SHSU Ring Ceremony – SHSU Campus
April 26 .....	Founder's Day – SHSU Campus



# BEARKAT TAILGATE 2013

The Alumni Association would like to thank all of the alumni and friends who came out to tailgate in Bearkat Alley. A very special thank you to the following home tailgate sponsors for their support in 2013: Joe Amato '72, W.D. & Geraldine Dickerson, Joe & Judy '69 Emmett, Clint '74 & Becky '75 Fancher, Walter '79 & Jan Fitzgerald, John Hoyt '75, Todd Kercheval '97, John R. '59 & Judy Ragsdale, Steven '77 & Arlene Seltzer, Reuben C. Tamez '90, '94, Community Service Credit Union, David L. Smith Realty / The Legacy Group - Susan S. Lenamon '73, First National Bank of Huntsville, James Morrison's Superior Taxidermy and Liberty Mutual Insurance

- ▶ During the family brunch held in the John R. Ragsdale Visitor and Alumni Center on Family Weekend, parent members of the alumni association registered for a drawing for BOTPW tickets. Winners of this year's giveaway are the parents of SAA member Emily Work, Rob and Robin Work, pictured with Alumni Relations Director, Charlie Vienne and Asst. Director of Membership and Marketing, Donna Gilbert.



- ▶ Alumni tailgating traveled to Texas A&M on September 7 to cheer on our Bearkats! The pregame tailgate held in the Texas A&M Rec center was generously sponsored by Bearkat Alumni: Ronny Carroll '65 – Ronny Carroll Homes, Inc., Carolyn 'Chipman' Faulk '70, Michael '68 & Barbara Gilstrap, Brian Hall '88 – FridayHarbour.org, Rick Hanna '79, Len & Marlene Keeling '63 and Herbert '63 & Betty O'Quinn



- ▶ Students Today...Alumni Tomorrow! SAA members and alumni relations student employees visit with members and potential members about the advantages of alumni association membership during pre-game tailgating in Bearkat Alley.



- ▶ The fenced Alumni Association tailgate area is the focal point of Bearkat Alley. Association members get into the tailgate area at no charge.



- ▶ Bearkat Alley is filled with excitement as the marching band plays the fight song to lead everyone into the stadium.

# BATTLE OF THE PINEY WOODS



- ▶ Battle of the Piney Woods rivalry at Reliant Stadium. The Bearkats beat the SFA Lumberjacks 56-49 to take home the trophy.





# THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP.... YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The Alumni Association has experienced a tremendous increase in alumni membership over the last several years as we broke through the 10,000 member mark and are now approaching 11,000 active members. This increase can be directly attributed to each of you and your passion, love, and support for Sam Houston State University.

"I want to thank all members who have joined the Alumni Association, whether as a Life Member or annual member," said Charlie Vienne, executive director of Alumni Relations. Each member makes a difference, and the support will help the association in so many ways."

Currently the alumni association serves more than 110,000 graduates and former students.

Every member, regardless of membership level is important to the operation and success of the Alumni Association. In turn, the association works hard to ensure that membership is a value to the alumni.

The many advantages of membership are listed online at [alumni.shsu.edu](http://alumni.shsu.edu). The new Bearkat travel program is a great way to vacation with others who share your affinity to SHSU. Other advantages are discounts on car and home insurance, rental cars and free IT training through IT@SAM on campus.

"We strive to make the Alumni Association one's personal network for life," stated Vienne.

According to Donna Gilbert, assistant director of membership and marketing, there are several factors that have contributed to the surge in membership.

"Our growth is a combination of numerous efforts. For example, we have been very aggressive with multiple membership campaigns to encourage new membership, as well as to retain annual members," she said. "In addition, we are in the process of producing an alumni print directory, a service we provide to our alumni every five to seven years. Through this project we have been able to secure many new memberships."

"There are now over 2,200 Life Members of the Alumni Association," Gilbert said. "All Life Members should mark their calendars for Thursday, February 20, 2014 and plan to join us at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott for the 4th Annual Life Member Celebration and Dinner. All new life members (those who have joined since February 1, 2013) will receive their Life Member plaque during this premier event."

Those interested in upgrading their membership to Life, or would like to learn more about membership levels, can visit [alumni.shsu.edu/join](http://alumni.shsu.edu/join) or email [dgilbert@shsu.edu](mailto:dgilbert@shsu.edu).



**Saturday, March 22, 2014**

**HIGH MEADOW RANCH GOLF CLUB**

— 37300 Golf Club Trail, Magnolia, TX —

**11:30 AM – Registration / Range Warm-up / Lunch**  
**1:00 PM – Shotgun Start**

For sponsorship information or details on how you can support or participate in the **2014 Alumni Golf Tournament** please contact the **Office of Alumni Relations** directly at **936.294.1841** or via e-mail at [alumni@shsu.edu](mailto:alumni@shsu.edu).



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## COBA HALL OF HONOR

The College of Business Administration inducted four alumni into the COBA Hall of Honor on Friday, October 25. The honorees are: John R. Ragsdale '59, Robert J. "Bob" Rod '65, Kailas J. Rao '70 and George C. Yax '66, '67



## WALKER COUNTY ALUMNI & FRIENDS CLUB

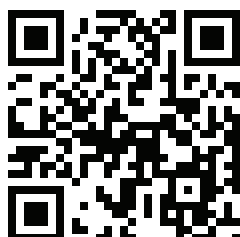
The Walker County Area Alumni & Friends Club met on August 5 at Old Main Market on the SHSU Campus and enjoyed a firsthand account, from Head Coach Willie Fritz, on the 2013 football season. For more information regarding the club and activities, you may contact Kelly Ritch, President, at [walkercountyaaf@gmail.com](mailto:walkercountyaaf@gmail.com).

## CLASS NOTES

**\*\*Updates now found in  
the Heritage magazine!**

## We want to hear from you!

Send us updates on work, relocations, marriage, family, degrees, accomplishments - and a photo, too. Let other Bearcats know what you've been up to by completing the online form or emailing us your updates. Class Notes are shared in the *Heritage* magazine. Email: [alumni@shsu.edu](mailto:alumni@shsu.edu) or fill out the form at [shsu.edu/~alu\\_kat/services/classnotes](http://shsu.edu/~alu_kat/services/classnotes)



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