Distinguished Alumni Gala

Sam Houston State University recognized seven graduates who have brought pride to the university through their contributions and lives of good citizenship during the Distinguished Alumni Gala on Oct. 14 in the Lowman Student Center Ballroom.


Full biographies for the recipients can be found online at:

Videos of the recipients are available through the SHSU YouTube channel at:
http://www.youtube.com/user/SamHoustonStateU

2011 Distinguished Alumnus Fred Pirkle

2011 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients (l-r) Danny Labruzzo (accepting award on behalf of Fred Pirkle); James Gaertner; Walter Anderson; James Ferris; James Carey and Allen Shamblin. (not pictured 2011 Outstanding Young Alumnus Morgan Luttrell)
The SHSU Alumni Association thanks our sponsors for their generous and ongoing support of the 2011 Distinguished Alumni Gala

**Platinum Sponsors**
Budweiser Baytown - Jim ’69 & Tonya Ferris
Lec ’50 & Lynnett Drain (In Honor of Bobby & Colleen Marks)
Tommy ’63 & Pat Frank
Ron ’60 & Chasity Mafreg
John R. ’59 & Judy Ragdale
Dan ’65, ’67 & Maridan Spence
Frank & Mary Ellen ’64, ’68 Thornton
College of Criminal Justice
Correctional Management Institute of Texas
Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas

**Gold Sponsors**
CenterPoint Energy
W. Allen ’61 & Patty ’60 Gage
Scott ’00 and Jennifer ’07 Nichols
Genevieve Sandhop ’56, ’60
College of Fine Arts & Mass Communication
Office of the Provost & VP for Academic Affairs

**Silver Sponsors**
Roland Black ’61
Jim ’61 & Janean ’61 Carey
Jack ’61, ’65 & Sue Ann Compton
Jim ’62 & Sandra Hanescom
John ’75 & Nancy ’79 Hoyt
Preston Johnson Jr. ’77 & Jodel Johnson
Len ’63 & Marlene Keeling
Estella Korycik ’71 and Marta Edwards ’02
Jack D. ’52, ’53 & Mary C. ’53, ’54 Kyle
Legacy Builders, Inc.
Ben R. ’74 & Susan S. ’73 Lenamon
John ’62 & Geanie McManners
Profiles International - Bud ’83 & Joan Haney
Joe ’56 & Winnie ’56 Sandel
Office of the VP for Finance and Operations
Office of the President
Office of the VP for University Advancement

Welcome to Our Newest Life Members
(New Life Members from August 1, 2011 through October 31, 2011)

40’s
Gene Russell ’42
50’s
Cullen Cooper ’60 ’68
Paul Larsen ’60
Jerry Streeter ’61
Lawrence Farmer ’61
Benny Wilson ’63
Odie Boenker ’64 ’75
Ann Gundy ’66
George Adams ’67
Donald Voelletter ’67 ’71
Rodney Cannon ’68
Nancy Dishaw-Smith ’68 ’80
Karen Voelletter ’69
Stone Murray ’69
70’s
Edward McIntosh ’71
William Ishee, Jr. ’72
Gary Yos ’73 ’78
Mary Yos ’73
Michael Hudson ’73
Mary Barber ’75 ’76
James Rowden ’75
Monica Myksa ’76
Roy Garcia ’79
Annette Graves ’79
Joseph Hambrick ’79
80’s
Mitchell Liles ’80
Debra Liles ’80
Donna Garcia ’81 ’87
Mary Barnett-Gatton ’81
Mary Miller ’81
Samuel Kennedy , Jr. ’83
Kimberly Raymond ’88
Harold Berman ’88
Kelly Adams ’89
90’s
Gloria Buchanan ’90 ’06
Michael Zella ’93
Clint Copley ’94
Mona Barragan ’98 ’03
Courtney Pietsch ’98
Bobby Lumpkin ’99 ’11
00’s
Nelly Rivera ’04
Trina Kowis ’08 ’10
Kristen Kitcher ’09
Jadlan Wooten ’09 ’10
Christine Liles ’09
10’s
DeJanee Brooks ’10
Tracey Garza ’10
William Kerr ’10
Brittire Kressin ’10
Natlie Pierce ’10
Steven Romantz ’10
Amanda Sebesta ’10
Clinton Shout ’10
Katharine West ’10
Sharon Alexander ’11
Jackel Angel ’11
Temple Cottle ’11
William Goldnitz ’11
Hayley Landry ’11
Elizabeth McCarthy ’11
Friends & Family
Kari Zella
Marilyn Adams
Robert Barragan
Judith Cannon
Jerry Gundy
Roberta Sloan, Ph.D.

Life Memberships not only help SHSU graduates stay connected to the university but are critical to the success and operations of the Alumni Association because they support an endowment account that provides revenue for association operating costs.

Serving as the heart of the Alumni Association, Life Members provide leadership on university committees, assist in legislative advocacy, raise funds for scholarships, recruit new SHSU students, and pass on Bearkat traditions.

Currently, more than 1,600 SHSU alumni are Life Members of the association, choosing this level of commitment for various reasons. “My wife, Pam, and I were Joint Century Club members of the Alumni Association for several years before we became Joint Life Members,” said Bobby Lane, ’77 BS in agricultural education. “We just thought it was time to step up to the Life Membership level when we were able to afford it. It better indicates our love and support for this wonderful institution that has played such an important role in whatever successes we enjoy.”

“I received a good education at Sam,” said Joe Amato, ’72 BS in agricultural business. “I wanted to start getting involved with the university and thought Life Membership is a good way to do that. I have enjoyed my renewed relationship with the university.”

This year’s recipients joined SHSU past distinguished alumni for a pre-gala reception. Pictured are: front row: Patty Sue Davis [Office of the Provost & VP for Academic Affairs]
Alumni & Friends

Bryan/College Station, TX | Christopher’s World Grille | September 15, 2011


Phyllis & Walter Pinegar, Keith & John Halseth and Donna & Dan Beto visit with alumni and friends at the pre-dinner reception.

The Woodlands, TX | CRÚ – A Wine Bar | November 1, 2011


Upcoming Events

December 13, 2011 ...........................................Alumni Holiday Open House
January 26, 2012 ..............................................Dallas Alumni & Friends Dinner – Park City Club
February 23, 2012 .............................................Life Member Dinner, The Woodlands Marriott
March 1, 2012 ....................................................Austin Alumni & Friends – The Driskill, Austin
TBA .................................................................Houston Livestock & Rodeo
TBA .................................................................Legacy Golf Tournament
April 4, 2012 ...................................................Ring Ceremony
April 20, 2012 ...................................................Service Awards
April 26, 2012 ...................................................Brenham Area Alumni & Friends reception
TBA .................................................................SHSU Night @ Minute Maid Park

SHSU Alumni Sonny Sikes, Gary Craig, Sam Bain and Wayland Oakes (sponsor) enjoy visiting during the dinner held on October 4th.

Members of the SHSU Rodeo Team were recognized for their outstanding performance at the 2011 College National Rodeo Finals in Casper, Wyoming this past July. The men’s team brought home the national championship with the women’s team finishing in an impressive second place.

Event Sponsors in front of the CRÚ Bar with North Harris / Montgomery County Alumni Club President, Debbie Nelms.

Event sponsor Conroe Mayor Webb Melder with Vicki and Philip Dupuis, and event sponsor Rick Hanna.
The Battle of the Pineywoods drew a record crowd of 25,083.

A special thanks to our 2011 Tailgate Sponsors for their generous and ongoing support of the Alumni Association:

**Pre-Game Sponsors**

John ’75 & Nancy ’79 Hoyt  
Chuck Jones ’81  
Emmett ’72 & Jan ’70 Solomon

Students and alumni enjoy testing their SHSU “Traditions” knowledge to win prizes during tailgate.

SHSU Cheerleaders stop by the Alumni Association tailgate to lead the alumni in a homecoming pre-game cheer on October 15th.

BATTLE OF THE PINHEYWOODS

Members of the Alumni Association enjoy a meal and pre-game festivities during each tailgate held in Bearkat Alley.

SHSU Alumni enjoyed tailgating on a beautiful day prior to the SHSU 45-10 victory over SFA.

The Alumni Association along with other Colleges and departments hosted a tailgate for alumni & friends.

The Battle of the Pineywoods drew a record crowd of 25,083.

The Alumni Association also hosted a tailgate for alumni & friends.

Students and alumni enjoy testing their SHSU “Traditions” knowledge to win prizes during tailgate.

SAA members exemplified the homecoming theme of “Peace Love & Bearkats” during the homecoming parade on October 13th. The SAA took 3rd place overall in the Student Activities “Homecoming Spirit Week” competition earning the organization a $250 cash prize.

SAA members attended the 100th “Red Hat” birthday party for SHSU Alumni Ona Francklow (seated). Ms. Francklow earned her BS in Education in 1940 and her Masters of Education in 1955. Helping her celebrate her big day were (l-r) SAA Advisor Donna Gilbert, Barbi Stimac, Olivia Sisk, Brianna Boudette, Alumni Relations Director Charlie Vienne, SAA President Brittiany Avery and University Advancement Director of Donor Relations Darlene Andrews.

The SAA and Alpha Delta Phi sorority sponsored a “Trick or Treat” for canned goods drive on Halloween. The organizations exemplify the University motto of “The Measure of a Life is its Service.” The 692 canned goods collected were donated to the local Good Shepherd Mission in Huntsville.

Parent members and SAA members attended a reception in the John R. Ragdale Visitor & Alumni Center sponsored by the Alumni Association during Family Weekend activities.

**STUDENT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**
Liberty Mutual Offers Savings To SHSU Alumni

Sam Houston State University alumni can enjoy group discounts on auto, homeowners and renters insurance through Liberty Mutual, one of the affinity partners that help support the SHSU Alumni Association.

“The Alumni Association is always looking for benefits and savings opportunities for our alumni, and Liberty Mutual offers exclusive discounts for our members,” said Donna Gilbert, assistant director for marketing and membership.

Liberty Mutual has been a partner with the SHSU Alumni Association since 2006, offering such benefits as:

- Discounts based on your driving experience, car and home safety features, and more.
- Savings on your home insurance when you insure both your car and home with the company.
- Feature and benefits such as accident forgiveness and new car replacement.

In addition, Liberty Mutual provides:

- 24/7 claims assistance, fast appraisals, and after-hours policy services
- Support by phone, online, or one-on-one with a local sales representative
- A choice of payment options, including electronic withdrawal or direct billing

In addition to auto and home insurance, Liberty Mutual offers life, motorcycle, condo, renters and personal liability insurance. To learn more about Liberty Mutual insurance or get a free, no-obligation quote, call 800-524-9400 (and mention Client #110793) or visit www.LibertyMutual.com/shsuaa.