



# SHARE THE VISION

CAMPAIGN FOR SAM HOUSTON

A Newsletter of the SHSU Capital Campaign

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

## Rathers Give Back With Record-Breaking Gift

Legendary newsman Dan Rather and his wife, Jean, have given Sam Houston State University the largest single monetary gift in the university's history.

Their \$2 million contribution, given through the university's Share The Vision capital campaign, has been designated for scholarships and discretionary funding for programs in areas for which Rather is well known.

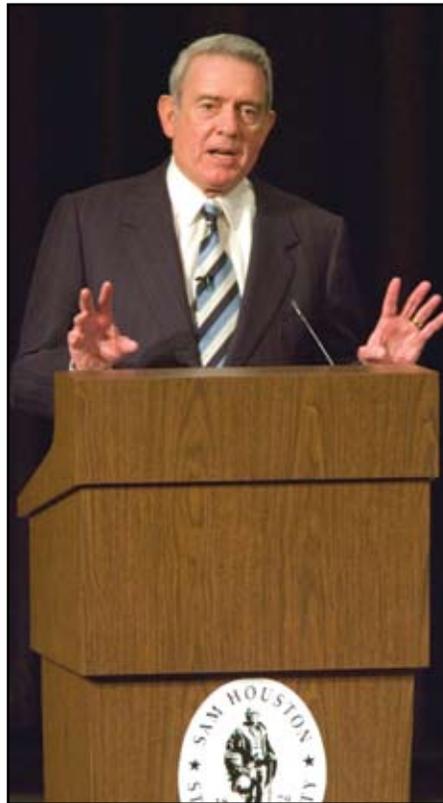
Rather, a long-time supporter of the University, received a bachelor's degree in journalism from then Sam Houston State Teachers College, in 1953.

"So many people, known and unknown, helped me to get through Sam Houston State when I was there, desperately trying to make it, that I've always wanted to give back—somehow, some way, to the best of my ability," said Rather.

"When President Gaertner told us last year that the university was going to begin its biggest campaign for help ever," Rather continued, "he explained how the increasing need for help outside the state legislature was needed to aid those students least able to fully help themselves financially," Rather continued.

"He also explained how resources from 'outside' help could benefit the university in its overall, general drive for excellence," said Rather.

After talking with President Gaertner, Rather said that he and his wife thought "a lot" about what they could do for Sam Houston State.



***SHSU alumnus Dan Rather speaking at Killingier Auditorium during a 2004 visit to campus for the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.***

The Rathers called a family council to discuss their wishes, and all agreed that the time to make a financial contribution was now.

"We've long had an acute sense of how lucky and blessed we have been as a family," said Rather. "And for so long, we had had this longing to give something back to Sam Houston.

"In the great scheme of things, anything we could contribute wouldn't be a whole lot," he said. "But what we could do, we wanted to do, and we wanted to do it at a time when the

need seemed to be the greatest. We eventually concluded that the time was now. We wish we could do more."

University officials noted the significance of the Rather gift.

"The gift from Dan Rather and his family is a milestone in Sam Houston State's history," said SHSU President James Gaertner.

"It is the largest single cash donation ever made to this grand old university," he continued. "The gift will be used to endow undergraduate scholarships and to support the Communications program. It is safe to say that many lives will be changed for the better because of this example of great generosity. We sincerely appreciate Mr. Rather's thoughtfulness, and his obvious affection for Sam Houston State, that resulted in this wonderful donation."

Throughout the years, Rather's support of Sam Houston State University has encompassed a wide variety of areas. He has established new scholarships and supported existing programs on campus including journalism, the library, alumni relations, the Honors Program, and a number of enrichment programs; filmed promotional material for the university; and met with students and classes.

In 1998, he established what Sam Houston State students have called one of the best broadcasting internships in the United States, inviting three students per year to spend a semester working at CBS News in New York City.

# Faculty And Staff Endowments Make A Difference

In order to keep faculty members and staff current in their respective fields, faculty and staff development opportunities and support are essential.

Endowment support is needed to create professorships, faculty fellowships, academic chairs, coaching positions, and provide education and training to foster creativity and excellence.

“The greatest resource that a university has is its people,” said John de Castro, dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. “There is no smarter investment that pays larger dividends than investment in the professionals who are responsible for the education and inspiration of our students.

“Better professionals mean better education, more successful students, and a stronger community,” he continued.

“The College of Humanities and Social Sciences is committed to instructing and exciting our students in the disciplines most fundamental to their success--the ability to communicate, and to understand themselves, other people, and their communities. Support of the Faculty and Staff Endowment fund will enhance the knowledge and enthusiasm of those responsible for delivering these fundamental skills and understanding and is thus a positive investment in education and a stronger, better community.”



de Castro

Vincent Webb, dean of the College of Criminal Justice agrees.

“The pursuit of excellence in higher education in criminal justice requires the continuous development of faculty and staff,” he said.

“Educators need continuing education and professional development in order to be at the cutting edge of knowledge in their disciplines and areas of expertise. Quality education requires the support of a variety of staff who have access to the resources necessary to support these activities. Like faculty, staff need to engage in professional development activities to ensure that they have the capacity to support the delivery of high quality and dynamic criminal justice education programs,” he said.

“The Faculty and Staff Endowment fund is a critical resource for ensuring that both faculty and staff have the professional development opportunities necessary for sustaining programs of excellence in criminal justice education,” he added.

New faculty and staff endowments and other forms of support will encourage applied research, scholarship and creativity at all levels of learning so that Sam Houston State University will be able to invigorate the educational experience of those who are associated with each of its programs.

In addition, SHSU will be able to develop new research activities and provide institutes and service centers that will benefit society.



Webb

## *New Endowments and Scholarships Create New Opportunities*

One of the most successful and exciting aspects of the Share the Vision campaign has been the creation of new endowments and scholarships. To date, 27 endowed scholarships and 16 annual scholarships have been added to the existing ones at Sam Houston State University.

“This is one of the most gratifying aspects of the capital campaign,” said Darlene Andrews, assistant director of development for donor relations. “It shows that there is a sincere interest in maintaining the academic excellence of Sam Houston State. Few things are as rewarding as knowing that you’ve helped make possible the education of another human being.”

According to statistics from the university’s Student Financial Aid Office, more than three-fourths of all enrolled Sam Houston State University students receive some type of financial aid. Of the approximately 15,300 students who attended the university last year, 2,061 received SHSU-based scholarships.

“As our enrollment continues to grow,” said Andrews, “it’s very important that we have new funds to give deserving students.”

Anyone interested in creating a new scholarship or contributing to an existing one is invited to contact Darlene Andrews at (936) 294-3623 or send an e-mail to [dandrews@shsu.edu](mailto:dandrews@shsu.edu).



## New Endowed Scholarships Created During The Share The Vision Campaign

Douglas C. Fletcher Sr. Memorial Endowed Scholarship  
Charles F. Milstead Endowed Scholarship (100 Club)  
Ed and Daphne Sower Endowed Scholarship  
David Bernshausen Music Endowed Scholarship  
Rolando, Josefa & Jocelyn del Carmen Criminal Justice Doctoral Endowed Scholarship  
Department of Economics and International Business Endowed Scholarship  
Colonel William Jackson Blythe Sr. Endowed Scholarship  
Fannie Robinson Tyson Endowed Scholarship  
1964 National Championship Football Team Endowed Scholarship  
Leonard and Marlene Keeling Endowed Scholarship  
Bill Gerstenberger Golf Endowed Scholarship  
W. Tom Thweatt III Memorial Graduate Endowed Fellowship  
LTC Michael A. Lytle '77 Academic Prize in Forensic Science  
Ruth Lynn and Jack C. Parker Endowed Scholarship  
Nell Rowena Tucker Endowed Scholarship  
Rolando del Carmen Criminal Justice Endowed Scholarship  
Bill and Ann Stokes Endowed Scholarship  
Justin DeSpain Criminal Justice Memorial Scholarship  
John R. Braniff Endowed Scholarship (100 Club)  
Myron A. Balcom Industrial Technology Endowed Scholarship  
Carol A. Callahan Journalism Endowed Scholarship  
Greg Lundgren Memorial Athletic Endowed Scholarship  
Margaret A. Conwell Memorial Musical Theatre Endowed Scholarship  
Rachel Mary Prather Allen Family and Consumer Sciences Endowed Scholarship  
Ann Crump and Charles T. Mallery MBA in Agribusiness Endowed Scholarship  
Texas Pioneer Foundation Endowed Scholarship  
Olive and Edgar May Educational Endowed Scholarship

### New Annual Scholarships

Texas Review Press Creative Writing Scholarship  
Jason W. Stachey Criminal Justice Scholarship  
Amato Brothers Scholarship  
Donald J. Weisenhorn Criminal Justice Memorial Scholarship  
Lyman and Janet Bilhartz Scholarship  
Clay and Margaret B. Smith Memorial Arts and Sciences Scholarship  
Clay and Margaret B. Smith Memorial Business Scholarship  
Clay and Margaret B. Smith Memorial Criminal Justice Scholarship  
Clay and Margaret B. Smith Memorial Education Scholarship  
Clay and Margaret B. Smith Memorial Humanities and Social Sciences Scholarship  
Dr. Emily DeFrance Counseling and Development Scholarship  
PGA/PGM Diversity Scholarship  
Michelle A. Edwards Memorial Scholarship  
Frank Q. Dobbs Mass Communication Memorial Scholarship  
Jim and Julee Miller Theatre Scholarship  
Colonel John A. and Geanie L. McManners ROTC Scholarship

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

Charles R. Matthews, Chancellor  
*Austin*

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# From the Executive Leadership Council



“Sam Houston gave me wonderful opportunities, excellent training, and so many happy memories that it was a pleasure to say ‘yes’ when I was asked to serve on the Executive Leadership Committee. Like many people, I was unaware that so much of the budget of today’s state universities must come from private sources. I had, perhaps, naively, thought that the students’ tuition and the state’s tax money took care of everything.

“Unfortunately, that’s not true. Now I realize just how important donations from individuals, particularly alumni and former students, are to the quality of education and the scope of the educational programs offered at Sam Houston. I’m happy to do my part to help Sam Houston continue its growth and become even greater than the school that I remember!”

*Karey Patterson Bresenhan  
Houston*



CAMPAIGN FOR SAM HOUSTON

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