



# SHARE THE VISION

CAMPAIGN FOR SAM HOUSTON

A Newsletter of the SHSU Capital Campaign

Vol. 3, Issue 3 Fall 08

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

## McIver Golf Training Facility Dedicated

A ribbon cutting and the ceremonial first ball hit by Mike McIver highlighted the grand opening celebration for the Michael McIver Golf Training Facility Sept. 5 at Raven Nest Golf Club.

The new 1,800 square foot complex features two computer hitting bays and a lounge for the golf team. The computer bays will give the Bearkat golf program the opportunity to use state-of-the-art software to analyze and improve players' swings.

McIver, a Texas real estate executive and former Bearkat golfer, donated the funds to construct the \$350,000 facility.

McIver and his wife Maria were presented a special proclamation by Texas State Senator Mario Gallegos. The McIvers, Sam Houston President Jim Gaertner, Vice President for Finance and Operations (and former dean of the College of Business Administration) Dean Lewis, Director of Athletics Bobby Williams and Golf Coach

Ronnie Choate participated in the ribbon cutting.

"This new facility puts Sam Houston State among the elite programs in college men's and women's golf," Lewis said.

McIver was born in Madisonville and lived there until the ninth grade when his family moved to Palestine, Texas. It was in Palestine, at age 16, that McIver took up golf. He played at Meadowbrook Country Club, which he now owns. The memorial plaque at the country club reads in memory of his mother and father, James and Becky McIver.

McIver played in high school and was looking forward to continuing to develop his skills in college when Uncle Sam intervened. McIver served two years in Vietnam as a decorated combat soldier and received a Purple Heart.

See **McIver** on Page 2



*Michael and Maria McIver (left) at the dedication of the Michael McIver Golf Training Facility at Raven Nest Golf Club in Huntsville. The 1,800 square foot facility (below) features a lounge for the SHSU men's and women's golf teams, and two hitting bays with cameras and swing-analysis software.*



## *McIver* from Page 1

Upon returning home, he attended Sam Houston State University and played on the Bearkat golf team for Choate. Apparently, Choate taught McIver well, because Choate was one of the players McIver defeated to win the Elkins Lake Club Championship in 1972.

“We had a very good coach-player relationship,” said Choate. “He was confident in his ability as a skilled golfer and told me he was going to be another Jack Nicklaus.”

Choate commented that McIver has supported the golf program in a number of ways throughout the years since he left SHSU.

In 1983, McIver and his brother, Jimmy, established the James M. McIver Memorial Golf Scholarship Endowment in memory of their

father. It was the first scholarship endowment created for the golf program.

“Mike is a kind man with a big heart who has done a lot for the program,” said Choate. “Because of his generosity in making the golf training center a reality, we now have a magnificent teaching tool that will enhance the learning ability of our students.”

McIver’s skills and abilities were not limited to the golf course. In addition to playing golf while attending Sam Houston State, McIver began his impressive career in real estate, acquiring land from Huntsville to the Gulf Coast.

He demonstrated a unique combination of value assessment and speed for closing transactions and was able to negotiate sales of the land to developers interested in creating a variety of shopping, residential and entertainment outlets in these areas. He also led the way to jump-starting many construction booms, leaving a legacy of enhanced value in communities impacted by the development.

McIver’s reputation as a successful businessman is well known, and he takes great pride in continuing to give back, especially to the young people of Sam

Houston State University and the surrounding area. He strongly believes that sports are part of the educational process, teaching discipline and self-assurance and promoting success.

McIver and his wife Maria pledge their continued support to SHSU and look forward to the Bearkats winning another national championship, as they did in 1978, 1979, 1980 and 1981.



*Michael McIver (top) cuts the ribbon to officially open the Micheal McIver Golf Training Facility. Michael and Maria McIver (center) with SHSU President Jim Gaertner (left) and Vice-President for Finance and Operations (former dean of COBA) Dean Lewis.*

For more information on *Ways To Give*, contact:

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Charles R. Matthews, Chancellor  
*Austin*

# New Endowment Fund Honors Memory of Joe Burleson

The Joe Glenn Burleson Agribusiness Endowment Fund has been established by the Sunlock M. and Doris L. Burleson Estates to provide scholarships for the agribusiness and Master of Business Administration programs and assist a fraternity with housing maintenance.

Sam Houston alumnus Charles T. Mallery of The Woodlands is the trustee of the estates.

The endowment was established in memory of the Burlesons' only child, Joe, a May 1959 business graduate.

"After two years at Lee College in Baytown, Joe came to Sam Houston to finish his four-year college degree," Mallery said.

"Joe and I quickly became friends, and we asked him to join our fraternity, Esquire Men's Social Club, later to become Delta Tau Delta Fraternity. Joe and I were very close," Mallery explained.

"I recall going home with him on weekends and got to know his parents very well. Mr. Burleson was a long-time hard worker at what is now the ExxonMobil Baytown Refinery. He worked night shifts, and we had to be very quiet during the day, which was very hard for Joe and me because he loved to turn up the volume on his phonograph with the oldies and goodies of the 1950s," Mallery recalled.

"Mrs. Burleson was a sweet and dear lady, and she always fixed fried salmon patties, ranch style beans, cole slaw and French fries for us," Mallery said.

While attending Sam Houston State, Joe was also a member of the Business Administration Club, Sociology Club, Pioneer Roundup Association, and the Future Business Leaders of America.

"Joe was a fun-loving guy," Mallery said, "but he had his serious moments, too. He was very popular on campus, particularly with the girls and the fraternity. He could sell ice to a snowman, and all the administrators and his professors knew and liked him very much. I have fond memories of him, particularly at our famous, annual Jungle Parties."



*Joe Burleson*

Following graduation, Joe was stationed with the Army in Ft. Bliss, El Paso. He completed Army finance school and was a private first class working in the Adjutant General's office.

On Oct. 27, 1959, while on his way to Huntsville to attend Homecoming at Sam Houston, he was killed in an automobile accident. At the time of his death, he had planned to be initiated as a member of the Epsilon Zeta Chapter of Delta Tau Delta on Jan. 9, 1960.

Joe was an only child, and his parents grieved his loss deeply. Mallery kept in contact with the Burlesons and remained close to them throughout their lives.

"My wife, Ann, and I always sent them cards at Easter and Christmas, and we would hear from them as well," Mallery said. "We would try to visit them once or twice every two or three years. Mrs. Burleson always said I reminded her so much of Joe."

In the late 1990s, the Burlesons began talking to Mallery about their last wills and testaments.

They wanted to remember Joe and Sam Houston State University," said Mallery. "We talked off and on for a couple of years about various scenarios, and they wanted to remember Delta Tau Delta as well.

"Neither one of them had a college degree, but they understood the importance of young people having an education," Mallery explained. "Mr. Burleson asked me if I would serve as trustee of the scholarship funds to go to Sam Houston and Delta Tau Delta. I told him I would be honored to serve."

The endowment was established with a \$668,000 contribution from the Burleson Estates. The Joe Glenn Burleson Agribusiness Endowed Scholarship fund will receive 80 percent of the annual earnings from the permanent endowment. Delta Tau Delta -- Epsilon Chapter will receive 20 percent for their local shelter fund to be used for the repairs, maintenance and upkeep of the fraternity lodge and property.



*Photo of members of the Esquire Men's Social Club in the spring of 1959. Joe Burleson is in the front row, third from the left. Charles Mallery is in the second row, fourth from the right.*

celebrating

10

years

# face to face



*Ron and Chrissy Mafrige with students Lakeshia Gibson, Ashley Simien, Jessica Stroud and Michael Heard*



*Student Maggie Ferrell with Chancellor Charles Matthews*



*Genevieve and Ed Sandhop with students Kristina Salazar, Andrea Henderson, Emily Langley, Meghan Burton, Travis Franks and Mitchell Graff*



*John and Judy Ragsdale with student Jeffery Logan*



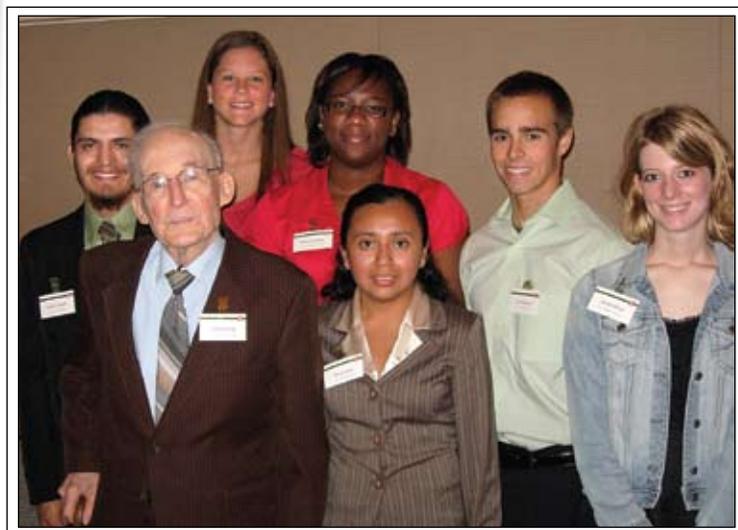
*Billy and Beverly Harrell with student Nicholas Cheek*



*Jack and Kathleen Staggs with students Kristin Danford, Kerri Kiser, Christine Donahue, Cari Price, Patricia Ucci, Marie Kellog, Tasneem Hassanali and Rachel Snyder*



*Kathy Edwards with student Dayana Borges*



*Jimmy Long with students Gabriel Castillo, Morgan Collom, Nkenna Odom, Wendy Arias, Cole Anderson and Amelia Moore*

## 2008 SCHOLARSHIP BENEFACTOR AND RECIPIENT LUNCHEON

# First Entrepreneurship Endowment Established

The first scholarship endowment benefitting the College of Business Administration's entrepreneurship program has been established at Sam Houston State University in recognition of a longtime friendship between two small business owners.

The Davis-Holden Entrepreneurship Scholarship Endowment Fund, created with a gift from the Don and Julie Holden Foundation, honors Sam Houston State accounting graduate J. D. Davis, a Huntsville businessman who owns Davis Construction Management along with his sons, Brad and Bart. Brad also holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from SHSU.

With only a high school education and his wife Julie by his side, Don Holden began his business career with General Motors in the San Antonio area at the bottom of the career ladder just before the outbreak of World War II.

He quickly learned the skills necessary to become a successful entrepreneur, and after overseeing the construction of an engine plant in India during the war, Holden returned to the United States and became a partner in Gulf Chevrolet of Corpus Christi, the largest Chevrolet dealership in South Texas.

When the Holdens retired, they moved to Luckenbach where they met Davis and his wife Vicki, a young couple from Huntsville who shared many interests with them.

"The Holdens were very nice to us," said Davis. "Don and I had a lot in common such as the love of hunting and the importance of family. We were both businessmen and owners of small businesses."

The couples remained close friends for 30 years, until Don and Julie both died in 2003.

The Holdens had no children, and in 1990, they decided to leave their estate to the Don and Julie

Holden Foundation. They asked Davis to join them on the board and assist with planning the future of the foundation. The next decade was spent organizing the institution that exists today.

The DJHF has dispensed millions of dollars to the Hill Country Memorial Hospital in Fredericksburg, the M. D. Anderson Cancer Institute, the Mayo Clinic, the Boy Scouts of America, and numerous other charitable causes.

Earlier this year the foundation's board decided to honor Davis for his "selfless and non-ingratiating service" to the board and to remember Don by establishing a scholarship endowment to enhance the entrepreneurship program at Sam Houston State.

"I believe that small businesses are the backbone of our country and are essential for a strong economy," said Davis. "Small businesses as a whole create more jobs than Fortune 500 companies."

He also pointed out the rewards of being a small business owner for those who are willing to work hard.

"It's extremely satisfying and it allows you to control your own destiny," he said. "If you are a self-starter and a self-motivator, and you go to college to learn those business skills which will help you make wise

decisions, you can be very successful."

The Davis-Holden Entrepreneurship Scholarship Endowment Fund is starting with a \$25,000 contribution, with the intent of the donors to contribute annually for three years until the fund reaches \$100,000. Once fully endowed, earnings will be disbursed as an annual scholarship award for a student in the business entrepreneurship program.

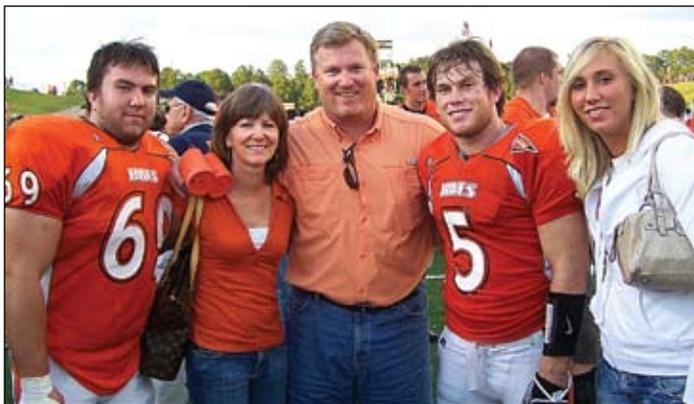
A dear friendship that transcended generations will benefit Sam Houston State University students for years to come.



*(From left) Vice-President for Finance and Operations (former dean of COBA) Dean Lewis, Brad Davis, J.D. Davis, Vicki Davis, Bart Davis and President Jim Gaertner.*

## *From Executive Leadership Council Member Randy Stewart*

As I look back at the roads I have traveled since leaving Huntsville in 1983, the memories and lessons learned while attending school and playing football are never far away. As we all know, our parents were wiser in the ways of life than we ever gave them credit for during our college years. I remember complaining to my mom about having 8 o'clock classes, practice every afternoon, and needing more money, and her response was "son you really need to enjoy and appreciate your college days as they will be some of the best times of your life!" I think we all can agree that lady knew what she was talking about!



*The Stewarts: (from left) Chris, Ann, Randy, Randy and Kelli*

The life and education lessons I was privileged to experience while at SHSU played a major role in the following years. Sam Houston State has the prettiest women, and I was fortunate enough to meet and marry one. I met Ann Ferguson who was an education major and a Chi Omega, and we were married in 1984. We both came from very modest backgrounds, and we viewed our education as the means of creating a different lifestyle and opportunities for our family than we had experienced. We were blessed with three children with the oldest two being boys Chris and Randy, and the youngest, Kelli, our daughter.

I was also privileged to have two outstanding men as head coaches of our football team -- Melvin Brown and Ron Randleman. I was raised primarily in a single parent environment, and these two men played a

bigger mentor role than they will ever know. Even though we were sometimes "behind the eight ball" during Coach Brown's years, he taught me that I had to compete at the top of my game, no matter what the circumstances were, every day and every game. From Coach Randleman I learned the value of being prepared and how important it is to execute even the smallest of details. Lessons like these, along with those learned from my outstanding business school professors, allowed me and a partner to start a small mortgage company in 1991 in Houston with eight employees, then sell it 13 years later as the 16th largest mortgage banker in the U.S. with production in 27 states, volume of approximately \$7.5 billion, and more than 1,300 employees.

Life has come full circle, and Ann and I now have the privilege of watching our sons play football and attend SHSU where they also are being mentored by a coaching staff that we are proud of, led by Coach Todd Whitten.

I really believe we are going through a great renaissance at SHSU where we are privileged to be led by President Gaertner and his wife Nancy. As a result, the future will be bright for our graduates, and they will ride the wave of change with the good fortune of having an SHSU degree. Ann and I have been blessed with a great education, a wonderful family, outstanding business opportunities, and the privilege of being able to give back and show our appreciation for the life opportunities made possible by attending SHSU.

As you read these comments you may have noticed that I use the word *privilege* several times. I truly believe that we who attend SHSU for our education and to learn life's lessons are privileged. So the next time you have a chance to donate to our grand university, consider it a *privilege* to give back so that future generations of Bearkats will have these same outstanding opportunities that so many other generations have had! Go Bearkats!

### Executive Leadership Council

Ron Mafrige, Chair	Glenda J. Gordy	Jack C. Parker
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# Calling All Roundball Enthusiasts

Attention Bearcats! If you want to be a part of something exciting that is happening with the men's basketball program this year, Ron Mafrige has a challenge for you.

Mafrige, chairman of the *Share the Vision* Campaign, will match every \$2 contributed to the men's basketball endowment with \$1 of his own funds, up to a maximum of \$250,000.

When the "Mafrige Challenge" is completely met, the endowment will be at \$1 million or more. The campaign is scheduled for completion by the end of the men's 2008-09 basketball season.

"Ron Mafrige has provided important support for our university in a variety of ways for so many years, and the 'Mafrige Challenge' is the latest example of his generosity," said SHSU President Jim Gaertner.

"I'm confident that our Bearcat fans will enthusiastically join Ron in helping to advance the men's basketball program," he added.

The endowment will provide funding for program enhancements, including equipment purchases and recruitment and will provide financial assistance for scheduling and team travel. Because athletic programs do not receive state appropriations, scholarships, coaches' salaries and related expenses must be funded through other sources of revenue, including private gifts.



Gifts to the "Mafrige Challenge" are considered contributions to the *Share the Vision* Campaign. As with any other gift to the university, contributions earmarked for the challenge are tax deductible within the limits of applicable tax laws.

Mafrige graduated from Sam Houston State in 1960 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. He has been honored with the Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumnus and Distinguished Service awards and is a member of the College of Business Administration's Hall of Honor. His deep commitment and loyalty to SHSU is reflected in his combined support for the university, which exceeds \$2 million.

For more information, contact the University Advancement Office at 936.294.3625, and ask to speak to a member of the development staff about the "Mafrige Challenge."



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