Five honored with Service Awards

The 13th Annual Service Awards luncheon is set for Friday, May 7th in the Lowman Student Center Ballroom. The luncheon will begin at approximately 11:45 a.m. This year’s recipients — Dan Beto, Gordon Brown, Nancy Gaertner, John McManners, and Erin Steele — will be honored for their fulfillment of the university’s motto, “The measure of a Life is its Service.” For information on this event or to reserve your seat(s) please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 936.294.1841 or visit our Web site at alumni.shsu.edu.

Alumni Association Kicks Off Life Membership Drive

The SHSU Alumni Association is embarking on its first ever Life Membership Drive from April 1 to May 15, 2010. Volunteer committees have been established to reach out to alumni and solicit their support in becoming Life Members.

“Life Members are the heart of the Alumni Association,” said association executive director Charlie Vienne. “Life Members provide leadership on university committees, assist in legislative advocacy, raise funds for scholarships, recruit new SHSU students, and pass on Bearkat traditions,” he said. “Life Members represent the essence of our University Motto: ‘The measure of a Life is its Service.’”

The Alumni Association’s goal is 100 new Life Members during the six-week campaign. “We encourage all current Life Members to assist us in this campaign by seeking out at least one friend, college classmate, or colleague to encourage them to become a Life Member,” Vienne said.

Currently there are 1,211 Life Members in the Alumni Association with an endowment approaching $1 million. “Our goal is to break through the $1 million mark with the campaign,” said Vienne.

All revenue generated from Life Memberships goes directly to the Life Member Endowment account. “The endowment is critical to the success and operations of the Alumni Association,” said Vienne.

“An endowment of this size puts us on par with larger universities in scope and magnitude of the types of programming activities we can offer alumni. Of course the very best benefit of Alumni Association membership is being part of making our university stronger and, thereby, enhancing the degrees of all alumni,” he explained.

For more information on becoming a Life Member, or to purchase your Life Membership today, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 800.283.7478 or visit alumni.shsu.edu.

Join together and carry the University motto “The measure of a Life is its Service.” Life Membership goes into a permanent endowment which strengthens the University - not just for one year, or even one generation, but in perpetuity. Stay connected to the University and its great traditions by becoming a Life Member today!
Alumni Events

New York Alumni & Friends Dinner
The annual New York Alumni & Friends Dinner took place on December 11, 2009 at the ‘21’ Club on West 52nd Street in New York City.

**EVENT SPONSORS**
Mary “Kit” Basquin
Hugh and Patricia ’73 O’Kane
Dan ’53 and Jean Rather
Joe and Janet Smyth
Richard and Michelle Ward

(Top right, from left) Janet Smyth, Kristen Smyth, Joe Smyth & Philip Smyth

(Bottom right, from left) Kit Basquin, Jean Rather, Richard Johnson, Debra Johnson & Dan Rather

Houston Area Alumni & Friends
The Houston Area Alumni & Friends took in an “Evening on Broadway” with the presentation of *A Chorus Line* on January 13, 2010 at the Hobby Center.

**Sponsors**
Russell D. ’72 and Glenda J. ’73, ’77 Gordy
Richard A. ’92 and Maud Ella Hartley
Preston ’77 and Judson Johnson
Ron ’61 and Donna Koska
John ’59 and Judy Ragsdale
Kenneth ’81 and Debra Ross

Austin Area Alumni & Friends
The Austin Area Alumni & Friends held a reception on March 9, 2010 at the historic Driskill Hotel in downtown Austin.

**Sponsors**
Austin Area Alumni Club
Dr. Roland E. Black ’61
Malcolm & Sue ’93 Carlson
H.L. ’65 & Barbara Farrell
Carl L. ’60 & Theresa H. ’65 Kendall
Jack D. ’52, ’53 & Mary Charles ’53, ’54 Kyle
Wade Lee ’02

Trey Owens & Wade Lee

Frank Holmes, TSUS Regents Trisha Pollard and Ron Mitchell, Nancy Gaertner, President James Gaertner, Senator Jeff Wentworth, & TSUS Interim Chancellor Dr. Kenneth Craycraft

Paul Isham & Head Football Coach Willie Fritz

(Above, from left) Benjamin Stipe, John Hitzeman, Hasan Arslan, Daniel Mabry & John Hoyt

(Above, from left) Ashley, Bill & Susan Burrough

(Above, from left) Kristy Vienne with Glenn & Summer Sandford

(Above, from left) Jack & Ashley Fillbrant
Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

The Houston Area Alumni & Friends hosted a reception on March 11, 2010 at the Reliant Center before the performance of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

(Top left) Susannah Hughes & Ed Compton (Top right) Herb and Laura Schumann with Joann and Sonny Sikes (Left, from left) Clarke Evans, Wayne Hollis, Sonny Dean, Alan Tinsley, Diane Tinsley and Linda Evans

(Above) For Valentine’s Day, members of the Student Alumni Association delivered flowers to the residents of a Huntsville nursing home. (Below) Members Michelle Moore, Alyssia Young, Gabrielle Gonzales and Brittany Avery get the flowers organized for delivery.

In Memoriam

Bob Hoffman ’57 passed away at the age of 74, on Tuesday, December 4, 2009. Bob spent his career in education, retiring in August, 1999. He is survived by Dorothy, his wife of 52 years, and a loving family. He most recently served on the Board of Trustees at Region 7. He enjoyed raising Santa Gertrudis Cattle and was a gentleman rancher.

Paul G. Burch II ’54 passed away on July 13, 2009 at the age of 82. He was a retired educator who coached at both the high school and college level. He was the head baseball coach at Navarro Junior College and took the team to a conference championship in 1958. He is survived by Dorothy, his wife of 52 years, and a loving family.

Luby LeNorman Jr. ’48 passed away Saturday, January 2, 2010, in Tyler at the age of 84. He is survived by a loving family. Luby was a retired educator. He was active in the Lions Club and had a love for hiking, fishing, mountain climbing, riding motorcycles and boating, but mostly enjoyed time with family.

To submit class notes or in memoriam notices, visit alumni.shsu.edu and look under the Alumni Services pull-down menu.

Class Notes

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

Amber Liddell Alwais ’93 already recognized as one of San Antonio’s top young attorneys, Ms. Liddell recently added another distinction to her resume by becoming Board Certified in Family Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.


Susan Lenamon ’73 Life Member received the Pearland Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year award during their annual banquet on January 28, 2010.

Patrick Gardner ’04 served as Sammy the Bearkat while attending SHSU and now holds the position of mascot manager for the Lake Elsinore Storm, a minor league baseball team in Lake Elsinore, CA.

Wesley Welch ’82 Command Sergeant Major for the Army recently retired after 26 years of service.

Carlos Rainer ’96 became a partner in Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P.’s Houston office where he concentrates his practice primarily on complex commercial, business, and corporate litigation matters.

Navy Ensign Lee B. Glisan ’08 received his commission as a naval officer after completing Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Officer Indoctrination School, Newport R.I. During the 13-week long training program, Glisan received extensive instruction on a variety of specialized subjects along with completing a demanding daily physical fitness program.

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A Ringing Record

With historic Austin Hall in the background, a record 540 Sam Houston State University students received their class rings during the Seventh Annual Ring Ceremony on April 1.

“The ring ceremony is an important milestone and achievement in a student’s educational career,” said Charlie Vienne, director of Alumni Relations. “It is a short-term goal in reaching their ultimate long-term goal, a college diploma. The ring is a reminder throughout the rest of your life of the good times and friends met during your brief stay on the Sam Houston campus,” he said.

“You also carry something with you that one of our greatest heroes carried with him...the word ‘honor,’ which is inscribed on the inside of each class ring,” Vienne said.

Participation in the ceremony has increased each year since the first event was held in 2004. At that time, 183 students received rings.

This year’s ceremony was the last ring ceremony for alumnus Jim Gaertner as president of Sam Houston State University. The Official Ring Program was one of Gaertner’s initiatives.

“The ring you will receive (this evening) will have special meaning throughout your life,” Gaertner told the students. “I encourage you to consider it a symbol of a rewarding and productive life.”

In appreciation to Gaertner, an oversized replica of the official Sam Houston State University ring was presented to him during the ceremony. Along with the standard inscription of the word “honor,” an additional inscription read “For your leadership and guidance in laying the foundation for the Official Ring Program.”

Brian Van Delist, the student speaker at the first ring ceremony and member of the Class of 2005, presented the replica to Gaertner.

Studying Aboard Leaves Impact on SHSU Honors Student

Editor’s Note: In order to keep Alumni up-to-date with what is going on at SHSU, Kat Konnection will begin featuring articles about current students and University programs. In this edition, Honors College student David Courtade describes the impact studying abroad had upon his life.

My twenty-second birthday was cut to seven hours. I boarded a flight in Vancouver, Canada around 11 a.m. on February 24, 2009 and arrived in Seoul, South Korea around 5:00 p.m. on February 25th.

As the 25th is my birthday, I had seven hours left to the day, and I did not know one person in a country over 6,000 miles away from everything that was familiar to me.

As birthdays mark a transition into another year of existence, this birthday led me into one of the most life changing years of my life. I created wonderful memories and learned lessons that will stay with me for life. I had the opportunity to meet students from all over the world and developed friendships that will last a lifetime.

Studying abroad opened my eyes to new cultures and languages as well. Moreover, I traveled to countries such as Japan, China, Hong Kong, and the Philippines. I saw a whole different part of the world and received a type of education that I cannot find in a classroom.

Choosing to spend two semesters at Soonchunhyang University in South Korea was one of the best decisions of my life.

David Courtade (center, above) in the Philippines, (above right) in South Korea, and (right) in China