onnectio

A Newsletter of the Sam Houston State University Alumni Association A Member of The Texas State University System

Vol. 6, Issue 1

Seven honored with 2011 Service Awards

Seven individuals who have displayed outstanding commitment not only to Sam Houston State University but to their respective communities were selected as the 2011 SHSU Alumni Association Service Award recipients.

Doris Hebert Gimpel, Karen Bain Gray, John and Nancy Hoyt, Scott McCarley, Cindy Pierce, and Billy A. Smith, Sr., were honored at a luncheon on April 15, in the Lowman Student Center Ballroom, for their fulfillment of the university's motto, "The measure of a Life is its Service."



Gimpel

Doris Hebert Gimpel, a 1959 graduate of Sam Houston State University, was a Texas educator for more than 30 years, teaching pre-school, first, second and third grades at Port Neches - Groves, in the Beaumont ISD, in Houston at the Chapelwood Day School, and in the Richardson ISD. Among her accomplishments and honors are the Richardson Outstanding Teacher Award, an Honorary Life Member of the National PTA, and the Distinguished Service Award from the Richardson Optimist Club. In 1996, she was named Outstanding Elementary Teacher of Year for the State of Texas.

Since moving to Huntsville, she has been active with the Walker County Chamber of Commerce. She has been honored with the chamber's Ambassador of the Year Award in 2009 and the Volunteer of the Year Award in 2010.

Gimpel has been active through involvement and leadership as a past board member and current volunteer with the Wynne Home Arts Center and a board member of the Friends of the Huntsville Public Library. She is also a member of First United Methodist Church of Huntsville, a past board member of the Sam Houston Memorial Museum board of directors,

and a member of Alpha Chi Omega social sorority. She has been a loyal volunteer and supporter of Sam Houston State University and an active participant with the SHSU Alumni Association. She is a Life Member and has served as a member of the board of directors.

Karen Bain Gray earned a Bachelor of Science degree in teaching in 1980, a Master of Education degree in administration in 1990, and mid-management certification in 1991, all from SHSU. She served as an elementary and middle school teacher for the Crosby, Goose Creek and Huntsville Independent School Districts; a pre-K through sixth grade campus administrator in the Willis and Huntsville school districts; and an education leadership coordinator at Region VI Education Service

She was the director of the SHSU Office of Alumni Relations during 2005 and 2006. Under her leadership, the Alumni Association grew in membership, increased events, introduced the online community and alumni directory, and established the first alumni chapter. After her retirement, Gray continued to work with the Alumni Association, serving as a board member and, along with her husband Bobby, supporting events and making contributions to SHSU. The Grays are Alumni Association Life Members.

Through the years, Gray has been involved with such community endeavors as the Houston Gray Livestock Show and Rodeo Lamb Committee and the PTO and PTA, both as a parent and educator. She has also been a member of University Women and the Walker County Heifer Scramble Association and a supporter of the Walker County Go Texan Scholarship committee and CASA of Walker and San Jacinto Counties. She is a member of Northside Baptist Church.



McCarley

A former member of the Alumni Association board of directors, Scott McCarley earned a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental science and chemistry in 1973 and a Master of Business Administration degree in 1975.

He has actively participated in or led such alumni initiatives as the Alumni Association membership committee; the board of directors membership phone drive; and the Alumni Association canned food drive for the SHSU Tree of Light ceremony.

In addition to being a Life Member of the SHSU Alumni Association, McCarley has served as a member of the Sam Houston Rodeo Alumni board of directors and has been the Sam Houston Southern Region Rodeo announcer for seven years. He and his wife, Mary, have established four endowed scholarships at SHSU for students in business, environmental science, the performing arts, and to recognize community service.

McCarley is a member of The Mixed Review, a local band that has played for and participated in benefits, raising over \$500,000 in the past 10 years for such organizations as the Good Shepherd Mission; Christmas Cheer Club; M. D. Anderson; SAAFE House; Huntsville firefighters; and Relay for Life. He has been involved in the Fair on the Square, Sam Houston Folk Festival, 4-H

Horse Club, the Audubon Society, Huntsville Community Theater, Texas Outlaw Music Festival, Main Street Huntsville Advisory Board, Walker County Fair Association, and the Airing of the Quilts.



Pierce

Born and raised in Walker County, Cindy Pierce is the owner/ operator of Heartfield Florist in Huntsville.

She has been a loyal supporter of and activist for SHSU and the community for many years. Through her business, she has provided hours of planning and decorating for numerous university events.

A Century Club member of the Alumni Association, Pierce supports Bearkat athletics and the agriculture department, as well as the university as a whole through her participation in SHSU activities and programs. To provide financial assistance for deserving students, she and her husband, Danny, established the Danny and Cindy Pierce Family Scholarship Endowment for agriculture and industrial sciences.

Her community involvement includes serving as past president and current board member of the Walker County Fair

Association; current vice president of Walker County Special Utility District; past president of the Junior Service League; and current board member of the Walker County Chamber of Commerce. She is a graduate of the Huntsville Leadership Institute, and she supports many local organizations including the Pregnancy Care Center and SAAFE House.



John was a senior majoring in political science and Nancy was a freshman. They married in 1977 and moved to Nacogdoches when John was hired by

Nancy and John, of Hewitt,

met at SHSU in 1974 when

Holly Farms. After several years, Hudson Foods hired John as vice president of sales and marketing, and the Hoyts moved to Rogers, Ark.

In 1988, the Hoyts returned to Texas, where they had the

opportunity to reconnect with their alma mater. Following the tragic death of Nancy's brother in a skiing accident, the Hoyts established the Greg Lundgren athletic scholarship in his memory at SHSU. They became Life Endowed Members of the Alumni Association and have sponsored numerous association events statewide through the years.

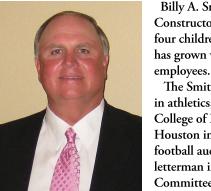
Hoyt

John served as a member of the association's board of directors for seven years. During the past two years of his term, he served as vice president and in 2009 served

Nancy has served on the board of directors of Planned Parenthood of Central Texas and numerous committees for the United Methodist Church.

John served as a member of the Executive Leadership Council for SHSU's recent "Share the Vision" capital Circle for five years.

He has also served as a member of the championship athletic committee, the Sam Houston Memorial Museum board of directors, and the most recent SHSU presidential search committee.



Smith

Billy A. Smith, Sr., a 1979 graduate, founded Midway Oilfield Constructors, Inc., in 1981. With the help of his wife Kathy, four children and many loyal and long-time employees, MOCI has grown with offices now in four states and approximately 250

The Smiths have given back to SHSU through scholarships in athletics, the College of Business Administration, and the College of Education. They have funded many events at Sam Houston including Let's Talk, Letterman's golf tournaments, football auctions, and other events. Smith is a former Bearkat letterman in football, has been on the Hall of Honor Selection Committee, and is an endowed member of the Letterman's Association.

He has been instrumental in helping out in area communities through supporting numerous county 4-H fairs and auctions in Madison, Walker, Leon and Robertson counties. The Smiths have also been avid supporters of Madisonville ISD athletic programs and school projects for over 20 years. The Smiths are members of the First Baptist Church of Madisonville and have been active in the church supporting numerous building

projects and the Pathway of Light project each year.

Welcome To Our Newest Life Members

From December 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011

40's Horace Brock '46,'51

50's Jewell Thomas '53 Robert Thomas '55 Billy Ware '57, '71

60's William Lange '60 Donald Spell '61,'65 Nadine Kujawa '62 Leslie Davis '68 Lorena Serafin '69

70's
Margaret White '73,'75
Samuel Burnes '71
Mary Metcalf '72
Clinton Fancher '74
Tommy Austin '75
Becky Fancher '75
James Zadinsky '75
Randall Martell '78
Walter Fitzgerald '79

80's Eli Smith '80 Lynne Longmire '81,'85 Ellen Happe Phillips '82 Dan Fulghum '86,'89 Allison Barnes '88,'90 George Griffin '89

90's Rodney Lege '90 Reuben Tamez '90,'94 Walter Barnes '91,'10 Lisa Rielag '94 Shelley Anderson '99

OO's
Michael Bakewell '06
John Waldrop '06
William Metcalf '07
Richard Boughton '08
Fernando Chavez '08
Taryn Ferrebee '08
Justin Kinslow '08,'10
Monica Koenigsberg '08
Marvin Sefcik '08
John Cheval '09
Lyndsay Lunsmann '09
Michael Schultz '09
Amanda Steffek '09

10's
Steven Blair '10
Scott Caudle '10
John Czichos '10
Terri Jaggers '10
Sandra Labby '10
Matthew Laws '10
Gerard Raap '10
Laura Steele '10

Mark Warren '09

Friends & Family
Dana Gibson
Beverly Harrell
Barbara Hensarling
William Hensarling
Dennis Longmire
Jaunice Ware

Get a gift that lasts a lifetime!
Join our growing alumni association
with a life membership.
800.283.7478 or alumni.shsu.edu

Spring Membership Drive Currently Underway

The Alumni Association kicked off the 2nd annual Spring Membership Campaign on April 1st, running through April 30th. Attracting vital new members and maintaining current membership are essential to the Alumni Associations continued well being and development.

How can you as a current member help the association grow? We would greatly appreciate your assistance in reaching out to fellow Bearkats that you know and encourage them to join the already 8,200 plus Bearkats that are supporting the Alumni Association through the gift of membership.

To learn more about how you can support this campaign, please contact Donna Gilbert at 936-294-3924 or dgilbert@shsu.edu

Bearkats For Life Honored at Celebration

The Sam Houston State University Alumni Association hosted its first Life Member Celebration on Feb. 24, at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel with approximately 200 guests attending.

Keynote speaker SHSU President Dana Gibson gave a university update and talked about plans for the future. She also stated that since becoming president she has learned through alumni that "Bearkats look after each other" and "that once a Bearkat, always a Bearkat."

Charlie Vienne, executive director of the Alumni Association, thanked guests for their generosity in supporting the association through Life Memberships.

"Life Membership is more than just a state of mind," he said. "It is a powerful tool for action and a vehicle for connecting alumni with one another. "Life Membership is the foundation for the Alumni Association's continued well-being and development," he said.

Vienne told guests that the association had made tremendous progress in the past decade, going from nearly 300 Life Members to a current 1,461 members and that total alumni endowments had increased from \$585,116 to more than \$1.7 million.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of Life Membership plaques to those in attendance who had joined since Sept. 1, 2010.

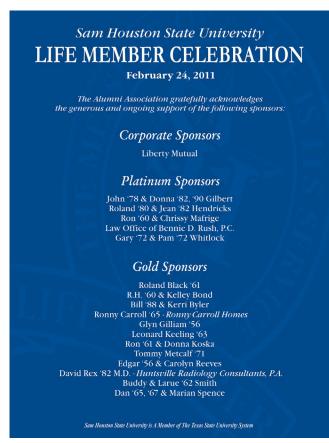
Serving as sponsors for the event were (Corporate) Liberty Mutual and (Platinum) John '78 and Donna '82 '90 Gilbert; Roland '80 and Jean '82 Hendricks; Ron '60 and Chrissy Mafrige; Law Office of Bennie D. Rush, P.C.; and Gary '72 and Pam '72 Whitlock.

Also (Gold) Roland Black '61; R.H. '60 and Kelley Bond; Bill '88 and Kerri Byler; Ronny Carroll '65-Ronny Carroll Homes; Glyn Gilliam '56; Leonard Keeling '63; Ron '61 and Donna Koska; Tommy Metcalf '71; Edgar '56 and Carolyn Reeves; David Rex '82 M.D.-Huntsville Radiology Consultants P.A.; Buddy and Larue '62 Smith; and Dan '65, '67 and Marian Spence.

For more information about Life Membership and other membership levels in the SHSU Alumni Association contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 936.294.1840 or 800.283.7478.



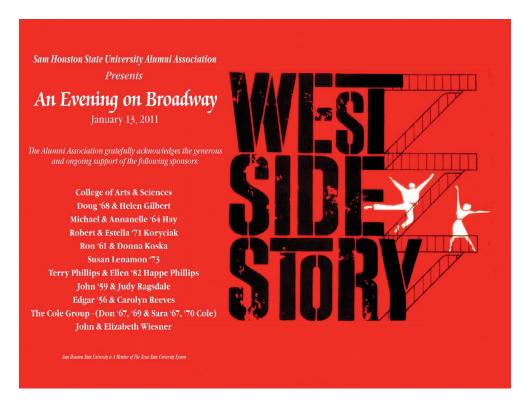
Life Member Ambassadors R.H. Bond and Susan Lenamon were recognized at the Life Member Dinner for securing the most new Life Members during the 2010 campaign.





Receiving their Life Member plaques at the Life Member Dinner were (from left) Meagan Burton, Justin Kinslow, Cameron Clay, SHSU President Dana Gibson, Rebecca Templet, Di Tubbs and George Griffin.

Houston Area Alumni & Friends



Alumni and friends from the Houston area gathered on January 13th at the Hobby Center for an "Evening on Broadway." The evening concluded with a performance of West Side Story.

(Right) SHSU Alumni Association Director Charlie Vienne addresses alumni and friends at the Hobby Center in downtown Houston.

Alumni Events



Fort Worth & Dallas Alumni & Friends

The Alumni Association made its biannual trip in January to the Metroplex for a luncheon in Fort Worth at Joe T. Garcia's and a dinner in Dallas at the Park City Club.



SHSU President Dana Gibson with Chuck Jones '81 at the Ft. Worth luncheon.



Fort Worth Alumni & Friends Luncheon

The Alumni Association gratefully acknowledges the generous and ongoing support of the following sponsors

Charles "Chuck" '81 and Lina Jones

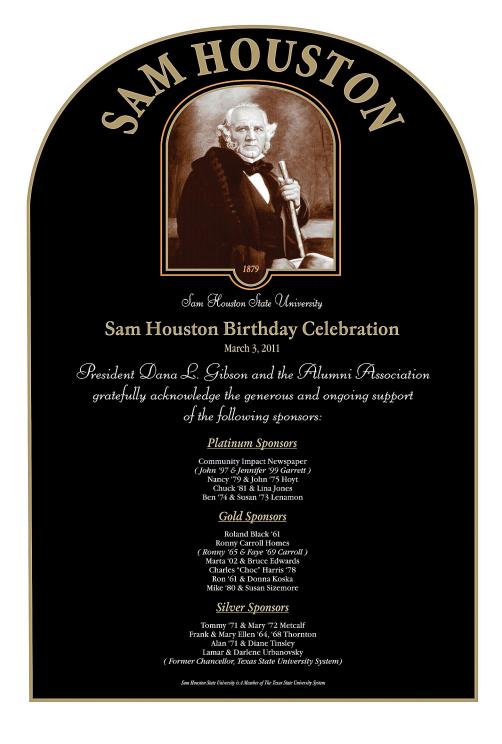
James '61 and Sally '61,'66 Kelly

Gib '62 and Sandra Lewis

Allen '56,'62 and Joann Triplett



Ed '71 and Carla Reyna with Jolene '71 and Gregg '72 Hill at the Park City Club.



Sam Houston Birthday Celebration



Alumni and friends, members of the Texas Legislature, and staff from the Texas State University System came together to celebrate Sam Houston's birthday at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin.



President Dana Gibson with State Representative Lois Kolhkorst and State Representative Borris Miles '89.



John '97 and Jennifer '99 Garrett



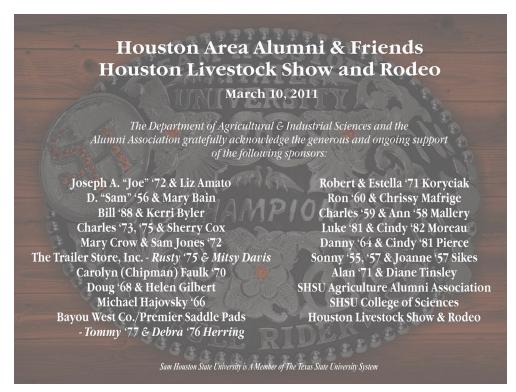
(Top) Former Texas State University System Chancellor Lamar Urbanowsky with wife Darlene and current TSUS Chancellor Brian McCall. (Below) John McManners '62, TSUS Regent Ron Mitchell, Ronda Ellisor '87 and TSUS Regent Trisha Pollard '74.



(Top) Barry Smyth '68, SHSU President Dana Gibson, Alumni Association President Alan Tinsley '71, and Sam Bain '56. (Below) Jacel Angel, Cindy Moreau '82, Debra Herring '77, Cheri Hendrick '89, and Donna Franks.

Alumni Events

Houston Area Alumni and Friends at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo



Eighth Annual Ring Ceremony

Hosted by the Sam Houston State University Alumni Association, Office of the Vice President for Student Services and Balfour



(Left) The Eighth Annual Ring Ceremony took place on the Austin Hall grounds on April 7th. More than 450 rings were passed out at the ceremony. (Below left) Alumni Association **Board President Alan** Tinsley passes out scrolls detailing the university's ring to the recipients. (Right) Distinguished Alumnus Tolbert Chisum '67 and (below) many of the participants were more than happy to show off their new rings.







SAA Service to the Community

The SHSU Student Alumni Association was formed to network the future leaders of tomorrow with the leaders of today by providing a means for interaction among students, alumni, and the community.

The SAA has exemplified the SHSU motto "The measure of a Life is its Service" this year through a number of community outreach endeavors, according to SAA vice president Justin Haynes.

"This motto is not just a quote for Bearkats; it is a way of life," Haynes said. "We take a lot from the Huntsville community, so any chance we have to give back, you can bet that the SAA will be the tip of the spear."

In the fall semester the group "Trick or Treated" for canned goods on Halloween and collected nearly 500 cans for Huntsville's Good Shepherd Mission.

The club has also adopted a local nursing home, and in February they held a "Carnations for Seniors" Valentine's Day event, in which they handed out and visited with 56 senior citizens. This month they will return to the nursing home, where several of the music majors in the club will lead a sing-along and perform for the residents.

They also sponsored a booth during the Huntsville CASA benefit carnival, where they made "Bearkat hats for children."

The SAA also will participate as a team on April 29th for this year's SHSU Relay for Life.

"Cancer affects many people worldwide and even some Bearkats," said SAA president Brittiany Avery. "Relay for Life

(Left) 2010-11 SAA group photo. (Right) SAA members collected more than 450 cans of food for the local mission. (Below) SAA members pass out carnations and visit with seniors at a local nursing home.



gives students the opportunity to contribute towards the fight against cancer."

Anyone wishing to sponsor the SAA team during the Relay for Life may do so by contacting the Alumni Relations Office at 800.283.7478.







- ★ Round Trip Airfare from Houston Intercontinental
- ★ Lodging at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers (811 7th Ave. & 53rd St.)
- ★ Friday Night Alumni Dinner Event

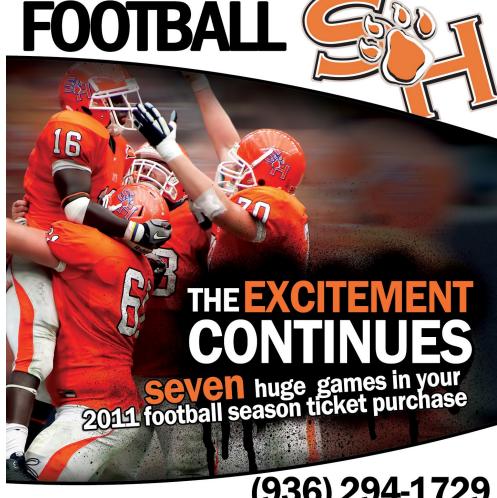
Reserve Now!

A \$250 deposit per person is due by September 1, 2011

For more information, or to pay your deposit, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 800.283.7478 or visit alumni.shsu.edu







(936) 294-1729 WWW.GOBEARKATS.COM

Antoinette Reading '40 '46 The Lamar Consolidated Independent School District dedicated the Antoinette Reading Junior High on Sunday, November 14, 2010. The school is located in Richmond, Texas. Antoinette (known as Bush) was a history teacher at Lamar High School for many years.

Jerry (Gene) Marshall '64 has been awarded the Schreiner Former Students Association (SFSA) Distinguished Service award. Gene earned his AA degree in 1952 and has been an active leader in the alumni association. He is a retired U.S. Air Force colonel, and appreciates the military aspects of Schreiner's during the time he was there.

Candi Clement '73 was selected as a FIVE STAR: Best in Client Satisfaction Wealth Manager (SM) for 2009 by Texas Monthly magazine.

Monica Myska '76 a Fort Bend County businesswoman was selected and completed the Institute of Investment Management Consulting Certification Series in St. Petersburg, Florida. Monica is an independent financial advisor with Green Financial Group of Houston. Monica is a Gamma Rho Kappa Delta and a member of Houston Kappa Delta Alumni Group.

Scott Jeffress '80 is the Executive Producer for the hit reality show "Jersey Shore". In addition to "Jersey Shore," he's worked for years on highprofile reality television shows, including ABC's smash hits "The Bachelor", "The Bachelorette, and HGTV "Design Star

Ken Ross '81 Gov. Rick Perry has reappointed Kenneth Ross of Houston to the Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority for terms to expire Feb. 1, 2017. Ross is an insurance agent with State Farm Insurance. He is a life member and board director of the SHSU Alumni Association.

Scott Kana '86 was recently named Superintendent of Sealy Independent School District.

Conley, Cheryl '94' was named as one of four finalist by The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) for the 2011 National Teacher of the Year. Conley is a fourth grade teacher at Osceola Magnet Elementary School in Vero Beach, Florida. The finalist were chosen from the 2011 state teachers of the year in all 50 states. President Barack Obama is expected to recognize the national honoree and the state representatives in May 2011.

Christie McWilliams '95 '00 moved in 2009 to Michigan, got married, and currently serves as the Director of Programs and Student Admissions at the Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. She will finish her doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction focusing on Gifted Education within the next year.

Erika Douglas Gloyd '01 and husband Roosevelt welcomed their second daughter, Aubrey Marie Gloyd, on December 18, 2010. She was 6 lbs. 13 oz. Mom, Dad, and big sister Riya are very excited.

Mark Gilbert '06 and wife Lindsey became parents to a beautiful baby girl, Kennedy Grace on April 1. Mark is the son of SHSU alumni John '78 & Donna '82, '90 Gilbert and Cutty Gilbert '90 '02.

Daron Peschel '08 recently promoted to vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas' Houston Branch. Peschel serves on the boards of Junior Achievement of Southeast Texas and Buffalo Bayou Partnership. He also serves on the advisory board for the Chair of Banking at Sam Houston State University.

Tuesde Cavil '08' since graduating Summa Cum Laude from SHSU, Tuesde began working in 2010 for the IRS in the Criminal Investigations department.

Krytal Campbell '10 was featured on the website of prestigious outdoor publication Outdoor Life Magazine. Recognized as their huntress of the month, Campbell was dubbed "Lone Star Girl" for her representation of the female hunter in Texas.

OBITUIARIES

Joe. L. Smetana '53 passed away at home in January 2011 of natural causes. While attending SHSU he was the Agricultural Editor for The Houstonian when Dan Rather was editor. With over 40 years of service, Joe retired from the Farm Bureau while staying active in the Bureau both on a state & national level. While retired, Joe and his wife Sybil enjoyed traveling all over the US and visiting family & friends. Joe was a proud SHSU graduate and maintained his Alumni Association membership since 1953.

Troy Dagle '57, '62 passed away on December 2, 2010 at the age of 75. Mr. Dagle was a retired teacher and school administrator. He was an ordained minister and pastored West End Baptist Church and Batson Baptist Church. Mr. Dagle is survived by wife of 49 years, Linda and a loving family of children and grandchildren.

Karen Dianne Blesinger Galle '72 passed away suddenly on December 2, 2010 at her home in New Ulm Texas. Karen retired in 2010 after teaching for 31 years. She received many awards for her outstanding teaching. She was a faithful servant to the Lord an active in many community organizations. Karen was a loving and devoted mother to two daughters. She is survived by her husband Burnie Galle and a loving family.

Lisa Townes Russell passed away on January 27, 2011 at the age of 48. Lisa was a graduate of Robert E. Lee high school and attended SHSU. Mrs. Russell is survived by her husband, Michael, her two sons, Aaron and Matthew.

SHSU Football Season is Fast Approaching

Show your Bearkat Spirit by Sponsoring the 2011 Tailgate Season ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

SEASON TAILGATE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

WHITE SPONSOR: \$250

ORANGE SPONSOR: \$500

CORPORATE SPONSOR: \$1,000

SINGLE PRE-GAME TAILGATE SPONSOR: \$500 (in addition to full season sponsorship)

For information on how you and/or your company can support the Alumni Association through sponsorship, please contact the Alumni Relations office at 800.283.7478

http://alumni.shsu.edu

Connecting Alumni Serving SHSU

Spring/Summer 2011 Event List

Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 800.283.7478 for information and details of all alumni events.

April 28

Austin/Washington County Event The Welcome Hall, Welcome, TX

April 29

Student Alumni Association -Relay For Life

Bowers Stadium

May 3

Tyler Area Alumni and Friends Holly Tree Country Club - Tyler, TX

May 21

Fifth Annual Alumni Golf Tournament High Meadow Ranch Golf Club - Magnolia, TX

June 28

SHSU Night at Minute Maid Park

Astros vs. Rangers - Houston, TX

For a complete list of alumni events and activities, visit the alumni website at alumni.shsu.edu

Save The Date

Homecoming 2011

Distinguished Alumni Gala

October 14th

LSC Ballroom - 7 pm

SHSU vs. Nicholls State

October 15th

Bowers Stadium - 2 pm

Sam Houston State University is a Member of The Texas State University System.

Board of Regents

Charlie Amato Donna N. Williams Trisha S. Pollard
Chair Vice Chair Bellaire
San Antonio Arlington

n Antonio Arlington

Micheal TruncaleKevin J. LillyRon MitchellBeaumontHoustonHorseshoe Bay

David Montagne Jaime Garza Rossanna Salazar Beaumont San Antonio Austin

Chris Covo Brian McCall
Student Regent Chancellor
San Marcos Austin



Do You Have What It Takes To Be A Director?

The SHSU Alumni Association Nomination Committee is seeking individuals willing to serve on the Board of Directors.

To be considered as an applicant for an Alumni Association Director, the candidate shall meet the following criteria:

Current alumni membership of Century Club or Life Member

Shall be a graduate of SHSU at least two years prior to consideration

Download and complete an application (http://alumni.shsu.edu) or call the Alumni Office at 800-283-7478 for an application. Submit application to Alumni Office, along with two letters of recommendation from Alumni Association members in good standing or one letter of recommendation from a current Alumni Association Director or Officer by July 1, 2011.

The Alumni Association Nomination Committee will review all applications and determine the nominees for the ballot.