



Happy Holidays from your Alumni Association

Kat Konnaction

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DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI GALA

Sam Houston State University honored five graduates who have brought pride and distinction to the university through their lives of good citizenship and contributions to criminal justice, the military, education, and business during the Distinguished Alumni Gala on October 19 in the SHSU Lowman Student Center Ballroom.

The 2012 honorees include Michael Devine '84, '88, John McManners '62, Bertie Simmons '68 and Anton Vincent '87 along with the 2012 Outstanding Young Alumnus Sid Keswani '94.



Full biographies for the recipients can be found online at:

alumni.shsu.edu

Videos of the recipients are available through the SHSU YouTube channel at:

www.youtube.com/user/SamHoustonStateU



▲ 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients Dr. Bertie Simmons (seated); Capt. Michael Devine, Ph.D.; Mr. Sid Keswani (2012 Outstanding Young Alumnus); Col. John McManners and Mr. Anton Vincent.



▲ Over 300 guests attend the 2012 gala to honor this year's award recipients.



▲ Alumni and friends enjoy the beautiful weather during the pre-gala reception held outside of the SHSU Lowman Student Center.

*The SHSU Alumni Association thanks our sponsors for their generous and ongoing support
of the 2012 Distinguished Alumni Gala*

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Carolyn (*Chipman*) Faulk '70
John R. '59 & Judy Ragsdale

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▲ The Alumni Association would like to give special recognition to our platinum sponsors John and Judy Ragsdale (L) and Carolyn Faulk (R) pictured with SHSU President Dana L. Gibson for their generous gift to the 2012 Distinguished Alumni Gala and their ongoing support of the Alumni Association.



SAVE THE DATE

Sam Houston Birthday Celebration
Bullock Texas State History Museum, Austin

MARCH 5, 2013

REGISTER ONLINE AT ALUMNI.SHSU.EDU



Welcome To Our Newest Life Members

(New Life Members from August 1, 2011 through October 31, 2011)

'50s

Mary Adams '51
Theda Flournoy '58
David Smith '58

'60s

Kenneth Jordan '61
Barbara Sylvester '62
Carroll Sylvester '62
Erna Dempsey '63
John Thrash '67
Eileen Thrash '68
John Chandler '69
William Gaffey '69

'70s

Thomas Baccaro '70
Beverly Burmeier '71
William Gresham '71
Sandra Rogers '71
Charley Nesmith '73
Roger Seiders '73
Lannis Brinkley '74
Ed Coleman '74
Roberta Smith '74
Dale Wells '75

'80s

Steven Davis '80
Wendell Stewart '81
Janice Laine '82
Michael Laine '82
Randy Stewart '82
Ann Stewart '84
Thomas Purser '85
Beverly Stewart '85
Karolyn Williams '88

'90s

Rosalind Lloyd '93
Eva Coleman '94
Mitchell Moore '94
Catherine Okuma '98

'00s

Ben Speer '08

'10s

Jon Eakman '10
Andrew Klepac '10
Sabine Branch '11
Joe Burnett '11
Amanda Crowley '11
Ericca Douglas '11
Debra Knisely '11
Keith Lathrom '11
Allison McGill '11
Brittini Merritt '11
Jack Montgomery '11
Michael Nicoletti '11
Fondren Notman '11
Robin Peterson '11
Patrick Sylvester '11
Justin Tyree '11
Christopher Crockett '12
Karmen King '12
Edward Smien '12
Mary Smith '12
Zane Thrift '12
Alicia Watkins '12

Friends & Family

Bruce Edwards

Welcome to our New Life Endowed Members

Trisha Pollard '74 Jan Fitzgerald
Randy Pollard '74 Walter Fitzgerald '79



▲ 2012 Tuition Drawing winner Cassandra Moss is presented with a check for 24 hours of tuition by Alumni Director Charlie Vienne and Alumni Executive Board Members Mary Ellen Thornton and Barbara Bright.

Alumni Tuition Drawing in 7th Year

Cassandra Moss of Spring, 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 Seventh Annual SHSU Tuition Scholarship Drawing on Nov. 15.

The Alumni Association has awarded more than \$75,000 in scholarships to individual students as a result of the tuition drawing during the program's history.

This year's award of 24-hours of undergraduate in-state tuition has an approximate value of \$4,488. The SHSU Alumni Association will award net proceeds from the tuition drawing 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, 2013, to be considered. Criteria for alumni scholarships can be found on the alumni website at alumni.shsu.edu. For more information on the tuition drawing or alumni scholarships, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 800.283.7478.

*Life Member
Celebration*



Save the Date

Thursday, February 21, 2013

The Woodlands Waterway
Marriott

Alumni & Friends

HUNTSVILLE, TX | FAMILY WEEKEND | SEPTEMBER 7-8, 2012

Three generations of Bearkats, Barbara Bright '61, Freshman Josh Hightower and Jeni Hightower '85 enjoy visiting with other legacy families during the reception.



▲ Faculty and staff joined SHSU students and parents for a Legacy Family Weekend reception in the John R. Ragsdale Visitor and Alumni Center on September 7.

WACO, TX | BAYLOR PRE-GAME TAILGATE | SEPTEMBER 15, 2012

The Alumni Association would like thank Joe L. (Bud) '63 & Joan Haney, John Hoyt '75, Len '63 & Marlene Keeling, Sheriff Larry Lynch '73 and Sammy Citrano '78 for their generous sponsorship of the pre-game tailgate.



▲ President Dana Gibson, Sammy the Bearkat and SHSU Cheer squad members pose with several event sponsors to show their Bearkat pride during the pre-game tailgate.

Close to 500 alumni and friends enjoy fajitas during the pre-game tailgate.





◀ The Alumni Board of Director's throw candy to Homecoming parade watchers on Sam Houston Avenue.

2012 Distinguished Alumnus Col. John McManners '62 and wife Geanie wave to Bearkat parade watchers.



▲ The SAA show their support for "Sammy for President" during the Homecoming parade on October 18.



SHSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WELCOMES NEW STAFF



◀ Amy Pfeil is the Assistant Director for Alumni Club & Constituent Programs and has previous experience in Development. Amy holds a B.S.B.A in Marketing, an M.B.A. and a M.S. in Sport Management from The University of Southern Mississippi.

Casey Hughes joins the Alumni Relations Office as the Alumni Events Coordinator. She graduated from Sam Houston State University with a degree in Fine Arts and Mass Communication in May 2012. While attending SHSU, Casey was involved with Sam Houston Advertising Club, Public Relations Student Society of America and Priority One, an on-campus public relations firm. ▶



Upcoming Events

REGISTER ONLINE AT ALUMNI.SHSU.EDU

- January 10..... Walker County Area Alumni Club Reception – Huntsville
- February 21 Life Member Celebration – The Woodlands
- March 5..... Sam Houston Birthday Celebration – Austin
- March 23..... SHSU Alumni Golf Tournament – High Meadows, Magnolia
- April 4 SHSU Ring Ceremony – SHSU Campus

BEARKAT TAILGATE 2012



Bearkat Alley 2012

The Alumni Association would like to thank all of the alumni and friends who came out to tailgate with us in Bearkat Alley and a very special thank you to the following home tailgate sponsors for their support in 2012: Chuck Jones '80, Michael '70 & Kathy Murray, John R. '59 & Judy Ragsdale, Bob '65 & Gay Rod, First National Bank of Huntsville and Liberty Mutual Insurance.

▲ Walker County Area Club member Julia Woods '88, '97, '00 with SAA member Amanda White (*student class of '13*) and SAA President Justin Haynes (*student class of '13*) visit with members and potential members about the advantages of alumni association membership during pre-game tailgating in Bearkat Alley.



Alumni Board member Tanya Brannon '81 joined over 100 alumni and friends for the pre-game tailgate at Lucky's Pub prior to the SHSU @ TSU game.



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

◆ The fenced Alumni Association tailgate area is the focal point of Bearkat Alley and alumni staff members Harley Thomas (*student class of '13*), Casey Hughes '12 and Donna Gilbert '82 & '90 greet alumni and friends to tailgating each home game. Association members are welcomed into the tailgate area at no charge.

BATTLE OF THE PINEY WOODS



◆ Bearkats celebrate the 51-43 victory over the SFA Lumberjacks before a series record crowd

Alumni Board of Directors President Elect Susan Lenamon and Board President Mary Ellen Thornton visit during the Alumni Association pre-game tailgate at Reliant Stadium prior to the BOTPW! ▼



STUDENT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



▲ SAA members mingle during the Welcome Back reception on September 4 hosted by the Alumni Association.

▲ SAA member Ashley Bonilla has a spooktacular time working the plinko booth during the Presidents Fall Festival on October 25.



▲ SAA members Bree Hill and William Rowley are presented with Battle of the Piney Woods tickets by Club officers Justin Haynes and Barbie Stimac during a membership drawing. The tickets were donated by Alumni members Wayne Scott '73 and John Gilbert '78.



SAVE THE DATE

**7TH ANNUAL
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**Saturday, March 23, 2013
High Meadow Ranch Golf Club**

REGISTER ONLINE AT ALUMNI.SHSU.EDU

SHSU Alumni Association
Box 2022
Huntsville, TX 77341-2022

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 Bearkats know what you've been up to by completing this form and sending it to us. Class Notes are shared in the **Heritage** magazine.

Email: alumni@shsu.edu or fill out the form at www.shsu.edu/~alu_kat/services/classnotes.html

YOUNG ALUMNUS LIFE MEMBERSHIP

When I first got to Sam Houston State University in 2007, I was instantly captivated by the warmth and friendliness of the campus. The students, faculty, and staff not only provided a warm welcome, but also embraced me and made me feel like family. From then on, I made it my mission to seek every opportunity to support that atmosphere for all of the future Bearkats. I became involved in a wide variety of organizations and campus initiatives, in an effort to further this goal. This was my way of directly influencing the atmosphere, and welcoming experience of all of the incoming students. Upon graduation in 2010, it seemed more than natural to join the ranks of all of the Bearkats who had come before me, by joining the Alumni Association as a Life Member. My membership solidified that I had succeeded at my goal, and had successfully made an impact on the university that would carry on and encourage others to do the same.



One of the most important lessons I have learned here at Sam Houston State University, is that though striving for academic excellence is of great importance, true success is rooted in the lessons learned from the balance of academics and our life journey. These lessons may come from campus involvement, community involvement or family life, but we must always continue to be engaged learners and take in everything that life has to offer. This university is, and will always be, the thread that runs through my success. Staying connected through membership in the Alumni Association to this university, which has provided me much happiness and support, means that I am able to continue to make an impact on the future generations of Bearkats. I know the great experience that SHSU has to offer, and I hope that every new person to join this campus community harnesses the opportunity presented to them to succeed.

"The Measure of a Life is its Service," is a not just a grouping of words made to sound good when put together, it is a tradition, a way of life. To be an Alumnus of this "Grand Ole' University," and to fully appreciate this motto, is truly an honor and I vow to continue my service to this campus into the future.

Jimmy Williams
MBA Student Class of '13
BBA Class of '10



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