The SHSU Alumni Association presented plaques to 93 new life members during the 5th Annual Life Member Celebration on Feb. 5 at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel.

More than 300 guests attended the event, which featured an evening of music, fine dining, and the opportunity to visit with fellow Bearkats across the generations.

“Membership in the Alumni Association life member program is currently more than 2,650 and growing,” said Donna Gilbert, assistant director for alumni membership and marketing. “Through their thoughtful giving, life members are directly impacting our efforts to keep the Bearkat connection strong for thousands of alumni.”

Among those receiving plaques was Trina Silva, ’06, who serves as the volunteer coordinator with Crisis Intervention of Houston.

“I love Sam Houston State University and want be involved and stay connected,” she said. “I am a member of the SHSU Young Alumni and Friends Club, and I participate in alumni activities in the Houston area. Being a life member is a wonderful way to continue my association with my university and be a part of the exciting things taking place there.”

Meagen Morrison, ’14, is an associate producer for KPRC-TV, Channel 2, in Houston. A recipient of the university’s prestigious McDermott Award, which recognizes the most outstanding female senior, she feels that life membership in the Alumni Association is a good way to give back to SHSU.

▲ (1) New Life Members John & Claire Davis. (2) Life Endowed member Walter Fitzgerald gave an inspiring speech on how SHSU changed his life. Walter is also a member of the Alumni Association, Board of Director’s.
“My experience as a college student was so positive, and I’m happy to support my university in this way,” she said. “It will help me stay in touch and also give me opportunities for professional networking.”

Jean Hendricks, ’82, serves as a water aerobics and spin instructor in Lake Jackson. She and her husband, Roland, who has been a life member for several years, decided to become joint life members.

“I serve on the alumni board, and I wanted to take the opportunity to do my part in supporting the scholarships that are provided by life membership dues,” she said.

Tonya Ferris surprised her husband, Jim, ’69, with a life endowed membership as a gift for their anniversary.

“He is so passionate about Sam Houston State University, and I knew this would mean a lot to him,” she said.

Jim, who was a Bearkat cheerleader and member of Sigma Chi fraternity, acknowledged that it was, indeed, a wonderful gift.

“I was totally shocked,” he said. “But I appreciate her thoughtfulness so much. It was a perfect gift for me.”

Keenan Jones, ’14, serves as a fourth grade math tutor at Blackshear Elementary in Houston. While a student at SHSU, he was a recipient of the coveted Sammy Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to student life.

“There are so many reasons to be a life member,” he said. “It’s a great way to stay connected to the university and to meet fellow alumni. It also provides an opportunity to leave your mark at Sam Houston State University, help support scholarships, and give back.”

Laverne Warner, ’62 and ’69, has been a life member since 1963. A former student and a retired SHSU education faculty member, she has been active on numerous committees and attended many events and programs hosted by the university.

She has promoted Sam Houston State faithfully through the years and is considered by many to be an SHSU ambassador.

This year, she decided to enhance her alumni membership by becoming a life endowed member.

“The university and the alumni association have been a part of my life for so long,” she said. “I just felt it was time to move up to the next level.”

Lauren Preston, ’13, is the community relations coordinator for the University of Houston.

“Sam Houston State University played a really big part in who I am today,” she said. “The experiences I had as a college student will enrich my life forever. Being a life member of the Alumni Association is one way I can thank the university and give back so that future students can benefit from their time at SHSU, as well.”

Over 93 new life members attended the Celebration. To view all of the photos from the evening event, please visit alumni.shsu.edu/photos

SPONSORS

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE GENEROUS AND ONGOING SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS:

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Jon ’61 & Barbara ’61 Bright
John ’78 & Donna ’82, ’90 Gilbert
Sara Hart, Cecelia Marquart ’77, ’79 and Carol Shaw ’74
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Tommy ’71 & Mary ’72 Metcalf
Steven ’77 & Lisa Parkhill
Edgar ’56 & Carolyn Reeves
Office of the VP for University Advancement
John Deveau ’06 - Sara’s Inn on the Boulevard
Welcome To Our Newest Life Members

(New Life Members from November 1, 2014 through March 1, 2015)

Life Endowed Members

Jill Bell Myatt '63

40s
Wayne Dolive '48
Rosemary Tittle '49

50s
Thomas Bolton '57
Janette Bowers '54
Jennie Graves '57
Milton Graves '58
Hiram Jones USAF (Ret) '59
Carl Martin '58
James Meredith '50
Tolbert Nash, Jr. '50
Benjamin Pitts '53
Molly Woods '59 '61

60s
Patsy Arrington '62
Sharon Clark '69
Thomas Fowler '67
Margaret Gerlich '69 '75
Mark Gerlich '69
Glenda Goehrs '60
Patrick Harrop '65
Diane Hoffman '67
Donald Hoffman '66 '77
Martha Jones '60
Molly Kent '63
Robert Kent '64
Roger Kolb '64
Peter Kucera '68
David Mace '69
Sue McCAlexander '67
Benny Reese '67
Karen Robertson '69
Walter Rubach, Jr. '66
Joan Scalise '65
Lawrence Scalise '65
Preston Sides '63
John Skeeters '65 '67
Deanna Swenke '64
Rebecca Tisdale '62 '67

Billy Walcik '67
Shirley Walcik '68 '75
Carolyn Walker '66 '68
Ralph Wittner '60
Marvin Worthen '61

70s
Patrick Blesiadecki '70
Glenn Brandt '71
Keith Budd, Jr. '73
Joe Chase '73
Joe Cordero '75
Charles Cox '73 '76
James Dunagan III '70
Grover Fickes '72
Danny Glaze '72
Gayle Kruse '72
C. Ruth Lea '71
Debora Ludwig '74
Mitchell Migl '79
Dianne Paben '75
Thomas Paben '74
Asa Ratiff '73
Ronald Roberts '70
Louis Rubino '73
Marion Ruckstahel '74
Edwin Rumsey '72 '74
Dianne Sides '70
Barbara Jo Skeeters '71 '74
Brenda Taylor '75
Glen Treibs '75
Peggy Treibs '77
Douglas Volkmer '72
Betty Womack '78
Gerald Young '70 '75
Nancy Young '72
Robert Young '72 '79

80s
Donald Annis '80
Daniel Forney '82
Shirley Gregory '83
Roland Hendricks '80
Earnest Hendricks '82
Angelica LaGrange '89

Michael LaGrange '89
Jane Miller '87
Laura Remschel '85
Diana Winborn '84

90s
Joshua Benn '95
Timothy Gunn '93
Rebecca Hamlin '99 '04
Luanne Johnson '99
Farooq Khan '96 '13
Bruce Leggett '95
Lois Leggett '96
Louis Ruffino '94
Cherie Ruffino '94
Shelly Russo '98
Jennifer Scharlach '99

00s
Donna Artho '01
Erin Aschenbeck '01
Melissa Blanks '08 '12 '14
Scott Blanks '06
Jordan Green '08 '13
Sean Ottman '03
Trina Silva '06
Bridget Smiley '09 '12
Ryan Weber '09 '10
Jamie Woodall '03
Joshua Woodall '02

10s
Kimberly Ahee '14
Valerie Alvarado '14
Scott Aschenbeck '13
Andrew Barnes '10 '13
Casey Barnes '12
David Bazan '12
Charles Bransom '13
Evan Brown '14
Laura Cardiel '13
Derek Davenport '14
Camille Delony '12
Brianna Drisdale '14
Steven Droddy '14
Tyler Fetgatter '13

Friends & Family

Alexander Fitzgerald '13
Michelle Forestier '14
Brandon Garner '14
Cheryl Hobbs '12
Matthew Ison '13
Olivia Jaramillo '13
Jessica Kirk '14
Annette Laviolette-Freund '13
Jacob Luna '13
Sarah Mataway '14
Derek Martin '12
Gregory Mason '14
Haley McWilliams '13
Rosa Mejia-Cruz '11 '13
Lindley Mock '14
Louise Mol '14
Carlos Montalvo '14
Shelby O'Brien '14
Gregory Olson '13
Keri O'Neal '14
Karl Osth '14
Kevin Pierce '14
Kelly Pipera '13
Lauren Preston '13
James Richards '13
Travis Ross '13
Kendall Scudder '14
Christopher Springer '13
Emily Stavinoha '13
Hannah Vaughan '14
Ricai Waller '12
Robert Walls, Jr. '13
Gary Ward '13

Megan Ottman
Stanley Lea
Doris Meredith
Beverly Mace
George Goloby III
Johnny Jackson
The Sam Houston State University Alumni Association club network is stronger than ever and growing. For more information, or to start a club in your area, contact Kelsey Christian, at kmchristian@shsu.edu or 936.294.2403. You may also visit our website at alumni.shsu.edu and click on the alumni chapter/club link to find a club in your area.

Austin, TX | Sam Houston Birthday and Texas Independence Celebration | March 2014

Sponsored by: H.L. ’65 & Barbara Farrell, Charles W. “Chuck” Jones III ’81 and Debbie Jones, COL Mark ’70 and Shelly ’70 Beto, Susan Griffith and Curtis Fuelberg ’74, Robert & Stella ’71 Koryciak Ray ’64 & Donna Matthews, David & Rebecca ’83 Mohr

Austin Area Alumni Club members.

SHSU President, Dana G. Hoyt and former Speaker of the House and SHSU alumnus Gib Lewis.

President Dana G. Hoyt introduces the SHSU students working as legislative aides during the Legislative session.

Fort Worth, TX | Cowtown Area Alumni & Friends Club | January 2015

Alumni & friends met up for happy hour on January 27th at Bar Louie in Ft. Worth.

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 other 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
Over 150 people attended the Walker County Area Alumni & Friends Club, Scholarship Auction & Dinner in January. The auction fund raising event benefits the Walker County Alumni Club Endowed Scholarship Fund and students from Walker County. The Walker County Club has raised over $30,000 for their endowed scholarship. (1) Susan Cason ’06; Kirby Cason ’07, ’13; Roger Collins ’79; and Patsy Collins ’81, ’13 Janice Keeler; RQ Swann; Lynn Mizell ’87; Scott McCarley ’73, ’75; and Mary McCarley ’89.

Alumni & Friends in New York City.
Members of the SHSU Young Alumni & Friends Club volunteered at the Star of Hope Mission in Houston, Texas as part of an All Paws In project. The Club provided breakfast and entertainment for those staying at the Star of Hope Mission.

SAA members provided Carnations and hand-made cards to Seniors during the Valentine’s Day party at a local nursing home. This is an annual community service project that SAA began in 2010.

The Woodlands/North Harris County Alumni & Friends Club participated in Arbor Day 2015 on February 7. The club participated in the tree planting competition by planting over 500 5-gallon trees in the annual Houston Area Urban Forestry Tree Planting Event.

SAA members volunteer monthly at Tomorrow’s Promise Montessori School in Huntsville. SAA members read and create craft projects with the students at the Montessori School.

BE A PART OF THE LARGEST TAILGATE IN BEARKAT ALLEY

Game Day Tailgate 2014!
New Sponsorship Opportunities for 2014 Season

DATE • OPPONENT
Sat, Sep 05 • @ Texas Tech
Sat, Sep 19 • Lamar
Sat, Sep 26 • Houston Baptist
Sat, Oct 03 • Stephen F. Austin* (NRG Stadium)
Sat, Oct 10 • Incarnate Word
Sat, Oct 17 • @ Abilene Christian
Sat, Oct 24 • Nicholls*
Sat, Oct 31 • A&M-Commerce*
Sat, Nov 07 • @ McNeese St.
Sat, Nov 14 • Northwestern St.*
Sat, Nov 21 • @ Central Arkansas

*Alumni Association hosted tailgate 2 hours prior to Game time.

New Sponsorship levels

Spirit Sponsor ~ $250
Fence Sponsor ~ $500
Food Sponsor ~ $1000
Tent Sponsor ~ $5000

For information and details about the sponsorship opportunities, please visit alumni.shsu.edu or contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 800.283.7478
Upcoming Events

May 2......................................................................................................................Bay Area Club Reception – Keels & Wheels (Seabrook)
May 2.........................................................................................................................SHSU Day at the Races – Sam Houston Race park (Houston)
May 5.........................................................................................................................SHSU Day at Constellation Field (Sugarland)
June 3......................................................................................................................SHSU Night @ Minute Maid Park (Houston)
July 31.....................................................................................................................SHSU Football Dinner and Auction (SHSU Campus)
August 1 ..............................................................................................................Football Kick-off reception (The Woodlands)

*For a complete listing of club meetings and networking activities visit alumni.shsu.edu/alumnichaptersclubs

Traveling Bearkats

Explore With Us...

CANADIAN ROCKIES AND GLACIER NATIONAL PARK
7 Days – 9 Meals
August 14 – 20, 2015
Highlights: Calgary, Waterton Lakes, National Park, Glacier National Park, “Going to the Sun Road”, Banff, Columbia Icefield
Travel By: Collette Vacations

REFLECTIONS OF ITALY
10 Days – 14 Meals
March 09 – 18, 2016
Highlights: Rome, Colosseum, Assisi, Perugia, Siena, Florence, Chianti Winery, Venice, Murano Island, Milan
Travel By: Collette Vacations

NEW YORK ALUMNI & FRIENDS TRIP
4 Days – 3 Nights
December 2015
Highlights: Experience NYC during the holidays, Round trip air and limo transportation to NYC, Finalized trip dates, pricing and itinerary coming soon!

SOUTH DAKOTA THE BLACK HILLS & BADLANDS
7 Days – 9 Meals
June 28 – July 04, 2016
Highlights: Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial, Black Hills Gold, Needles Highway, Custer State Park, Deadwood, Lead, Badlands National Park, Wall Drug Store, Hot Springs
Travel By: Collette Vacations

For more information visit alumni.shsu.edu or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 936.294.1841.
How and when did Sam Houston State University adopt the school colors of orange and white?

BearKats know our University colors as orange and white but that hasn’t always been the case. Prior to 1924, we were the Sam Houston Normal Institute, “Normals” and our school colors were yellow and white. When the Sam Houston Normal Institute changed names to the Sam Houston State Teachers College (SHSTC) in early 1923, it was decided by President Harmon Lowman and the Athletic Committee that a change of school colors was in order.

In the SHSTC faculty meeting of December 13, 1923 the matter of school color was brought up by Mr. Earl Huffor, Professor of English, who recommended the colors of orange and white. The faculty decided to appoint their own special committee members to assist the Athletic Committee with the change in colors. It was decided that Mr. Earl Huffor, Professor of English, Miss Anna Loring, Professor of Art, and S.C. Wilson, Professor of Agricultural Education would be the Color Committee members.

During the January 8, 1924 faculty meeting, the matter of the College’s colors was brought up again and Mr. Huffor speaking for the Color Committee, reported that the committee had decided on deep orange and white as the College colors.

Ninety-one years has gone by for the colors of orange and white, and they are a part of our rich history that makes us BEARKATS!