



SHARE THE VISION

CAMPAIGN FOR SAM HOUSTON

A Newsletter of the SHSU Capital Campaign

Vol. 2, Issue 1 Winter 07

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

Anonymous Donors: Alumni 'Share The Vision' Through \$1 Million Campaign Donation

Sometimes the pressures that college students face are not limited to those generated by thoughts of term papers and tests. Often students worry from semester to semester about whether they will have enough money just to enroll in classes, much less pay for the other expenses associated with working toward a degree.

Thanks to the generosity of two Sam Houston State University graduates who wish to remain anonymous, \$1 million will soon be available for scholarships to ease the burden that some SHSU students have to consider when deciding whether or not the goal of completing a college education is attainable for them.

The gift, which has been given through the university's Share the Vision capital campaign, represents one of the largest one-time donations ever given to the university and is the second largest one-time gift given to SHSU this millennium.

"When we were in college, we both worked all the time to pay for our education," said one of the donors.

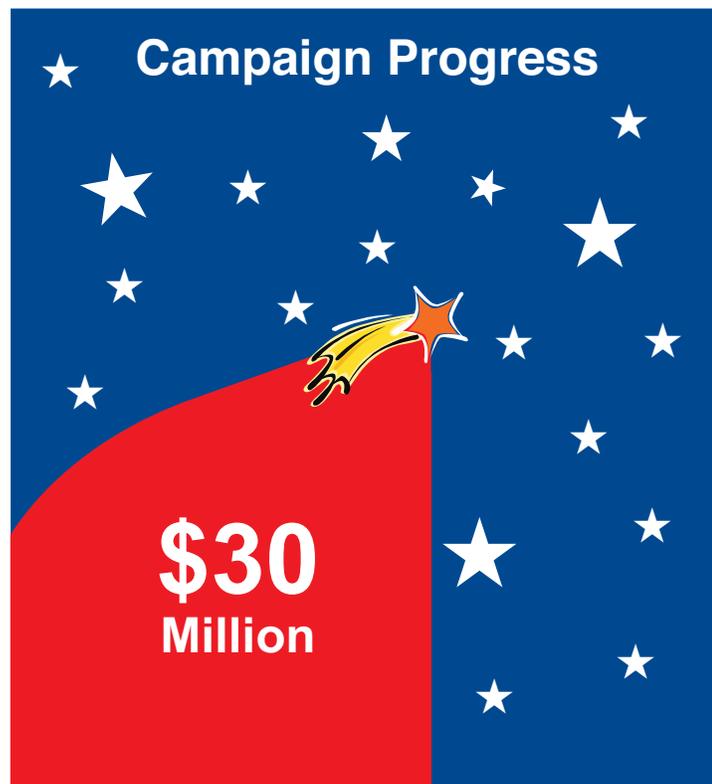
"With the scholarships we are establishing, we hope that deserving

students will be able to focus more on their studies and not have the distraction of worrying about how to pay for school," the donor added. "We want to provide a better way for students to reach their academic goals."

The donors, who are married, have supported the university in a number of previous endeavors, always focusing on the needs of students.

University President James Gaertner praised the donors for providing significant educational opportunities and experiences that might not be available to SHSU students without these scholarships.

"It's always particularly gratifying when this kind of support comes from former students who are committed to making a difference in the lives of future generations at Sam Houston State University," he said.



Charitable Bequests are Thoughtful Gifts

Frank R. Holmes,
Vice President
for University Advancement



One of the most thoughtful gifts an individual can make to Sam Houston State University is a charitable bequest provided through a will.

A charitable bequest is a reflection of how much Sam Houston State meant to the donor and their desire to ensure that others benefit from a similar experience. A bequest can be stated as a dollar amount, a percentage of the estate's assets, or the residue of the estate after you have provided for loved ones.

Bequests can be given to Sam Houston State University in three ways:

Unrestricted: This bequest will be applied at the discretion of the university's administration to apply to the greatest area of need or opportunity at the time of its receipt.

Restricted: This bequest allows you to direct the use of the funds for a current program, project, or scholarships. Please consult with our office to ensure that your intentions can be carried out.

Endowment: This bequest allows you to direct us to endow the principle of your gift, using only the income for a project, program, or scholarship. It is recommended that you also consult with us on this type of gift.

In preparing or revising a will, you will think first of your spouse, family members, and other loved ones. Your will can also be an effective way to provide for both your family and Sam Houston State. For example, you could create a charitable remainder trust that would provide income payments to a family member and then, at the end of his or her life, distribute the remaining principle to our university.

Please notify us when you make bequest provisions in your will for Sam Houston State University. In addition to expressing our appreciation, we would like to list you among the members of the 1879 Society, which recognizes individuals who have made a planned gift for the benefit of our university. If you prefer to remain anonymous, your name will be kept confidential, but the recognition of your gift will encourage others to make a similar expression of thoughtful generosity.

If you have any other needs regarding an outright gift, bequest or other planned gift for the university, please contact the Office of Development at 936-294-3625 for assistance.

New Option For Donors

What The Pension Protection Act of 2006 Means To You

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 gives donors a new option to support Sam Houston State University. If you saved income in a tax-deferred individual retirement account (traditional or Roth) and meet the following requirements, you may benefit from this new federal law. The requirements are:

- You must be 70½ years old
- Tax benefits apply to gifts up to \$100,000 per year in the 2006 and 2007 tax years
- The provision expires December 31, 2007
- The amount must be in the form of an outright gift

Because as much as \$100,000 of your gift of IRA assets can be excluded from taxable income for 2006 and 2007, Sam Houston State University alumni and friends have an incredible opportunity to help support the vision for the university.

Donors can designate their gift anywhere within the university, including named scholarships, restricted or general purpose funds, and endowments.

Note: Donors should consult a financial professional or tax adviser about their individual situations.

Faculty, Staff Giving Continues To Break Records

The SHSU faculty and staff are partners in the future of the university. As members of the SHSU "family," they are dedicated to helping fulfill the educational mission.

An annual faculty and staff campaign began in fiscal year 2001 with a giving participation rate of 18 percent. Each fall, there is a five to six-week volunteer-driven campaign. The volunteer committee includes about 50 members of the faculty and staff representing each of the colleges and administrative divisions.

"Last fall during the active portion of the campaign, the giving participation rate was 52.5 percent. We ended fiscal year 2006 with 54.5 percent participation and \$193,000 raised," said Cindy Truax, director of annual giving and faculty and staff campaign coordinator.

"This past fall, the goal was 55 percent participation during the active campaign. By the Nov. 20 deadline, we had reached 60 percent participation," she said, "with the average gift well over \$100.

"Annual gifts from faculty and staff, combined with those of alumni and friends, are critical in helping to recruit the students who will become tomorrow's leaders," said Truax.

Walker County & Surrounding Area Campaign Getting Close To Goal

Leaders of the Walker County and Surrounding Area campaign are pleased to announce that they are approaching their \$3 million goal.

Actual gifts and pledges of \$2.5 million have been received, and another \$500,000 are currently in negotiations. When the documents for all outstanding commitments have been finalized, organizers expect the total to be over the \$3 million mark.

Pledges range from \$1,000 to \$100,000, and the average gift is \$20,000.

The group worked during the summer and fall to promote the Share the Vision campaign to citizens in the region.

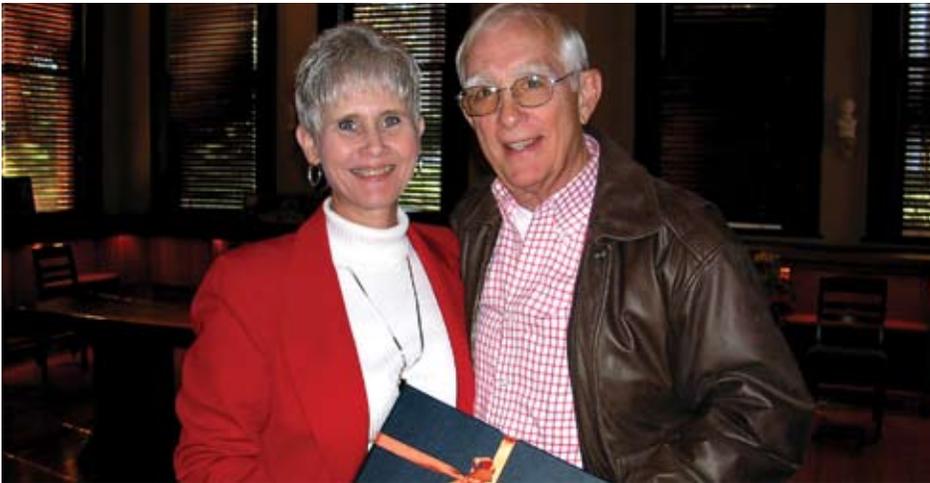
"I am very proud of our volunteers and the hard work they did to help us reach our goal," said Tom Freeman, chair of the Walker County and Surrounding Area campaign.

In addition to Freeman, leaders in the Walker County and Surrounding Area effort are Gordon Brown, Winnie Sandel and Bill Pitts.

Although most of the gifts came from residents within the area, commitments were also secured from outside the region by Walker County and Surrounding Area volunteers.

"We are extremely pleased with the results so far," said Freeman, "and I would like to remind everyone that we are still accepting gifts and pledges."

Upcoming regional campaigns will take place in The Woodlands/Montgomery County and the Houston areas during 2007. The University Advancement staff is working closely with The Woodlands/Montgomery County Region Chair Ray Burgess and Houston Region Chair Len Keeling and other volunteers to organize a successful venture.



Executive Director of Development Thelma Mooney presents a token of appreciation to Tom Freeman in recognition of his leadership in the Walker County and Surrounding Area Campaign.

Longtime SHSU Supporter Will Be Missed

Miriam York, who together with her husband Meredith contributed over a half million dollars to various programs at SHSU, passed away Aug. 28, 2006 in Giddings at the age of 88.

The Meredith and Miriam York Track Complex at SHSU was named in recognition of their generous

contributions to the university's track and field program. Following Mr. York's death in 1983, Mrs. York continued to support academic and athletic scholarships, the Sam Houston Memorial Museum, the Alumni Association, and she established several discretionary endowments.

For more information, contact the campaign office at:

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From the Executive Leadership Council

I am a 1963 graduate of Sam Houston State University. Until a couple of years ago I had limited contact or involvement with the university. Then I was invited to get a better look at what the university was doing over all and its plans for the future.

In that process I got to know the current leaders and to hear about their vision for SHSU. I was initially impressed by how much the beauty of the campus had been enhanced with new facilities and other physical changes that have been made. Older historical structures have been renovated and redeployed with the new facilities to create a really special campus feeling.

I heard about the growing enrollment and efforts to attract students. I heard about increased academic requirements for admission and a continued commitment by the University to stay focused on helping students be successful.

I witnessed a higher level of athletic competition and success than the university had previously achieved. I met



very impressive students; heard their stories about why they came to Sam Houston and their goals.

I met faculty who are making a difference in the world. I saw that the faculty are excited and committed to the same vision for the future as the administration.

I heard about how the university is trying to connect with its alumni in a much more effective way than it has in the past, and I met many very successful alumni who are committed to help.

In almost every facet of university life, there were exciting plans and programs in play. I think most of us like to be associated with something that is exciting, something that is growing, something that is high quality and something that is improving. If you have a past association with an organization like that, you want to get reconnected. And if you are an alumnus of that organization, it is even more appealing.

It is these things that caused me to want to be a part of helping Sam Houston State University achieve its goals for the future.

*Leonard Keeling
Houston*



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