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Points of Interest:

- CHM faculty continue numerous national publications and presentations.
- CHM department awards over 25 scholarships and several fellowships in an award ceremony this past April.
- New MUS director appointed to replace retiring chair, Dr. Cannon.
- The School of Music participates in numerous local and national performances/workshops.

Agricultural Sciences

Art

Biology

Theatre & Dance

Chemistry

Music

Mathematics &

Statistics

Physics

Computer Science

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

The end of the Spring semester marked another very successful year for the College of Arts and Sciences. Each month, we have shared highlights from two of our departments within the college, but I thought it might be appropriate to highlight another university-wide program that is really assisting all of our departments in meeting their educational goals.

The First-Year Experience (FYE) began in Summer, 2004. It is under the direction of Dr. Keri Rogers who is also an Associate Dean in our college. The FYE Task Force had met for about a year and a half prior to the establishment of the program and developed the framework for the program which included changes to our summer orientation programs, year-around advising, introduction of a freshman seminar, development of a website and email address, a consolidated listing of departmental tutoring and expansion of learning communities. The importance of the FYE program rests on helping our students have the tools they need to be successful at college, which means we want them to graduate!

One of the key aspects of the FYE program is a three-credit-hour, elective freshman seminar course called SAM 136. Students read, write, and speak on experiences and challenges common among first-year students in class sizes that are capped at 25 students. In fact, SAM 136 is a writing-enhanced course. An exciting addition to the sections being offered in Fall 2006 is an honors section. Topics covered include time, stress, and money management; goal setting; listening and taking notes in class; reading a textbook; taking tests; majors and careers; SHSU resources and services; SHSU traditions and history; using the library; writing; public speaking; civic involvement/service learning; diversity; wellness; and alcohol and other drugs awareness education. The course material is based on applying research to improve the success of our students. Classes are led

by qualified faculty, staff, and administrators who have a special interest in the success of freshman students.

According to the National Resource Center on the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition, approximately 94% of American colleges and universities now offer freshman seminars in some form or fashion. Students who actively take part in a freshman seminar course have higher GPAs, higher retention rates at that college and higher graduation rates.

What can you do to help this program succeed? Tell incoming freshmen about the benefits of the program and encourage them to take part. Tell colleagues about the program and ask them to help promote it. Think about teaching a SAM 136 section in the future. Think about teaching in a Freshman Learning Community. There are many opportunities to develop your own learning communities with creative themes, i.e. Newspaper Physics (Physics and English Composition), Crossing Cultural Boundaries (Anthropology and English Composition), and Career Perspectives: For Love and For Money (English Composition, Psychology, and Freshman Seminar).

FYE is a truly wonderful program for our students that will undoubtedly help them to succeed in their college careers. It is in our best interest to support Dr. Rogers and the FYE program and encourage our students and faculty to participate.



REMINDER...

The Spotlight would like to take this time to thank all of the departments for their efficient and timely responses.

We plan for the remaining departments to be highlighted during the summer sessions, with new columns to be featured on the "Message From" section of the front page.

With the start of the fall semester, the COAS has in mind to start a second volume of this newsletter. Any input or suggestions for next year would be appreciated. These, and any questions should be sent to the COAS office at 294-1401 or the editors at stdblj20@shsu.edu or stdmrt21@shsu.edu.

CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Highlights

- **Dr. Tom Chasteen** was invited to speak at Duquesne University (March 17, 2006) about his group's scientific research. Chasteen has co-authored a chapter in a Royal Society of Chemistry book entitled "The Handbook of Chalcogen Chemistry" to be published in summer 2006. He is also authoring a book chapter for the American Chemical Society entitled "The Use of Animations in Analytical Chemistry" slated for publication later this year.
- **Dr. Darren Williams** assisted ten Boy Scouts in satisfying the requirements for the chemistry merit badge and participated in a Q&A session with both the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts about SHSU. Dr. Williams also gave a talk on the chemistry of ethanol in the body. The talk was prepared by Dr. Rick White for presentation to the RID week participants.
- **Dr. Sarah Kerrigan's** "Fatal caffeine overdose: Two case reports" was reported as the number one article in Forensic Science International for the previous quarter. The rating is based upon the most downloaded article purchased by Elsevier Science Direct subscribers. Kerrigan also chaired a symposium at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA, entitled "Driving Under the Influence of Drugs: Updates and Case Studies". She also presented a research paper entitled: Multiple Drug Intoxication in Impaired Drivers: Polypharmacy Challenges".

- **Dr. Benny Arney and Dr. Rick White** had the following presentations at the Texas Academy of Sciences meeting held at Lamar University in Beaumont on March 3:

EXCITED STATE CHEMISTRY OF 3,4-DIHYDRONAPHTHALENE OXIDE

Benny Arney, Jr., Rick White, and Katherine White Stanfield, SHSU, Huntsville, TX

Posters:

- METHYLATED DERIVATIVES OF 3,4-DIHYDRONAPHTHALENE OXIDE: EFFECTS OF SUBSTITUENTS ON PHOTOCHEMISTRY
Benny E. Arney, Jr., Rick C. White, Michelle Black, and Katherine White Stanfield, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX
- WANDERING THE EXCITED STATE SURFACE OF BENZONORBORNADIENE ANALOGS
Benny Arney, Jr., Rick White, and Gydeon Gilzow, SHSU, Huntsville TX

Highlights

- **James M. Bankhead**, has been selected as the new chair of Sam Houston State University's School of Music. Bankhead's selection was announced by Jaimie Hebert, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and is effective June 1. He takes over for Rod Cannon, who retired after 24 years at SHSU.
- **Trumpet Ensemble** members JT Franken, Edgar Jaime, Steve Gulleddge, Jason Robb and Mike Bradley recently won a chance to participate in the finals at the National Trumpet Competition in Fairfax Virginia in March. They competed with trumpet groups from schools across the nation, and finished in the top 6! Even more particularly impressive is that this group was the only one of the six finalists consisting of undergraduates.
- On Friday and Saturday, March 3-4, 2006, the music therapy student organization, **Mu Tau Omega**, organized and presented their annual mini-conference, entitled Music Therapy Awareness Weekend. The mini-conference, which included five professional presentations, a meeting of the Gulf Coast Music Therapists and entertainment offerings, was a huge success, attracting more attendees than ever before.
- Director of Bands, **Matthew McInturf**, is the President of the Texas Bandmasters Association. This is the largest professional organization for band directors in the world. His duties include planning a convention that will be held in July for over 6,000 constituents and a symposium held in June.
- In February **Dr. Allen Hightower led the SHSU Chorale** in a featured performance at the Texas Music Educator's Association convention in San Antonio. Over 1400 Texas choral directors were in attendance. This concert featured faculty soloists Mary Kay Lake, Sergio Ruiz, and Andy Wilson. In addition to their solo concert, the Chorale served as the demonstration choir for the lecture on Gregorian Chant.
- **Dr. Trent Hanna**, theory and composition instructor, recently won the 2006 Contemporary Japanese and American Music Composition Competition. Trent Hanna's Dorland Etudes was awarded first prize out of 56 entries and will be featured on a recital this coming year in Yanago, Japan.



Who knew physical chemistry could be so much fun?



CHM students at the awards ceremony on April 18th.

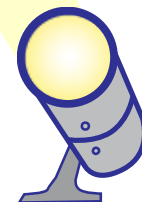


Dr. Williams assisting Boy Scouts in earning their merit badges.

CHM Fast Facts

- There are currently 226 Erlenmeyer flasks, 394 beakers and 800 test tubes in the lab drawers for the freshman and sophomore level CHM laboratories .
- It is estimated that the single chemical which has saved more human lives than any other non-naturally occurring substance is DDT (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane).
- The most toxic substance known is natural (botulinum toxin).

For more information regarding the CHM department, visit their website at:
<http://www.shsu.edu/~chemistry/>



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

New Faculty



James M. Bankhead, chairman of the Department of Music at California State University (Chico) since 1994, is the new chair of Sam Houston State University's School of Music. He takes over from Rod Cannon, who served as acting chair of the School of Music from July 1995 to August 1998, and chair since August 2002.

Bankhead earned his bachelor of music degree at Utah State University in 1969, his master of arts in business administration at Central Michigan University in 1981, and his doctor of musical arts in conducting at the Catholic University of America in 1986. Bankhead previously served for six years as commander/conductor of the United States Air Force Band (1985-91), and three years as executive director of the Green Bay Symphony Orchestra (1991-94).

"Coming to Texas is to be engaged with some of the best professional musicians, outstanding industry leaders and extremely creative thinkers," said Bankhead. "I hope to be able to add my experience, education and extensive professional background in ways that will help the School of Music and university attain goals and ambitions that will help our students succeed in the world."



Kristin Hightower, born and raised in Midland, Texas, is an Assistant Professor where she teaches voice and French diction. She previously served as a lecturer in the School of Music. She attended Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, where she earned her Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education. She later moved with her husband, Allen, to Los Angeles, where she attended UCLA, majoring in conducting and vocal performance. Mrs. Hightower received her Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting in 1999 under the tutelage of Donald Neuen and her Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in vocal performance, studying with soprano Juliana Gondek, in June of 2000.

Dr. Hightower has had many solo engagements throughout Texas, the Los Angeles area, and Europe. She particularly enjoys singing oratorio literature and has performed soprano solos in many major works such as Schubert's Mass in G and Handel's Messiah. She has also performed soprano roles in French opera productions and with

many orchestras including members of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Kremlin Orchestra, The Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, and The Los Angeles Philharmonic. In November of 2003, she placed second in the annual Singer of the Year Competition for the Texoma Region of the National Association of Teachers of Singing. Many of Dr. Hightower's students have been finalists and winners in NATS competitions.



Scott Phillips, Assistant Professor of Bassoon at Sam Houston State University, is in demand as a performer and teacher throughout the greater Houston area. He has appeared with the Houston Symphony Orchestra, the Houston Grand Opera orchestra, the Houston Ballet orchestra and Orchestra X.

Mr. Phillips's talents as a chamber music coach and clinician have led to faculty positions with the American Festival for the Arts and the Houston Youth Symphony. His teaching duties at SHSU include bassoon, theory, and music appreciation. He holds degrees from DePaul University (B.M.) and Rice University (M.M.), where he studied with Bruce Grainger and Benjamin Kamins. Mr. Phillips resides in Spring, Texas with his wife, Beth, and their young daughter, Grace.



David Clemmer is the Associate Director of Bands and Director of Athletic Bands at Sam Houston State University. In this capacity, Mr. Clemmer directs the Symphonic Band, Basketball Bands and the Bearkat Marching Band. In addition to his ensemble responsibilities, David also teaches courses in conducting and music education.

Mr. Clemmer has held positions at the University of Texas at Arlington and Newman Smith High School in Carrollton, Texas. He holds the Master of Music degree from the University of Oklahoma, the Bachelor of Music degree with emphasis in Music Business from the University of Texas at Arlington, and teacher certification in both Texas and Oklahoma.

Professional affiliations include the Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Bandmasters Association, College Band Director's National Association, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. Mr. Clemmer also serves on the Brass Staff of the Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps from Rosemont, Illinois.



Brass Faculty at TMEA in February: Steve Warkentin, Robert Daniel, Randy Adams, Peggy DeMers, Skip Howey



The SHSU Trumpet Ensemble March 2006 in Washington D.C.

Upcoming Events

- Junior High, High School, and Band Director Camps and Workshops will be going on throughout the summer.
- The Bearkat Marching Band Advisory Committee has put together three very exciting shows for the fall of 2006. The BMB will open the season with a Funk Show, followed by a show featuring music from *Queen*, and will end the season with a jazz show.
- The 41st String Invitational will be held on Saturday, September 16, 2006.

For more information regarding MUS, visit their website at:

<http://www.shsu.edu/~music/>

Vision and Mission



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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* CHM and MUS

Beginning this fall, SHSU's Chemistry and Forensic Science Building will house some of the Laboratories & Scientific Services Division of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The Division's mid-southern laboratory was previously housed in New Orleans before Hurricane Katrina. Until an appropriate facility can be built in Houston, part of the Division will make their home in our new FCS labs.

Dr. Wayne Barrett returned from a recent trip to Hungary where he conducts continuing research on Hungarian sacred music during the communist era. He has gathered extensive and unique materials on this topic, including oral histories, which will help to document what was a courageous and fascinating religious and cultural accomplishment.

The Sam Houston State University Faculty Chamber Players performed at the annual National Flute Association Convention in San Diego, California last August. The group was enthusiastically received by an audience of about 200 flutists from across the world. The performers who were invited to present this concert were Kathy Daniel on flute, Spring Hill on oboe, Patricia Card on clarinet, Scott Phillips on bassoon, Scott Card on cello, and Mary Kay Lake, soprano.

Dr. Kyle Kindred held a workshop where he conducted his composition, Prestidigitato, with the concert band at Palo Verde High School in Las Vegas, Nevada. Prestidigitato was on the Top 100 List for Bandworld Magazine for 2003-2004.

Violin professor, Andy Wilson, and his wife, Veronica Wilson (orchestral graduate assistant) have been awarded positions in the string section of the Rome Festival Orchestra for this summer! Dr. Wilson was also notified that he will serve as co-concertmaster.

On October 8, 2005, Mu Tau Omega, the music therapy student organization, organized a concert to benefit local Katrina evacuees. MTO brought together Katrina evacuees, community members, community organizations such as the Main Street Office, SHSU students and faculty to participate in this event. Performers included the SHSU Jazz Ensemble, directed by Dr. Trent Hanna, the SHSU Faculty Jazz Combo, and New Orleans jazz vocalist/Katrina evacuee Betty Shirley.