

# Kat + Konnection

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

WINTER 2020

## ALUMNI PROVIDE OVER 600 MASKS TO STUDENTS



Earlier this semester, the Sam Houston State University Alumni Association launched the “Give a Mask, Get a Mask” campaign to supply students with a limited, custom-designed Sammy the Bearkat facemask. The project offered alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the university the opportunity to support the Alumni Association while also helping students and encouraging the use of facemasks on campus.

“The Alumni Association is proud of our members for providing an important product to help keep our campus community safe,” said Donna Gilbert, associate director for membership and marketing. “Our mask project allowed Bearkats to show their pride while also honoring our motto of service by giving back to students.”

Through the month-long initiative, Alumni Association members raised

funds to donate over 600 masks to the SHSU student population. Proceeds will also fund services the association provides to SHSU’s strong alumni base including the Student Alumni Association, which helps students prepare for success through networking and development opportunities.

During the campus giveaway event on Nov. 11, students were happy and surprised by the generosity.

“I’m excited to just be walking by and receive a free mask. I appreciate the thought and effort our Alumni Association put into this for students. I really love that. Thank you,” student Michael Moors said.

Members of the alumni association were pleased to help out fellow Bearkats with masks while also supporting the use of wearing them.

“The Bearkat alumni family cares about protecting each other during this challenging time,” alumna Lavone Jones (’95) said. “I am thrilled that a student will receive a facemask on my behalf.”

### ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD AT STERLING COUNTRY CLUB

The SHSU Alumni Association Golf tournament will be held at the Sterling Country Club @ Houston National on **March 26, 2021**. The facility is owned and operated by SHSU alumni Robert and Erin Steele. Sponsorships and entries are now available at: [alumni.shsu.edu](http://alumni.shsu.edu)



SAM HOUSTON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



# Welcome To Our Newest Life Members

*New Life Members from July 15, through November 15, 2020*

**50's**  
LeBland McAdams 1956

**60's**  
Joyce Ahearn 1964  
Bill Dabaghi 1966  
Marilyn Parker 1968  
Jane Keese 1968  
Charlotte Wilson 1968  
Sharon Lout 1969

**70's**  
Billie Lemon 1971, 1965  
Donald Lemon 1971, 1965  
James Brien 1972  
Wayne Long 1973, 1968  
Ellen Brien 1973, 1970  
Kay Rigsby 1973  
Mindy Estes 1974  
Mike Ussery 1976

Dan Zaccagni 1977  
Stacey Ussery 1978

**80's**  
Janice Amsden-Doggett 1980, 1978  
Larry Scott 1982  
Walter Boone 1986  
Kevin Patterson 1988

**90's**  
Amy Short 1993  
Deirdre Holloway 1994  
Miller King 1996  
Brent Plant 1997  
Leslie Boykin 1999

**00's**  
Adam Pasket 2000  
Tamika Tyson 2000, 1997  
Nikki Talley 2000

Dana Pasket 2000  
Holli Koster 2001  
Scott Talley 2001  
Mandy Dennix 2002  
Carolyn Murray 2003  
Danny Ratliff 2005

**10's**  
Eder Bracamontes 2016  
Derrick Reiner 2018  
Kaetlyn Sandoval 2019  
Nicholas Castaneda 2019  
Brittany Dean 2019  
Kevin Glover 2019  
Jeffrey Johnson 2019  
Rosa Ledezma 2019  
Nathan Bennett 2019  
Afi Howard 2019  
Timothy McCurley 2019  
William Hicks 2019

Nicholas Jalowy 2019

**20's**  
Melisa Appleton 2020, 2016  
Delana Boone 2020  
Matthew Peavy 2020, 2018  
Taylor Hitt 2020, 2019  
Kayla Reiner 2020, 2019  
Gabrielle Abowd 2020  
Kitty Horst 2020  
Danielle Polendo 2020  
Elise Dollar 2020  
Jonathan Hall 2020  
Gloria Sidney 2020  
Kelcie Raymond 2020  
Addison Barnum 2020

**FAMILY & FRIENDS**  
Benito Avila  
Marilyn Harris  
Misty Bennett

## CLASS NOTES

### We want to hear from you!

Send us updates on work, relocations, marriage, family, degrees, accomplishments—and a photo, too. Let other Bearkats know what you've been up to by completing the online form or emailing us your updates.

Class Notes are shared in [Heritage](#) magazine.

Visit [alumni.shsu.edu](http://alumni.shsu.edu) and click on [Connect With Us](#) to fill out the online form.

# EXPLORE NORWAY!

BERGEN, NORWAY



TRAVELING BEARKATS • ALUMNI.SHSU.EDU

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR HIGHLIGHTS OF NORWAY EXPERIENCE OR ANY OF OUR OTHER TRIPS, PLEASE VISIT ALUMNI.SHSU.EDU OR CALL THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS AT 936.294.1841

## 2021 ALUMNI TRAVEL

SHADES OF IRELAND ~ MAR.20-29  
HIGHLIGHTS OF NORWAY ~ JUN. 25 - JUL. 3

CAPE COD & THE ISLANDS ~ JUL. 10-16  
DISCOVER SCOTLAND ~ AUG.8-17

TREASURES OF EGYPT ~ OCT. 14-25  
CHRISTMAS ON THE DANUBE ~ DEC. 9-17

\*Visit our [Traveling Bearkats](#) page at [alumni.shsu.edu](http://alumni.shsu.edu) to view trip information and pricing details.

## FALL RING CEREMONY

Congratulations to the 470 students that crossed the stage and received their SHSU class ring on November 12, in the Bernard G. Johnson coliseum. The ceremony was a little different this year due to social distancing with only the students in attendance. Family and friends were able to view the ceremony live through the SHSU YouTube channel.



## ALUMNI TUITION DRAWING IN 15TH YEAR



Congratulations to Jessica Hurtt from Austin, Texas. Jessica is the lucky winner of the 2020 tuition draw. The 15th annual SHSU Tuition Scholarship drawing was held on November 18 in the John R. Ragsdale Alumni Center. Associate VP for Alumni Relations, Charlie Vienne along with alumni staff drew the lucky winners name from over 5,600 tickets.

The Alumni Association has awarded more than \$240,000 in scholarships through the tuition-drawing program. This year's award of 24-hours of undergraduate in-state tuition has an approximate value of \$5,856. The SHSU Alumni Association will award net proceeds from the tuition drawing in \$1000 increments to eligible students for the Fall 21 semester. For more information on the tuition drawing or alumni scholarships, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 800.283.7478.

## ALUMNI VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB

Staying physically distant, yet connected, remains a challenge during the coronavirus health crisis. However, the Office of Alumni Relations at Sam Houston State University is unyielding in their efforts to support current and former students by offering innovative ways to strengthen ties and create meaningful connections with their alma mater.

One silver lining to emerge from the pandemic, is the return to reading. Since many people are confined to their homes, individuals are finding themselves putting down their electronic devices and picking up a book. For this reason, the Office of Alumni Relations launched a virtual book club for SHSU alumni in October.

Over 300 alumni are now participating and have just concluded discussions on their first book "A Gentleman in Moscow". In January 2021, the book club will begin reading a new book, "Atomic Habits" by James Clear.

Interested readers can now join, learn more, and get details about the upcoming book online at <http://www.pbc.guru/SHSU>.

Though there will not be any in-person meetings, the online forums will help facilitate engagement from alumni around the world.





SHSU Alumni Association  
Box 2022  
Huntsville, TX 77341-2022

## STAY CONNECTED

The SHSU Alumni Association app brings new meaning to alumni engagement.

- Join or renew alumni membership
- Exclusive membership perks
- Discover nearby alumni events
- Global travel with Bearkats



Search SHSU Alumni Kat App in iTunes or Google Play store to download.



For more information, visit [shsu.edu/KatApp](http://shsu.edu/KatApp) or call 936.294.1841.



# Life Member Celebration

## Save the Date!

June 12, 2021

Woodlands Waterway Marriott  
The Woodlands, Texas

Table sponsorships available.  
For more information visit [alumni.shsu.edu](http://alumni.shsu.edu) or call us at 936.294.1841.



## Sponsorship Opportunities - [alumni.shsu.edu](http://alumni.shsu.edu)



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