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The society commemorates the university leader who served as president for 29 years, longer than anyone in Sam Houston State history. Among his many achievements, the curriculum was expanded and the first baccalaureate degree was awarded in 1919.

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**CHALLENGING THE STATUS QUO**

School of Nursing pursues new programs, improves academic standing

Starting something new is never easy, there are always obstacles to overcome. Since classes began in 2011, students, faculty and staff of Sam Houston State University’s School of Nursing have seen their share of stalls and successes. Now, they are ready to grow even more into a field experiencing high demand.

From humble beginnings with a cohort of 20 nursing students and five faculty members, the Nursing program currently has more than 350 students, 37 faculty and staff members, and 386 graduates.

With each class, Sam Houston State cements itself as a great name in healthcare.

Director Denise Neill is an expert in meeting the challenges of getting programs started. She previously helped open four separate nursing programs as lead faculty and coordinator at the University of Houston – Victoria, Texas A&M – Texarkana and Southern Arkansas. Neill believes new students and staff bring fresh ideas.

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† Denotes Deceased as of 8/13/18