



The

# Spotlight

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

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**Points of interest:**

- Art faculty works displayed in various galleries across the states.
- Animation degree approved
- Joe Muller, Bobby Lane and Stanley Kelley are conducting hay quality and animal preference research for New Holland Equipment.

- Agricultural Sciences*
- Art*
- Biology*
- Chemistry*
- Computer Science*
- Geography & Geology*
- Mathematics & Statistics*
- Music*
- Physics*
- Theatre & Dance*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Thus far, the best part of my experience as a dean has been learning about the many successes of our individual faculty members in the College of Arts and Sciences. As a professor in the college, I was aware that all of our departments had successful programs and outstanding faculty, but I never really took the opportunity to consider the magnitude of the individual successes of my colleagues. My new position has given me the opportunity to do so and these experiences, in part, led to the publication of this newsletter.

The newsletter allows the highlighted departments an opportunity to share some of their specific successes with the entire college. The faculty and staff in the COAS are all very proud of the accomplishments within their own departments, but my hope is that, through this newsletter, we can educate a larger audience about our successes and begin to cultivate an appreciation for our programs that transcends departments within our college. After reading about the activities in our highlighted departments, I know that you will share the same pride that I have experienced in the past few months. I am certain you will agree that the College of Arts and Sciences is truly a vibrant college with a stellar faculty, intellectually engaged students and exciting, innovative programs.

On January 5, the department chairs, associate deans, and I met for a day long retreat at Gibbs

Ranch. The primary objective of the retreat was to initiate a cooperative strategic planning process for the college and open communication lines between departments so that we might develop a better understanding of all of our challenges, needs



and goals. What resulted was an appreciation among the chairs for successes in individual departments, a clear need to share these successes and new college vision and mission statements. These statements will guide us as the individual faculty members within our departments begin mapping the future of our college. With good strategic planning that incorporates the vision of our faculty and the excellent academic foundation that we have already established, the continued growth and success of the College of Arts and Sciences is inevitable.

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DEBUTS

Starting off a new year calls for the start of a new tradition. The College of Arts & Sciences is debuting this monthly newsletter in hopes of keeping all the departments up-to-date.

Beginning in March, the newsletter will come out on the first of each month.

Deadlines for this semester's newsletters are as follows:

- 2/15—Theatre/Dance & Biology Departments

- 3/15—Music & Chemistry Departments
- 4/15—Mathematics/Statistics, Physics, Computer Science, Geography/Geology Departments

When sending information, please include highlights, new faculty, fun facts, and departmental trivia.

If there are any questions, please call the COAS office at 294-1401 or email the editors at [stdblj20@shsu.edu](mailto:stdblj20@shsu.edu) or [stdmrt21@shsu.edu](mailto:stdmrt21@shsu.edu).



Ever-changing, artwork done by students can be seen on the walls of the galleries in Art Buildings D, E, and Lowman Student Center.



## Upcoming Events

- *A Mysterious Clarity*, Feb. 13-March 9, Gaddis Geelsin Gallery
- *The Crate Show*, SOFA Gallery, March 23-30
- 7th Annual Juried Student Show, Gaddis Geelsin Gallery, April 3-20 Awards ceremony, April 20
- Graduating Senior Exhibition, Gaddis Geelsin Gallery, May 8-13 Awards ceremony, May 13
- Siggraph Animation Festival. LSC Theater, May 4

For more information regarding the department, visit their website at: [http://www.shsu.edu/~art\\_www/](http://www.shsu.edu/~art_www/)

# ART DEPARTMENT

## Highlights

### Art Faculty Exhibits:

- Finely, R. 2005. *Diversity: Next Door and Abroad*. Stepping Stone Gallery. Huntington, NY. (juried exhibition)
- Finely, R. 2005. *Crystal and Her Mother*. The Photo Review. (photography magazine)
- Benfer, B. 2005. International Ceramic Symposium. Tallinn, Estonia. (invited participant)
- Benfer, B. 2005. *Earth & Fire: Works in Clay*. Chicago, IL (juried exhibition)
- Henderson, M. 2005. *Site Specifics 2005*. Islip Museum, Islip, NY (juried exhibition: site specific installation & comp. animation)
- Henderson, M. 2005. *Tenant Exhibition and Open Studio*. Commerce St. Art Warehouses, 13th Annual Art Crawl, Houston, TX<sup>1</sup>
- Drumm, C. 2005. *Birdhouses*. Kathleen Ewing Gallery, Washington, DC (juried exhibition)
- Drumm, C. 2005. *Art Splash 2005*. Studio 6 Gallery, Rockaway, NY (juried exhibition)
- Borcharding, MK. 2005. *24th Annual National Juried Print Competition*, Artlink Contemporary Gallery, Fort Wayne, IN (national juried exhibition)
- Borcharding, MK. 2005. *Americas 2000*, Minot State University, ND (international juried exhibition)
- Borcharding, MK. 2005. *Auburn Works on Paper 2005*. Dempsey Arts Center, Auburn, AL (national juried exhibition)

### Art Faculty Publications:

- King, S. 2005. *Ancestor Commemoration in Early Minoan Tholoi*. Hawaii International Conference on the Arts and Humanities, ISSN # 154.5899.
- Hedgpath, K. & S. Missel. 2005. *Exploring Character Design*. Thomson Delmar Learning, Clifton Park, NJ (David Dawson - Featured artist)
- Dawson, D. 2005. Character Rigging. Chapter 3 in *Exploring 3D Animation with 3ds max 7*. Thomson Delmar Learning, Clifton Park, NJ
- Dawson, D., Patricia Beckman, & Scott Wells 2006. *MAYA 6 to MAYA 7*. Chapter revisions in *3D Modeling with MAYA 6 and 3D Animation with MAYA 6*. Thomson Delmar Learning, Clifton Park, NJ

## New Faculty

**Matthew Guest** joined the art faculty in the fall of 2005 teaching painting and drawing after having taught at South Texas College.

He was born in Dallas, TX, earned a BFA from Texas Christian University in 1991 and a MFA from University of South Florida in 2004. He draws comics and makes books that are published in the U.S. and Europe. His artwork has been exhibited in many places including the Contemporary Art Museum in Tampa, FL (2004), the Texas Biennial in Austin, TX (2005), and The Ice House Cultural Center in Dallas, TX (2005).



**David Dawson** joined the art faculty this spring after teaching at the Art Institute of Phoenix. He received a BA in Studio Art from Baylor and an MFA in Art: Computer Art from Florida Atlantic University. He began his career developing games for publishers such as Warner Brothers, ATARI and Electronic Arts.



"I am excited to be joining the Art Department and to take part in the new BFA in Animation."

**Brian Benfer** joined the art faculty in the fall of 2005. Benfer received his BA in Studio Art from Humboldt State in 2000 and his MFA in Visual Arts from Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University. Prior to coming to SHSU, he served as Head of the Ceramics Department at Rutgers University. Classically trained as a sculptor, his contemporary approach to ceramics will help to push forward the vision of the Art Department with an emphasis on cross-disciplinary work. Benfer has shown work and has been included in collections throughout the U.S. and Europe.



**Rebecca Finley** joined the art faculty this spring. Originally from Knoxville, TN, Finley received her BA from the University of Tennessee and an MFA in Photography from San Francisco Art Institute in 2000. Rebecca's work has been exhibited throughout the U.S.

She has taught at the San Francisco Art Institute, The University of Tennessee and Carson-Newman College. "I am very excited to be teaching at Sam. We are working to develop a strong BFA in photography with greater emphasis on photo as a fine art medium."

<sup>1</sup>: This article in *The New York Times* is an overview of Mike Henderson's work. Harrison, Helen 2005. "Abstraction, Symbolism, Metaphor." *The New York Times*, Sunday July 10, 2005, Section 14L, Page 8.

# AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT

## Highlights

- The SHSU Women’s Rodeo Team placed 4th in the nation in 2005.
- Joe Muller just concluded a three year term as Superintendent of the National FFA Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event for the National FFA Organization and Chairperson of the National Agricultural Mechanics Committee.
- Two agriculture courses will be taught in China during summer 2006 as a result of exploratory visits to China in summer 2005 by Carolyn Robinson and Bobby Lane.
- Vanessa Brossman, senior agricultural studies student, was selected as one of the ten national Collegiate FFA Ambassadors.
- Cari Brinlee, junior agricultural studies student, was elected as the state Collegiate FFA Treasurer.
- The department hosted district and state FFA Leadership Development Events, bringing over 1300 high school students to campus.

## New Faculty

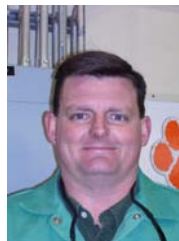
**Dr. Michael Lau,** Assistant Professor, joined the faculty last September. Dr. Lau, originally from Modesto, California, graduated Magna Cum Laude with his B.S. in Agribusiness



from Cal Poly—San Luis Obispo. He received his doctorate in Agricultural Economics from Texas A&M University in December 2004. He teaches classes in Agribusiness Marketing, Government Programs, and Agribusiness Sales and Consulting. His research interests include the biofuels industry and diversity within agricultural professions. He enjoys playing golf and traveling in his spare time. “I thought Sam offered a great opportunity to evolve as an educator. The opportunities here are endless, and I feel Sam puts the students first. I have enjoyed my time here greatly and look forward to the challenges that lie ahead,” says Lau.

**Dr. Doug Kingman,**

Assistant Professor, joined the faculty this spring. Kingman completed his undergraduate work at Texas A&M University and received his M.S. and Ph.D. from Purdue University in Agricultural Systems Management.



Following the completion of his graduate studies at Purdue, Kingman served as Assistant Professor at Illinois State University for four years. Originally from Baytown, he is happy to escape the cold and move closer to family in Texas. Responsibilities at SHSU include teaching several of the Agricultural Mechanization courses. His research interests include agricultural safety issues, auto-steering for ag machinery and alternative energy sources. He and his wife, Stacey, have been married for 14 years and have four children. He is a sporting clays and amateur radio enthusiast and enjoys upland bird and waterfowl hunting.

“I have especially enjoyed getting to know the students, faculty and staff in the department,” says Kingman. “I am very pleased with my new place of work and hope to make a meaningful contribution to SHSU during my career here.”

**Dr. Matt McMillan,** Assistant Professor, filled a new position in the department in Animal Science, specializing in Equine Science this spring. Dr. McMillan is from the San Angelo area and received his B.S. and PhD from Texas Tech University and an M.S. from Angelo State. He most recently served as Director of Equine Services for Hi-Pro Feeds in Friona. Courses being taught this semester include Advanced Horse Production and Management, Horse Science, and Sheep and Goat Production. McMillan’s plans are to expand on the course offerings of the department soon by developing courses in equine selection and evaluation, equine nutrition and equine exercise physiology. He also wants to add riding classes and assist with the development of equestrian and horse judging teams. McMillan enjoys spending time with his daughter, judging horse shows, raising sheep and goats, hunting, and fishing.



“I felt like SHSU offered me the opportunity to be part of a growing and progressive university,” said McMillan. “I’m also excited to be able to play a major role in building a successful equine program with the level of support offered here.”



## Upcoming Events

- Area IX FFA Career Development Events, SHSU campus, April 11
- SAM (Successful Agricultural Management) School, Gibbs Ranch, April 19-21
- State FFA Career Development Events, SHSU Campus, April 28
- Second Annual Ag Classic Golf Tournament, Raven Nest Golf Club, June 10
- Third Annual Cowboy Classic Golf Tournament Raven Nest Golf Club, May 6

For more information regarding the department, visit their website at: [http://www.shsu.edu/~agr\\_www/](http://www.shsu.edu/~agr_www/)



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## Vision

The College of Arts and Sciences at Sam Houston State University embraces the traditional aim of a liberal arts education: *a critical understanding of diverse cultures as expressed through the arts and sciences*. The College also strives to foster analytic, interpretive, creative, communication and interpersonal skills and abilities which are fundamental to functioning effectively within the University and in the larger community. In providing educational foundations which enable students to develop, evaluate and express ideas critically, the College hopes to contribute to the formation of responsible citizens and competent professionals.

## Mission

In order to cultivate an enthusiasm for the richness of life, the mission of the College of Arts and Sciences is to recruit, support and encourage a community of nationally recognized artists and scientists who through intellectual rigor and innovative curricula promote a life-long appreciation for scientific and artistic literacy, inquiry, refinement and creativity. The college fosters understanding and appreciation of the arts and sciences among all students through the delivery of a relevant and timely general curriculum; and provides an environment that promotes the development of relevant knowledge and skills associated with the study of specific disciplines within the college.

## Out and About *with* AGR and ART

THE FIRST AGRICULTURE (NOW AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES) COURSES WERE TAUGHT AT SAM HOUSTON IN 1909, AS WERE THE FIRST INDUSTRIAL ARTS (NOW INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY) CLASSES.

*Graphic Design students will travel to south Florida with Chuck Drumm during the week of February 4-9 to visit graphic design firms.*

**Art classes are offered every summer in Mexico as part of the SHSU Puebla Field School.**

There are now over 930 students in the AGR department, comprising 26 percent of the student body in the College of Arts and Sciences.

The AGR department brought over 4,000 elementary and secondary students to campus last year to participate in various FFA activities and events, Children's Barnyard, Green Thumb Day, and others.

*Art Department students will have the opportunity to photograph the sights and city of Paris with Jack Barnosky the week of March 10-14.*

The AGR department manages 20 different buildings or structures for instruction in Meat Science, Animal Science, Horticulture, Crop Science, Soil Science, Agribusiness, Agricultural Mechanization, and Industrial Technology.

*Members of SHSU Siggraph (an organization for students interested in computer animation) travel annually to the national conference. Last summer, the students traveled to Los Angeles, and this summer they will travel to Boston.*

**ART STUDENTS TRAVEL EACH OCTOBER TO NYC WITH SHARON KING AND TONY SHIPP TO SEE MAJOR GALLERIES, MUSEUMS AND VISIT WITH LOCAL ARTISTS IN THEIR STUDIOS.**