



SHARE THE VISION

CAMPAIGN FOR SAM HOUSTON

A Newsletter of the SHSU Capital Campaign

Vol. 2, Issue 2 Summer 07

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

It's A Grand Slam!

A \$1 million gift to SHSU from Houston entrepreneur and renowned philanthropist Don Sanders-Class of 1958- was officially recognized this spring with the dedication of the Don Sanders Baseball Stadium.

Friends and family of Sanders joined the celebration, including baseball Hall of Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan, former Texas governor Mark White, and former Astros player Terry Puhl.

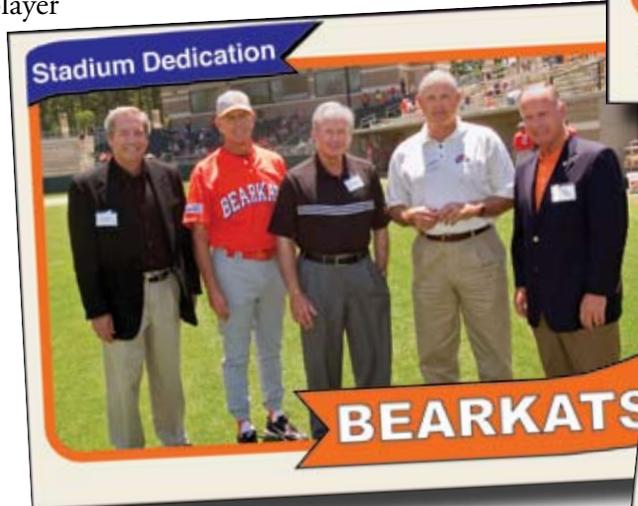
"When we were looking into naming the baseball field, we wanted the person to be an alumnus of Sam Houston State, who was interested and involved in baseball, and possessed the integrity, credibility and strong character to reflect what we want to do here for our baseball program," baseball coach Mark Johnson said. "Mr. Sanders was a perfect fit."

The \$5.5 million facility includes the stadium, spacious dressing areas, indoor hitting cages, lights, and coaches' offices.

Sanders is founder and chairman of the investment firm Sanders Morris Harris and a former owner of the Houston Sports Association and the Houston Astros Baseball

Club. Along with Ryan, he is co-owner of Ryan-Sanders Baseball, which owns the Astros' Class AAA Round Rock Express and Class AA Corpus Christi Hooks.

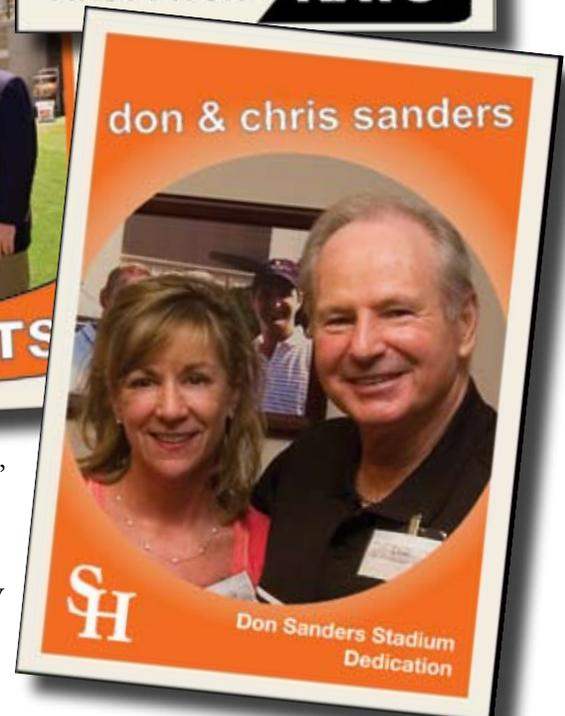
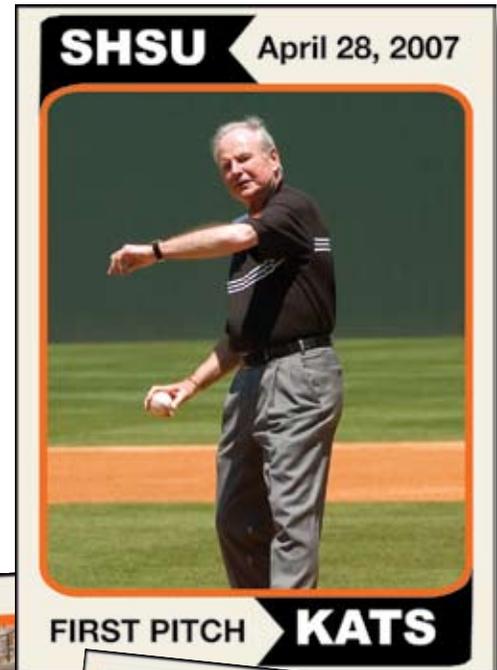
Sanders is a leading figure in Houston in a variety of civic, corporate and financial enterprises. In 2001, he was named Houston Interfaith Charities' "Sportsman of the Year."



"Baseball is a big part of my life," said Sanders. "I feel that the gift to Sam Houston State can have a substantial impact on the university and the baseball program not only today, but also in the future."

University officials expressed great appreciation for Sanders' donation.

"This generous gift will benefit the Bearkat baseball program for



evermore," said SHSU President Jim Gaertner. "It will also perpetuate the name of one of our most distinguished alumni."

Support The Arts

Programs within music, dance and theatre at Sam Houston State University are recognized both nationally and internationally. Because of this excellent reputation, enrollment has increased but outdated facilities have created some pretty severe growing pains.



The performing arts programs are headquartered in three different buildings, recitals and performances must often be held off campus, and activities overlap whenever students are preparing for productions.

“This new structure is extremely important on many levels,” said Nicolay. “Not only will it showcase our outstanding students, faculty and excellent programs, it will attract talented, new students to our university.”



Construction is a major campaign priority and includes facility expansion, upgrades and renovations to support a rapidly growing student body. Sam Houston State’s construction plan includes numerous projects at a projected total cost of \$184 million, of which, more than \$5 million in private funding is needed.

“We are literally bursting at the seams,” said Dana Nicolay, associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences.

“The School of Music has not had a performance venue since Old Main burned down in 1982,” he said. “Our University Theatre Center is nice, but it’s too small to accommodate our growing program.”

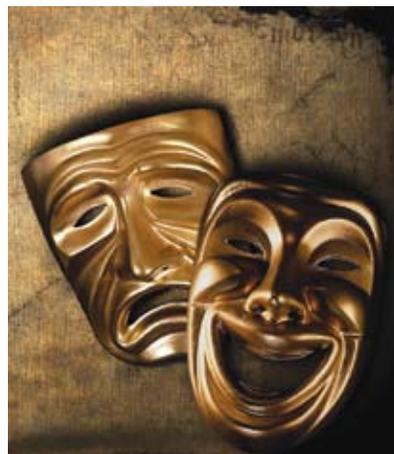
Campus officials hope that a remedy for the situation is on the horizon.

Plans for a new Performing Arts Center call for a 100,000 square-foot facility located between the Criminal Justice Center, the Fine Arts Building and the University Theatre Center.

The \$35 million building will contain an 800-seat concert hall with practice rooms and areas for auditions. There will be a dance theatre, dressing rooms, and office space. The new facility will also contain a scene shop for set construction.

The time to help is now.

Even with the construction of a new building, ongoing funds will be required for keeping equipment up-to-date, maintaining the facility, and providing the academic support necessary to ensure the



university remains an important contributor to the state’s cultural life. Private gifts are also needed to establish student scholarships, strengthen academic standards, and provide endowments for faculty research.

Montgomery County Region Campaign Starts Strong

Friends of Sam Houston State University who live in the Montgomery County area shared a special evening on April 26 at Bentwater Country Club as they gathered for an informational dinner about the *Share the Vision* capital campaign.

SHSU President Jim Gaertner presented a “state of the university” address and visited with guests.

“Sam Houston State needs our help, and we can step up to the challenge to do more than we’ve ever done before,” he explained.

Burgess, who has been a loyal supporter of the university for more than 30 years, said he was glad to be a part of something that could make a difference at SHSU.

“Sam Houston State University has been good to me,” Burgess

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Hosts of the Montgomery County region campaign informational dinner, shown with SHSU President Jim Gaertner (center), included from left: Joe Bickley, Jerry Streater, Jay Ross Martin, Ray Burgess, Dr. Gaertner, Tommy Metcalf, Jill Vaughan, Greg Smith and Webb Melder.



Excitement about the Montgomery County region campaign has been building for quite some time, according to region campaign chair Ray Burgess.

said. “Being involved with the university’s first capital campaign is now providing me with an opportunity to do something meaningful which will benefit the university.”

Burgess was especially complimentary of those in the area who were committed to making the campaign a success.

“It’s necessary that we in the Montgomery County region come together and make a significant contribution to help our university reach its goals,” he continued. “We can make it happen.”

The *Share the Vision* goal is \$50 million, and the Montgomery County region goal has been set at \$2.56 million.

Northern Harris & Montgomery Counties
15,992 Alumni & Friends
19% of Total SHSU Alumni & Friends
4,111 Students
26% of Total 2006 Fall Enrollment



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

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Magdalena Manzano
Student Regent
Huntsville

From the ELC

After 38 years, Carol Weller and her husband Joe, retired chairman and chief executive officer for Nestlé USA, returned to campus where Joe spoke to College of Business students on the “10 Key Leadership Qualities” from his book, “A Blueprint for Success.”

After touring the university, I was amazed by the growth in enrollment and expansion of the campus and facilities. But even with all the changes, it was comforting to still feel the same strong sense of school spirit. It was very obvious that under the leadership of Dr. Gaertner, Sam Houston is now a major university in Texas. Having witnessed first-hand the dramatic improvements which resulted from a strategic vision crafted by SHSU leadership, I want to continue my support of the university as well take an even more active role for the benefit of today’s student and future generations.

My years at Sam Houston were not just about education. The life lessons I experienced as a college



student were some of the most significant and influential, making a profound difference on my future. A deep, personal understanding of the positive impacts created by a meaningful college experience motivated me to support scholarship programs and the Share the Vision capital campaign.

Carol Weller is a mother of two children, an active philanthropist, volunteer, and community leader. A Lifetime Endowed Member of the Alumni Association and member of the Executive Leadership Council, Carol, with the encouragement and support of Joe, is a loyal and generous SHSU supporter through scholarships and the capital campaign.

Executive Leadership Council

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