Bonds Of Friendship Span Over Half A Century

A group of graduates of Sam Houston State Teachers College from the years 1955, 1956, and 1957 have remained in close contact through the years.

They all live in Texas and they get together each year to “meet, eat and chat.” All but one of the group became teachers in the Texas public school system, and one continues to substitute teach.

“We began a round-robin letter in 1958 to keep in contact with one another during the years in which we were getting married and having children,” said Annie Lee (Carnes) Croley, of Cleveland. “One wrote another, that person wrote a letter and sent both letters to the next person, etc. After the first person received all the letters, she wrote a new letter and removed her previous letter.”

The group discontinued the round-robin letter in 1967, and the graduates began meeting once each year in their homes.

“This practice has continued since that year, and we’ve not missed even one year,” Croley said. “We have a short business meeting to plan the date and location of the meeting for the next year. Some of the husbands also attend and they have become good friends with one another.”

One year, the group met in Huntsville at Sam Houston State where they enjoyed a tour of the campus.

“The campus, of course, has grown tremendously since 1955, and we were all impressed with the school that Sam Houston has become,” Croley said.

Some of the graduates’ children and grandchildren followed in their footsteps to become Bearkats.

“We all believe that we received a fine education at Sam Houston, and we are proud to say we are graduates,” Croley said.

Those in the group include: Mary Ann (Maxwell) Beltz, Baytown; Fay (Lamar) Brooks, Austin; Jon (Belt) Chachere, Dayton; Dorothy (Lade) Johnson, Nacogdoches; Louise Maxwell, Keller; Reba (Parker) Pryor, Palestine; Elaine (Hingst) Rowland, Louise; Jane (Bryant) Wagner, Waxahachie; June (Aust) Wier, San Antonio; Polly (Galey) Mehner (deceased); Barbara (Morgan) Girndt (deceased); LeBland (Farris) McAdams, Winnie; Liz (Deck) Vinson, Lufkin; and Croley.
The Alumni Association gratefully acknowledges the generous and ongoing support of the following sponsors:

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Don Strickland ’49, ’54
Office of the Vice President for Finance & Operations

The 2012 Service Awards Luncheon was held on April 20, 2012 in the Lowman Student Center Ballroom. This year’s recipients (l-r) Tommy Metcalf, Yolanda Green, Frank (Poncho) Roberts, Don Strickland with SHSU President Dana Gibson.

**CLASS NOTES**

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 the online form or emailing us your updates. Class Notes are shared in the Heritage magazine.

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

Updates now found in the Heritage magazine!
Welcome To Our Newest Life Members

(New Life Members from March 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012)

30's
Mary Kristensen '39

40's
Dorothy Sullivan '44

50's
Edith Harding '50
Charles Munday '55
Al Culberson '58
Frank Fontana '58
Jo Locke 1958 '55

60's
Lucretia Henson '60
Lynda Evans '61
Hollis Naquin '61
Jack Pierce '61 '60
Jerry Williams '61
Truman Welch '62
Robert Dietze '63
Ted Price '63
Bert Savage '63
Dan Thomas '63 '58
Shirley Thomas '63 '57
William Seeker '64
Julius Dubcak '65
Clarence Wisenbaker '65
Dana Chandler '66
Clarke Evans '66 '60
Rowena Anderson '68
Richard Ramsev '68
James Story '68
Donn Burch '69
Wayne Frosch '69
Joe Smith '69
Mary Smith '69
Anita Zukowski '69

70's
Gayla Baker '70
James Danklefs '70
Larry Monzinger '70
Joan Ramsey '70
Ann Froelich '71 '65
Robert Lang '71
Carol Park '71
Evelyn Bobo-White '72 '66
Rudy Okruhlak '72 '76
Linda West '72
Robert York '72
Gary Callon '73
James Robinson '74 '71
Carol Shaw '74
Mary Rivet '75
Roger Rivet '75
William Shaw '75
Michael Mackey '76
Cheryl Peschke '77
Kay Stephenson '77
Royce Bailey '78
Judy Cole '78 '66
Cheryl Oller '78
James Riggs '78 '65
Jerry Stephenson '78

80's
Frank Romero '80 '79
Jimmie Sandles-Lee '82
Christopher Tritico '83
Deborah Tritico '84
Gilbert Lee '85
Sonie Mangurn '85
Patricia De Flora '86
Todd Donaldson '87
Karen Howard '87
Jeffrey Bohannon '88
Brian Hall '88
Debra Jones '88
Donna McRoberts '88 '87
Ferne Frosch '89
James Stone '89

90's
Monica Donaldson '90
Gregory Jackson '90
Andrew Martin '90
Christopher Wood '90
Peter Grande '91
James Lopez '91
Martha Harlow '93
Richard Yawn '94 '92
Robert Woods '97
Floyd Cowan '98
Jimmy Tiemann '98
Jennifer Patterson '99

00's
Sarah Nethery '02
Leora Croy '05
Courtney Schindewolf '06
Millicent Woods '08
John Mayor '09
Samuel Ogbonna '09

10's
Brandy Benningfield '10
Natalee Crianva '10
Edward Croy '10
Candice Gatewood '10
Jordan Heggie '10
Charity Joseph '10
Kevin Jukkola '10
Haley Kelly '10
Bryan Kutac '10
Mindy Lange '10
Sara Nagel '10 '05
Jarret Nethery '10
Mark Verzinski '10 '08
Colt Vogel '10
Lance Weaver '10
Patrice West '10 '06
Joshua Blake '11
Kathryn Bremer '11
Mary Cooley '11
Clayton Dalrymple '11
Charles Daniel '11
Stephanie Doyen '11
Stephanie Fors '11 '08
Megan Gibson-Kutac '11
Kellie Grace '11
Geah Hanson '11
Courtney Henry '11
Billy Hirsch '11 '99
Cynthia Hoffzimmer '11
Peter Ibarra '11

Friends & Family
Sherry Hirsch
Billie Moffett
Mance Park
Nathan Peschke
Herbert Schumann
John Simmons

Rodney Janczak '11
Marylyss Jeffcoat '11
Pamela Kelsay '11
Melissa Lacarter '11
Joshua Lange '11 '08
Kelli Langley '11 '09
Laura Mayor '11 '08
Rachel Moore '11
Amber Moreaux '11
Lisa Ognanovich '11
Tacie Penewitt '11 '10
Justin Powers '11
Mary Richards '11
Michael Schindewolf '11
Christina Shafer '11 '09
Dennis Shafer '11 '09
Natalie Thielemann '11
Rachel Verm '11 '09
Cole Williams '11
Zachary Birdsong '12
Steven Crianva '12
Colby Crumrine '12
Marisse Golden-Thomas '12 '05
Joshua Harris '12
Kristi Hermes '12 '10
David Hintzel '12
Jessica Juarez '12
Meagan Lee '12
Valerie Matthys '12 '06
Katherine McConnell '12
Molly McGinley '12
John Messer '12
Debra Piazza '12
Stormy Potter '12
Penny Spreen '12
Alumni & Friends

Houston, TX | Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo | March 8, 2012

Sponsored by: Joe Amato ’72, David Sam Bain ’56, Tucker Blair ’75, Bill ’88 & Kerri Byler, Charles Cox ’73, ’75, Sonny Dean ’62, Carolyn Chipman Faulk ’70, Michael Hajovsky ’66, Mary Crow & Sam Jones ’72, Dennis Knebel ’65, Susan S.’73 & Ben ’74 Lenamon, Edgar ’56 & Carolyn Reeves, SHSU Agricultural Alumni Association, Sonny ’55, ’57 & Joanne ’57 Sikes, Robert ’80 & Erin ’80 Steele, Frank & Mary Ellen ’64, ’68 Thornton, Alan ’71 Tinsley

Houston, TX | 6th Annual Alumni Golf Tournament | May 19, 2012

The 6th Annual Alumni Golf Tournament hosted at High Meadow Ranch Golf Club on May 19th generated record participation and net revenues, with 30 team entries and over $16,000 raised. Special thanks to Mickey Tiner, Texas Barge & Boat, Inc. for their generous Corporate Gold Sponsorship. Other Corporate Silver Sponsors included Ron ’61 & Donna Koska; Jon ’61 & Barbara ’61 Bright; Aramark Campus Dining; 1st National Bank of Huntsville; Dr. Dana Gibson; and Byron Mosher ’75. For more photos visit the alumni website at shsu.edu/~alu_kat/photos

Tyler, TX | Hollytree Country Club | May 8, 2012

Sponsored by: Roland E. Black ’61, David ’81 & Rebecca ’83 Mohr, Russ ’86 & Lori Morrison, James E. Raney ’62, Joe ’69 & Mary Ann ’69 Smith, David G ’59 & Carole A. Wilson

Head Football Coach Willie Fritz visits with alumni at the reception.

New York City

A Bearkat Holiday

Tuesday, November 27–Friday, November 30, 2012

Thursday, November 29, 2012
Alumni Reception & Dinner at The Waldorf–Astoria
300 Park Avenue • New York, NY
Please reserve by October 1, 2012
800.283.7478 or alumni.shsu.edu

Join Sam Houston State University for a Holiday in the Big Apple. Enjoy the beginning of the Christmas season and be there for the lighting of the tree in Rockefeller Center.

Alumni and friends enjoy BBQ during the HLSR reception.
Welcome Hall served as a great venue for a spring BBQ with alumni & friends.

Alumni & friends enjoy the fun and fellowship.

Norwood Lange ‘59 receives a signed football from Head Football coach Willie Fritz.

Houston, TX | SHSU Night at Minute Maid Park | June 7, 2012

Sponsored by: Liberty Mutual, Carolyn “Chipman” Faulk ’70, Annanelle Hay ’64, Jenna Jackson ’97, Stella ’71 & Robert Koryciak, Ellen ’82 & Terry Phillips, Edgar ’56 & Carolyn Reeves

Alumni Peggy Jackson ’97 and Daniel Arredondo ’02 enjoy the pre-game reception with Sammy the Bearkat.

Alumni Max Mejia ’02, Kevin Pooler ’94 and John Renfro ’97 visit during the reception.

Alumni Ernie Koy ’71 and wife Barbara Koy ’73 enjoy the game with their son Robert Koy ’01, daughter-in-law Barbara Koy ’02 and grandson Wyatt Koy.
The Student Alumni Association celebrated the end of another successful year with a Banquet on April 24, 2012. President Dana Gibson congratulated the club on another successful year and spoke on the importance of being involved on campus and with the alumni association upon graduation. Alumnus Terry Williams, H-E-B Regional Vice President of Operations and SHSU Alumni Association VP, served as guest speaker for the event and spoke to the club about leadership and building a successful career. Each graduating senior was honored during the ceremony.

The SAA would like to welcome all of the new members that joined this summer during orientation.

SAA members Leann Harrel and Risa Mitchell proudly display their SAA member certificates while visiting with SHSU President Dana Gibson following the banquet.

Homecoming 2012 Schedule

Homecoming Kick-Off Rally..............................................................Monday, October 15 – 12:30 p.m. – Bearkat Plaza
SAM Jam Carnival.................................................................Wednesday, October 17 – 7-11:00 p.m. – Holleman Field Parking Lot
Homecoming Parade...............................................................Thursday, October 18 – 6:30 p.m. – Sam Houston Avenue
Distinguished Alumni Gala........................................................Friday, October 19 – 6:00 p.m. – LSC Ballroom
Alumni and Friends Coffee..... Saturday, October 20 – 10:30 a.m. – noon, John R. Ragsdale Visitor and Alumni Center
Bearkat Alley .................................................................Saturday, October 20 – 12-2:00 p.m. – Bowers Stadium Parking Lot
SHSU vs. McNeese State...............................................................Saturday, October 20 – 2:00 p.m. – Bowers Stadium
Black Alumni and Friends Reception..................................Saturday, October 20 – 8:00 p.m. – LSC Ballroom
A record number 697 class rings were presented during the 2012 Ring Ceremony held on April 4, 2012. Over 2,500 family and friends attended the ceremony. The official class ring was adopted in 2003 as an everlasting symbol of our esteem for the university and our bond with each other.

**Upcoming Events**

September 4 ........... SAA Semester Kick-off Meet & Greet (SHSU Campus – John R. Ragsdale Visitor & Alumni Center)
September 7 ........... Legacy & Faculty/Staff Reception (SHSU Campus – John R. Ragsdale Visitor & Alumni Center)
September 8 ........... Family Weekend Reception (SHSU Campus – John R. Ragsdale Visitor & Alumni Center)
September 15 .......... Alumni & Friends pre-game Tailgate (Floyd Casey Stadium, Baylor Campus, Waco)
September 27 .......... Alumni & Friends pre-game Tailgate (Lucky’s Pub, Houston, TX)
October 5 ............. BOTPW Alumni Golf Outing (Wildcat Golf Club, Houston, TX)
October 6 ............. Alumni & Friends pre-game Tailgate (Reliant Stadium Parking Lot, Houston, TX)
October 19 ........... Distinguished Alumni Gala (SHSU Campus – LSC Ballroom)
October 20 ........... Alumni Coffee (SHSU Campus – John R. Ragsdale Visitor & Alumni Center)
October 27 .......... Alumni & Friends pre-game Tailgate (Katherine & Company, Beaumont, TX)
November 17 .......... Alumni & Friends pre-game Tailgate (Texas A&M Rec. Center, College Station, TX)
November 29 .......... New York Alumni & Friends Dinner (Waldorf Astoria, New York, NY)

To RSVP for upcoming events or for more information go to alumni.shsu.edu
SHSU has over 90,000 alumni worldwide and the Office of Alumni Relations would like to connect you with the University and other alumni in your area through one of the alumni clubs across the country. We currently have clubs established in Austin, Dallas, Ft. Worth, San Antonio, Walker County, North Harris/Montgomery County, Austin/Washington County, Bay Area (Seabrook/Clearlake area), as well as a Black Alumni & Friends Club and a Hispanic Alumni & Friends Club. We are in the process of establishing a club in New York City.

If you have not already signed up to become a part of a club, visit our website at alumni.shsu.edu and click on the alumni chapters/clubs link to find the club in your area.

Don’t see your city listed and want to help organize a club in your area? Contact Donna Gilbert, Office of Alumni Relations, Assistant Director for Membership and Marketing at 936.294.3924 or via email at dgilbert@shsu.edu.