



# SHARE THE VISION

CAMPAIGN FOR SAM HOUSTON

A Newsletter of the SHSU Capital Campaign

Vol. 5, Issue 1 SPRING 10

Sam Houston State University is a Member of The Texas State University System

## Museum Education Center Benefits From Donor's Vision

Wilbourn Sandford Gibbs had a dream that one day his beloved Huntsville would have a facility for community events that would be affordable for its citizens.

He formed the Cultural Activities Foundation of Huntsville/Walker County and together with his business and estate manager, Tom Randle, traveled across East Texas to see what their cities offered in the way of community centers. When they weren't traveling, Randle was making phone calls, conducting research, and "doing a lot of legwork," according to Bill Nash, president of the foundation.

Gibbs died in 1982, but the foundation continued its work.

"We were charged to work with anyone interested in getting a proper community facility," Nash said. "It was Mr. Gibbs's desire, and that is what we were to do."

After searching and



*Cultural Activities Foundation of Huntsville/Walker County president Bill Nash presented SHSU president Jim Gaertner (seated) with a check for \$560,000 in December that will be used to renovate the Walker Education Center. Attending the check presentation were foundation board members Dee Everett, Morris Waller, Jack Staggs, Gene Pipes and Jane Monday (from left), along with museum director Pat Nolan (third from right).*

exhausting possibilities in the area for a center, the foundation approached Sam Houston State University.

"Mr. Gibbs had a long time interest in the university," said Nash. "It fulfilled the needs as we had researched, and it made for a good partnership."

Indeed, the Gibbs

family had been connected to the university since it was founded in 1879.

Gibbs's grandfather was instrumental in the establishment of Sam Houston Normal Institute through a substantial monetary contribution and assistance in raising additional funds necessary

for the purchase of the Austin College property for the state.

Gibbs's father-in-law, Claude Bolin Farrington (for whom the Farrington Building is named), joined the school's faculty in 1901 and taught 47 years.

Gibbs and his wife, Ruth, established the

## *Museum from Page 1*

Wilbourn Sandford Gibbs and Ruth Farrington Gibbs Chair in Chemistry. And the Gibbs Ranch, a noted piece of property owned by Sam Houston State University, came from the Gibbs family.

After much research, thought and discussion, the foundation decided to donate its resources to the university to expand and upgrade the Katy and E. Don Walker, Sr. Education Center.

The facility is located on the grounds of the Sam Houston Memorial Museum. University officials anticipate that the renovation will begin in June.

“The Walker Education Center is the portal to the Sam Houston Memorial Museum and is visited by thousands of citizens each year,” SHSU President Jim Gaertner said.

“This is a wonderful grant by the foundation in carrying out the wishes of W.S. Gibbs, whose thoughtful generosity made it all possible. We are so pleased to receive this gift and are deeply indebted to the Gibbs family and to the foundation’s board of directors,” Gaertner said.

SHSU received \$560,000 from the Cultural Activities Foundation of Huntsville/Walker County in December to renovate, expand and improve the meeting space on the lower level of the center for events, receptions and conferences for both the campus and the community.

The Texas State University System Board of Regents granted approval in February to proceed with the work.

“E. Don Walker, Jr. was extremely excited and grateful when notified about the gift to



*The Katy & E. Don Walker Education Center adjacent to the Sam Houston Memorial Museum*

expand and improve the facility for which his family provided the funding to construct in 1993,” said Frank Holmes, vice president for university advancement.

“Mr. Walker feels it is just incredible for the foundation to do something so significant for the museum, the university, and the Huntsville community,” he said.

“We are so appreciative for the foundation board’s vision to do something to enhance the university and involve the community, especially for the efforts of the board president, Bill Nash, together with Morris Waller and Jane Monday, who negotiated the details of the gift with Pat Nolan, our museum director, and Mac Woodward, the museum’s curator of collections,” Holmes said.

Foundation members include Nash, president; Waller, secretary/treasurer; Jack Staggs, vice president; Monday; Gene Pipes; Jack Haney; Glen Isbell; Dee Everett; and Danny Pierce. Former members include Elliott T. Bowers,

Tom Randle and Ralph Davis.

The expansion and improvement project will approximately double the size of the downstairs activity area, allowing as many as 250 people to attend a seated meal function. The kitchen will also be upgraded and catering ability improved.

Plans also call for the flexibility to partition the room into several meeting spaces, and other amenities within the room will be enhanced. Wireless access and the capability to use the latest in technology for meetings and events will be available.

In addition, there will be improvements to the way that visitors arrive and depart the downstairs area.

“Everyone is pleased with the decision the foundation made to enhance the Walker Education Center,” said Nash. “I wish Mr. Gibbs and Mr. Randle were here to see it.”

# The Gift Of Education Through Scholarships

Dan Richard and Donna Legg Beto have long been members of the Sam Houston State University family. From their days as college students throughout their careers and now as Life Members of the Alumni Association, they have supported the university with their time, resources and attendance at programs and events.

Anyone familiar with the criminal justice system in Texas recognizes the Beto name. Dan served as the founding executive director of the Correctional Management Institute of Texas (CMIT), housed in the university's Criminal Justice Center, from 1994 until his retirement in 2005.

Including his time with CMIT, he provided more than 40 years of service in the field of criminal justice working as a juvenile probation officer, U. S. probation officer, and as director of two community supervision and corrections departments in Texas.

The Criminal Justice Center at Sam Houston State University is named for Dan's father, Dr. George J. Beto, a former director of the Texas Department of Corrections (now known as the Texas Department of Criminal Justice) and distinguished professor of criminal justice at SHSU.

Donna is well known for her work in education. During her career that spanned more than three decades, she taught in elementary schools in three Texas school districts, and from 1991 to 2004 she served as the enrichment coordinator for College Hills Elementary School in College Station.

As a result of her unselfish service to the youth of Texas, she was named the Elementary Teacher of the Year by the College Station Independent School District; Elementary Teacher of the Year by Region VI of Texas; Outstanding Elementary Science Teacher by the Texas A&M University Chapter of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society; and the Outstanding Elementary Teacher by the Brazos Valley Chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Dan and Donna are also members of the Development Council for the Center of Teaching Excellence at Texas A&M University.

In addition to being recognized as leaders in their respective fields, they are also known at Sam Houston State University for their generosity in helping students



*Donna and Dan Beto*

achieve their academic goals by providing scholarships.

"Sam Houston has been good to me," Dan said, when asked why they felt such a connection to the university.

"Not only did it provide me a good education, later in my career it afforded me the opportunity to create and lead the Correctional Management Institute of Texas – an organization that continues to provide training and technical assistance to criminal justice agencies and that is favorably known not only in Texas but throughout the United States and in a number of foreign countries," he said.

Donna said that when she attended Sam Houston, she experienced the concern the professors had for their students.

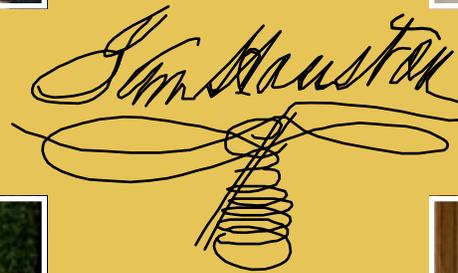
"Even though I earned my master's degree in education from the University of Connecticut, I still feel more connected to Sam Houston because of the atmosphere of caring professors," she said.

"One professor, in particular, stands out. I was going through the rigors of Homecoming weekend as

# Samuel Houston Society



*(Left) President Jim Gaertner with wife Nancy along with Maria and Frank Holmes (Right) Ron and Donna Koska with Barbara and Jon Bright*



*(Above) Bill and Diane Green with Jane and Charles Monday (Below) John and Judy Ragsdale*



*(Above) Bud and Joan Haney (left) President Gaertner addresses the gathering (below) Dr. Jim Olson was the featured speaker*



The Samuel Houston Society commemorates Texas' greatest hero and the university's namesake. Members of this society, donors who give \$2,500 or more, receive invitations to a special event held annually. One hundred and eight members attended this year's program on October 30. Dr. Jim Olson, distinguished professor of History at SHSU, was the featured speaker.

# face to face



*Whitney Bell, Mattie B. Medford, Shannon Mathias and Rick Medford*



*Robert Koryciak, Melondy Roberson and Estella Koryciak*



*George Parker, Rachel Hornung and Maggie Parker*



*Moselle Lawson, Jennifer Pence and Ralph Lawson*



*Ashley Jeter, Billie Hickman, Nereida Sanchez de Luna, and James Hickman*



*Jerry Nowlin, Marcus Payne, and Peggy Ramsey representing American Bank with Beau Willis (back)*

## 2009 SCHOLARSHIP BENEFACTOR AND RECIPIENT LUNCHEON

## **Beto** from Page 3

Homecoming Queen, and a professor had scheduled an exam for the following Monday,” Donna said.

“I explained my circumstances, and she allowed me to make up my exam later in the week. It was that caring attitude for the individual and the smaller classes at Sam Houston that impressed me the most.”

Dan and Donna met while both were students at Sam Houston State. Dan had earned his bachelor’s degree in sociology and was a graduate student working on his master’s degree in criminology and corrections.

Donna began her college education as a sociology major with the hope of becoming a social worker. However, in her junior year she decided that her calling was to become an elementary school teacher.

She was working as a student assistant in the Registrar’s Office when Dan came in to change some courses. Donna assisted him and later asked his help with a paper she was writing for one of her sociology classes.

They married in 1969 and began their successful careers in their respective fields.

In 1992, following the death of his father, Dan along with his mother Marilynn, brother Mark, and sister Beth established the George J. Beto Memorial Endowment to provide scholarships in criminal justice to deserving international students or minorities, with preference given to first-generation college students.

“Back in 1953 while president of Concordia College in Austin (now Concordia University Texas), my father admitted the first black student. This occurred prior to the Supreme Court case of *Brown vs. Board of Education* and in the face of some community opposition,” Dan explained.

“And shortly after becoming head of the Texas Department of Corrections in 1962, he integrated

the workforce by hiring the first black correctional officers. My father felt strongly about race relations,” he said.

“As for the international preference, while teaching at Sam Houston from 1972 to 1991, my father came into contact with a number of international students. He was impressed by their scholarship and work ethic, and appreciated some of the cultural difficulties they had to overcome by moving to East Texas.”

The year after Dan retired from SHSU, he and Donna established the Dan Richard Beto Endowed Scholarship in Correctional Leadership Endowment Fund. The endowment provides financial assistance for foreign graduate or doctoral students studying institutional or community corrections who plan to teach in higher education or work for an institutional or community corrections agency.

“During my tenure as executive director of the Correctional Management Institute of Texas, I interacted with countless international students, and all those interactions were extremely positive,” he said.

“In fact, a number of them have stayed in contact with me following

retirement. It is my sense that for Sam Houston State University to grow in reputation and become more than a regional Texas university, it is imperative that it reach out and attract students from all over the world. I view this particular scholarship as assisting in that effort,” he explained.

Two years later, the Betos established the Dan and Donna Beto Endowed Sociology Fund to provide scholarships or to help with the professional development of students majoring in sociology, such as helping pay for costs of students traveling to professional conferences to deliver papers.

The latest scholarship from the Betos, the Donna L. Beto Endowed Scholarship in Elementary Education, was established this year.

“Establishing scholarships is an ongoing gift,” Donna said. “It is life lasting and life saving. My father cashed his life insurance policy, and I worked on campus every semester to help pay for my college education,” she said. “There are so many young people out there who need financial assistance. Since we have no children of our own, I feel we need to help those who need it.”

## Supporting Champions!



### Ron Mafrige Basketball Challenge

**Ron Mafrige challenges Bearkats to support the growth of the men’s basketball endowment and will contribute \$1 for every \$2 given by others.**

Support our Southland Conference Champions by sending your gift today.

**Ron Mafrige Basketball Challenge**  
c/o SHSU University Advancement, Box 2537  
Huntsville, TX 77341-2537  
936.294.4050 or rhondaellisor@shsu.edu

# Graduate Utilizes Matching Gift Program To Honor Memory Of Former Boss

College graduates often talk about professors who impacted their lives while attending school and motivated them to strive for success.

Sometimes, a student is inspired by a campus employer who has served as a mentor and adviser.

One such graduate is Loretta J. Hankins of Hardin who is a participant in the ExxonMobil Foundation Educational Matching Gift Program. She recently established the Loretta J. Hankins Scholarship Endowment, which will fund two scholarships, the Loretta J. Hankins Endowed Scholarship and the Loretta J. Hankins Endowed Scholarship in memory of J. L. Moses.

Moses was a professor and director of teacher training in vocational agriculture while Loretta was a student at Sam Houston State Teachers College in the 1950s. Loretta worked part-time for a couple of years for the agriculture department and full-time her senior year as Moses's secretary.

Loretta enrolled in college in 1952 as a business administration major. Following her graduation in 1956 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, she began her career with Humble Oil and Refining Company in Hardin as the secretary for the engineering department.

Two years later she transferred to the Houston office where she held several secretarial positions and was a timekeeper before becoming a contracts administrator, a position she held until her retirement in 1986.

As a former employee of Exxon Company, USA, Loretta knew about the company's educational matching gift program. With her planned contributions over a 3-year period and the triple match gift from ExxonMobil, it is anticipated that the fund will reach \$52,000 by the end of 2011.

The scholarships will benefit students in the College of Business Administration and in the Department of Agricultural and Industrial Sciences.

She said, "I know how important it is for students to have the opportunity to apply for scholarships to attend college. With the matching donations from ExxonMobil, I am able to make a big difference with my contributions to Sam Houston."

To find out if your company has a matching gift program, go to [www.matchinggifts.com/shsu/](http://www.matchinggifts.com/shsu/) or call the SHSU Office of University Advancement at 936.294.3625.



Loretta Hankins (center) with great-nieces Maddie Najar (left) and Ali Najar (right)

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*Austin*

## From the *Share The Vision* Executive Leadership Council

My support for the *Share The Vision* campaign began after visiting with Dr. Jim Gaertner and hearing his ideas and vision for the future of Sam Houston State University. His plan was realistic, achievable and one that would have a positive major impact on the University.



**Sanders**

While a student at Sam Houston State, I was fortunate to have a group of professors who provided me the educational foundation upon which I was able to build a successful career. I am convinced that my professors, which included Dr. Jean Neal, Dr. Larry Corley, Dr. Loyce Adams and Dr. James Gilmore, created a superb faculty that would rate at the top of any university.

Because of my lifetime interest in baseball as well as my respect for Coach Mark Johnson, I have chosen to support the Bearkat baseball program through the *Share the Vision* campaign. As well as recruiting a talented group of baseball players with ability both on the field and in the classroom, Coach Johnson has added integrity and credibility to the program. His efforts and direction have produced success and positive recognition for the university.

For those of you who have not recently visited the campus, I would encourage you to take time to do so. Not only will you notice the physical changes — the growth in enrollment,

the size of the campus, and the new state-of-the-art facilities — but you will experience the excitement and the enthusiasm of being a part of Sam Houston State University.

*Don Sanders (BBA '58) is Vice Chairman of the Board, a director and Chairman of the executive committee of Sanders Morris Harris, a wealth management firm headquartered in Houston that manages approximately \$11.3 billion in client assets. He, along with baseball great Nolan Ryan, are co-owners of Ryan-Sanders Baseball, which owns the Round Rock Express and Corpus Christi Hooks, the AAA and AA Astro farm clubs.*

*The Don Sanders Baseball Stadium is named in recognition of a \$1 million gift he gave Sam Houston State University to enhance the Bearkat baseball program.*

### Executive Leadership Council

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