Alumni Association Honors Life Members As ‘Milestone’ Approaches

The number of Life Members is approaching 2,000, and those working with the Alumni Association are excited about reaching a new milestone.

“The 2,000th Life Member will be honored with their name, class year and ‘2,000th member’ status engraved on a paver placed in the SHSU Alumni Garden,” said Donna Gilbert, assistant director for alumni marketing and membership.

Approximately 250 guests enjoyed an evening of visiting and learning more about SHSU’s current activities and programs during the Alumni Association’s third annual Life Member Celebration on Feb. 21, at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel.

Life Member Charles W. Jones III, Class of ’81, presented a testimonial about the benefits and rewards of his membership and the appreciation he felt for Sam Houston State.

Several of the new Life Members who attended the celebration spoke about the pride they have for SHSU and their desire to stay connected to the university.

Samuel Ogbonna, of Dallas, is a 2009 business graduate who serves as a financial advisor for USAA.

Allison McGill, of Spring, is an associate financial analyst for Sandridge Energy. She graduated with her bachelor’s degree in accounting in 2009 and master’s degree in finance in 2011.

“I knew I wanted to join the Alumni Association after I graduated,” she said, “so why not join as a Life Member? My membership will help me stay connected to SHSU and will provide networking opportunities in the future.”

“The education and experience I obtained from my time at Sam Houston State University was so valuable,” he said. “Joining as a Life Member was not even a decision I had to think about. I will forever be a Bearkat.”
Cheryl Oller, of Kingwood, graduated in 1978 with a bachelor’s degree in teaching. She is currently a special education consultant with the Aldine Independent School District. “I am at a point in my life where my children are grown, and I’m ready to start a new chapter in life,” she said. “I’ve always supported the College of Education, and I felt it was time to make a commitment to the university. I’m ready to get more involved.”

Cynthia Hoffzimmer, of Huntsville, was a non-traditional student who took time off before graduating to be a mom. She graduated with a bachelor’s degree in 2011 and a master’s degree in 2012, both in accounting. “I joined as a Life Member because I’m a Bearkat—it’s what we do. I’m also raising three future Bearkats,” she said proudly.

Theatre alumnus Zane Thrift, of Arlington, graduated in 2012. He now works as a retail sales merchandise developer for Advantage Sales & Marketing. While a student, he served as Sammy Bearkat. “I love Sam Houston State University,” he said. “Life membership provides a way for me to stay connected to my school and keep up with everything that is going on.”

To become a Life Member contact the Office of Alumni Relations directly at 936.294.1841 or online at alumni.shsu.edu. The 2014 Life Member Dinner is scheduled for Thursday, February 20.

Although an accountant, not artist by trade, Don was instrumental in crafting the original abstract that has been on display in the Newton Gresham Library since 1988. SHSU art professor Charles Pebworth sculpted the relief abstract for the Gulf Resources & Chemical Corporation in 1976 and the untitled piece was exhibited in the lobby of GR&C corporate headquarters in downtown Houston for twelve years. When the company relocated their offices to Boston, Don made sure that the sculpture was donated to SHSU.

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SPONSORS
PLATINUM
Liberty Mutual Insurance
John ’78 & Donna ’82, ’90 Gilbert
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Ron ’61 & Donna Koska
Steve ’77 & Lisa Parkhill
Randy ’74 & Trisha ’74 Pollard
Byron ’82 & Charlene ’83 Sandel
Dan ’65 ’67 & Marian Spence

2013 Calendar • Correction (November) Donald M. Rose ’58 Although an accountant, not artist by trade, Don was instrumental in crafting the original abstract that has been on display in the Newton Gresham Library since 1988. SHSU art professor Charles Pebworth sculpted the relief abstract for the Gulf Resources & Chemical Corporation in 1976 and the untitled piece was exhibited in the lobby of GR&C corporate headquarters in downtown Houston for twelve years. When the company relocated their offices to Boston, Don made sure that the sculpture was donated to SHSU.

Coming Soon! Tailgate 2013!
New Sponsorship Opportunities for 2013 Season

DATE • OPPONENT
Sat, Aug 31 • Houston Baptist
Sat, Sep 07 @ Texas A&M
Sat, Sep 14 • Texas Southern
Sat, Sep 21 • Incarnate Word
Sat, Sep 28 • Eastern Washington
(Parents Weekend)
Sat, Oct 12 • Lamar (Homecoming)
Sat, Oct 19 @ McNeese State
Sat, Oct 26 • Northwestern State
Sat, Nov 02 • Stephen F. Austin
(BOTPW Game @ Reliant Stadium)
Sat, Nov 09 • Nicholls State
Sat, Nov 16 @ Southeastern Louisiana
Sat, Nov 23 @ Central Arkansas

Sponsorship levels
Spirit Sponsor ~ $250
Fence Sponsor ~ $500
Food Sponsor ~ $1000
Tent Sponsor ~ $5000

For information and details about the sponsorship opportunities, please visit alumni.shsu.edu or contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 800.283.7478

Visit gobearkats.com for a detailed schedule.

SAVE THE DATE
NEW YORK ALUMNI & FRIENDS
Wednesday, Nov. 20 - Saturday, Nov. 23, 2013

Thursday, November 21, 2013
Alumni Reception and Dinner at the ’21’ Club
21 W 52nd St., New York, NY
Welcome To Our Newest Life Members

(From November 1, 2012 through March 1, 2013)

Life Endowed Members

Walter Fitzgerald '79
Jan Fitzgerald
Major Harper-Terry '03

60s

John Johnson '61
John McManners '62
James Raney '62
Dick Reed '62
Leonard Murphy '63
Stephen Montgomery '64
Dorothy Yawn '66 '71
Ralph Stenzel '67
Richard Yawn '68 '73
Donald Goldman '69
James Horn '69
Joan Lee '69
Randy Merrill '69
Ruby Lehrmann '69 '72
Judith Cannon '69 '01

70s

Craig Wooten '70
Gayle Wooten '70
Nancy Grossenbacher '71
Allan Rasmussen '73 '74
Larry Degney '74
Kenneth Meador '75
Gary Miles '76
Celso Ramirez '76
Michael Parker '77
Steven Seltzer '77
Valerie Stern '79
David Brand '79 '81 '90

80s

Suzanne Williams '81
Paula Armstrong '82
Edmundo Ramirez '82
Johnny Armstrong '83
Scott Haifich '83
Philip Morris '85 '87
Anton Vincent '87
David Brady '89

90s

Dena Byrd '90
Kristi Koop '90 '11
Robert Horton '90 '05 '12
Chad Koop '91
Daniel Roane '93
Alynna Henke '96 '11
Christopher Benavides '96 '12
Jason Culpepper '99
James Little '99

00s

Jennifer Southwell '01
Justin Burnett '02
Christopher Martin '05
Robert Bettis '06
Jessica Owens '07 '09
Amanda Bettis '08
Brandon Marcantel '08
Maggie Ayres '09
Bruce Moats '09

10s

Nicholas Camp '10
Courtney Chastine '10
Autumn Crawford '10
Michelle Daugherty '10
Gary Savell '10
Peter Brook '11
Gabrielle Chimene '11
Daniel Dickerson '11
Caroline Erb '11
Natalie Foreman '11
Joshua Kelley '11
Jacklyn Kiefer '11
Jacob Liesmann '11
Rachel Mayo '11
Ashley Meyer '11
Daniel Owens '11
Tabitha Pegoda '11

Friends & Family

Damon Hay
Geanie McManners
Amy Pfeil
Lester Shepard

For more information visit alumni.shsu.edu
New York, NY | New York Alumni & Friends Dinner | November 2012

Sponsored by: Dan Rather ’53, Hugh & Patricia ’73 O’Kane, Joseph & Janet Smyth, Michael ’86 & Mari Quilio – Universal Subscription Services, and Higher One

Alumni Jim Farris ’69 and John Hoyt ’75 with retired CBS Evening News anchor and SHSU alumnus Dan Rather ’53 (center)

Alumni Cecelia Marquart ’77 ’79, Patsy Ann Reed ’74 ’78, Tommy Davis ’57 ’38 and Patty Sue Davis ’56 ’39 with SHSU President Dana Gibson.

SHSU Alumni & Friends gather at the 9/11 Memorial to take in the sights of New York City.

Over 140 people attend the Walker County Area Alumni & Friends Club Kick-Off Reception, January 10, 2013 to support the newly formed club. For more information, please contact walkercountyaaf@gmail.com.
Members of the Bay Area Alumni & Friends Club attend the reception as one of their Spring club activities in support of the Alumni Association.

Austin, TX | Sam Houston Birthday Celebration | March 2013


“It is a matter of great satisfaction to me to hope that my children will be in circumstances to receive a good education. Mine was defective and I feel the inconvenience, if not the misfortune of not receiving a classical education. Knowledge is the food of genius, and my son, let no opportunity escape you to treasure up knowledge.”

Sam Houston

PHOTO BY MAURO LUNA

Former Texas Speaker of the House, Gib Lewis ’56 is presented with a replica of Sam Houston’s ring by SHSU President Dana Gibson. The ring was given to Sam Houston by his mother with the word Honor inscribed inside the band. The official SHSU class ring also carries this insignia.

SHSU Alumni & Friends join the Alumni Association to celebrate General Sam Houston’s 220th birthday at the Bob Bullock Texas History museum.

Student Alumni Association

Student Alumni Association members were presented with SAA cords in honor of their graduation during a December 2012 reception held in the John R. Ragsdale Visitor and Alumni Center. The SAA is one of the largest student organizations on campus with over 540 members.
A special thanks to our FCS PLAYOFF SPONSORS for their generous and ongoing support of the Alumni Association:

- Ronny Carroll ‘65 – Ronny Carroll Homes Inc.
- Walter ’79 & Jan Fitzgerald
- John ‘97 & Jennifer ‘99 Garrett
- Ben ‘74 & Susan ’73 Lenamon – David Smith Realty/The Legacy Group

Alumni and Friends joined President Dana Gibson and Vice President for University Advancement, Frank Holmes in Bozeman, Montana to support the Bearkats in their quarterfinal 34-16 victory over Montana State.

Bearkat alumni and fans traveled to Frisco, Texas on the eve of the National Championship game to show their support of the Bearkats during the Alumni Association hosted pep rally.

Alumni Ruth Lynn ’64 & Jack ’64 Parker, J.D., Davis ’72 and Alumni Relations asst. director of membership and marketing, Donna Gilbert ’82 ’90 in Cheney, Washington, cheer on the Bearkats in their semifinal 45-42 victory over Eastern Washington University.

Bearkat fans tailgate prior to the NCAA Division I FCS Championship game.

Bearkat spirit and enthusiasm ran high throughout the championship game as the Bearkats battled the North Dakota State Bison.

Alumni Association Board members Estella Koryciak ’71 and Steven Seltzer ’77 distribute pom-poms and rally towels to fans during the pregame tailgate at Pizza Hut Park.
ALUMNI CLUBS

The Alumni Association is excited to announce the formation of two new alumni clubs. The Young Alumni & Friends Club, a Houston-based club for alumni 35 years of age and under, and the Waco Area Alumni & Friends Club for alumni in the Waco, TX area.

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 Amy Pfeil, assistant director for alumni clubs and constituent programs, at apfeil@shsu.edu or 936.294.4095. 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.

Arbor Day Tree Planting with the North Harris/Montgomery County Club

North Harris/Montgomery County Alumni & Friends Club was one of 14 teams that participated in the Arbor Day Tree Planting Competition on February 9, 2013. The NHMC team earned first place in the amateur category. Walter Hambrick (Captain), Amy Hambrick, Lynn Horne, Sharon Horne, Albert Martinez, Wesley Pfeil, Dana Cote, Dee Raider, Rebecca Templet, Jr. Bearkats Carter and Kara Hambrick, along with Charlie Vienne and Amy Pfeil of the SHSU Office of Alumni Relations. For more information about the club, please contact shsu.nhmc.alumni@gmail.com.

Bay Area Alumni & Friends Club Toy Drive

Bay Area Alumni & Friends club held a voluntary toy donation in December 2012 benefitting the Bay Area Turning Point Shelter. Thank you to all of the generous alumni and friends who contributed toys to the children of the Bay Area. If you would like to be involved with the Bay Area Alumni Club, please contact shsubayarea@gmail.com. Pictured are: Joe Amato ’72, Tommy Baccaro ’66, Bob Fuller ’63, Katie West ’10, Lola Kramer ’67 and Jay Bain ’62.

We want to hear from you!

Send us updates on work, relocations, marriage, family, degrees, accomplishments - and a photo, too. Let Bearkats know what you’ve been up to by completing the online form or emailing us your updates. Class Notes are shared in the Heritage magazine.

Email: alumni@shsu.edu or fill out the form at shsu.edu/~alu_kat/services/classnotes

CLASS NOTES

**Updates now found in the Heritage magazine!**
New Alumni Print Directory Coming!

The connection that Bearkats share is truly a unique one. From the first day we walked onto the campus to the day we walked across the platform at commencement, we built relationships and experiences that will forever be a part of who we are as loyal Bearkats. The SHSU Alumni Association is committed to helping our alumni stay connected to and engaged in the life of SHSU and its more than 120,000 graduates worldwide.

In the summer of 2013, all SHSU alumni will be receiving information regarding the SHSU Alumni Print Directory Project. To produce the most accurate and informative Alumni Directory possible, the Alumni Association is partnering with Publishing Concepts Inc. (PCI) to create a resource for our alumni to reconnect with fellow classmates, share information and recognize professional and personal accomplishments. This information not only allows alumni to provide us with their most-up-to-date information, it also provides us with an opportunity to enhance our communication to alumni.

PCI will be reaching out to all alumni via e-mail, phone and standard mail to gather information to be printed in the directory. The SHSU Alumni Association will have additional information about the project listed on our website at alumni.shsu.edu prior to the start of the project in early summer 2013. Our goal is to make the all-new alumni publication the most comprehensive graduate reference available.

It is our desire to lift you up and celebrate your accomplishments, as well as those of fellow Bearkats. It is important that you participate to ensure that your listing is completely accurate and up-to-date. Confirming your information takes just a few short minutes and is vital in making this project a success for Sam Houston State University. If you have questions regarding the project, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 936.294.1841.

Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation. We are excited about producing a beautiful publication that all alumni will enjoy.

The Texas State University System Board of Regents

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