Sam Houston State University honored five alumni who have brought pride to the university through their achievements, examples of good citizenship, and their contributions to society at the Distinguished Alumni Gala on Oct. 11 as part of homecoming activities.

The honorees are Distinguished Alumni Damian Mandola ’77, W. Sam Monroe ’65 and Trisha Pollard ’74; the Outstanding Young Alumna Jenna Jackson ’97; and the Distinguished Service Award recipient Wilfred O. Dietrich ’47, ’48.

Full biographies for the recipients can be found online at: alumni.shsu.edu

Videos of the recipients are available through the SHSU YouTube channel at: youtube.com/user/SamHoustonStateU
The SHSU Alumni Association would like to thank our sponsors for their generous and ongoing support of the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Gala.

**Platinum Sponsors**
Carolyn (Chipman) Faulk ’70
Randy ’74 & Trisha S. ’74 Pollard
John R. ’59 & Judy Ragsdale

**Gold Sponsors**
Bobby & Karen ’80, ’90 Gray
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**Silver Sponsors**
Tolbert ’67 & Carrie ’66 Chisum
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Ron ’61 & Donna Koska
Jack ’52, ’53 & Mary C. ’53, ’54 Kyle
Dr. & Mrs. Bobby K. Marks
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Office of the VP for Finance and Operations
Office of the VP for Student Services
Office of the VP for University Advancement
College of Education
College of Fine Arts and Mass Communication
College of Sciences
Division of Enrollment Management
Texas State University System and Board of Regents
The Black Alumni & Friends Club - In Memory of Dean William R. Powell

The Alumni Association would like to give special recognition to our platinum sponsors John and Judy Ragsdale (L), Carolyn Faulk (M) and Randy and Trisha Pollard (R) pictured with SHSU President Dana L. Gibson for their generous gift to the 2013 Gala and their ongoing support of the Alumni Association.

**Life Member Celebration**

**Save the Date**
Thursday, February 20, 2014
The Woodlands Waterway Marriott
This year's tuition raffle winner Laurie Grawl was surprised during class with an oversized tuition check and balloons presented by Sammy. Pictured (l-r) Donna Gilbert, Asst. Director of Alumni Relations; Charlie Vienne, Director of Alumni Relations; Cutty Gilbert, Alumni Board Member; Melissa Warak, Asst Professor; Leanne Woodward, Alumni Board Member and COFAMC Dean Ron Shields.

Welcome To Our Newest Life Members

50s
Jeanine Dillenback Lawrence '57
Emma Lou Scott '57 '65
Barbara Jean Lloyd '58
Virgie Lynn Miller '59

60s
Glenda Ann Cammack '63
Michael A. Rhodes '64
Rosemary Grigson Welch '66
Joyce Ellen Winslow '68 '74
Geral Wayne Fauss '69 '73
Mickey Wayne Keeling '69 '10

70s
Jerry Lynn Broxson '70
Virginia Lee Keeling '70
John A. Spears '70
Susan McBay Fauss '72
Larry Wayne Pauley '72
Angelo Joseph Amato, Jr. '76
Samuel P. Johnson '77
Patricia Driscoll Johnson '77
Gary Steven Myrick '77
Edward G. Oliver '77
Leslie Stuart King '78
Brian Bennett Smith '79
Gary Mason Wyatt '79

80s
Patricia Moran Westbrook '80
Robert Glynn Hamlin III '81
Wendell Thomas Stewart, Jr. '81
Willard Taylor, Jr. '81 '82
Kellee Hall Hamlin '82
Lisa J. Tatom '83
Garlaine Brown Kelly '87
Julia A. Woods '88 '97 '00
Bryan Keith Brown '89

90s
Keith Austin Hayden '92
Joseph Edward Adams III '93
Walter Hugh Bennett, Jr. '93 '96
Cynthia Ann Bennett '93 '96
Joe Alan Chick '93
Delynda Simmons Chick '96 '12
Fabian Jesus Borrego '97
Jenna Lynn Jackson '97

00s
Jacob Ross Chandler '00 '04 '13
Lucrecia Kay Chandler '00
William Andrew Zimmer '02
Riley Rene' Kleppelid '06
Steven Blaise Volanski '07
Edgar Sanchez '09 '13

10s
Seth Colton Newsome '10 '12
Brittany Elise Allen '11
Chrysal Michelle Barragan '11
Lindsey Picone Clements '11
Daphne Lynn Kohring '11
Valarie Michelle Lott '11
Lindsay Elaine Smith '11
Dennis Odell Stepp '11
Eric Neal Sullivan '11
Mandi Ann Sullivan '11
Tracy C. Blakely '12
Patrick Lawrence Cardenas '12
Cody D. Carpenter '12
Kristine Anne Hall '12
Andrew Scott Henderson '12
Ryann Kaianui Kaaa '12

Anthony Thomas Noto '12
Jason Trevor Tucker '12 '13
Christopher Allen Ashmore '13
Terra Crystal Brashears '13
Lise Fischer '13
Jase Ryan Reeves '13
Elizabeth Anne Russell '13
Rocco Joseph Verducci '13
Chelsea Dawn Williams '13
Angel Marie Frezia '13
James W. Gaskins '13
Sarah J. Owen '13

Friends & Family
Lynn Amato
Sara Ann Hart
Linda Richardson Smith
Stuart F. Williamson
Norma Beth Williamson

Alumni Tuition Raffle in 8th Year

Laurie Grawl of Iola, TX will not have to worry about paying for classes at Sam Houston State University next year. That’s because her name was selected during the Eighth Annual SHSU Tuition Scholarship Drawing on Nov. 8.

The Alumni Association has awarded more than $125,000 in scholarships to individual students as a result of the tuition raffle during the program's history.

This year’s award of 24-hours of undergraduate in-state tuition has an approximate value of $4,680. The SHSU Alumni Association will award net proceeds from the tuition raffle in $1,000 increments to eligible students for the following fall. Students interested in applying for alumni scholarships should complete the ScholarX Application by Feb. 1, 2014, to be considered. Criteria for alumni scholarships can be found on the alumni website at alumni.shsu.edu. For more information on the tuition drawing or alumni scholarships, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 800.283.7478.
The Alumni Association is excited to announce the formation of five new alumni clubs. The Conroe/Montgomery Alumni & Friends Club, the Tomball Area Alumni & Friends Club, the Fort Bend County Alumni & Friends Club, the Bryan/College Station Alumni & Friends Club, and the Military Science Alumni Club were chartered in July 2013.

The Sam Houston State University Alumni Association club network is stronger than ever and growing. For more information, or to start a club in your area, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alu_kat@shsu.edu or 936.294.1841. You may also visit our website at alumni.shsu.edu and click on the alumni chapter/club link to find a club in your area.

**Houston, TX | Young Alumni & Friends Club Kick-Off | October 24, 2013**

*Sponsored by: Joe Amato '72, Ryan N. Elder '11, David '05 & Megan '03, '05 Greene and Reuben C. Tamez '90, '94*

![Image of attendees at the Young Alumni & Friends Club Kick-Off Reception in Houston]

Jordan Green '08, Kyleen Sims '08, Ryan Elder '11, Erik Johnson '12, Megan Lee '12, Trina Silva '06 show their Bearkat paw spirit with SHSU President Dana Gibson.

Over 60 young alumni attended the Young Alumni & Friends Club Kick-Off Reception, October 24, 2013 at the Capital Bar - Midtown in Houston to support the newly formed club. For more information, please contact SHSUyoungalumni@gmail.com.

**Waco, TX | Alumni & Friends Club Kick-Off | October 17, 2013**

*Sponsored by: John Hoyt '75*

![Image of attendees at the Waco Area Alumni & Friends Club Kick-Off Reception]

Close to 100 Alumni attended the Waco Area Alumni & Friends Club Kick-Off Reception, October 17, 2013 to support the newly formed club. For more information, please contact SHSUwacoarealumni@yahoo.com.

Net proceeds from the reception benefit the Waco Area Alumni & Friends Club scholarship fund. Pictured are Waco Area club leaders (l to r) Alta Vann '99, Gary Herwald '00, Art Mann '79 and Randy Merrill '69.
Upcoming Events

REGISTER ONLINE AT ALUMNI.SHSU.EDU

January 13 ........................................................ Walker County Area Alumni Club Reception – Huntsville
January 25 ........................................................ Dallas Area Alumni & Friends Reception – Irving
February 20 ......................................................... Life Member Celebration – The Woodlands
March TBA ........................................................... Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Reception - Houston
March 22 .............................................................. SHSU Alumni Golf Tournament – High Meadow Ranch Golf Club, Magnolia
April 3 ............................................................... SHSU Ring Ceremony – SHSU Campus
April 26 .............................................................. Founder’s Day – SHSU Campus

Sam Houston State University Alumni Association, The Office of the Vice President for Student Services, and the Black Alumni and Friends Club hosted a Homecoming Reception on October 12 in the Lowman Center Ballroom immediately following the game.

The club hosted a golf tournament in conjunction with homecoming with all proceeds benefitting the African-American Friends of SHSU Scholarship Fund. Pictured are: Coleman Porter ’74, Terry Williams ’83 and Ed Owens ’80.

The Student Alumni Association kicked off the fall semester on September 3 with a party in the John R. Ragsdale Alumni and Visitor Center to introduce the new officers and welcome students back to campus.

The SAA show their support for “Bearkat Dynasty” during the Homecoming parade on October 10.

Black Alumni & Friends Homecoming Reception | October 12, 2013

Huntsville, TX | Student Alumni Association

The Student Alumni Association kicked off the fall semester on September 3 with a party in the John R. Ragsdale Alumni and Visitor Center to introduce the new officers and welcome students back to campus.

The SAA show their support for “Bearkat Dynasty” during the Homecoming parade on October 10.
The Alumni Association would like to thank all of the alumni and friends who came out to tailgate in Bearkat Alley. A very special thank you to the following home tailgate sponsors for their support in 2013: Joe Amato ’72, W.D. & Geraldine Dickerson, Joe & Judy ’69 Emmett, Clint ’74 & Becky ’75 Fancher, Walter ’79 & Jan Fitzgerald, John Hoyt ’75, Todd Kercheval ’97, John R. ’59 & Judy Ragsdale, Steven ’77 & Arlene Seltzer, Reuben C. Tamez ’90, ’94, Community Service Credit Union, David L. Smith Realty / The Legacy Group - Susan S. Lenamon ’73, First National Bank of Huntsville, James Morrison’s Superior Taxidermy and Liberty Mutual Insurance.

During the family brunch held in the John R. Ragsdale Visitor and Alumni Center on Family Weekend, parent members of the alumni association registered for a drawing for BOTPW tickets. Winners of this year’s giveaway are the parents of SAA member Emily Work, Rob and Robin Work, pictured with Alumni Relations Director, Charlie Vienne and Asst. Director of Membership and Marketing, Donna Gilbert.

Students Today…Alumni Tomorrow! SAA members and alumni relations student employees visit with members and potential members about the advantages of alumni association membership during pre-game tailgating in Bearkat Alley.

Alumni tailgating traveled to Texas A&M on September 7 to cheer on our Bearkats! The pregame tailgate held in the Texas A&M Rec center was generously sponsored by Bearkat Alumni: Ronny Carroll ’65 – Ronny Carrol Homes, Inc., Carolyn ‘Chipman’ Faulk ’70, Michael ’68 & Barbara Gilstrap, Brian Hall ’88 – FridayHarbour.org, Rick Hanna ’79, Len & Marlene Keeling ’63 and Herbert ’63 & Betty O’Quinn.

The fenced Alumni Association tailgate area is the focal point of Bearkat Alley. Association members get into the tailgate area at no charge.

Bearkat Alley is filled with excitement as the marching band plays the fight song to lead everyone into the stadium.

Battle of the Piney Woods rivalry at Reliant Stadium. The Bearkats beat the SFA Lumberjacks 56-49 to take home the trophy.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP…. YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The Alumni Association has experienced a tremendous increase in alumni membership over the last several years as we broke through the 10,000 member mark and are now approaching 11,000 active members. This increase can be directly attributed to each of you and your passion, love, and support for Sam Houston State University.

“I want to thank all members who have joined the Alumni Association, whether as a Life Member or annual member,” said Charlie Vienne, executive director of Alumni Relations. Each member makes a difference, and the support will help the association in so many ways.”

Currently the alumni association serves more than 110,000 graduates and former students.

Every member, regardless of membership level is important to the operation and success of the Alumni Association. In turn, the association works hard to ensure that membership is a value to the alumni.

The many advantages of membership are listed online at alumni.shsu.edu. The new Bearkat travel program is a great way to vacation with others who share your affinity to SHSU. Other advantages are discounts on car and home insurance, rental cars and free IT training through IT@SAM on campus.

“We strive to make the Alumni Association one’s personal network for life,” stated Vienne.

According to Donna Gilbert, assistant director of membership and marketing, there are several factors that have contributed to the surge in membership.

“Our growth is a combination of numerous efforts. For example, we have been very aggressive with multiple membership campaigns to encourage new membership, as well as to retain annual members,” she said. “In addition, we are in the process of producing an alumni print directory, a service we provide to our alumni every five to seven years. Through this project we have been able to secure many new memberships.

“There are now over 2,200 Life Members of the Alumni Association,” Gilbert said. “All Life Members should mark their calendars for Thursday, February 20, 2014 and plan to join us at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott for the 4th Annual Life Member Celebration and Dinner. All new life members (those who have joined since February 1, 2013) will receive their Life Member plaque during this premier event.”

Those interested in upgrading their membership to Life, or would like to learn more about membership levels, can visit alumni.shsu.edu/join or email dgilbert@shsu.edu.
COBA Hall of Honor

The College of Business Administration inducted four alumni into the COBA Hall of Honor on Friday, October 25. The honorees are: John R. Ragsdale ’59, Robert J. “Bob” Rod ’65, Kailas J. Rao ’70 and George C. Yax ’66, ’67

Walker County Alumni & Friends Club

The Walker County Area Alumni & Friends Club met on August 5 at Old Main Market on the SHSU Campus and enjoyed a firsthand account, from Head Coach Willie Fritz, on the 2013 football season. For more information regarding the club and activities, you may contact Kelly Ritch, President, at walkercountyaaf@gmail.com.