With the election this week of Sam Houston State University alumnus Ron Blatchley of Bryan as chair of The Texas State University System Board of Regents, two SHSU graduates now hold the No. 1 and No. 2 positions with the university’s governing body.

Blatchley joins Trisha Pollard of Bellaire, who was elected vice chair of the regents in November 2008, after serving a previous term as vice chair. “Sam Houston State is fortunate that both the chair and vice chair of the board of regents of The Texas State University System are Bearkats,” said SHSU President Jim Gaertner.

“I have known Ron since we were neighbors at the old Gintz married student housing in the 1960s,” Gaertner said. “Ron brings a wealth of experience in both business and campus life to the position. He will be an outstanding chair.”

“Trisha Pollard is a tremendously talented and dedicated member of our board, and along with Ron, she will represent SHSU and all system schools in an outstanding manner,” Gaertner said. “I am fairly confident that no school has ever had two of its graduates in this position with the board previously.” Gaertner said. “Additionally, we have two other Bearkats on the board — Charlie Amato of San Antonio and student regent Nicole Lozano of Huntsville.”

Blatchley received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education in 1968 and 1969 from Sam Houston State University. He was appointed to the board of regents by Gov. Rick Perry in 2007. “Ron brings a wealth of experience in business and campus life to the position. He will be an outstanding chair.”

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Four honored with Service Awards

Former university employees and area businessmen are among those who have displayed outstanding commitment not only to the university but to their respective communities as well and have been selected to receive the 2009 SHSU Alumni Association Service Awards.

Dennis Culak, Joe and Winnie Farris Sandel, Marie Hayden and Kerry Murray will be honored at a luncheon on April 24, at 11:30 a.m. in the Lowman Student Center Ballroom, for their fulfillment of the university’s motto, “The measure of a Life is its Service.”

Tickets for the event are $25 for Alumni Association members and $30 for non-members. Reservations can be made by contacting the Alumni Relations Office by phone at 936.294.1841 or by e-mail at alumni@shsu.edu.

For complete biographical information on each honoree, visit the alumni web site at alumni.shsu.edu.

SHSU Alumni Hold Top Two Positions on Governing Board

Her husband, Randy, is also a Sam Houston State graduate and a Huntsville native.

Pollard received her Juris Doctorate from South Texas College of Law in Houston.

She was appointed to a six-year term on The Texas State University System Board of Regents by Gov. Perry in 2007. She was first elected as vice chair in November 2007 and again in November 2008.

Pollard has served as a board member of the SHSU Alumni Association, as foreman of the Harris County Grand Jury for three terms, and as chairman of the Building and Standards Commission for the City of Bellaire.

She also serves on Houston Bar Association committees, was chair of the Oil and Gas Section of the association, and is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

The Texas State University System is the oldest multi-campus system in Texas and plays a critical role in the educational and economic development of the state. It is governed by a nine-member board of regents appointed by the governor. In addition, a non-voting student regent is appointed annually to the board.

TSUS’s eight component institutions include: Lamar Institute of Technology; Lamar State College-Orange; Lamar State College-Port Arthur; Lamar University; Sam Houston State University; Sul Ross State University; Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College; and Texas State University-San Marcos.

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Blatchley received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education in 1968 and 1969 from Sam Houston State University. He was appointed to the board of regents by Gov. Rick Perry in 2007.

Blatchley is president of R. Blatchley Management and serves on the board of directors of First National Bank of Bryan/College Station. He has previously chaired the Bryan/College Station Economic Development Corporation, as well as served on the boards of the Chamber of Commerce, McDonald’s Operators Advisory Board, The Ronald McDonald House of Houston, the Texas Municipal Power Authority, and numerous other civic and charitable boards.

Blatchley served four years in the U.S. Air Force as well as served on the boards of the Chamber of Commerce, McDonald’s Operators Advisory Board, The Ronald McDonald House of Houston, Texas Municipal Power Authority, and numerous other civic and charitable boards.

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The Alumni Association traveled to our nation's capital for the first ever Washington D.C. Alumni and Friends Event, sponsored and hosted in the home of Bill and Marilyn Dabaghi.

This year's annual New York Alumni & Friends was held in December at the Harvard Club of New York City.

Event Sponsors:
Hugh & Patricia '73 O'Kane
Dan I. Rather '53
Joe & Janet Smyth

The Alumni Association partnered with the Department of Agricultural & Industrial Sciences to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the agriculture program at SHSU. The celebration was held in March at the Reliant Center before a performance of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Gold Sponsors:
W.T. Byler Co., Inc.
Capital One Bank
Charles D. Cox ’73, ’75
Ben ’74 & Susan ’73 Lenamon
McCaffety Electric Co., Inc.
Russell Molina ’89
Gregg Raymond ’83
Joe ’56 & Winnie Ferris ’56 Sandel
Robert ’80 & Erin ’80 Steele

Silver Sponsors:
Sam ’56 & Mary Bain
Robert ’62 & Toni ’62, ’73 Bruner
Don F. “Sonny” Dean ’62
Carolyn Faulk ’70

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Alumni Association Events
Brazoria County & Bryan/College Station

Marjorie Lawrence purchased a Life Membership for Jerry Hooper Pryor

Marta and Bruce Edwards

Regina and Charles Opersteny

Barbara and Ernest Koy

Ruth and Gene Sollock

Karen Gray, Athletic Director Bobby Williams, Sally Kelly and Marie Hayden

James Kelly with Gwen and Freddie Foy

George Bush Presidential Library

Sponsors
Charles J. Opersteny ’56
Ron ’77, ’84 and Terri Gay
Sam Houston Birthday Celebration

Tuesday, March 3, 2009
The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum • Austin, Texas

Event Sponsors

Platinum Sponsors
Charles “Chuck” ’71 & Wanda Beckner
Community Impact Newspaper
John ’75 & Nancy ’78 Hoyt
Charles W. Jones, III ’81
Tommy ’71 & Mary Ann Metcalf

Gold Sponsors
Marta ’02 & Bruce Edwards
Michael A. Sizemore ’80

Silver Sponsors
Mark ’70 & Shelby ’70 Beto
H.L. Farrell ’65
Bobby & Karen ’80, ’90 Gray
Carl ’60 & Theresa ’65 Kendall
Robert ’62 & Gayla H. ’62 Lawson
Jill Bell Myatt ’63
Walker County SUD

Len Keeling, Ronnie Carol and Bud Haney
Mike Sizemore, Chancellor Charles Matthews and President James Gaertner
Julius Dubcek
Rissie, Trey and Ed Owens
Chance Love, Jennifer and John Garrett with Thelma Mooney
Kelly Boyle, Nancy Gaertner and Carole Fox
Bob Bullock Texas History Museum

TSUS Student Regent Nicole Lazzo, Regent Trisha Pollard and Governor Rick Perry

Rae & Kirby Nash

Edgar and Carolyn Reeves

Fernando Gomez, Julia and Charles Matthews with Gib Lewis

Alumni Board President John Hoyt offers a toast to Sam Houston

A special birthday cake was designed by Simon Lee Bakery

Chris Steinbach, Representative Luis Kolkhorst, President Gaertner with Larry and Peggy Winkelmann
Barbara Bright, Joey Chandler and Joan Babcock

Brian Van Deuzen and Sonny Sikes

Head Football Coach Todd Whitten and John Hoyt

Vince Webb, Jack Greene and Jaminé Hebert

Linda Rushing and Marta Edwards

Rick McFarland and Bobby Lane

Susie Houston, Carol Shaw, Deana Marek & Sherry Henke

Sarah Slate, Ryan Staff, Bill Ball, Brigette Pena & Charlie Vienne

Jennifer Costino and Summer Sanford

David Bamberg and Mike Ott

Dick Rydzeki and R. Dean Lewis

Heather Crowson, Betty Lewis and Anne O’Meara

Jennifer Costino and Summer Sanford

David Bamberg and Mike Ott

Dick Rydzeki and R. Dean Lewis

Heather Crowson, Betty Lewis and Anne O’Meara
Class Notes

Charles Cox ’73, ’75, former market president of Capital One’s banks in Southeast Texas, has assumed a new position with Community Bank of Texas.

Robert ’80 and Erin ’80 Steele, of Pearland, Texas, were named Citizens of the Year at the Pearland Chamber Banquet in January.

Mark Beedlow ’84 has led the Dallas Regional Business Center to two consecutive nominations for the Chairman’s Cup.

Upcoming Alumni Association Events

Service Awards Luncheon
Huntsville
Friday, April 24, 2009

Brenham Alumni & Friends Reception
Welcome Hall Between Industry & Brenham
Thursday, April 30, 2009

Student Alumni Association Banquet
Huntsville
Sunday, May 3, 2009

SHSU Night @ The Ballpark in Arlington
Arlington
Tuesday, May 12, 2009

SHSU Night @ MinuteMaid Park
Houston
Wednesday, June 10, 2009

This year’s tournament was again held at High Meadow Ranch Golf Club in Magnolia.

Don Henderson, Tournament Chair Dick Rydzinski, Jeff Dickey & Brad Griffen

Lucinda and Joe Bright, Barbara Bright, Jeni Hightower & Jon Bright

Hole Sponsors

State Farm Insurance
Rich Scott
David L. Smith Realty
(Susan ’73 and Ben Lenamon)
1st National Bank of Trinity
Jesse Gibson
Marta & Bruce Edwards
Richard & Debra Johnson
Chuck ’81 & Lisa Jones
Dianne MacKenzie
Charles & Ann Mallory
Ward’s Furniture
David Ward
Texas Community Bank
(Marsha ’78 & Larry ’75, ’79 Corley)

Joe Bickley
Dr. Roland Black ’61
Ronny Carroll - Ronny Carroll Homes, Inc.
Robert ’80 & Erin ’80 Steele
Marcus & Delilah Stephenson
Ron Koska ’61 / Ron Mafrige ’60
Double S. Studios
www.doublestudios.com
David Bamburg
Bob Wallace ’90
Hap Harrington
Danny Cortez State Farm Insurance
Ray Burgess

Leverage your Gift
Ron Mafrige Basketball Challenge

Ronald P. Mafrige has issued a challenge to Bearkat supporters to benefit the men’s basketball endowment. Mr. Mafrige will contribute up to $250,000 by allocating $1 of his Share the Vision commitment for every $2 given by others. Take the Mafrige Challenge and call Rhonda Ellisor in the Development Office at 936-294-4050 or email her at rhondaellisor@shsu.edu

In Memoriam

John Jake Cartwright ’06, age 25, of Fort Worth, Texas, passed away November 30, 2008.

Lionel G. Duncan ’50, ’50, age 84, of Malakoff, Texas, passed away March 26, 2009.

Mary E. Burton ’57, ’59, age 95, of Tyler, Texas, passed away February 15, 2009.

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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, 2009.

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