

SAM Center Named 2011 NACADA Outstanding Institution Advising Program



Dr. Bill Fleming,
Executive Director
of the
SAM Center

The SAM Center was honored this past year by the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA). It was one of four universities given a Certificate of Merit for its program. This is the second time in five years that the SAM Center has been honored by NACADA. I am extremely proud of the advisers and SAM Center staff who continue to develop and maintain effective programs that help all of our students attain their goal of graduation. We have a wonderful and dedicated group of professionals and student assistants who care about our university and its mission and who work hard for our constituents.

The spirit of camaraderie enhances all that we do. The recognition by the NACADA endorses our endeavors. The Outstanding Advising Program Awards recognize programs that document innovative and/or exemplary practices resulting in improvement of academic advising service. Since our establishment in 2002, we have been visited by many universities and several have created centers patterned after the SHSU model. Twice, the center has been recognized in the US News and World Report College Edition in articles about its services, its impact on students and education and the importance of academic advising as a profession.

When the SAM Center opened in 2002, twelve faculty members from various disciplines who were known for their expertise in advising and their rapport with students were identified. Two professional advisors were added to the group at that time. Since 2005, eight additional advisers have been added, including one who serves as a traveling adviser going to feeder community colleges to advise students transferring to SHSU.

Since the establishment of the SAM Center, more undergraduate students take advantage of advising services than before its existence. Many students return for further consultation with a "favorite" adviser, and many come just to report their progress. This is creating excellent adviser-advisee relationships.

In addition to advising, the SAM Center offers a number of academic support programs, including mentoring, monitoring academic progress, GRE/GMAT reviews, and study skills programs. The center also hosts "Grassroots: Conversations on Leadership in a Diverse Community" which features a noted individual of Latino or African-American descent leading a discussion focusing on his or her success in a forum with students of all backgrounds. This is also the second year for the successful ELITE program, which focuses on minority men and helps them to succeed. The SAM Center's goal is to offer all students many ways to enhance their college experience.

The programs we've added in the past six years in concert with our existing successful programs, the welcoming atmosphere of the center, and the expertise and friendliness of our staff and faculty have truly made the SAM Center the place to attain success at Sam Houston State University. It is a wonderful feeling to be a part of an entity that helps our students succeed. We thank the administration for supporting our programs and endeavors. I personally thank all who work at the SAM Center, the faculty, the staff, and the students.

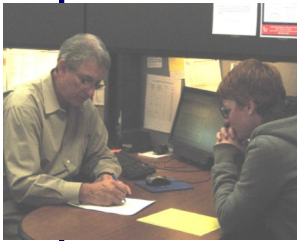
SAM Center Sees Changes in Full - Time Advisors

The university's increase in enrollment and the retirement of long-time advisor Cathy Reeves required more help to meet the advisement needs of students. Last year, the addition of two new advisors, Arica Castleberry and Edgard Sanchez, as well as the return of another, Wayne Harvey, allowed the SAM Center to continue quality service to students.

Arica Castleberry—Ms. Castleberry came to the SAM Center from the College of Education where she was an academic advisor for that college. She is currently finishing work on a M. Ed. in Instructional Leadership at SHSU and expects to graduate in Dec. 2011. She has a BS in Criminal Justice and has worked in the juvenile justice field in a residential treatment facility for 12 years. That was where she became interested in education because she saw first-hand how learning disabilities and emotional issues impacted the educational progress of young people. Arica and her husband, Michael, live in Huntsville and stay busy with youngest daughter Michaela's involvement in tournament softball. They also have two grown children.



Wayne Harvey—Mr. Harvey first came to the SAM Center when he returned to graduate school to earn an M.A. in Industrial Technology and Management and began academic advising. At that time he had retired after 15+ years with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and 20+ years of being self-employed to return to SHSU. He is currently in the process of completing an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and also teaches for the Dept. of Agriculture and Industrial Sciences and the College of Business. He and his wife Terry have two grown sons and continue to call Huntsville home.



Edgard Sanchez—Mr. Sanchez joined the SAM Center as a student assistant in 2006. He was also a member of Orange Keys and after graduating from SHSU with a degree in Business he went to work for Texas Community Bank in The Woodlands. In 2010 he returned to the SAM Center as an academic advisor and is also working toward a MBA. He is fluent in Spanish and serves as an advisor for the SHSU Elite Program as well as being transfer advisor for Blinn College in both Bryan and Brenham.



All Advisors Are Now Busy Advising Students for Spring Classes

Students wait to see advisors as they prepare their schedules for Spring registration.



Academic Support Programs are Recognized for Student Success



Pres. Gibson with ELITE members

Sam Houston ELITE

Through generous sponsorships from a variety of sources including the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Aramark, and SHSU's Vice President for Student Services and Multicultural and International Student Services Office, the SAM Center piloted the Sam Houston ELITE program with 30 young men in 2010-2011. With continued support ELITE now has 39 participants for 2011-2012.

The mission of ELITE is to promote academic development, as well as to promote and encourage civic engagement with incoming African-American or Latino men at SHSU who are 1st generation and 1st time freshman students. As a comprehensive program for incoming minority men at SHSU, it should ultimately serve to increase the rate at which SHSU retains and graduates men of color.

The results of the first year were enormously successful and encouraging. The students in ELITE had an overall retention rate of 100% for fall and 90% for spring while the general population was 88.47% for fall and 67.95% for spring.

“First Alert” was a Finalist for the Texas Higher Education Star Award, which is designed to highlight and recognize the most successful projects and activities that help meet the goals of the Texas higher education plan,
Closing the Gaps by 2015.

Dr. Strauss Receives SHSU Staff Excellence

“It was really nice to be one of the Staff Excellence Award winners this past year. It meant a lot to me that my colleagues sought to acknowledge my commitment to the students of SHSU. However, and I know it may sound trite, individuals on their own have minimum impact. I work with a team of mentors who share my view that higher education is the ticket to the “American Dream.” They passionately want that dream to come true for each and every student on campus and as a result our office is both welcoming and effective. Our commitment to superior service for students is not just in the programs that we offer but our willingness to address the needs of those who do NOT fit into a program. The university as a whole is a wealth of resources and I am always impressed with how creatively mentors at the SAM Center organize these resources to meet the individual needs of SHSU students.”



Dr. Bernice Strauss

Director of Academic Support Programs

Students Helping Students

Tiara Gatewood
Psychology
Houston

Amy Revia
Education
Houston

Ricardo Castillo
Criminal Justice
Houston

Asacia Roberts
Broadcast Journalism
Houston

Jayson Fuchs
Criminal Justice
Needville

Kendra Sanders
Criminal Justice
Lancaster

Ellen Whitten
English
Elgin

Stephen Lee
Chemistry-Biology
Pearland

Carlos Garcia
Biology
Palacios



Eddie Delgado
Kinesiology Masters
El Paso

Genaro Mendez
Criminal Justice
Mission

Jenny Talbert
Psychology
College Station

Amanda Colbourn
Economics
Huntsville

Isaias "Chai" Machuca
Finance - Banking
Goodrich



Rosalin Lambey
Criminal Justice
Houston



Jasmine Moultrie
English
Houston

Lacey Price
Mass Communication
Huntsville

Chrystal Golden
Mass Communication
Humble

Ezequiel Mendez
Criminal Justice
Katy

" One of the most rewarding parts of working at the SAM Center is teaching students fundamental study skills that help develop them into well-rounded individuals."

SAM Center “Thoughts” by Experienced Advisor Dr. Bill Hyman

“I have had the privilege of advising students at the SAM Center since its inception in 2002. It is a joy to see students come seeking advisement and direction, and leave with a clear plan of how they are going to attain their educational goals. The mentors and advisors in the SAM Center put students first and work as a team to help them, and as a result, I have seen many success stories in my time. Under great leadership and with the help of outstanding resources, we have been able to create an environment that is totally student centered. I think we have something very special here, and all SHSU students should know that the SAM Center is the place to come for any advising or mentoring needs.”

Dr. Bill Hyman



SAM Center
College of Humanities & Social Sciences Bldg.
Suites 170 and 190

Phone: (936) 294-4444 & (936) 294-4361
Toll Free: (866) 364-5211
Toll Free from Houston: (281) 657-6432
Fax: (936) 294-1149

The SAM Center exists to assist students in planning an academic program that best suits their needs and abilities and to offer additional programs to help improve their academic performances and college experience.

Hours

Monday	7:30 a.m.— 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday	7:30 a.m.— 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	7:30 a.m.— 6:30 p.m.
Thursday	7:30 a.m.— 4:30 p.m.
Friday	7:30 a.m.— 4:30 p.m.
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	Closed



The Texas State University System
Board of Regents 2011

Charlie Amato, Chairman, *San Antonio*
Donna N. Williams, Vice Chairman, *Arlington*
Dr. Jaime R. Garza, *San Antonio*
Kevin J. Lilly, *Houston*
Ron Lynn Mitchell, *Horseshoe Bay*
David Montagne, *Beaumont*
Tricia Pollard, *Bellaire*
Rossanna Salazar, *Austin*
William F. Scott, *Nederland*
Ryan Bridges, Student Regent, *Huntsville*
Brian Mc Call, Chancellor, *Dallas*

