LIFE MEMBERSHIP CELEBRATION RECOGNIZES NEW MEMBERS

The SHSU Alumni Association presented plaques to more than 40 new life members during the sixth Annual Life Member Celebration on Feb. 25 at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott.

More than 220 guests attended the event, which featured an evening of music, fine dining, and the opportunity to visit with fellow Bearkats across generations.

“The life member program is now over 2800 strong and growing,” said Donna Gilbert, assistant director for alumni membership and marketing. “Through their thoughtful giving, life members are directly impacting our efforts to keep the Bearkat connection strong for thousands of alumni.”

Among those receiving plaques was J.D. Davis, '72, who owns Huntsville's Davis Construction Management.

“Sam Houston has played such a large role in my life,” Davis said. “I've supported athletics for a long time, and when my son Brad and his wife Molly became life members of the alumni association this year, I realized that I wasn't a life member and decided that it would be a great opportunity to continue to promote the university in a positive light.”

Daniel Blosser, '14, is currently working as a writer in the Houston area and believes that becoming a Life Member is an excellent way to give back to the university.

“It's important to stay in touch with the community and support students and future alumni,” Blosser said. “I enjoyed my time at Sam Houston State University, and I’m happy to give back so that other students may benefit from their time at SHSU, as well.”

(Top) New Life Endowed Member Kelly DeHay; Recent Graduate Life Member Reagan Diaz ’15, (bottom) SHSU athletic director, Bobby Williams gave an inspiring speech on giving back to SHSU through life membership. Pictured with Bobby is his family of life members, wife Janet ’82 ’86, daughter Audrey Williams ’13 and in-laws Thomas ’56 and Claudette ’57 Stone. His daughter Alex will be graduating in May of 2016 and will be joining her family as a life member of the Alumni Association this summer.
Reagan Diaz, ’15, serves as a wedding and event planner and wedding blogger for A Splendid Event in Houston.

“Sam Houston State University is the best school ever,” Diaz said. “Joining the Alumni Association as a Life Member is a great way to keep in contact with fellow Bearkats and stay connected to the university. It’s also a great way to network and meet alumni whom you might not have the opportunity to meet otherwise.”

Ron Danielson surprised his partner Kelly DeHay, ’74, with a Life Endowed Membership as a Christmas gift.

DeHay is a residential realtor with Keller-Williams Metro and part-owner of a retail electric provider in Massachusetts and New Hampshire who graduated from Sam Houston State University with a bachelor’s degree in management and finance.

“I was planning on getting one later this year for my 65th birthday, so when the Alumni Association called to tell me that he had given this gift to me, I was so shocked,” DeHay said. “Sam Houston State University has shaped each of us into the people that we are today. By becoming a life endowed member, you’re giving back to the university to help impact students’ lives in the same way that yours was impacted.”

Not only is becoming a life member of the SHSU Alumni Association a great way to give back to the university, it also includes a variety of benefits such as networking opportunities, access to alumni events and tailgating, and discounts on auto and home insurance; hotels; car rentals and more.

For more information on becoming a Life Member or Life Endowed Member of the Alumni Association, contact the Alumni Relations Office at 936.294.1814.
Welcome To Our Newest Life Members

(New Life Members from November 1, 2015 through February 28, 2016)

Life Endowed Member
Kelly DeHay, Jr. ’74

50s
Edward Graves Basham ’55

70s
Candi Ann Clement ’73
Dana Lillian Craft ’72
Terry Ronald Dickey ’72
Sandra J. Dickey ’72
Robert Hayden Felton ’79
Charlotte Marie Mills ’73
Richard Ward Mills USA (Ret) ’74
Daralyn J. Schubert ’73
Kenneth W. Schubert ’73

80s
Deborah Ann Henderson ’85
John A. Henderson ’84
Dwight Dexter Mathis ’86
Susan Glenn Sanders ’84

90s
Michael Wayne Brown ’96
JoAnne Holly ’90
Amy Dann Jackson ’96
Luther D. Jackson ’98
Greg Michael Jeffers ’94
Curtis Michael Karr ’90

00s
James Nathaniel Anthony ’04
Shandlyn De’Na Gaenzel ’04 ’05
Tyson Ferdinand Gaenzel ’01 ’05
Mark Lee Holly ’03
Vesna Markovic ’09
Ledric Derrell Sherman ’01 ’04
Prentice Gerald Smith ’08

10s
Ryan Arthur Bates ’15
Phillip Thomas Brumfield ’15
Dalton Smither Davis ’15
Ethan Levi Deike ’15
Carroll Wayne Dicky ’15
Seth Anthony Fry ’14
Wayne Gonzales ’14
Denise Alexander Henry ’11
Danielle T. Horton ’14
Debra Diane Kurten ’14
Hailey Adela Kutac ’12 ’14
Chantel Brittany Langwell ’14
Matthew Ryan Lingo ’14
Bradley Paul McCloskey ’15
Valeri Ann Milchta ’14
Stephanie Michelle Perry ’15
Kevin Sergio Policarpo ’14
Branden Jack Rachunek ’15
Savannah Lynn Strutz ’15
Paul Gerard Valle ’15
Michelle Colleen Wade ’15
Steven R. Williams ’10
Kelly Elizabeth Young ’15

Friends
Marc Escamilla

HISTORY FORWARD

Trailblazing is not new at Sam Houston State University. For over 137 years, our path has been shaped by people who share a common drive to transform while delivering results.

Join us on Founders Day, for a preview of exciting, groundbreaking developments that will create a new future in higher education at SHSU.

Register Online at shsu.edu/foundersday

APRIL 23, 2016
THIRD ANNUAL
Founders Day
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Contact the Alumni Association for more information by emailing alu_kat@shsu.edu or calling 800.283.7478
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 Justin Haynes at justinhaynes@shsu.edu or 936.294.2403. 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.

**Upcoming Events**

- April 15 .................................................Raven’s Call, LSC Mall, SHSU Campus, Huntsville
- April 16 ...........................................SHSU Night @ the Astros, Minute Maid Park, Houston
- April 19 ........... Waco Area Alumni and Friends Club Pregame Reception, George’s, Waco
- April 21 ....................Young Alumni and Friends Happy Hour, Woodrow’s Shepard, Houston
- April 23 .................. Founder’s Day, Walker Education Center, SHSU Campus, Huntsville
- May 5, 6 and 7.........................SHSU Commencement, SHSU Campus, Huntsville
- May 21 .................................SHSU Day @ The Races, Sam Houston Race Park, Houston
- June 22......SHSU/Ft. Bend County Night @ The Sugarland Skeeters, Constellation Field

*For a complete listing of club meetings and networking activities visit alumni.shsu.edu/alumnichaptersclubs*
Over 150 people attended the Walker County Area Alumni & Friends Club, Scholarship Auction & Dinner in January. The event benefits the Walker County Alumni Club Endowed Scholarship Fund and students from Walker County. The Club has raised over $40,000 for their endowed scholarship.


Young Alumni in New York had an opportunity to visit with President, Dana G. Hoyt during the annual alumni and friends New York trip held in December 2015.

The Alumni Association gratefully acknowledges the generous and ongoing support of the following sponsors: Dan ’53 and Jean Rather, Hugh and Patricia ’73 O’Kane, Higher One, Inc., Mike ’86 and Mari ’82 Quilio, Joseph and Janet Smyth, Office of the VP for University Advancement.
Waco area alumni and friends gathered for dinner on February 4 at the Ridgeway Country Club. Pictured with SHSU President Dana G. Hoyt are event sponsors Tom Gray ’78 Chief Justice 10th Court of Appeals and John Hoyt ’75.

The Alumni Association gratefully acknowledges the generous and ongoing support of the following sponsors: Roland Black ’61, Lynn ’74 and Kay Brown, Sammy Citrano ’78, Tom Gray ’78 - Chief Justice - Tenth Court of Appeals, Michael ’73 and Jill ’76 Hall, Jim ’67 and Judy ’67 Haller, John ’75 and Dana Hoyt, Larry ’73 and Frances Lynch, Robert ’63 and Lyn Powers, Holloway’s Sports Center.

The Houston Young Alumni and Friends host a happy hour on the 3rd Thursday of each month. On February 18th, more than 30 alumni met at Down the Street Bar in Houston, TX to network and share stories of their glory days at SHSU.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: SAA members Yesica Jaimes, Collin Marcum, Kealey Luther, Brithany Ortiz, Daniel Nwosuocha and Oscar Macias

On February 12, members from the Student Alumni Association made their 5th annual trip to the Green Acres Nursing Home in Huntsville, TX to pass out carnations to the residents and staff during the home’s annual Valentine’s Day party. The students take pride in the opportunity to give back to those in the community that have given so much over the years and were able to share many stories about SHSU and the Huntsville community.

CLASS NOTES

**Updates now found in the Heritage magazine!

We want to hear from you!

Send us updates on work, relocations, marriage, family, degrees, accomplishments—and a photo, too. Let other 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

President - Maria Hayden ’69, Vice President - Carol Shaw ’71, Treasurer - Beverly Neiderhofer ’96, Events Chair - Joey Chandler, and Membership Chair - Joe Smith ’65 ’68
Traveling Bearkats
Explore with us...

For more information visit alumni.shsu.edu or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 936.294.1841.
For more than a century, the Sam Houston Memorial Museum has served as a center for education and information about Sam Houston’s life and the role he plays in Huntsville and Texas history as a vibrant part of both the city and the university.

The students at Sam Houston Normal Institute founded the museum, 15 acres of the original Houston Estate, in 1905. Under the leadership of Bertha Kirkley, they put together the homestead as a historic site. In 1911, they paid off the property, but it wasn’t until 1936 that there was the ground breaking for the rotunda museum building. In 1959 and 1962 wings were added, and throughout the years, other cabins and buildings were added. In 1995, the Katy and E. Don Walker, Sr. Education Building was opened.

In the 100 years of its existence, the museum, Lake Oolooteka—the pond named after Sam Houston’s adoptive Cherokee father and designed in the shape of Texas—and the grounds have served a number of purposes, but the most important role it has played has been as historic reminder of what Huntsville is all about.

The museum hosts a variety of activities for visitors year round and they will also hold the annual Gen. Sam Houston Folk Festival, this year on May 13-15. For ticket information visit: samhoustonmemorialmuseum.com