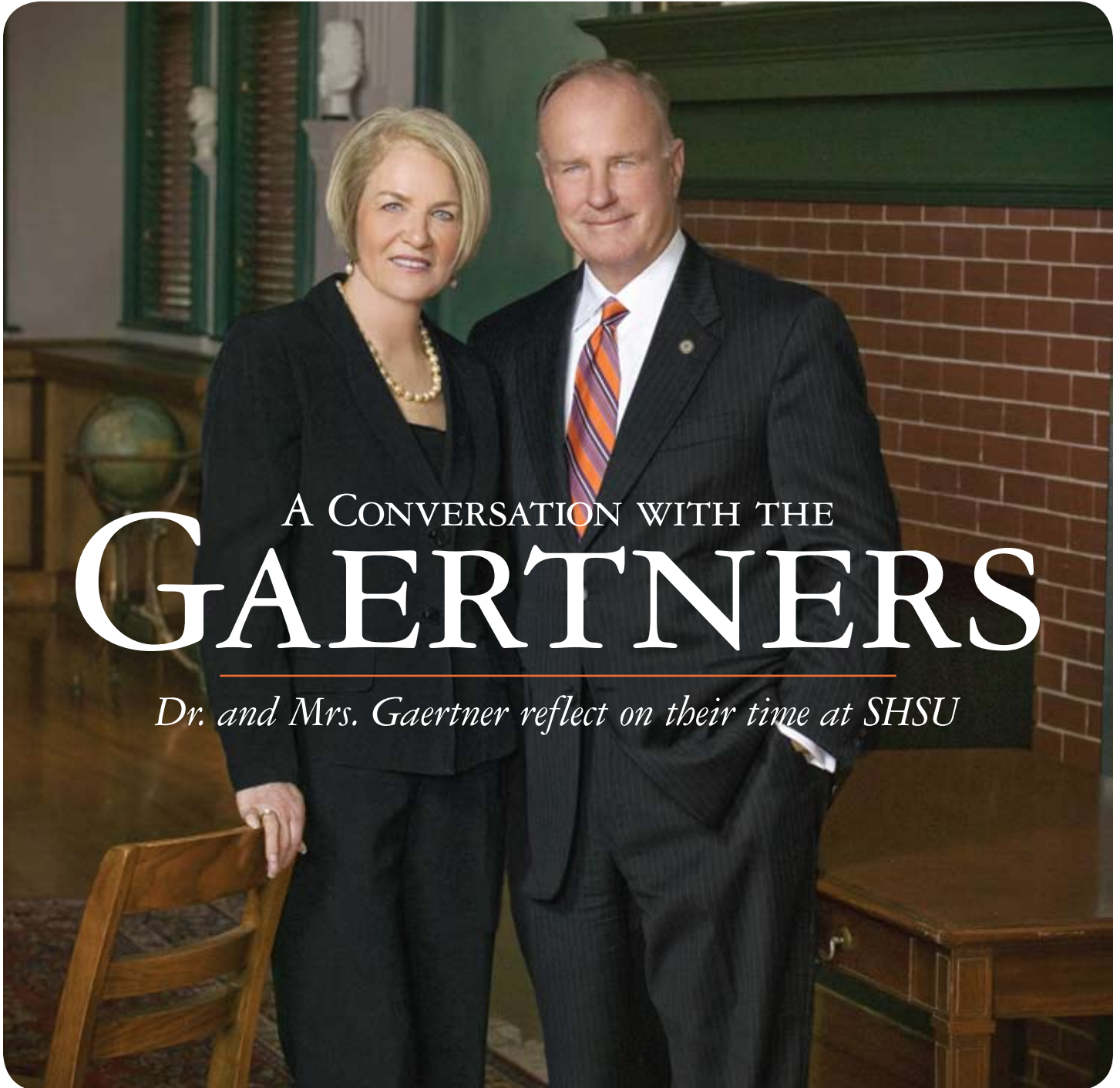


Heritage

Honoring Our Traditions. Envisioning Our Future.



A CONVERSATION WITH THE
GAERTNERS

Dr. and Mrs. Gaertner reflect on their time at SHSU

THE Vision



Be Proud. Share the Vision.

In this final issue of *"The Heritage"* before my retirement, Nancy and I both wish to express our profound appreciation for the wonderful support that has come our way during my tenure as president of Sam Houston State University.

My university colleagues including our administrative team, faculty, students, staff, as well as our system regents and staff, our alumni and previous administrations have all contributed greatly to the progress that has been made during the nine years of my administration. The good things that have occurred during this time are the result of many competent and caring people working together to benefit this very special university.

In reviewing the changes that have occurred during the past nine years, there is one particular statistic that I believe we should all take special pride in, and that is the dramatic increase in the number of students who graduate from our institution. In 2001 a total of 2,622 students received their degrees from SHSU. In 2010 we will have in excess of 4,000 students

"Nancy and I cannot overstate how much we value the friendships that we have made during these past nine years. We look forward to continuing these wonderful associations with so many good friends—and a continuing, although less public, association with this grand old university."

receive a degree, an increase of well over 50%. Our objective as an institution is not simply to attract students to our university, but to provide the type of atmosphere and support that gives them the best chance at graduating. This will enhance their lives and the lives of their families for generations to come. It is important that standards not suffer in an attempt to graduate students, and I feel confident that academic standards have been increased over the past several years. Certainly admission standards have increased appreciably over the past decade.

The two overriding reasons for this increase in the numbers graduating are the fact that more students are choosing Sam Houston State as their university of choice and better retention rates. Students choose SHSU and stay in school because of many factors, such as outstanding faculty and academic programs, modern facilities, the quality of student-life, great student advising and support systems, campus efficiency, and a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. So, in my judgment, the number of students graduating provides a unique overall barometer of our success in many vitally important areas.

Another fact that has brought me great pride through the years is the continuing "caring nature" of our university. In my judgment, this characteristic has been, and should continue to be, our heritage. Although this caring attitude about our students and colleagues is not as readily measurable as the numbers of students graduating, it is just as real! Sam Houston State is a place where many good and noble things happen, and many good and noble people are responsible for this unique atmosphere.

Finally, Nancy and I cannot overstate how much we value the friendships that we have made during these past nine years. We look forward to continuing these wonderful associations with so many good friends—and a continuing, although less public, association with this grand old university.

Sincerely,

James F. Gaertner,
President

Heritage

Honoring Our Traditions. Envisioning Our Future.

Director of Marketing

Ann O'Meara
anneo@shsu.edu

Editor

Julia May
jmay@shsu.edu

Writers

Jason Barfield
Jennifer Gauntt
Julia May
Paul Ridings

Heritage Committee

Darlene Andrews
Rhonda Ellisor
Thelma Mooney
Cindy Truax

Photography

Brian Blalock

Design & Layout

Clockwork Studios
State of TX HUB-certified
www.clockworkstudios.com

Masthead Design

Ford Design
281.992.4042

Vice President for University Advancement

Frank R. Holmes
holmes@shsu.edu

Director of Alumni Relations

Charles Vienne
alumni@shsu.edu
800.283.7478

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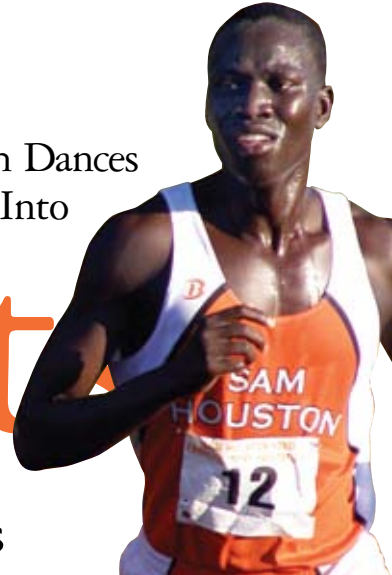
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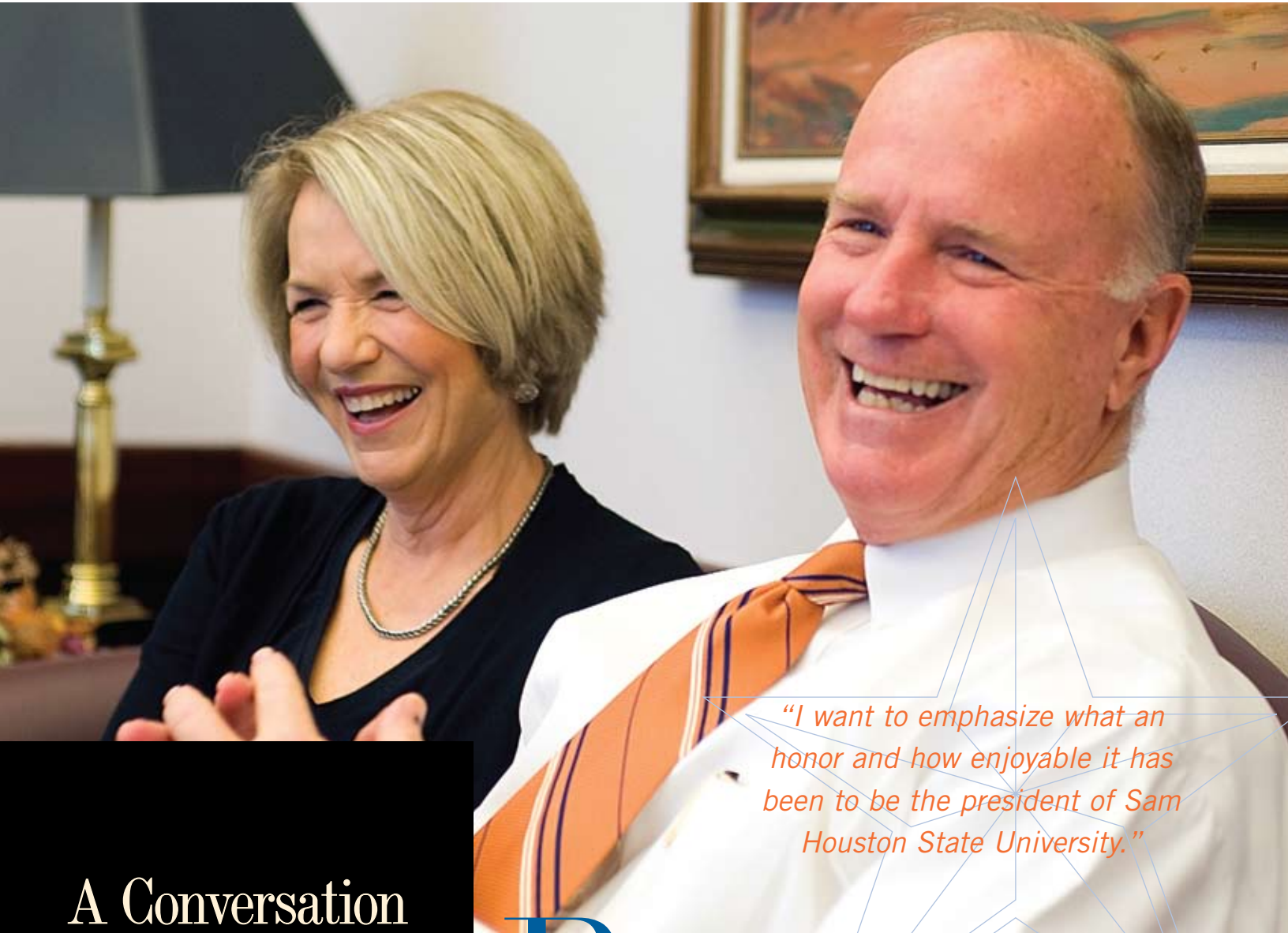


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Dr. and Mrs. Gaertner in the Peabody Library on the SHSU campus





A Conversation With The Gaertners

By Julia May

“I want to emphasize what an honor and how enjoyable it has been to be the president of Sam Houston State University.”

Recently Jim and Nancy Gaertner spent some time with *Heritage* magazine reflecting on his presidency at Sam Houston State University. He has announced plans to retire in August 2010.

What were your thoughts when Dr. Gaertner was offered the job of the presidency at Sam Houston State University?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER I was very honored. It was an overwhelming feeling of being honored.

MRS. GAERTNER I was very excited because I knew we would have new challenges and new experiences. But along with that, it was a little scary. I had been an elementary school teacher, and in that profession everything is very structured—you make lesson plans, you

have a classroom, and you teach. It's very secure. I knew this would be different, so it was a little scary, but very exciting.

You've lived in Houston, South Bend, London and San Antonio. Although you lived in Huntsville as married students, did you have reservations about living in a small city as adult professionals?

MRS. GAERTNER Jim knew he would be working all the time, so it probably didn't occur to him. I have to admit that I was a

little concerned. But the university provides so much in terms of culture and activities—the theatre, music programs, athletics. In fact, we have been able to take advantage of the opportunities more being here on campus than if we had lived in a larger city.

Mrs. Gaertner, in addition to your role as the “first lady” of Sam Houston State University, you became a part of the community, making contributions in the areas of the arts, health and fitness. What motivated you to do that?

MRS. GAERTNER Jim and I talked about it when we first came here, and we felt that it was important for us to be involved in the community. We wanted to do what we could to make a connection between the university and the community. So I decided to focus on things that I thought maybe I had a little expertise in or had a passion for. I love children, I love education, and health and fitness. So I started out working in areas where I felt I could contribute.

Dr. Gaertner, how much of an influence has Mrs. Gaertner had on you and the decisions you have made as president?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER There are some things we talk about collectively and some things we don't. You know, I'm just a better person because of Nancy, and in that regard she is a positive influence on all of the decisions that I make.

Both of you made a difference in the life of a Sam Houston State University student from Houston named Rena Ortiz who had no identity. How did that happen?

MRS. GAERTNER I was watching the news on television one night (see the news story Mrs. Gaertner is referring to at <http://www.click2houston.com/news/9878124/detail.html>) and I heard this young lady say, “It was always my dream to go to Sam Houston State,” and that got my attention. I listened to her story about the lack of an identity preventing her from enrolling

in college, and I told Jim, “I think this is something you should know about.” He told me to give him the student's name and details. He called the television station, and that is how it all started. She has been a successful student and will graduate in May (2010) with a degree in criminal justice. She is so appreciative, and she's never taken her opportunities for granted.

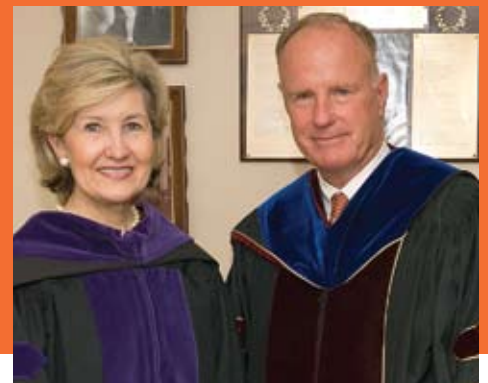
How do you plan to spend your time after retirement?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER As the official family vacation planner (smiling), that will be my job. We've visited over 30 countries, and we're still healthy enough we can probably do a little more strenuous travel in our lives. There are several places we want

to go... the Patagonia region of South America, New Zealand, India...those are some of the more exotic places we'd like to visit. We'd also like to see the fall colors in New England. When you are in the academic world, you can't get away in the fall, so that's something else we want to do. And then there have been places we've visited in the past that we would like to see again.

Dr. Gaertner, what do you think that people will remember about your presidency?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER Different people who have different interests will remember different things. The faculty will probably remember those decisions that changed because of initiatives we developed with them. I think overall, though, because



Above: Dr. Gaertner at the 2009 General Faculty and Staff meeting; Upper Right: Mrs. Gaertner and guest at the 2008 Annual Fall Festival at Gibbs Ranch; Lower Right: 2009 Commencement Ceremony, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison and Dr. Gaertner



Left: Mrs. Gaertner, founder and chairman at the 2009 Let's Talk! event; Center: Dr. Gaertner and Cameron Clay handing out "Pink Out" T-shirts during Breast Cancer Awareness week; Right: Dr. Gaertner visits with student Rena Ortiz and her son David.

of the visibility, people will remember the changes on campus... the new buildings, the new campus plaza, new residence halls.

Has the office of the president been different from your expectations? Have there been challenges you didn't anticipate?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER Getting the funds to do the things I wanted to do was somewhat of a challenge, but overall, when thinking about the job and what's been important and looking at the reality of it, it has been better than we anticipated. I think we expected more issues that would be unpleasant.

MRS. GAERTNER I also don't think we realized how much support we would have in dealing with tough issues. People have just been incredible to work with.

What has been the hardest part of the job?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER Difficult personnel decisions. Not only for those who report directly to me, but also in counseling the vice presidents on difficult personnel decisions they've had to make with people who report to them.

Were there particular issues that were especially challenging?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER I think perhaps getting approval for a designated Sam Houston State academic building in The Woodlands. We have been sharing space at the University Center with five other universities and the Lone Star College System since 1997. We teach 70 percent of the classes that are offered at the

University Center, and we have over 2,000 students taking classes there. It's time for us to have our own facility. (Construction of the building is scheduled to begin in the fall with a targeted completion date of spring 2012.)

And there was a situation when a third party offered to manage a distance-learning degree program for us. From the outside it appeared that the university would benefit from proceeding with the arrangement. However, after further evaluation, I decided that it would be better to guarantee that we were doing the right thing for our students and faculty and wait until we were prepared to manage the program ourselves. It was a difficult decision to make, because going ahead with offering the program probably would have given us a greater enrollment figure, which looks good in many ways. But after much thought and consideration, I knew that it was better for the university to wait until we could provide a worthy, quality program and ensure that our students were getting the best available education in this field.

MRS. GAERTNER Also, I think it was challenging to get final approval for the Performing Arts Center. It was so needed, and Jim worked on that for several years.

What do you consider the highlight of your presidency?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER So many things have been absolutely wonderful, and I have enjoyed the opportunity to re-connect with alumni and meet so many interesting people. However, I get much satisfaction from

planning things and seeing them happen. To sit with good people and discuss ways to make things better, then seeing all of that come to fruition... I get a real sense of joy. It's not just a sense of accomplishment, but a true joy, a fun thing. We made some improvements in programs, facilities and even our dining service through the years, and planning those ideas out and seeing the results have been very rewarding.

Out of all your accomplishments during your term, what are those that stand out for you?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER The ultimate goal of all the things that we do is to have our students graduate. That includes student recruitment and retention, attracting and retaining quality faculty, offering and supporting good programs... we do all those things so that our students will be prepared in their fields and graduate. So, I would say that the improvement in graduation rates is something I am very proud of. I enjoy graduation. It is such a fun time!

What are your feelings about our first capital campaign? Did you always feel confident that we would reach the goal? Did the economic situation cause concern?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER I always felt that we would reach the goal. I was worried that the economic situation would hurt us, and it did. We would have reached our goal earlier and perhaps gone over the goal by more than we are going to. But, I have to say that I was never in serious doubt that we would reach

the goal. The benefits of the capital campaign have been far ranging. Obviously, the financial benefits are important. However, the benefits in terms of exposure and the fact that we have demonstrated the support that is out there for the university is really very important.

What do think about the students?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER The students are just great! They are not intimidated; they are upwardly mobile and enthusiastic. It is so much fun to interact with them.

MRS. GAERTNER With some of the students, like those in the Orange Keys and the Political Science Junior Fellows, we almost become like their parents. They share things with us, and we take pride in their accomplishments.

What do you think about the faculty?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER We have a wonderful faculty. No matter what you do at a university, your ceiling in terms of quality is your faculty. You can have the greatest facilities or the greatest capital campaign, but your university is defined by how good your faculty is, and we have an excellent faculty! You know, the real work of a university goes on in the classroom. A university should be defined by what goes on in the classroom—the mentoring, the research, the creative activities—that is what a university is all about.

Of all the speakers and guests who have come to SHSU during your presidency, was there someone who particularly impressed you? Why?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER I was obviously very impressed by Lech Walesa. He almost single-handedly changed history. He demonstrated a great intellect and a wonderful sense of humor during his visit with us. However, the language barrier kept me from getting to know him better.

I've always admired (former NBA player) David Robinson so much. I was fortunate to work with him when he was founding The Carver Academy, and he is such a gentleman and such a bright man. I think the world of him. He is one person

who is just as good once you get to know him as he appears from afar.

And, of course, Dan Rather. He is the most gracious gentleman. I once introduced him as possibly "the greatest journalist who ever lived." On moral courage and physical courage, and when you combine that with love and support for Sam Houston State University, he is just a model person.

We also had speaker, Jackie Nink Pflug, who is a Sam Houston graduate. She was shot in the head by hijackers in 1985, then overcame numerous obstacles to put her life back together. Today she is a successful author and inspirational speaker.

If you had the time or inclination to take a course at SHSU, what would it be?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER I would probably take some type of history course, maybe art history or music history. Those are things I enjoy, and I would like to learn more about them.

Also, we've had a little more fun in the President's Office than might be thought. When I turned 60, my staff decorated my office completely with black balloons, black crepe paper, and all kinds of gag gifts. We had a lot of fun that day.

What advice would you offer the new president?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER The new president will come in and assess things. There will be things he or she will want to continue to do and things he or she will want to do differently, and that is the way it should be. Therefore, I have no advice.

What do you hope to leave Sam Houston State University as your legacy?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER That I worked hard for the university, and I tried to make decisions that were solely on the basis of what I thought was in the best interest of the university. That the university is overall better



2009 – 2010 President's Cabinet

Front Row: Dr. David Payne, Dr. Gaertner

Back Row: Frank Holmes, Dr. Dana Gibson, Kathy Gilrease, Dr. Heather Thielemann, Frank Parker

What were some of the "lighter" moments you've had as Sam Houston State University's president?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER (Laughing.) One time there was a scavenger hunt on campus. One of the prizes was lunch with the president. I got a note from the organizers of the scavenger hunt shortly after it was over that the winner had declined lunch with me.

now than it was before I came. That's what every president should hope for. It may sound self-serving, but every president who comes in should have that goal.

In closing, I want to emphasize what an honor and how enjoyable it has been to be the president of Sam Houston State University. Nancy and I have had so much joy during these years. It has just been wonderful! ★



Under President Gaertner's leadership, the following have been accomplished:

- Enrollment growth from 12,996 to 16,795, up 30%
- Budget growth from \$124M to \$228M, up 84%
- University budget per full time equivalent student from \$10,397 to \$16,355, up 57%
- SHSU achieved a Carnegie Doctoral Research classification, which places us in the top 7% of all institutions in the U.S. We are the only TSUS university to have achieved this classification.
- Increased number of faculty (headcount) from 542 to 763, up 41%
- Construction of over \$275 million:
 - Performing Arts Center
 - Humanities and Social Sciences Building
 - Baseball/Softball Complex
 - Three Student Resident Halls
 - John Ragsdale Visitor and Alumni Center
 - Chemistry and Forensic Science Building
 - Smith-Hutson Business Building addition
 - Teacher Education Center addition
 - Bearkat Plaza
 - Parking Garage
 - South Paw Dining Facility
 - Campus Signage
 - Blatchley Bell Tower
 - Ron Randleman Strength and Fitness Center
 - Ron Mafrige Field House
 - University Camp (FM 980 property)
 - Health and Kinesiology Center expansion
- Initiation of a \$50 million capital campaign (will come to close in 2010)
- Acquisition by donation from Lone Star College of 7 acres in The Woodlands. An SHSU campus will be placed on that site within the next 2 years.
- Increase in entrance scores of incoming freshmen to a point above the state and national averages
- Establishment of 9 semester credit hour teaching load for faculty
- Increase in diversity of student body from 24% minority to 33%
- Establishment of Staff Council (giving university staff formal voice)
- Establishment and expansion of national award-winning SAM (Student Advising and Mentoring) Center
- New Academic Programs—14 Master's and 3 Doctoral degrees including:
 - PHD—Counselor Education
 - EdD—Reading
 - EdD—Special Education—*Pending Coordinating Board Approval
 - Executive MBA—Banking and Financial Institutions
 - MS—Digital Forensics
 - MS—Forensic Science
 - MS—Geographic Information Systems
 - MS—Information Assurance and Security
 - BBA—PGA Golf Management (one of only 20 in the nation and the only one in Texas)
- Social Events:
 - Let's Talk (raised \$75,000 for honors program in two years)
 - Faculty Awards Dinner—recognizing faculty promotions and accomplishments
 - New Faculty Dinner—welcoming new faculty and spouses to campus
 - Student Honors Dinner
 - Retired Faculty Lunch
- Establishment of Official Ring Program, in which graduating seniors go through an official ceremony to receive their SHSU ring. The ring has the word "honor" engraved on the inside, as did General Sam Houston's ring.
- Establishment of President's Speaker Series. Among the speakers:
 - Sen. Bob Dole
 - David Robinson—NBA hall-of-fame player and founder of Carver Academy School in San Antonio
 - Sherron Watkins—Enron "whistle-blower"
 - Debbie Fields—founder of Mrs. Fields Cookies
 - Drayton McLane—Owner of Houston Astros
 - Marcus Luttrell—Navy Seal war hero and SHSU alumnus
- Establishment of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Initiative—a nationally recognized student health initiative
- University Reorganization:
 - New Vice President for Enrollment Management
 - New College of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Received approval from Board of Regents for new Campus Master Plan
- Research Growth:
 - Research expenditures up from \$2.4 million to \$9.8 million
 - First ever commercialization of a research project—Bioreactor Water Treatment Module
 - Currently 8 active NSF (National Science Foundation) grants on campus
- Initiated major Distance Education Division, with the appointment of an Associate Vice President for Distance Education
- Initiated Banner project to replace the outdated legacy computing system, and to bring SHSU up-to-date in the administrative computer services arena
- Freshman to Sophomore Retention Rates increased from 63% to 75%
- Six-year Graduation Rates increased from 34% to 45%
- Number of graduates increased from 2,622 (in 2000) to 3,978 (in 2009) up 52%
- Establishment of more than 40 articulation agreements with community colleges in Texas. SHSU is considered to be the leader in such agreements in the state.
- Established President's Circle—group of prominent friends of SHSU who meet annually and provide input and financial support
- New verse added to Alma Mater to better represent the unique and special nature of our university
- Establishment of a Regional Crime Lab that provides forensic testing for Walker and surrounding counties



Honors students reflect on academic interests, perks and why they do what they do at Sam Houston

An Honorable Mind

By Meredith Mohr

Meredith Mohr is a sophomore mass communication major from Tyler. She is also an honors student and a student writer in the University Communications Office.

The clock strikes 12 in the courtyard on campus as students begin to flock across the mall area to their destinations for the afternoon.

In an upstairs classroom of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Building, the atmosphere before class starts is considerably different from the 200-plus seat classes in the downstairs auditoriums. The people in the room are classmates, but they are also friends, bonded by similar schedules, close-knit Spivey House living, professors who know them by name and weekends filled with community service and study groups.

For some students at Sam Houston State University, the college experience is about more than going to class and studying a textbook until graduation. As students in the newly re-named Elliott T. Bowers

Honors College, they get to experience the more hands-on, up-close-and-personal aspects of academic and extracurricular life at college.

“At other colleges I found myself speaking to machines more than administrators and felt a real divide between the professors and the students they taught,” junior banking and finance major and honors student Will Caron said. “I never received the warm, personal assistance that I had come to expect from educators. I found it at SHSU.”

They also reap the benefits of the honors program with cultural outings and perks like separate honors dorms with quiet floors and early registration. In the end, they

respond emphatically that the rewards and experiences they gain far outweigh the hard work that is required of them.

“Criminal justice and forensic chemistry were my main academic interests when I first came to Sam Houston,” freshman honors student Mairead O’Hara said. “Though I have to admit, the classes I’ve taken and the people that I’ve gotten to know have made me consider majoring in life. Everything is just so interesting!”

Even with the tangible motivation to push themselves academically and outside of class, the students of the honors program have a firm grasp on what is most important to their college career. For them, it’s not just about what they get out of it.

In fact, it’s actually more about what they learn about themselves and about the world around them that proves to be the greatest incentive of them all.

“I have learned how to work with people who are different than myself, and I feel like I have become better at expressing my opinions,” said senior mass communications major and Honors Ambassador Heather Itzen. “Being an honors student has helped me become more hard-working and dedicated to making my dreams come true.”

An aspect unique to the academic atmosphere of honors program classes and seminars is that the professors who teach the classes are handpicked by the Honors Council based on their academic caliber, their previous experiences and research in their fields, according to Itzen.

“The faculty that I have come across in my honors classes have been involved in the actual courses,” Itzen said. “The classes were very hands-on and interactive. I did not just read from a textbook or complete tons of extra busy work. I learned from my professors and peers and got involved in interesting projects that took what I was learning in class to practice. Honors classes don’t mean just extra work.”

Outside of class, Caron noted that in the range of experiences honors students are exposed to during their time at

Sam Houston, some of the best are the cultural outings.

“One of my favorite experiences was when the honors students traveled to Houston and watched a production of the Broadway musical ‘Rent,’” Caron said. “The play was superb, the tickets cheap, the friends fun and the dinner at Spaghetti Warehouse delicious.”

With the guidance of their professors, several upperclassman honors students like Caron and Itzen have been able to earn prestigious internships that further enhance their education outside of class. Itzen was the recipient of the Dan Rather internship at CBS News in New York City, and last summer, Caron was an intern at Alvarez & Marsal, a leading global professional services firm headquartered in New York City that has offices in more than 40 major cities worldwide.

“At Alvarez & Marsal, I was able to apply my academic knowledge while consulting banks and private equity firms during perhaps the largest global recession in history,” Caron said. “The internship reaffirmed my belief that I am following the right career path and provided me with motivation to continue excelling in order to earn a good job after graduation.”

Caron said Jim Bexley, chair of banking and the one who helped him with his internship, was an example of the kinds of professors who work with students in the Honors College tirelessly to help them reach their goals in the program.

“Dr. Bexley is undoubtedly one of the most intelligent and well-connected people I have ever met,” Caron said. “He is also perhaps the friendliest department chair on campus and is always offering much needed advice to students. Professors like these, who offer advice outside the classroom and set-aside time to speak to students regarding their futures, are what make SHSU such an incredible school. Their experiences and opinions are worth more than any class credit I could ever earn.”

There are many things an honors student is expected to learn as a participant in the program; the classes are oftentimes difficult and require many long hours of studying,

But perhaps it is not necessarily what they are expected to learn that is the most important at the end of the day, the end of the year, or the end of their time at the university. Rather, maybe it is the things that they learn on their own, the things that cannot be taught in a classroom, that make the most significant impact in shaping who they will be once they leave the honors program.

reading and writing in preparation for tests and projects. There are service hours to complete and a GPA requirement to meet each semester, as well as specific classes to take each term before graduation with highest honors can be achieved.

But perhaps it is not necessarily what they are expected to learn that is the most important at the end of the day, the end of the year, or the end of their time at the university. Rather, maybe it is the things that they learn on their own, the things that cannot be taught in a classroom, that make the most significant impact in shaping who they will be once they leave the honors program.

“I first joined the program because I wanted to prove to myself that I could graduate with honors,” Itzen said. “But now I know that I have done more than that. I have gained confidence from my time in the honors program. I feel I have challenged myself academically but also have become a more successful student along the way. I now understand the rewards that come with hard work and the results that determination and courage can bring.” ★

Bob Marlin



Men's Basketball Team Dances Through Conference Into NCAA Tourney



The Bearkats rolled up their highest NCAA Division I victory total ever with a 25-8 season, winning the Southland Conference championship for the third time.

The Sam Houston men's basketball team brought national attention to the university with its second appearance in the NCAA "Big Dance" during March Madness 2010.

The Bearkats rolled up their highest NCAA Division I victory total ever with a 25-8 season, winning the Southland Conference championship for the third time. The team followed up with a 64-48 victory over Stephen F. Austin State University on ESPN2 national TV in the finals of the conference tournament in Katy to earn an NCAA tournament first round date with Baylor in New Orleans.

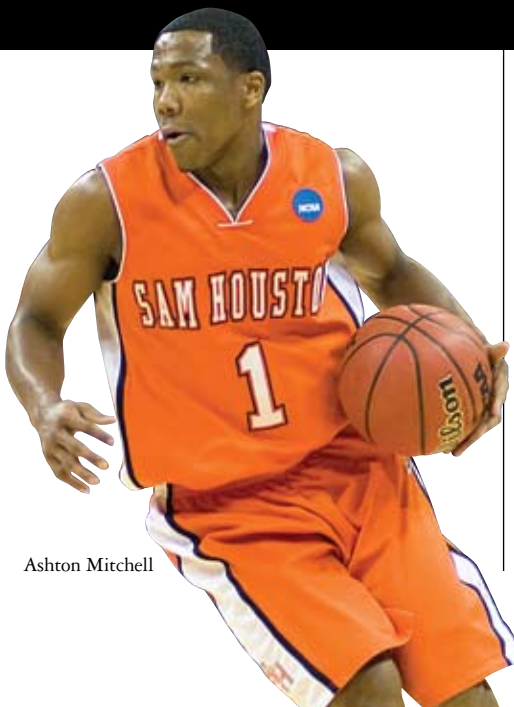
On a day of upsets, Sam Houston almost knocked the No. 3 seeded Bears out of the tournament. The Kats led by seven points in the first half, were up by one point

at intermission and were tied 55-55 with 3:48 to play. Baylor won 68-59.

Following the season, Sam Houston head coach Bob Marlin was honored as both Southland Conference and National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) District XXIII "Coach of the Year."

Bearkat senior guards Corey Allmond and Ashton Mitchell and junior forward Gilberto Clavell all were named to both All-Southland Conference and NABC All-District XXIII teams.

Sam Houston led the nation in assists, ranked eighth nationally in 3-point field goals per game and 10th in NCAA basketball in scoring. With the 25-8 record, Sam Houston stands as one of only 52 NCAA Division I men's basketball programs that have rolled up 20-victory seasons in four of the last five years. ★



Ashton Mitchell

Online Forum Changes ROTC Education

BY JENNIFER GAUNT



Lieutenant Adam Herndon and his platoon roll through the city streets of Baghdad in their up-armored Humvees as part of a convoy security mission.

They encounter a body in the road, and as they stop to check things out, they realize the man is still alive. They also spot a video camera hanging out of a double-decker bus.

The rules of engagement at the time permitted soldiers to kill anyone videotaping an attack, as insurgents in this area often recorded their killings and exploited the video for propaganda.

Herndon's platoon sergeant, looking through binoculars, confirms the platoon

is being videotaped, and the question now becomes do they shoot the man leaning out of the window of the top level of the bus, a man who could be an insurgent?

This kind of morally ambiguous situation is the type being presented to Sam Houston State University ROTC cadets as part of a new curriculum tool called the Platoon Leader forum.

The online forum is a Web community of more than 8,000 past, present and future platoon leaders within the U.S. Army who

can share and discuss experiences and present them to members in a "what would you do" type of problem.

SHSU's Bearkat Battalion incorporated the Web site into the senior MSL 431 class this past fall to give the cadets an idea of the types of split-second decisions they may be called upon to make after receiving commissions as second lieutenants and joining the Army as platoon leaders.

"It's a 'Facebook' for military professionals," said Lt. Col. David Yebra, head of the military science department who teaches the class. "For the first time in history, officer apprentices like ROTC cadets are able to listen in to the ongoing conversation of the profession.

"By engaging in the forums, our cadets learn how 'to be' officers in a way that was



not possible before,” he said. “They depart college further along the learning curve and better equipped to be exceptional leaders.”

In the “shoot/don’t shoot” dilemma above, cadets were asked to make a decision even though information was incomplete and all courses of action were problematic, with potential negative effects, according to Yebra.

“The ‘shoot/don’t shoot’ leader challenge leads off with a lieutenant describing the (true) situation he found himself in,” Yebra said. “These are split-second decisions that our leaders have to make in a very complex environment.”

Herdon’s case is an example of not shooting and being glad that he did not, Yebra said, because, as cadets learned, the camera was actually a boombox-type radio.

The Platoon Leader forum goes beyond the traditional ROTC curriculum. While the ROTC emphasizes physical fitness and other tactical training necessary for the young men and women in their future Army careers, the platoon leader site is cutting-edge in

that it offers lessons in emerging topics that are currently being experienced by soldiers worldwide. The Army-level topics change approximately every month.

Not only does the forum connect cadets to professional soldiers and facilitate classroom discussion, but it allows cadets to share their takes on “video vignettes” outside of the classroom with their peers across the country in other ROTC programs and at West Point.

“Platoon Leader has made information available to me that I didn’t know even existed. I am able to find information on almost anything regarding my specific branch or even the Army in general,” said senior cadet Andy Enriquez. “There are numerous ways to interact with other PLs, who have actually been downrange and have valuable experiences to share.”

Yebra, who joined the Bearkat Battalion last summer and spent three of the last six years deployed to Iraq, said he knows all too well how critical it is for future platoon leaders to think through, in as much detail as possible, what they will do when faced with the challenging situations that await them.

“Our team is going to do everything we possibly can to prepare our cadets for

the significant leadership roles that await them in the very near future,” he said. “The PL forum is one innovative resource that is helping us to plug in to what young officers are doing right now.”

Another leader development initiative the Bearkat Battalion has undertaken is professional reading, with a focus on the book, *Two Wars*, by former Army Ranger Nate Self.

As a capstone of the program, Self visited the SHSU campus in December to discuss his book and devoted extra time afterward to answer questions the cadets had, according to Yebra.

“Having Nate Self come to campus drives home how connected we are to each other as members of the Army profession,” he said. “What a privilege it is to be part of a team like this.”

Note: The PL forum (<http://pl.army.mil>) exists to connect platoon leaders with each other and is laser-beam focused on the practice of platoon leading. Future platoon leaders (in ROTC, Officer Candidate School, U.S. Military Academy) with AKO (Army Knowledge Online) credentials may join and tap in to the ongoing conversation. ★

University Launches Redesigned Site



Sam Houston State University went “live” with its redesigned Web site on Feb. 4.

More than two years in the making, SHSU president Jim Gaertner authorized the Web site redesign project in October 2008 as part of the marketing effort for the university.

“The goal of the new Web site is to both brand the university and catch the attention of potential students so that they will apply,” said Ann O’Meara, director of marketing. “The redesigned site will be a resource for potential students to find the information they need.”

The redesign provides a single focus to the university Web site, which previously consisted of more than eight different elements that included visitors, faculty and staff, accepted students and current students.

“This shifts the focus of the main page to a polished showcase, allowing prospective students to see all of the possibilities available to them at Sam Houston,” O’Meara said. “The research and faculty section is about the awesome people we have on campus.”

While the focus may be different, the home page will still serve as a “very

functional Web site for all of our internal staff,” said O’Meara.

“This design advances our online image to be comparable with leading universities,” she said.

The Web site redesign committee was comprised of Heather Thielemann, Frank Holmes, O’Meara, Mark Adams, Keri Rogers and Thelma Mooney. ★

Center Aims To Improve Veteran Collegiate Experience



SHSU alumnus and ROTC supporter Col. John McManners, President Jim Gaertner, TSUS regent Trisha Pollard, military science department chair Lt. Col. David Yebra, vice president for Enrollment Management Heather Thielemann, registrar Teresa Ringo and Kathy Hudson, SHSU's Veterans Resource Center coordinator, celebrate the opening of the new Veterans Resource Center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Sept. 10. The center is located on the first floor of the Estill Building.

Sam Houston State University took steps to facilitate the transition back to “civilian life” for veterans and create a more “military friendly” environment on campus with the opening of its Veterans Resource Center on Sept. 10.

The center provides a “one-stop shop” for veterans returning to college after service and acts as a liaison between outside and university resources, according to Kathy Hudson, SHSU's Veterans Resource Center coordinator.

Housed on the first floor of the Estill Building, the center assists with tutoring and counseling services, offers a veteran work study program and a veteran lounge and works with the Texas Workforce Commission to help veterans find jobs, in addition to continuing to distribute educational benefits through the five different GI bills.

The first veterans' orientation, held on Aug. 6, included presentations from the VA hospital and a Student Veterans of America representative and provided information on things such as advising and registration.

“We are very pleased with the response we have had to our center so far,” Hudson said. “More and more veterans are finding out about us and coming in to use our services.”

SHSU has more than 400 students drawing veteran benefits, up from around 275 four or five years ago, Hudson said.

With the combination of President Barack Obama's announcement to plan to withdraw all 142,000 troops from Iraq by December 2011 and the introduction of a new Post-9/11 GI Bill, which became effective Aug. 1, Hudson said they are anticipating an influx of veterans going back to school within

the next few years, adding to the importance of a center such as the one at SHSU.

“This is a unique group of people who come in as older students, and they don't always fit in with the younger students,” Hudson said. “They find it frustrating in class with different situations between younger students and having served in combat.”

Among future plans are the creation of a veteran learning community that would allow vets to take certain core classes together, such as freshman English or math, and offering a veteran section of SAM 136: Introduction to Collegiate Studies class, Hudson said. ★

RUNNING TO SURVIVE

Cross country athlete Julius Michael escaped war-torn Sudan as a child. Today he is competing as a Bearkat, making the Dean's List and preparing for a career as a history teacher.



BY CODY STARK, BS JOURNALISM '03
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR, HUNTSVILLE ITEM

Emelida Michael knew the best chance for her son Julius's survival was to get him out of war-torn Sudan.

It was March 1997 and the Michael family had been bouncing around from one refugee camp in Uganda to another for several years, running from the civil war in Sudan.

Julius Michael was the only boy in the family, along with five sisters, his mother and father Simon. He was trying to escape the fate so many young boys suffered in that region at the time—death or becoming a rebel soldier trained to kill anything in his path.

"They would come at night and break into our camp, rob and torture the people," Michael said. "It was getting really bad, so my mom asked my aunt that if she left, would she take her son."

In the Sudanese culture, close friends of the family are often called aunts and uncles. Martha Yuggu was not a blood relative, but she saved Julius as if she were.

Her brother Elikana Jale was already living in Houston, and that was Yuggu's ticket to the United States. She made good on her promise to Emelida and took Julius with her in May 1999 after two years of paperwork and lessons on American culture.

Julius Michael boarded a plane and left his family not knowing what their fate would be. But he knew there was a reason his life was being saved and did not question his mother's decision to save it, even if it meant he would never see them again.

Michael made a new home in Houston with Yuggu and Jale. He attended Lamar

High School and found a father figure in Redskins cross country coach Jerry Martinez.

Michael excelled at the sport and earned a scholarship to SHSU, thanks to the help of his high school adviser Patty Poff. Without his parents around to sign the necessary paperwork for Michael to get into college, Poff worked hard to make sure the opportunity wasn't squandered.

Trying to escape the bloodshed in Sudan

Michael will never forget the day that changed his life forever. He was a young boy, around the age of 5, living in the small village of Kajo Keji in Central Equatoria when the country's civil war found its way to his doorstep.

“I want to teach history in high school, and I think I have been outside of different countries and cultures, and I can share that with kids.”

“I was sitting outside in our little village, and on top of a hill we could see some kind of rebels coming, and they had some angry men that were shooting at the children,” Michael said. “From far away we could hear some guns and bombs and all kinds of sounds going off.”

War was nothing new to Michael; it had been going on his entire life. He watched every day as people from surrounding villages attempted to escape its path as they passed through Kajo Keji on their way to refugee camps in Uganda.

When the war finally reached his town, Michael and his family packed up everything they could and joined the march.

Their exodus to Uganda was a dangerous journey. They traveled at night through the brush and hid in bushes to avoid rebels and thieves who preyed upon those caught on the road.

Michael saw terrible things that no human, much less a child, should ever see. He encountered corpses and people cradling starving children as they tried to make their way to safety.

He stayed in Sudan for a brief time with relatives while the rest of his family went to a refugee camp in Uganda. He tended to goats and cattle until one day he fell out of a tree and was injured.

Michael’s father came to get him and together they rejoined the family while his mother nursed him back to health. They spent a short period at the refugee camp before moving to a United Nations camp where they were provided with a tent and given a small plot of land.

The U.N. gave the refugees beans, rice, corn, flour, salt, soap and blankets; however, the harsh living conditions still took their toll on the emigrants lucky enough to survive.

“People were dying from dirty water and at night someone would die and you would hear people crying. It was hot, but I would pull my blanket up over my head because I was scared the dead people would come get me.”

Twelve years of uncertainty came to an end

Michael put the ghastly memories of war behind him and shifted his focus to making the best of his new lease on life.

He thought about his parents and sisters, but he did not dwell on it. He couldn’t. He had to keep a level head and not let the past derail his future. He hoped for the best, that maybe, just maybe, they had stayed alive.

In May 2009, Michael had just wrapped up his sophomore year at SHSU when Yuggu made a trip back to Kajo Keji to attend a funeral. Since the village was so small, word got around she was there.

“She went back to the village, all the way back to Sudan and was at a funeral where she ran into my parents,” Michael said. “They remembered each other and they started talking. It had been 12 years, and my parents had been looking for me, but they had no way of communicating.”

When Yuggu got back to America she told Michael about the reunion and gave him something his father wanted him to have. It was a picture of Michael and his family, the last

photo that was taken of them together outside their tent in the U.N. camp a year before their separation in 1997. They are smiling, posing with all their possessions—a bicycle, flashlight and transistor radio. It wasn’t much but at least then they had each other. Yuggu also told him that his father would be sending a letter.

“When she got back, she told me about it and I was super excited that my parents and family were still alive, and she gave me the picture. That was the first time I had seen them in a long time, and I was starting to lose any memory I had of what they looked like,” Michael said. “She also told me about the letter, and I was waiting, checking the mail every day. Then finally I found the letter in the mail and was like, ‘Wow.’ I read it and I could not believe it.”

It was the first time in 12 years Michael had any communication with his parents, and the contents of the letter filled his heart with joy. His family was not only alive, but doing well.

The letter also included a couple of telephone numbers and Michael began calling them right away, trying to get through. The first few attempts failed, but on July 5, he heard a voice on the other end.

“I could not believe I was talking to my mom,” Michael said. “It was something that was unbelievable. I wanted to ask her a lot of stuff, but I couldn’t get it all out. It was like when you have so much to say that you don’t have anything to say.”

Michael has never given up hope of seeing his family again. He is currently working on securing a trip to Kajo Keji

this year, preferably during the summer break.

Michael has a student visa, but would like to become a permanent U.S. citizen before he goes back to Sudan in case the conflict, which has been dormant for four years, arises again.

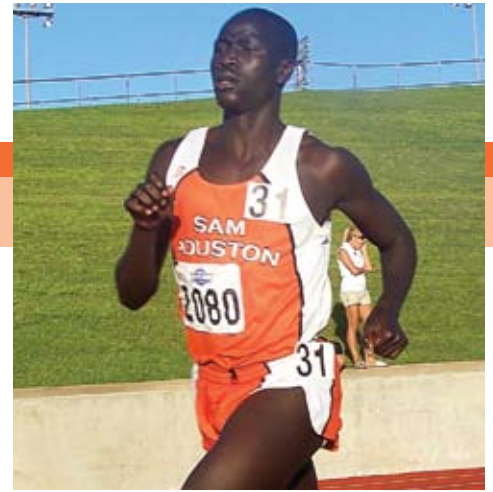
“Ideally what we would like is for him to get his full citizenship,” said Jesse Parker, Sam Houston State’s cross country coach. “That way, if the fighting came back while he was over there, it would be a lot easier for him to go to the U.S. Embassy. It would open up a lot more possibilities from a safety and a convenience

standpoint. Getting his citizenship would be the way to deal with it.”

Running toward a brighter future

Michael is set to graduate in 2011 and plans to be a world history teacher. He wants to share his experiences with future generations.

“I want to teach history in high school, and I think I have been outside of different countries and cultures, and I can share that with kids,” Michael said. “I want to teach high school mainly because I wouldn’t be



where I am today without people like coach Martinez, Mrs. Poff and coach Parker taking a chance on me, even though I wasn’t the fastest kid in my region.

“All I needed was someone there to help me with the steps to go to college, and I feel like I can help kids the same way.” ★

MEET SHSU’S NEW FOOTBALL COACH



Willie Fritz, who has produced an overall record of 222 victories and 66 losses in a 28-year career as both a head coach and an assistant, is SHSU’s 14th head football coach.

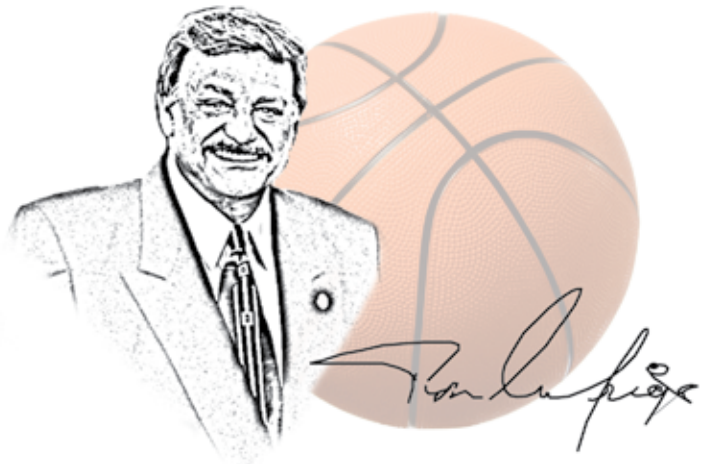
In addition to producing a quality football program, Fritz says he wants to help develop quality individuals as well.

“I want to make sure that I lead our student-athletes in the right direction,” he said. “I really want to make sure that our guys leave here a better person than when they came in.”

The Bearkats will kick off the football season on Sept. 4 in Waco against Baylor.

Leverage your Gift

Ron Mafrige Basketball Challenge



Ron Mafrige challenges Bearkats to support the growth of the men’s basketball endowment and will contribute \$1 for every \$2 given by others.

Please send your gift today.

Ron Mafrige Basketball Challenge

c/o SHSU University Advancement

Box 2537

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936-294-4050 or rhondaellisior@shsu.edu

Volleyball, Soccer Have Banner Seasons



Jenny Pence

Anna Ferguson

The Sam Houston State University volleyball team enjoyed a successful season as it rolled up 20 victories, the most wins for the program since 1996.

The Kats were Southland West Division runners-up, going undefeated at home in conference play and posting an 11-match winning streak, the longest since 1993.

The most remarkable characteristic of the 2009 team, however, was its “never say die” attitude. Sam Houston was 10 – 2 in five set matches and won two others in four sets.

“This is one of the best teams I’ve coached in all my seasons here at Sam Houston,” head coach Brenda Gray said. “They were a joy to coach and responded well whenever the going got tough. What is really exciting is that so many of these players return for next season.”

Anna Ferguson, middle blocker from Dallas Lake Highlands, earned All-Southland Conference first team selection for the second year in a row. Sophomore outside

hitter Carli Kolbe, of College Station A&M Consolidated, and freshman libero Kaylee Hawkins of Dickinson, were also picked first team all-league. Freshman Michelle Miller, of Round Rock, was an honorable mention All-Southland selection.

The soccer team, playing at times with nine freshmen on the field, produced its highest ever Southland ranking with a fourth place finish. The Kats tied the school record for victories in a season (9) and reached the semi-finals of the Southland tournament in the Kats’ third trip ever to post-season play.

“It was exciting seeing such a young team come together throughout the fall,” soccer coach Tom Brown said. “With all our starters returning plus more top recruits, we’re excited about the future of the program.”

Goalkeeper Jenny Pence, defender Deanna Long and forward Kirby Zak all were honorable mention All-Southland. Freshman forward Shelby Grissett was named to the Southland Conference Post-Season All-Tournament team. ★

TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR BATTLE OF THE PINEY WOODS



Tickets for the Battle of the Piney Woods, which will take place this year on Oct. 23 at Reliant Stadium in Houston, are available on-line at www.gobearkats.com. Prices range from \$15 to \$35.

Sam Houston will include tickets to the game in their season ticket packages.

The Battle of the Piney Woods between Sam Houston State and Stephen F. Austin dates back to 1923, and the Bearkats have won five of the last six meetings.

“This move to Reliant Stadium is going to bring one of the most exciting college football rivalries to Houston, the back yard for almost a third of our university’s alumni, students and fans,” said Sam Houston State athletic director Bobby Williams. “This is an opportunity for them to step up and show their Bearkat spirit.” ★

Paris's Bequest Reflects Love For Students, SHSU

BY JULIA MAY



During her lifetime, Jan Paris frequently talked about teaching and working both in public schools and at the university level.

She spoke about being fulfilled when a student was successful. Those who knew her remember her as someone with a good heart.

"She was one of the most respected professors in our program," said Bonnie Thorne, retired chair of the department of library science. "She was dedicated to her profession, and her students loved her."

Even though she died last year, Paris's "good heart" continues to beat within the department of library science through a bequest to Sam Houston State University. That gift will provide scholarships in perpetuity for graduate students majoring in library science.

When Paris came to Sam Houston State in the late '70s to teach a summer class, she already was known as an outstanding librarian.

"Her students told me, 'She's a marvelous teacher! You need to hire her!'" said Lesta Burt Johnson, another retired library science department chair.

"I did, and she began work on her doctorate at Texas Woman's University," said Johnson. "She obtained her Ph.D. and contributed many years of devoted service to the library science department and Sam Houston State University."

Among her colleagues, Paris is best remembered for her two legacies.

"Whenever I think of Jan, the title of 'Miss Bluebonnet Award' comes to mind," said Jimmy Merchant, professor emeritus of education.

In 1979 Paris approached her fellow librarians with her idea to create and implement a state program to encourage children to read more, explore a variety of current books, develop powers of discrimination, and identify their favorite books.

Her dream became the foundation for what has come to be known as the Texas Bluebonnet Award Program. Paris felt so strongly about the program she directed it herself before it came under the direction of the Texas Library Association. Today, the Texas Bluebonnet Award is a thriving program that continues to extend beyond schools to public libraries and homeschoolers.

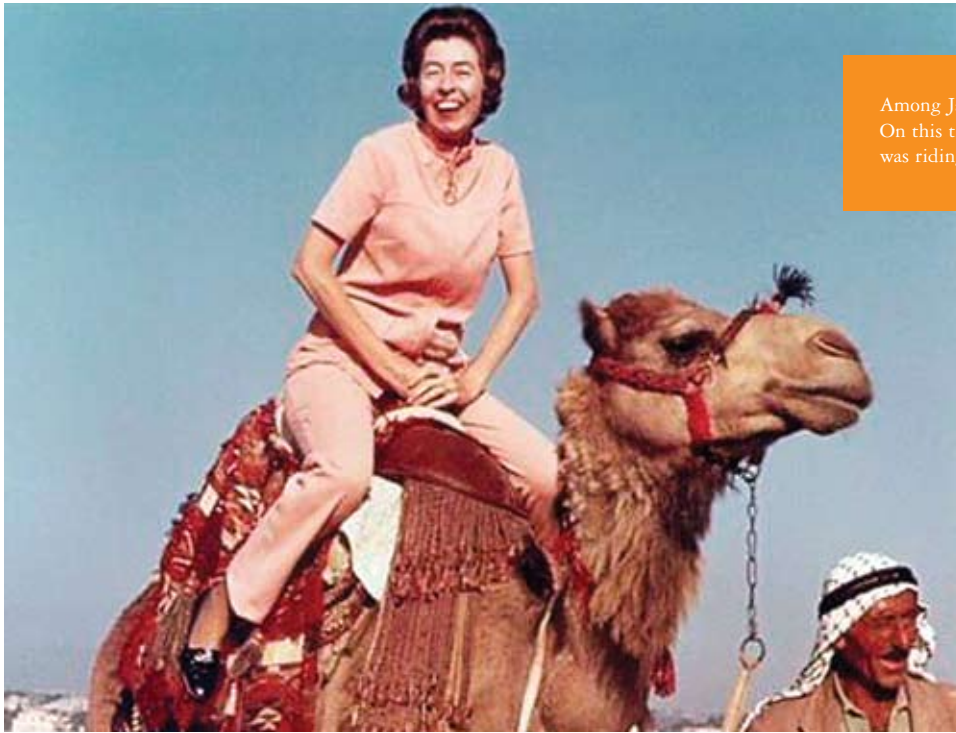
"There is no other single event or program which has made a greater contribution to the reading interests of Texas children," said Merchant.

Paris also initiated an annual conference celebrating literature for children. This conference, combined with the Young Adult Literature conference, is in its 28th year of existence at Sam Houston State. Speakers have included Newbery and Caldecott honorees, Texas authors, and educators from the area.

Those who had the privilege to work with Paris remember her commitment to her profession, Texas children, and to books.

"Jan was loved by all her students and admired by her colleagues," said retired professor of library science Marie Hayden.

"She was much more than a teacher," she said. "She provided a service to others in the field of library science as evidenced by her leadership in local, state and national organizations and her desire to establish an endowment that would assist others in the future. She was also my friend."



Among Jan Paris's many loves was traveling. On this trip to Egypt, one of the highlights was riding a camel.

dedication to the university, to the profession, to students, and to colleagues and friends," said SHSU professor of library science Frank Hoffman. "We at Sam Houston State University were enriched by her presence."

When Paris retired, the department of library science established a scholarship endowment in her honor. The endowment was named as a bequest recipient in her will.

Her nephew, John Jones, said that she was very proud that a scholarship fund in her honor was set up to help library science students.

"She did not care if her name was on the scholarship—only that it helped students," Jones said.

"Very few of us find our true calling, but Jan did, and it was at Sam Houston State University." ★

"Her words (to her students) persuaded the class that children's literature, libraries, and books were among the most noble artifacts of civilized society," said former SHSU professor of library science Bill Bailey.

"And of course Dr. Paris imparted this belief with the utmost elegance."

"Janelle Paris had so many wonderful qualities—perhaps the one which stands out the most in my mind is her deep sense of

FACULTY & STAFF CAMPAIGN

The 2009–10 Faculty & Staff Annual Campaign celebrated an 80 percent participation rate (1,313 employees), with total pledges of \$217,530, the highest achieved for both during a fall campaign. Among colleges and divisions, giving reached a 60 percent or better participation and five reached 100 percent. The annual fund committee chairs include Jim Bexley, campaign general chair; Sherry Henke, staff chair; and Rosanne Keathley, faculty chair, with President Jim Gaertner.



Samuel Houston Society Event

The Samuel Houston Society Event is held to thank our most generous supporters. The Society is comprised of four giving categories ranging from annual donations of \$2,500 and more.

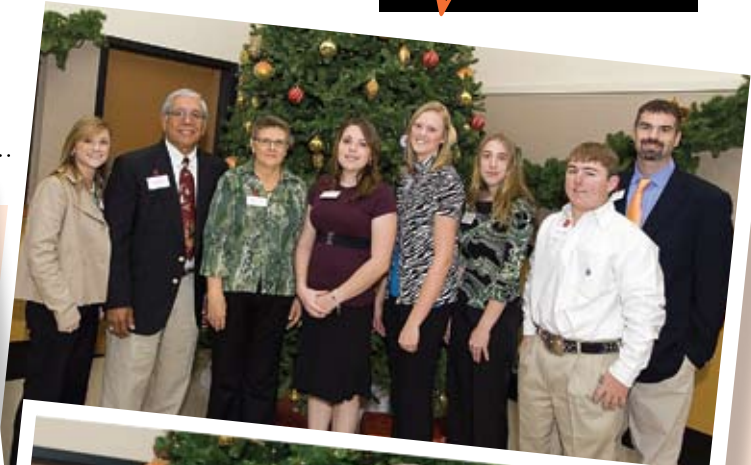


Top left: Darlene Andrews, Dr. Ron Johnson and Dr. Ruth Cady
Top right: Betty Allison and Stella Koryciak
Bottom right: Marjorie and Dr. Harley Rex
Bottom left: Patsy and Tom Freeman



Top left: Cindy Pierce, Kelsey Christian,
and Danny Pierce
Top right: Gary and Pam Whitlock
Bottom right: Sylvia and Robert Hutson,
and Dr. Jaimie Hebert
Bottom left: Gib and Sandra Lewis

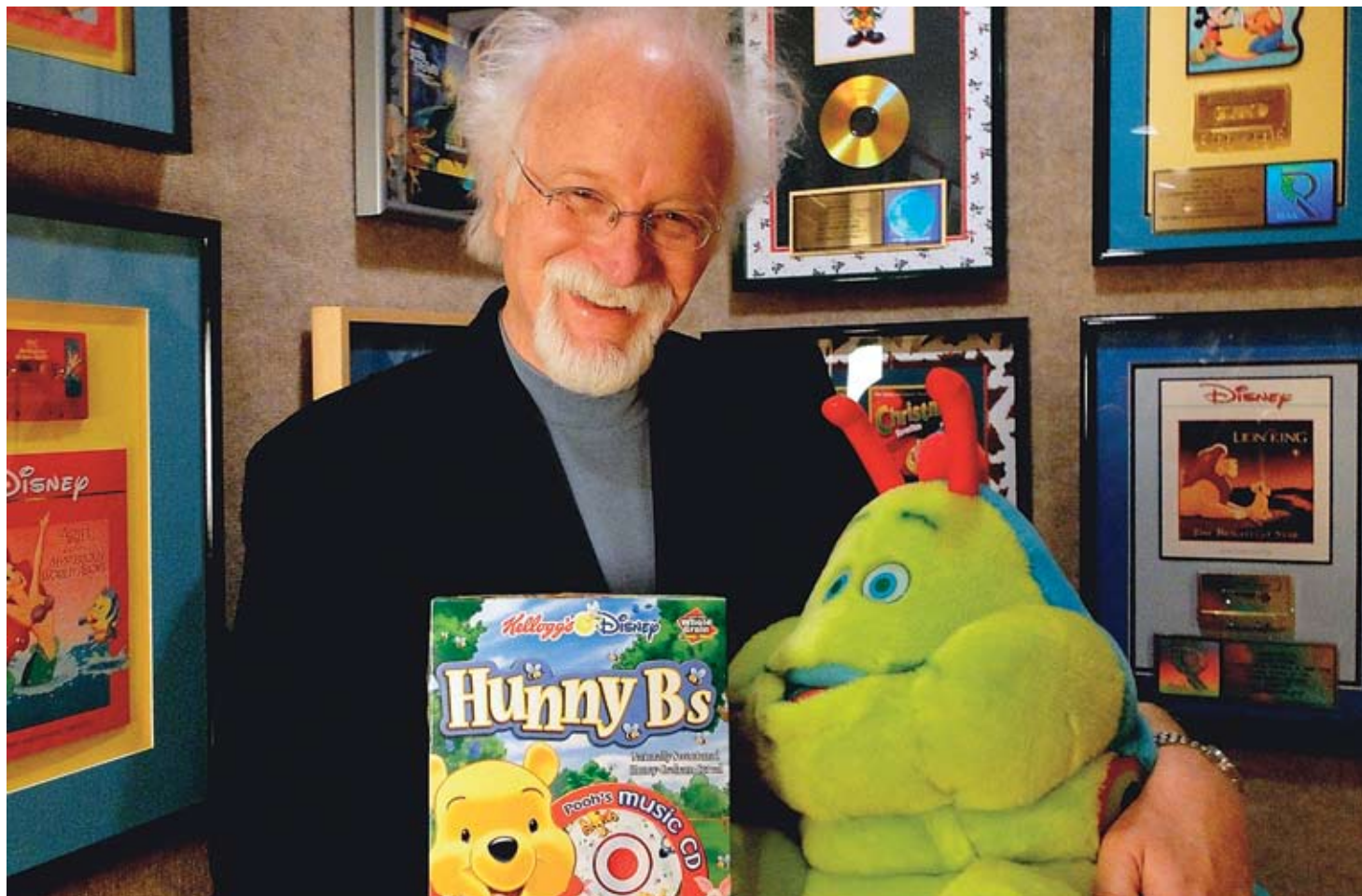
Face to Face Event ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON



Top left: Margaret Hopper, Emily Dimick (recipient of the Letts/Hopper Endowed Scholarship), and R.D. Hopper
 Top right: left to right, Danny and Cindy Pierce Family Endowed Scholarship recipient Kelsey Heath; San Antonio Livestock Expositions, Inc. representatives Raul and Becky Quiroz; San Antonio Livestock Expositions, Inc. Scholarship recipients Krystin Bodden, Haley Vrazel, and Ashley Ahart; Wes Neyland Memorial Rodeo Endowed Scholarship recipient National Champion; and Wes Neyland Memorial Rodeo Endowed Scholarship donor Tommy Neyland.
 Middle left: Julia Matthews, Pam Wells (recipient of the Chancellor Charles R. and Julia Matthews Scholarship), and Charles Matthews
 Middle right: Pat O'Bryant, third from left, with Claudia Gutarra, Assumpta Nwaneri, and Amelia Moore (recipients of the Patrick Neal O'Bryant Memorial Endowed Scholarship)
 Bottom left: Scott Serafin, Justin Gallant (recipient of the Ray and Edna Bengé Baseball Endowed Scholarship), Kay Serafin, and Jeff Miller
 Bottom right: Ouida Carroll, center in red, with several of the Ernestine LeTarde Carroll and Ouida Carroll Endowed Scholarship recipients

Alumnus Composes Experiences To Produce Opportunities For Performers

BY JENNIFER GAUNTT



Sam Houston State University alumnus Gary Powell loves to take chances when it comes to music.

As a high school graduate, Powell was headed to Texas A&M University, literally being driven to College Station by his parents, when he informed them he wanted to study music.

"After the wreck," he said, with a laugh, "my parents said, 'well, we're driving you to the wrong university.'"

Powell spent a semester at Texas A&M before transferring to SHSU to join the

music program. But at SHSU, Powell found his limited musical experiences with the high school choir and the few guitar lessons given to him by best friend Willis Allen Ramsey hadn't prepared him in the way he was expected to be.

"At the music entrance examination, I scored a zero because the only thing I knew was where Middle C was on the piano," he said. "They told me I wasn't going to make

it here, and I asked if I could try. They said yes, but that they were going to put me on scholastic probation.

"Fortunately for me, music was like falling off a log," he said. "I had the aptitude and it was fascinating and encompassed all of my mind and creativity, and I loved it even more."

Six years later, after receiving his bachelor's degree (in 1974) and working on a master's degree, Powell began a journey that would turn the "ambitious young man with the long blonde hair who wants to be a star" into an accomplished music producer with more than 1,500 credits with

Walt Disney Records alone, in addition to other independent producing projects.

It began on another journey, a Caribbean cruise Powell took with his family in 1978. After performing in the passenger talent show, he was hired as the assistant cruise director, which allowed him to sing in a show once a week.

The job also helped further Powell's "real world" music education through networking.

"I asked the bands if I could study their charts, charts meaning music, so I could learn how they arranged for particular kinds of ensembles," he said. "That's where I first got my hands on some really professional charts and learned how they think."

The pivotal point in his career also occurred on the ship, when Powell took a chance on a woman who approached him inquiring how to get a giant tortoise shell into the port in Miami.

"I told her she couldn't take it because it's endangered and customs would not let

"That had never occurred to me, to help write arrangements and oversee the recording process, but people started hiring me to write brass parts, orchestral parts, vocal parts, oversee the recording process," Powell said. "I thought, 'this is so much more fun than being in Los Angeles, knocking on doors. I'm in the studio every week, I'm being paid to do what I love; I'm going to stick with this.'"

Among his clients was children's musician Joe Scruggs, who was referred to Powell by the recording studio. Though Powell was initially hesitant about working with Scruggs because he was unfamiliar with children's music, he once again took a chance because "it was a gig," he said.

"We did some really creative, nuts things that nobody had ever done in children's music, because I didn't listen to children's music," he said. "So I hadn't been programmed to do it like everybody else."

song albums for such movies as "The Little Mermaid," "Aladdin," "Beauty and the Beast," "The Lion King," "Pocahontas," "A Bug's Life," "Toy Story" I and II, "Dinosaur" and "Pirates of the Caribbean."

As part of the storybook collection, Powell "expands the use" of the Disney movies by writing ancillary songs (such as sing-a-long albums), or, in the case of movies such as "A Bug's Life" for which there is no soundtrack, writing songs as if the movie was a musical.

"They make storybook records with them, they make sing-along albums with them, Christmas songs," Powell said. "I wrote a Christmas song for 'Pocahontas.' Did the American Indians celebrate Christmas? I think not, but I've got a lovely Christmas song for 'Pocahontas.'"

Five of his albums for Walt Disney Records have gone Gold and two have gone Platinum, including two albums that were

"In this business, it's important to have the vision of an entrepreneur, which means you search for opportunities, and if the slightest crack opens, you walk through, you go check it out."

her bring it in," he said. "But I told her to give it to me, and I'd walk off the ship with it because they don't check us, and then I'd mail it to her. So I did that.

"Come to find out, her husband was the pianist and organist for Carlos Santana, and having done that, they reached out to me, invited me to California and started introducing me around."

After making an album as part of his "first Los Angeles push," Powell started receiving requests from other musicians seeking help with their own albums.

It ultimately paid off for both of them; together the two produced nine children's albums, many of which are award winning.

This, along with connections he had made teaching at the University of Texas for seven years, led Powell down the path to his work with Walt Disney Records.

One of the deans at UT who played tennis with Powell introduced him to a producer at Disney Records (the two had roomed together in college), and Powell spent the next 20 years scoring work, writing original songs and producing storybook and

No. 1 on the kid's music charts for several weeks. For his work on "A Bug's Life Sing Along," Powell won a Grammy nomination, something he calls "irrelevant."

Powell's career in "the business" has given him a different perspective on the industry, especially when it comes to music education.

While teaching at UT, he said he tried to get the music department to open its doors to a broader style of singing, believing doing so would double the program's size; however, they were not interested at that time.

“Now after all the television shows that tell young kids that they can be stars, which they can or they can’t, at some point we have to figure that those kids want to sing and that they think they should go to music school,” Powell said. “But when they get to music school, the things they want to sing are no longer there; it never has been there. This is because most of our music schools are conservatories, and there’s no place for the popular genres. They teach a different thing.”

So Powell began hosting seminars at universities all over the country, teaching about various entrepreneurial aspects of the music industry.

In October, Powell embarked upon his riskiest venture yet, this time at his alma mater.

His weeklong “Producers Workshop” also came with an added twist—for the first time, one student (who had to audition for a spot in the seminar) would be selected to work with Powell in his Austin studio to create a song that would be released and sold in the mainstream.

“Investing in the student,” Powell’s goal was to put up \$6,000-\$8,000 of his own money and write a song to fit the student, which would then be marketed through various social media sites and sold on digital download sites such as iTunes, Amazon.com, Rhapsody, Napster and mp3.com.

“For this workshop, I’ve taken the idea of just going in and presenting as the expert to integrating with the students through audition and choosing one person I think has the talent, the personality, the aptitude, and the aspiration to become a professional singer,” he said.

“The goal is to find out who this singer really is and put them in a musical setting that is absolutely perfect for them,” he said. “It’s like a tailored suit; we’re not buying off the rack.”

What he didn’t anticipate was finding two students. Music major Nicholas Alaggio, of Dallas, and music education major Bree Derbecker, of Katy, were both selected.



“Investing in the students:” SHSU alumnus Gary Powell auditioned students from all academic backgrounds in October as part of the Producers Workshop. Among the singers selected for the seminar and competition were (front row, flanking Powell, from left) Maria Roos and Rebecca Castillo, (middle row) Hannah Miscisin, Bree Derbecker, Nicholas Alaggio and Emily Heller, (back row) Kiersten Ortiz, Clifford Randle, David Smith, Justin Finch, David Cloud and Hubert Jones. Not pictured is Lauren Dickson.

The plan itself also changed. Powell combined songs written by both musicians to create a single song, which he said he hopes to record with the two this spring.

“We both played them in our auditions for the workshop, and Gary came up with the idea of putting them together,” Derbecker said. “I thought that it was amazing for him to hear the songs once and know exactly how to put them together. It turned out that the songs had similar themes, and it randomly fit together.”

Derbecker said she entered the workshop to learn more about contemporary music and finds Powell’s different perspective on the industry refreshing.

“The process was totally different than what I expected. We basically just got together and made music. There was no pressure, just a lot of creativity coming together. It was so easy to learn in that open atmosphere,” she said.

“I look at this opportunity as a chance to learn about what I have always dreamed of doing,” she said. “I think it

is extremely important to integrate more ‘industry’-integrated education into our university programs.”

Whether the venture pays off will only be known once the finished product is released. But for now, Powell sees it not as being about money but about opportunity.

“In this business, it’s important to have the vision of an entrepreneur, which means you search for opportunities, and if the slightest crack opens, you walk through, you go check it out,” he said.

“I’ve lived my whole life in the cracks—between universities, between record companies, between non-profit associations, and people come to me when they just don’t know what to do,” he said. “My whole business is based on people coming to me looking for what they’re missing.

“In this, we can create something that actually does make money and is good art,” he said. “Go figure that they would happen at the same time.” ★

Distinguished Alumni Honored At Ceremony



From left are: Ronny Carroll, Ed Reyna, Edd Compton IV, President Jim Gaertner, Jerry Marshall and Tommy Frank

Five Sam Houston State University graduates who have brought pride to the university through their contributions in business and public service were honored in October as Distinguished Alumni during the university's 2009 homecoming festivities.



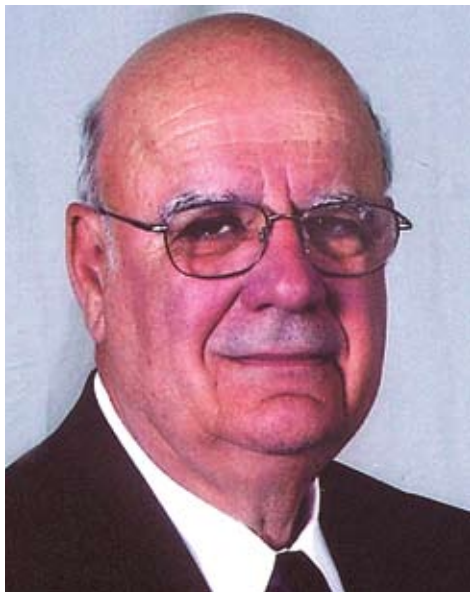
Ronny Carroll

Ronny Carroll is a well-known name in the Houston area homebuilding industry.

A first-generation college student, Carroll came to Sam Houston State on a football and baseball scholarship and graduated in 1965 with a business degree.

After leaving the Army and serving as a pharmaceutical sales representative, Carroll received an offer from two college friends to go into the homebuilding business.

Since then, has been named the Houston Custom Builder of the year (in 2000) and one of the 25 largest homebuilders of Houston (in 2008).

**Tommy Frank**

Starting his career as a teenager with Conn's Appliances in 1957, Tommy Frank worked his way from delivery truck helper to chief executive officer and chairman of the corporation during his tenure there.

After more than 50 years of service he retired on June 2, 2009, as chairman of the board and CEO.

A 1963 SHSU graduate with a bachelor's degree in industrial arts, Frank, who worked

alongside C.W. Conn, Jr., played an instrumental role in growing the Beaumont appliance store into a major regional chain.

After becoming CEO in 1994, he created and implemented a strategic plan that nearly tripled the number of stores, led to the company going public, and resulted in an annual revenue growth rate.

Col. (Ret.) Jerry Marshall

A retired colonel in the United States Air Force, whose services extended more than 31 years, Jerry Marshall is a decorated veteran and command pilot.

The 1964 SHSU graduate, who also has a bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska, has received such awards as the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Cross, the Bronze Star Medal and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

After his retirement from the Air Force, Marshall became the executive director for

the Bexar Metro 9-1-1 Network District, a special purpose emergency communication district authorized by the Texas Health and Safety Code.

For his retirement from the Bexar Metro 9-1-1 Network District, a proclamation was issued by the Commissioners Court extending "sincere gratitude and heartfelt appreciation" for his "enthusiasm, support, and dedication to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Bexar County, Texas."





Ed Reyna

A public servant for more than 35 years, Ed Reyna's favorite saying is "making a difference today for tomorrow," and he has worked to live by those words in both his career and his personal life.

The 1971 SHSU alumnus holds a master's degree from Southern Methodist University and attended the Harvard University JFK School of Government. He was one of the first federal probation officers to implement pretrial services for the Federal Court System.

He worked with the Texas Department of Corrections, Dallas County Juvenile Department and the U.S. Probation/Pretrial Services Office for the Northern District of Texas.

Reyna also was chosen to establish the first U.S. Pretrial Services Office in the Southern District of Florida and was selected by the Federal Judicial Center to help train newly hired federal probation and pretrial officers.

Reyna and his wife, Carla, have three children—Courtney, Blake and Sara.

Edd Compton IV, Distinguished Young Alumnus

Ten years ago, Edd Compton took a one-employee, two-vehicle operation in Houston and turned it into the 14-employee, seven fleet vehicle business known today as Professional Fleet Service.

The 1994 and 1995 SHSU graduate with bachelor's and master's degrees in industrial technology, became interested in entrepreneurship as a child, when after starting a lawn maintenance service and realizing his allergies were not "conducive to that business,"

he hired two classmates to do the mowing. Compton furnished the equipment, did sales, scheduling, billing and collections.

Following his success with the service company, Compton started a sales business, which buys and sells fleet vehicles, boats and motorcycles. He also operates a full service shop and holds car, truck, boat and motorcycle dealer licenses.

Compton lives in Houston. He is the son of Jack, also an SHSU graduate, and Sue Ann Compton, of Bellaire. ★



New York Event



Upper left: Dr. Gaertner, Mrs. Gaertner
and Dan Rather

Upper right: Claudette Cabrera-Ludwig, Mark Ludwig
Center: Melissa Saylor, Amanada Richie, Karla Lara
Lower left: Kit Basquin, Jean Rather, Richard Johnson,
Debra Johnson, Dan Rather

Lower right: Janet Smyth, Kristen Smyth, Joe Smyth,
Philip Smyth



Where Are They Now?

Alumni are doing interesting things since leaving SHSU. Look to future issues for people you may have sat next to in biology or English. We may even feature you!



Margaret McManis (BS '70) and Ossy the Ostrich.

Margaret McManis (BS '70)

With a love for literature evident as she obtained a degree in library science at SHSU, Margaret McManis has made her own personal contribution as a children's author.

McManis has worked as an assistant librarian/audio/visual director at Spring High School, as well as in other libraries of Houston, Austin, Angleton and Spring. With an appreciation for children's literature, McManis desired to write her own work and began exploring her talents while attending college.

She conceived the inspiration for her series of children's books after reading the biography of Ima Hogg and has since

written two children's books. *Ima and the Great Texas Ostrich Race* and *The Wild Texas Stampede* have delighted children while the third book regarding Ima's circus experience is anticipated.

Along with her adventures in writing children's literature, McManis works in the career and disabilities department of Montgomery College in The Woodlands as well as a library volunteer at the Bonnie Wilkinson Elementary school in Conroe.

She obtained a Master of Fine Arts degree in writing for children from Vermont College in Montpelier, Vt., in 2003. Some of her instructors there were such notables in children's literature as Eric Kimmel, Brock Cole, Ellen Levine and Jack Gantos.

McManis enjoys traveling and finds it beneficial in the writing process. She has traveled to Seguenza, Spain, where she worked with a team of missionaries in an English camp as well as visiting local elementary schools. She has spent time in Versailles, France, to write about the gardens and the influence they had on the Bayou Bend in Ima Hogg's home in Houston.

She plans to revisit and write about locations in Europe and possibly write bilingual board books with her daughter, Meghan Scank, who is a bilingual literacy coach in Conroe.

Eleanor Garrett (BS '54, MEd '55)

Eleanor Garrett, along with her husband Charles, son Vaughan, and Garrett Metal Detector employee Bob



Eleanor Garrett (BS '54, M.Ed '55) with her husband Charles.

Podhrasky, were chosen to help carry the Olympic flame to the 2010 Winter Olympic Games, held in Vancouver in February.

The torch that each of them carried on its journey through Nanaimo, on Vancouver Island, was lit in Greece at the site of the ancient Olympic Games. The torch was then carried by runners to Athens where it was placed in a miner's lantern and sent to Canada by plane.

After its arrival it was carried across Canada by foot, bike and boat. The flame's journey ended with the traditional opening ceremony for the Olympic Games.

Garrett Metal Detectors have furnished security devices for use at Olympic Games all over the world since 1984.

William Gibson (BA '95)

Criminal justice graduate William Gibson was awarded the 2008 Department of Homeland Security's Secretary's Award for Excellence, one of the department's highest honors.

Gibson is a senior special agent with the Department of Homeland Security/Immigration and Customs Enforcement



William Gibson (BA '95, right) and former U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff.



Brig. Gen. Charles A. Miller Jr.



Carla Thomas (BS '83)

in Dallas, where he is an integral member of the North Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force. He has been with ICE since its inception in 2003.

He was selected to receive the award for successfully leading a multi-agency/nationwide drug smuggling/money laundering organization investigation that resulted in 28 indictments, two of which were businesses.

Over \$750,000 was seized along with approximately 8,000 pounds of marijuana and 10 kilograms of cocaine. Approximately \$1.7 million went back to the U. S. Government from the sale of one of the businesses and as payment for the money judgment against one of the defendants.

Gibson is also a veteran of Operation Desert Storm (1991) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003).

Brig. Gen. Charles A. Miller Jr. (BS '65)

Charles Miller earned his first U.S. Army rank from SHSU in 1965, when he was commissioned through the ROTC program as a second lieutenant.

In September 2009, he became one of only six ROTC graduates from SHSU to be promoted to Brigadier General, a significant promotion for an officer, according to David

Yebara, current head of the Bearkat Battalion and an Army veteran who served three tours in Iraq.

“Fewer than 1 percent of career officers will ever be promoted to a general officer,” Yebara said. “To have a Sam Houston State University ROTC graduate promoted to the rank of Brigadier General is an honor.”

Miller, who is now serving as the deputy commanding general and chief of staff of the Texas State Guard, has served in numerous units on active duty, the U.S. Army Reserve, the Texas Army National Guard and the Texas State Guard.

He is a graduate of the United States Army Armor, Military Police, Quartermaster Schools and the United States Army Command and General Staff College. He holds a master’s degree from Southwest Texas State University.

Throughout his career, Miller has been recognized with such awards as the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Commander’s Award for Public Service, the Lone Star Distinguished Service Medal, the Texas Outstanding Service Medal and Texas Medal of Merit.

He was also awarded the U.S. Armor Associations Honorable Order of St. George. Miller resides in Leander.

Carla Thomas (BS '83)

When Carla Thomas is at the height of her career, it could mean the altitude at which she’s flying in an F-18 or another aircraft found in the fleet at NASA’s Dryden Flight Research Center. Thomas is an aerial photographer and can be found in the back seat of many of the aircraft that are used for a safety/photo/video chase.

In addition to photographic documentation of flight research programs, she photographs Space Shuttle landings in California, center events, portraits, passports and other on-location projects. In recent years she has worked on implementation of electronic imaging and archiving historical images of the Dryden photo lab. In addition, she researches and proposes new technology—including digital cameras and accompanying hardware and software—to aid in digital imaging.

Thomas is a native Texan—born in Pecos and raised in South Houston, which is only a short distance from Johnson Space Center. Her love of photography began as a high school freshman and continued through college when she graduated in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science degree in photography from Sam Houston State University.

Her photography experiences have taken her from photo lab work in Colorado to industrial photography at NASA's White Sands Facility to the movie industry in Los Angeles and back to NASA in industrial photography for Dryden Flight Research Center in California. Her work was featured in the June 2008 issue of *National Geographic Magazine*. Her photographs have also been found on the covers of *Aviation Week & Space Technology*, *Aerospace America*, *Flight Training*, as well as other published works.

Carol Roach (MFA '98)

Carol Roach's unique and diverse creative talent is matched by her love of teaching individuals how to express themselves through art. Throughout her life's journey, which has literally taken her around the globe, she has shared her artistic passion, both as an artist and a teacher.

An Iowa native and 1981 graduate of University of Iowa with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in metalsmithing, she began her career in Houston as a fabric store manager. Her love of fabrics, talent and experience would help her grow to the level of district manager.

She received her Master of Fine Arts degree in watercolors from Sam Houston State University in 1998. Before and since receiving this degree, her career as artist and teacher has enlightened many around the world. In addition to living in several states in the U.S., she, her husband and two children have lived in England, Norway and Singapore. In each place she lived, Roach absorbed the culture and shared her creativity with children and adults not only through teaching but also art exhibits and theatrical set design and creation.

In recent years she lived in the Dallas area and was active in the community through the United Way and painting murals around the metroplex. She held showings at the Art & Clay Art Studio on the Barton in Grapevine and continued her love of teaching with both adult and children's art classes.

In late 2009, Roach and her family moved to the Heights neighborhood in



Carol Roach (MFA '98)

Houston, known for art galleries, historic architecture and eclectic shops.

"I hope to very quickly re-establish my art career—this time with both old and new friends in Houston," Roach said.

Ed Gerlach (BS '46)

From the time Ed Gerlach began piano lessons at the age of 5, he demonstrated his talent and love for music.

He began college as an architectural student at Texas A&M, but after two years, transferred to Sam Houston on a music scholarship. He was asked to lead Sam's dance band, which was eventually named Ed Gerlach and the Houstonians. This band was popular in the Huntsville community for social gatherings both on and off campus.

The band stayed together until World War II began affecting the United States. Eleven members of the 17-piece band enlisted together in the Air Force at Ellington Field in an attempt to keep the group together. Gerlach performed weekly for cadet graduations at the Rice Hotel and during furlough the band performed at other venues in the Houston area. During this time, Gerlach formed two musically influential friendships with jazz legends Milt Larkin, trumpet, and Arnett Cobb, saxophone, who performed regularly in Houston's Fourth Ward.

After the war, Gerlach returned to Sam Houston, where he met Doris Conner



Ed Gerlach (BS '46)

(deceased), pianist for Sam Houston's all-girl orchestra, whom he eventually married. They raised two daughters, and now, he has three granddaughters. He graduated in '46 with a Bachelor of Science degree in music, and she graduated in '48 with a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education.

After graduation, Gerlach performed with Hal McIntyre of the McIntyre Band and then was discovered by the Glenn Miller Orchestra and became their musical director and arranger. After traveling with the Miller Orchestra and making a movie in Hollywood, Gerlach returned to Houston, where he formed another orchestra and taught music at the University of Houston. He and his orchestra performed with Tony Bennett, Bob Hope, the Manhattan Transfer and other popular entertainers.

At the age of 89, he is still active in the music industry and performs at the Petroleum Club and for private parties, upon request.



Mike Mitchell (BS '54)

Mike Mitchell (BS '54)

If you ask Mike Mitchell, of Lubbock, about Sam Houston State University, you will likely spark an enthusiastic conversation filled with anecdotes of him and his roommate, James “Spot” Bullard (BS '54), now deceased. Mike was a member of the Ravens social club, which later became the Kappa Alpha Order. He says he enjoyed the years while earning his Bachelor of Science degree in vocational agriculture, and if given the chance, he would “do it all over again!”

His memories of Sam Houston include a description of the beautiful two-story home with an extended porch, which housed about nine men at a time. In addition to himself and Spot, some of his other housemates included Joe Reed, Harold “Hank” Thompson (BS '54), Roy Harris (BS '56) and Dan Rather (BS '53), a Caballero club member, which later became Sigma Chi. Mike describes Spot as a “barrel of laughs” and said they discussed plans for the Ravens to run Rather for governor after they all graduated.

“Never did we realize that Dan would do so well in his career,” Mitchell said. “I am very happy and pleased for him.”

The keynote speaker at Mitchell's graduation was Lyndon B. Johnson, then a United States Senator. He described how the senator sat beside him and Hank Thompson and entertained them throughout the ceremony by telling jokes.



Frank (Poncho) Roberts (BFA '09)

Mitchell and his wife, Wanda, raised their family in Post, where he owned the first distributorship outside of San Antonio for the Texas brands of Lone Star and Pearl beers. They now live in Lubbock where he is a ranch land real estate broker. They enjoy spending time with their three children, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Frank (Poncho) Roberts (BFA '09)

One of Huntsville's most endeared residents is also—at the tender age of 77—Sam Houston State University's oldest 2009 graduate. Readily recognized by many around campus and the Huntsville community for his greeting “My family, that's togetherness one more time,” Frank “Poncho” Roberts was honored on December 16, 2009, from the floor of the United States House of Representatives by Congressmen Kevin Brady for earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in theater.

Poncho was born in Madisonville and grew up in Huntsville and later Houston, where he graduated from Austin High School, and went directly to work for Southwestern Bell. He completed a 36-year career, the last 16½ years as a craftsman and supervisor at NASA. In this role, he witnessed some of the earliest space missions from Gemini to Apollo.

Since retiring in 1986, Poncho and his wife, Sugar, settled in Huntsville to be close to family. He has served in many community service roles with Rotary International,

Huntsville Swim Club, Chamber of Commerce, Huntsville Independent School District, University Heights Baptist Church—just to name a few.

Poncho has received many awards and honors, including:

- Upon his retirement, Texas' Network Services Department of Southwestern Bell, now AT&T, established the annual Poncho Roberts Teamwork Award in his honor, which is given to an employee who demonstrates an outstanding spirit of teamwork.
- He received the *Huntsville Item's* 2002 Citizen of the Year Award for Walker County. This award was further recognized from the floor of the Texas Legislature by State Rep. Lois Kolkhorst and State Sen. Steve Ogden.
- In 2008 The John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts' Regional Chair Claudia Beach recognized him for Excellence in Region VI Festival Hosting.
- He received Rotary International's recognition of being named to the Service Above Self Roll of Fame during the 2008 district conference.
- City of Huntsville mayor and members of city council proclaimed June 14, 2008, as Frank “Poncho” Roberts Day in appreciation for his willingness to help and dedication to the Huntsville community.

Of the many honors he has received, Poncho says he is most proud of being a loving husband and father. He and Sugar have been married for 58 years. Their daughter, Debbie Roberts Shaver, lives with her family in Oklahoma. Their son, Frank, Jr. (BS '77), and his wife, Debbie (BS '75), are also Bearkats and live in Huntsville. Poncho and Sugar have eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren. ★

Class Notes

Marcus Stephenson, '58, was inducted into the Brazosport school district "Wall of Fame" for his "outstanding and constant civic involvement," which includes serving for 25 years on the Brazosport school board.

Carroll F. Burrell, '69 and '70, retired from San Jacinto College in Pasadena, where he taught business for 34 years.

John R. Thomas, '70, was honored in October as American Solutions' 2009 "Texas Entrepreneur of the Year." American Solutions is a tri-partisan citizen network of over 1.5 million members that focuses on small business leadership and job creation in America. Thomas is president and founder of Wildseed Farms, Inc., of Eagle Lake and Fredericksburg.

Candi Clement, '73, was selected as a "Five Star: Best in Client Satisfaction Wealth Manager" for 2009 in the September Houston area issue of Texas Monthly magazine. She is vice president for Frost Brokerage Services, Inc.

David Miller Crosswell, '73, is president of David Crosswell Builders in Houston. He and his wife Carolyn have two grown children, Miller and Courtland.

Dr. Susan S. Lenamon, '73, was awarded the 2009 "John E. Wolf Citizenship Cup Award" from the Houston Association of Realtors on Dec. 16 during the annual realtor celebration held at the Hilton Hotel Americas. The award is presented annually to a member of exemplary reputation "for making outstanding contributions to the community, primarily outside the scope of the real estate industry."

Robin Craig, '74, is the producer of Christina's Court, which has won two daytime Emmy Awards the past two years. She resides in Houston.

Lindsay Siriko, '74, is a senior police officer with the Houston Police Department and former Harris County Precinct 4 Constable candidate.

Larry Zacharias, '75, has been named chief of police for The University of Texas at Dallas. Larry left the Richardson Police Department in 2008 after a 31-year career that included steady promotions leading to his appointment as chief in 2002.

Ron Rozelle, '77, is the author of seven books and articles that have appeared in numerous publications. His newest book, *Sundays with Ron Rozelle*, is a collection of columns published by Texas Christian University Press. He is currently working on a modern novel set in Galveston and writes a weekly column for The Brazosport Facts. In 2007, Ron was inducted into the Texas Institute of Letters. He and wife Karen, a third grade teacher, are empty nesters.

Stephanie DeWaegeneer, '89, was crowned as Ms Plus America at the 2009 Miss Plus America Pageant. DeWaegeneer resides in Katy and works as the Sales Director and a regular Performer with ComedySportz, which has been called "Houston's Best Live Comedy Show."

LaDawn Fletcher, '95, is a weekly Dallas Morning News Moms blogger and writes for the Dallas Morning News on Tuesdays. Her posts can be found at: <http://momsblog.dallasnews.com/archives/2009/10/ladawn-fletcher-loves-the-wisd.html>.

Alan Hale, '96, has been a bilingual consultant in the energy industry for more than 25 years and has worked with people of more than 70 different nationalities in 28 countries on six continents, including several years in Latin America. His Web site is at <http://www.magicvocabulary.com/>.

Tiffany D. Thomas, '03, recently accepted a position with Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston as a development officer. This organization is Houston's oldest and largest faith based social service provider.

IN MEMORIAM

- 1940s **Toby Gates, '41**
James E. Gilmore, '49 and '57
- 1950s **John A. Magee, '50**
Bob Hoffman, '57
- 1960s **Roy Moss, '62, '63**
- 1990s **Delores Ayers Keller, '97**
- 2000s **Donna A. Davis, '09**

To be a part of the Class Notes section, share your accomplishments at:

http://www.shsu.edu/~alu_kat/services/classnotes.html

Life Members (NEW LIFE MEMBERS SEPT. 1 – DEC. 31, 2009)

Friends and Family

Jerry D. Anglin
Mildred J. Anglin
Donald L. Bumpass
Joey B. Chandler
Kane DuPont
Standley F. Kelley
Gerald N. Raap
June S. Sandel

1940s

Thomas J. Mitchell '48

1950s

Allen M. Boren '56 and '66
Mary A. Blasdel '57
Ruby L. Boren '58
Sandra L. Standley '58
Jerry A. Sandel '59

1960s

William Albert '67
Thomas J. Hardy '67
Judith C. Steffen '68 and '78
James K. Chandler '69

1970s

Anne C. Thompson '70 and '74
Victor Caballero '71
Ediberto B. Reyna '71
James B. Neal '72
Francis E. Smith '74 and '77
Herman L. Smith '74 and '76
Rebecca W. Nicholson '76 and '77
Robert A. Lane '77
Cecelia P. Marquart '77 and '79
John M. Gilbert '78
Charles C. Harris '78

1980s

Donna D. Gilbert '82 and '90
Arthur D. Evans '84
Dwayne Pavelock '86 and '93
Barbara A. Frazier and '87
Richard L. Rydzeski '89

1990s

A. Sharese Hurst '93 and '95
Cheryl K. Bumpass '94
Melissa A. Raap '98
Lane A. Hurst '99 and '08

2000s

Jimmie L. Holloway '04
Pamela G. Lane '04
Jacqueline Brossman-Ashorn '05 and '09
Kelly A. McCormick '05
Aaron Guerrero '07
Laurie H. Jordan '07
Virginia T. Wilson '07
Echo C. Cathey '08
Melina F. DuPont '08
Dustin L. Harwell '08
Ryan C. Hotchkiss '08
Meredith A. McDonald '08
Randall Psencik '08
Christopher Ashorn '09
Joseph W. Harper '09
Maria A. Holmes '09
Vance J. McDonald '09
John B. Raynor '09

COBA HALL OF HONOR

Each year the College of Business Administration recognizes an elite group of individuals who bring honor and distinction to Sam Houston State University through their personal and professional achievements and their valuable contributions to the business world. Those inducted into the COBA Hall of Honor for 2009 are (from left) Jack C. Parker (BBA '64), T. Tolbert Chisum (BBA '67), William F. Garrison (MBA '73) and Roland Hendricks (BBA '80).



2010 Alumni Board



Ed Owens '80
President

Alan Tinsley '71
President Elect

Mary Ellen Thornton '64 and '68
Vice President

Barbara Bright '61
Secretary

Jack Compton '61 and '65
Treasurer

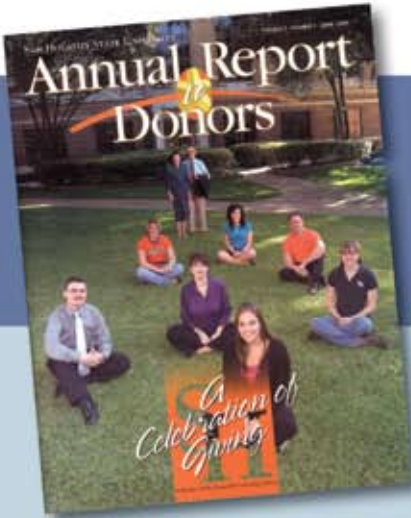
John Hoyt '75
Past President

W. Ben Bius '79
Dr. Roland Black '61
Tanya Brannon '81
Ronny H. Carroll '65
Chester D. Crawford '80
Marta Edwards '02
B. Allen Fletcher '94 and '97
Cutty Gilbert '93 and '03
Charles "Choc" Harris '78
Ted Irving '92
Charles Jones, III '81
Sara "Sally" Kelly '61 and '66
Todd Kercheval '97
Estella Koryciak '71
Ron Koska '61
Jack Kyle '52 and '53
Susan Lenamon '73
Dianne MacKenzie '60
Ray Matthews '64
Jerry McGinty '94
Kirby L. Nash '61

Dennis Reed '75 and '79
Ed Reyna '71
Kenneth R. Ross '81
Linda Bowers Rushing '64
Dick Rydzeski '89
Summer Sanford '02 and '09
L.N. "Sonny" Sikes, Jr. '55 and '57
Michael A. Sizemore '80
W. Marcus Stephenson '58
Robert "Bob" Wallace '90

Candice Heard
Student Appointment
Ronell Walker
Student Appointment

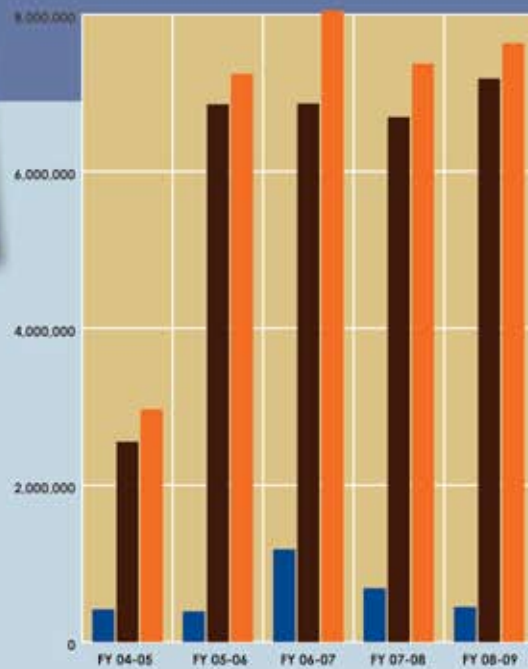
Frank Holmes
Ex Officio
Charlie Vienne
Ex Officio



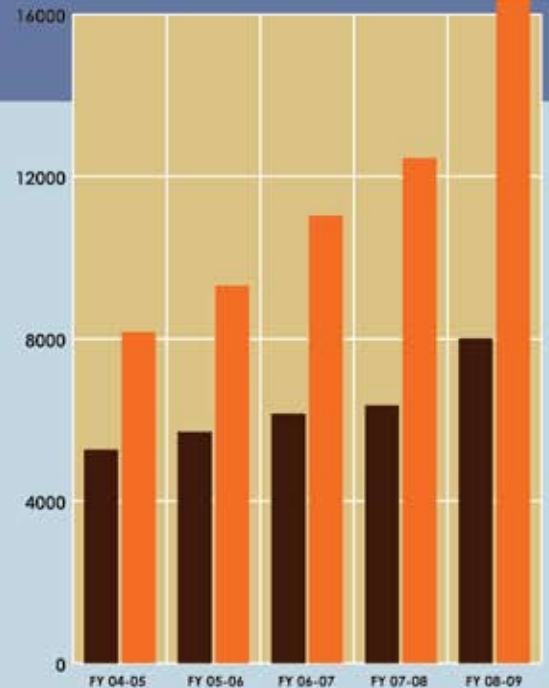
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2008-2009 Annual Report to Donors Magazine

The charts below reflect final results for 2008-2009 giving.



	FY 04-05	FY 05-06	FY 06-07	FY 07-08	FY 08-09
Gifts in Kind	\$414,745	\$389,030	\$1,183,413	\$683,856	\$448,555
Cash	\$2,552,793	\$6,852,180	\$4,864,740	\$6,691,059	\$7,184,091
Combined	\$2,967,538	\$7,241,210	\$6,048,153	\$7,374,915	\$7,632,646



	FY 04-05	FY 05-06	FY 06-07	FY 07-08	FY 08-09
# of Donors	5,263	5,701	6,147	6,356	8,005
# of Gifts	8,165	9,306	11,034	12,450	16,482

TSUS Regents: Ron Blatchley, Chairman, Bryan / College Station; Charlie Amato, Vice Chairman, San Antonio; Kevin J. Lilly, Houston; Ron Mitchell, Horseshoe Bay; David Montagne, Beaumont; Trisha Pollard, Bellaire; Michael Truncala, Beaumont; Greg Wilkinson, Dallas; Donna N. Williams, Arlington; William Patterson, Student Regent, San Marcos; Dr. Kenneth R. Craycraft, Interim Chancellor, Austin

INSPIRED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

TOMMY METCALF



Photo by Paul Olle

Sam Houston alum Tommy Metcalf (BBA '71) is well known for his generous spirit. He is committed to improving the quality of life for individuals in his community, and he “walks the talk” through his civic involvement, his volunteer efforts in benevolent organizations, and his contributions to funds that help identify and respond to the needs of citizens in the Montgomery County area.

Fortunately for Sam Houston State University, Metcalf’s affection for his home extends to the place where he received his college education.

“I’ve always felt that it is important to do whatever you can to make a difference in your community, and Sam Houston State University is a part of my community,” Metcalf said.

After establishing an endowment at SHSU with an initial commitment, Metcalf recently adjusted the terms of the endowment to utilize planned giving.

“I realized that by taking advantage of the benefits of planned giving, the scholarship amounts that come from the endowment could be greatly increased in future years,” he said.

“I worked all through college, and I understand the challenges that students face when they are trying to balance work and school,” Metcalf said. “The most important part of the endowment is to help those students with a financial need get an education at Sam Houston State University.”

In addition to providing funding for the Tommy Metcalf Scholarship Endowment fund, Metcalf’s generosity also extends to the Bearkat golf program.


“I had always wanted to do something for the university, but I didn’t know what to do,” he said. “President Gaertner’s leadership has inspired me to be a part of a plan that will enrich Sam Houston State University for many generations to come. I’m glad I have the opportunity to make a difference.”

To learn more about ways you can support Sam Houston State University, visit www.shsu.edu/giving or call 936.294.3625.

Sam Houston State University
Office of University Advancement
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