



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

Lasting Friendship Results In Major Gift

Another gift topping \$1 million has been donated to Sam Houston State University, putting the university one step closer to reaching its Capital Campaign goal.

The gift of \$1.1 million from the estates of Pauline Rea Woods and Merry Mary Berry, former Texas public school teachers, is the seventh seven-figure contribution made to the university since the Share the Vision campaign began. In the university's previous 125-year history, only four seven-figure gifts had been donated.

The funds will be divided equally between the biology and sociology programs at the university to support undergraduate and graduate scholarships.

"Making higher education accessible is a vital part of our mission," said Dr. Jim Gaertner, president of Sam Houston State University, in accepting the gift.

"With the funds provided

by the Woods and Berry estates, significant financial awards will be available to some of our brightest students for their education in biology and sociology," he said.

Woods obtained her bachelor's

degree from Sam Houston State Teachers College and her master's degree from Columbia University in New York City in physical education. Beginning in 1931 she taught physical education and, later, history and Spanish for 41 years in the Houston Independent School System. She passed away in 2000 at the age of 92.

Berry was trained as a science teacher in Oklahoma and later earned a Master of Science degree in biology at Sam Houston State in 1953. She taught high school biology and other sciences, initially in San Marcos and then for many years in the Marlin school system. She died at the age of 89 in 2006.

They met during World War II as volunteers in the USO club in Muskogee, Okla. where Woods was recruited as club director. They then moved on to USO clubs in Junction City, Kan. and Temple, forming what was to become a life long friendship.

Berry was engaged to a serviceman who was later killed in action during the war. Both women remained single for the rest of their lives.



"Neither the life of an individual nor the history of a society can be understood without understanding both."

C. Wright Miles

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Friendship from page 1

While they were both still alive and doing their estate planning, Woods and Berry decided to combine their funds in order to make one single gift to Sam Houston State University.

Sam Houston State administrators expressed appreciation for the thoughtfulness of the two former educators.

“This is definitely the largest gift we’ve ever received,” said Alessandro Bonanno, chair of the sociology department. “This generous gift comes at a time when we are expanding in enrollment and size of faculty, and it will help us to grow both in quantity and quality.”

The gift to the sociology department was given in honor of Woods’ uncle and adoptive father, Ramsey M. Woods, who initiated the program and was the first teacher of sociology at the university. He taught from 1910 to 1940.

He held the titles of professor of rural education and sociology and professor of sociology and economics. The Woods Building, built in his honor, was the original location of the sociology department.

The gift to the biology department honors James D. “Jimmie” Long, Professor Emeritus of Biology and former director of the department. The funds were added to the James D. Long Biology Endowment Fund, already in existence. Long was a longtime friend of both Woods and Berry.



“This gift will double the amount of scholarship funds we will now be able to award our students,” said Matthew Rowe, chair of the biology department.

“At a time when costs are rising for students and so many are first-generation college bound, it will offset expenses that will be incurred by some of our most deserving students,” Rowe said.

The Long Endowment was established in 2001 by Long’s friends to honor him and his contributions to SHSU and the profession of biology as education, teacher, researcher, and professional biologist. Funds from the endowment are used to provide scholarships and support for student research projects.

Long met the Woods family as a first year graduate student at Sam Houston State Teachers College when he rented a room from Mabel Prentice Woods, Pauline’s aunt and adoptive mother, in 1951. Professor Woods had passed away in 1940.

“It’s a fantastic gift and a wonderful testimony to the influence that one of the members of our program had on these two ladies.”

Matthew Rowe
Chair, Biology Department

At the time, Pauline had been teaching in Houston for 20 years. She would come to Huntsville almost every weekend to visit her mother and was often joined by her friend, Mary. They developed a friendship with Long, often referring to him as their “adopted brother.” As experienced teachers, they encouraged Long throughout his studies.

Over the years, Long remained close to the two ladies. Following their retirements from teaching, Pauline and Mary spent their final years in assisted living facilities and nursing homes in Houston, where Long continued the friendship as a frequent guest. He ultimately arranged funerals for both Pauline and Mary.

“Dr. Long encouraged them to remember Sam Houston State University in their giving plans, and the generous gifts to the biology and sociology departments are the result of this life long friendship,” said Andrew Dewees, former chair of the biology department.

“The university is indebted to Ms. Woods and Ms. Berry for their generosity and to Dr. Long for his many years of service to Sam Houston State University,” he said.

The progress and accomplishments of the University were showcased during *Share the Vision* events held in November at the Houstonian Hotel and River Oaks Country Club in Houston and the Marriott Hotel located in The Woodlands. Many of SHSU's alumni and friends shared in these enjoyable and informative evenings.



President Gaertner visits with Bill & Susan Burroughs



President Gaertner, Glenda Gordy and Frank Holmes



Elizabeth Norwood & Genevieve Brown visit with Charles Rushing



Randy Pollard, Joe Thornton and Greg & Lucy Williams



Ron & Donna Koska, Nash D'Amico and Charlie Vienne

*The
Houstonian*

River Oaks



Don & Chris Sanders and Ed & Genevieve Sandhop



Eddie Carter and Glynda Schulerberg



Donald & Bernice Morgan and Judith & Bill Mills



Glenn Lowry, Len & Marlene Keeling and Steve & Lisa Parkhill



Jack & Sue Ann Compton and Ronald & Krystal Couch

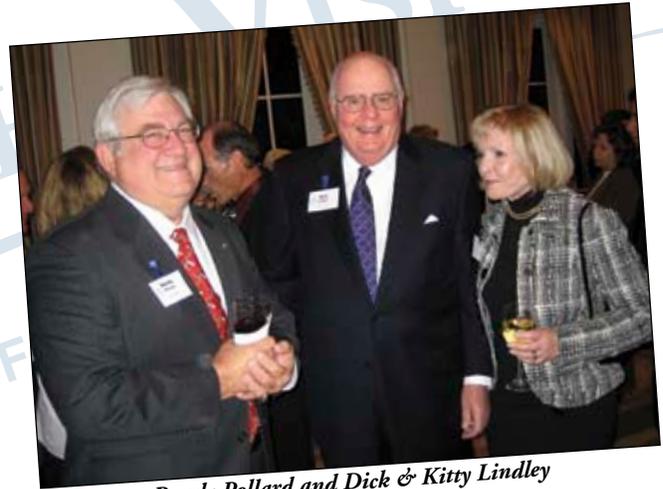
Country Club



Ken & Janet McAfee, Bob Rod and Rhonda Ellisor



Trisha Pollard visits with James & Jane Hayley



Randy Pollard and Dick & Kitty Lindley



Sylvia & Robert Hutson and R. Dean Lewis



Wade & Rebecca Vanderlinden



Chrissy Price and Ann & Randy Stewart



David Payne and John & Frances Planchard



Marvin & Nellie Yarotsky



Earl Higgins, George Mitchell and Ray Burgess



Campaign Chair Ron Mafrige and President Gaertner

The Woodlands

From the ELC

For more than 60 years, I have considered myself very fortunate to live in the Huntsville area. One of the reasons is because I've had the pleasure of watching Sam Houston State University develop into the fine institution of higher education it is today.

Throughout the years, my wife, Genevieve, and I have received a great deal of pleasure from our association with the university. We have observed that not only does Sam Houston State University contribute to the educational, cultural, social, and economic value of the region, but it also has an impact globally through the influence of its graduates who go beyond the state's borders to establish meaningful careers in such areas as the performing arts, medicine or business.

As alumni of Sam Houston State University, Genevieve and I feel a responsibility to give back to our alma mater. One of the ways we have chosen to do that is through establishing scholarships. I wish I had the words to convey how much pleasure we receive from meeting young scholarship recipients, following their progress through school, and knowing that we possibly are contributing to their success in life. It's been very satisfying for us, and it has given us a chance to re-pay a debt of gratitude to Sam Houston State University for helping us to achieve some of our goals.



Sandhop

Supporting scholarships is only one of the many ways to be involved with the Share the Vision campaign. There are also direct gifts, stocks, securities, gift annuities, planned giving and testamentary gifts. I would encourage all individuals who have an interest in the future of Sam Houston State University to consider any of these ways. I assure you that you will be rewarded by knowing your gift will empower others, mostly young people, and that you are leaving an imprint on the future.

Edwin G. Sandhop, Jr. graduated from Sam Houston State University in 1948 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. Both he and his wife, Genevieve ('56, '60), have been actively involved with the local community and SHSU where Genevieve was an English professor for 36 years. Ed retired as manager of Gibbs Brothers and Company, LP in Huntsville.

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