

# Heritage

*The Magazine of Sam Houston State University*





## A NEW HORIZON

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When I arrived at Sam Houston State University about 18 months ago, I was excited about the opportunity to join this wonderful community as the vice president for Finance and Operations. Now, I know how amazing SHSU is because of the dedication of the faculty and staff that work here. The students are fortunate to have such dedicated people shaping their academic and administrative experiences.

The extraordinary leadership of President Gaertner provided an ongoing legacy of strength in the president's role at Sam Houston State University. Therefore, I am honored to transition to this new role at Sam Houston. The presidency provides me more possibilities to interact with our energetic students, our enthusiastic alumni and supportive community.

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*We have such strengths and great traditions that provide a strong base upon which to build, evolve and develop new pathways for this 'grand old university.'*

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With the wonderful history of strong fiscal management and Dr. Gaertner's strategic placement of SHSU, I take the helm at an opportune, yet potentially tough, time for the university.

We have excellent opportunities to provide our student success model into expanding student arenas, both in distance learning and at the new Woodlands facility.

The state's fiscal situation, while stronger than many areas of the country, is still going to mean a difficult several years for funding. Yet, my personal experience in non-traditional student and distance learning environments provides me insight into how our culture at Sam Houston can continue and evolve into these new arenas.

Therefore, my initial theme as I take on this role at Sam Houston State University is evolution. We have such strengths and great traditions that provide a strong base upon which to build, evolve and develop new pathways for this 'grand old university.' I look forward to working with the university constituents, alumni and friends of the university on all these endeavors.

Sincerely,

Dana Gibson  
*President*

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**2 Beginning A New Role**  
A new chapter begins for the university.

**4 Sam Houston State University  
Tops \$50 Million Campaign Goal**  
SHSU's most ambitious advancement initiative is a huge success.

**7 SHSU Names Teacher Education  
Center In Honor Of Garretts**  
Eleanor and Charles Garrett are long-time supporters of Texas education.

## DEPARTMENTS



**10 University Focus**  
Bookshelf, SHSU Faculty Members Share Experiences As Fulbright Scholars, A Dirty Job—Professor Gets Taste Of Antiquated Tradition With Geophagy Research



**18 Building The Vision**  
Sharing His Success, See Sam Houston Light Up The Stage: New Performing Arts Center Opens



**21 Eye On The Kats**  
Fritz Facing Challenges With Optimism, 'Battle Of The Piney Woods' Has Long History, Hooten Named Men's Basketball Head Coach, Julius Michael Returns 'Home'



**27 Alumni Look**  
Life Member Campaign Passes Goal, This Alumna's 'Life Of Crime' Makes A Great TV Show, Where Are They Now, and other alumni stories



Sam Houston State University's new president, Dana Gibson, on campus.

### THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS

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# BEGINNING A NEW ROLE

**ON SEPTEMBER 1,**  
Dana Gibson will make Sam Houston  
State University history not only as the  
university's 13th president, but also as  
the first female president.

By Julia May  
Photos by Brian Blalock



A new chapter begins in the Sam Houston State University story this fall. Earlier this summer, Texas State University System Chancellor Brian McCall named Sam Houston State University's Vice President for Finance and Operations Dana Gibson the sole finalist in the SHSU presidential search.

She was confirmed by a vote of the system's board of regents on July 14.

"Dr. Gibson has an impressive record as an educator and administrator, and I'm delighted that Sam Houston State University will continue to benefit from her leadership, passion and energy," McCall said.

Gibson, who served from April 2009 to August 2010 as SHSU's chief financial officer, was selected from a field of 40 applicants.

"During my time at Sam Houston State University, I have come to appreciate the dedication of the faculty and staff as well as the excellent culture existing at SHSU," she said.

"I look forward to my new role, as it will provide me more opportunity to interact with our remarkable students and our supportive alumni and community," she said. "It is an exciting time to lead SHSU, to continue building upon its strength and successes, and to plan new pathways for the future."

Retiring President Jim Gaertner endorsed her selection with his expression of support.

"I am absolutely delighted that Dr. Gibson has been named president of Sam Houston State University," he said. "In working with her over the past year, I have gotten to know her and how competent she is. She is a person of high integrity, and she's a good fit for Sam Houston State University."

Gibson is a veteran of university work with 24 years of teaching and administrative experience. She earned her undergraduate

*"It is an exciting time to lead SHSU, to continue building upon its strength and successes, and to plan new pathways for the future."*



and graduate degrees at Texas Woman's University, and her doctorate in business with a major in accounting at the University of Texas at Arlington. She has been a certified public accountant for over 25 years.

Her first university job was at TWU as both an assistant and associate professor of accounting. She also took on administrative duties, serving first as an assistant to the vice president for finance and administration, then as associate vice president for finance and administration and university controller. She was later promoted to TWU's vice president for academic and information services.

From 2002 – 2005, Gibson served as vice chancellor for administration and finance at

the University of Colorado at Denver. From 2005 – 2007 she served as vice president for business and finance at Southern Methodist University, where in 2006 she was named Administrator of the Year.

Before coming to SHSU in 2009, she served two years as president of National University in California.

A resident of Huntsville, she has been active in civic and charitable causes at the various locations where she has served.

A formal investiture ceremony for Gibson will take place in March 2011. ★



By Julia May, Photo by Brian Blalock

**The university's most ambitious and challenging advancement initiative in its history is a huge success.**

**A**mid lively and festive fanfare, Sam Houston State University announced on July 10 that the first capital campaign has made history by going over its \$50 million goal.

The *Share the Vision* campaign has raised nearly \$60 million in commitments from more than 21,500 alumni, friends, parents, corporations, and foundations for scholarships, program endowments, and construction projects.

Vice President for University Advancement Frank Holmes praised those involved for working together and being successful, in spite of the unfriendly financial climate.

"The ability to surpass our campaign's goal and to do it ahead of schedule in today's troubled economy is a testament to the loyalty and affection that alumni and friends have for Sam Houston State University," he said.

"During a period when most charitable organizations were dealing with reduced

contributions, our university had a record-setting year for cash contributions during 2008 – 09," he said. "I cannot tell you how fortunate I feel to have had the opportunity to work closely with so many supportive and dedicated alumni, friends, faculty, and staff. The amount of commitments received has been the result of genuine teamwork."

The total, which exceeds the comprehensive campaign's goal by over \$9 million, was made public during *Celebrate the Vision*, an event recognizing the work of those involved in the successful campaign.

"I am so grateful for the support of our wonderful donors and the very special people who provided the leadership for the *Share*



Left: SHSU dance students perform as part of the event's entertainment.

Below: Chairman Ron Mafrige thanked guests for supporting the campaign.



the *Vision* campaign, especially our chairman, Ron Mafrige (BBA '60), who led the way with his generosity and encouragement," said SHSU President Jim Gaertner.

"Before we began planning this campaign, Ron was there providing the support and involving others. I regard him as a hero," said Gaertner. "There were some who thought a \$50 million goal was beyond our reach. As we prepared to launch the first capital campaign in the university's history, he stepped up to the plate to provide extraordinary giving that expressed confidence in our ability to be successful."

Mafrige thanked those who have a special place in their hearts for the university.

"If it wasn't for the participation of the many hundreds of people that love Sam Houston, this goal could not have been achieved," he said.

Approximately 350 people attended the event, held at the Bernard G. Johnson Coliseum on campus.

Members of the university's Student Ambassadors greeted guests, and those

attending received a star paperweight with the SH logo and "Share the Vision Celebration, July 10, 2010" imprinted in gold.

Dancers from the SHSU Department of Theatre and Dance performed with ribbons to Kool & The Gang's classic "Celebrate."

With voice-over effects, guests were told, "On March 30, 2006, Sam Houston State University embarked on its first ever comprehensive campaign with an ambitious goal of \$50 million. Tonight we celebrate the successful achievement of that goal and say 'thank you' to everyone who made contributions of time, expertise and financial resources to the effort.

"They have already begun to make a difference in the lives of numerous students, faculty and others. You have provided the 'vision' of opportunity. You are changing lives and making things happen. People have stepped up everywhere to make this possible.

"Let's continue the momentum to move forward as we celebrate our achievement of the goal."

During the evening, those serving on the Executive Leadership Council were recognized for their commitment and time to the campaign.

They include: Arnold Allemang, Charlie Amato, Jim Bexley, Karey Bresenhan, Ronny Carroll, Kay Deahl, Tim Deahl, Lee Drain, Gary Dudley, Tom Freeman, Eleanor Garrett, Glenda Gordy, Dick Hendee, John Hoyt, Robert Hutson, Preston Johnson and Chuck Jones.

Also, Len Keeling, Ron Koska, Roger Lawrence, Gib Lewis, George Miles, Jane Monday, Jack Parker, Phil Pfeiffer, Becky Rao, Kailas Rao, Joe Sandel, Winnie Sandel, Don Sanders, Ed Sandhop, Randy Stewart, Don Walker and Carol Weller.

Jim Gaertner delivered a toast to the campaign, followed by the singing of the Sam Houston State University Alma Mater by vocalists from the School of Music.

A special song, "Forever SHSU," written by alumnus Gary Powell commemorating the success of the campaign was then performed.



Left top: Russell and Glenda Gordy, with Dana Gibson.

Left bottom: Judy and John Ragsdale.

Right bottom: (From left) John McManners, Brian McCall, Charlie Friel and Jim Gaertner.



At the conclusion of the event, representatives from a variety of student organizations approached each donor, shook their hands, and personally thanked them for participating in the campaign.

The *Share the Vision* campaign was publicly launched four years ago as the university's most ambitious and challenging advancement initiative in Sam Houston State University's history.

During the campaign, the university received some of its largest gifts ever, including nine gifts of \$1 million and more, with an additional commitment of five deferred gifts of \$1 million and more.

Prior to the campaign, the university had received a \$1 million gift in 1996 for the College of Business Administration from an anonymous donor and a \$1 million pledge for the journalism program in 1986 from the Houston Endowment that was paid in two installments.

The campaign also saw a dramatic

*The Share the Vision campaign was publicly launched four years ago as the university's most ambitious and challenging advancement initiative in Sam Houston State University's history.*

increase in giving by members of the university community. Approximately \$1.4 million was given or pledged by SHSU faculty and staff.

"The generosity of our donors has been heartening to us from the inception of the campaign," said Gaertner.

"The responses to our requests for financial support were critical to sustain our efforts. It seemed like whenever our momentum just might be slowing a little that an individual or two would come forward to make a major gift that really reinvigorated the campaign and lifted the spirits of our volunteer leaders and our development staff," he said.

"We are so proud and very grateful that our university has merited the generous support and involvement of so many outstanding people. We cannot express our thanks adequately or often enough to reveal how very fortunate we feel," he said.

In addition to the financial benefits, Gaertner recognized the depth of the intangible benefits of the campaign.

"In terms of exposure and the fact that we have demonstrated the support that is out there for the university, the campaign has been wonderful for Sam Houston State University," he said. ★



# People Make It Happen



*The following is taken and adapted from remarks presented by Frank Holmes, vice president for University Advancement, at the Share the Vision Celebration on July 10, 2010.*

It is people who make great things happen. Just a few years ago, who would have thought it possible? Nearly \$60 million dollars received in commitments for the *Share the Vision* campaign! Thousands of our alumni and friends have shared the vision in so many positive and meaningful ways that will impact our university forever. And, we are so grateful.

In thinking about the history of our campaign, I recalled that a wonderful and highly respected lady—Dr. Mary Frances Park—was interviewed during our campaign feasibility survey in 2004. The survey's purpose was to gauge the confidence level and potential support for a campaign by many of our outstanding constituents. Before *Share the Vision* was even announced, she sent the very first gift for the campaign and it was her largest ever. At that point, I knew failure just was not possible if someone of her great stature believed in and supported the concept of a campaign for her alma mater.

After we decided to move forward with the campaign, we needed a prominent, visible supporter to serve as its chair. President Jim Gaertner, Business Dean R. Dean Lewis, and I met with Ron Mafrige over dinner—strategically seating Ron in the corner. There was no easy escape route. We prevailed upon his incredible loyalty and affection for Sam Houston State by asking him to serve as chair of the campaign.

He accepted the responsibility with little hesitation and subsequently made the largest gift commitment that our university had ever received up until that time.

The next step was enlisting the Executive Leadership Council to provide guidance and visible support for the campaign, which was absolutely critical to our success. Our requests for participation were eagerly embraced. Without question, the generous gifts of ELC members were important. Moreover, their willingness to lend their good names in support of our very first campaign was significant. Our university owes a debt of gratitude to Ron and the Executive Leadership Council for promoting—and for sustaining—our campaign.

*Thousands of our alumni and friends have shared the vision in so many positive and meaningful ways that will impact our university forever. And, we are so grateful.*

Our growing and developing Alumni Association played a key role in our success. Alumni leaders supported and promoted the *Share the Vision* campaign, providing programs and communication to help engage alumni with their alma mater in significant ways.

Our faculty and staff have been incredible. During the campaign, approximately \$1.5 million was given by our university's employees. The participation of giving by our

university's employees now exceeds 80 percent, which is extraordinary.

I would be remiss if I did not mention our consultants. Since Sam Houston State did not have a long fund-raising history and never conducted a major, comprehensive gifts campaign, we sought and retained the services of professional counsel. Paul Blevins of Cargill Associates in Fort Worth did an excellent job of working with our alumni, friends, and staff, first conducting our campaign survey and then holding our hand as we launched the campaign.

Behind the scenes of any successful capital campaign for a major university is a dedicated staff. Such is the case at Sam Houston State where the entire University Advancement Division's staff has been invaluable. They are a great team in the truest sense of the word, working together to make a positive difference with donors and for our university.

Finally, on both a personal and professional basis, I want to express appreciation to Jim Gaertner for his vision and guidance and for understanding what was needed to conduct a successful campaign and for providing the resources to do it. Additionally, he gave something even more valuable to the campaign. He gave his time and attention—willingly, unselfishly and very effectively.

Vision is critical—and people make it happen. Again, thanks so very much to everyone who supported the *Share the Vision* campaign. You recognized a unique opportunity in our university's long and storied history and seized it. Sam Houston State University is better for what you have done. You made a difference in our students' lives by sharing the vision. ★

ELEANOR AND CHARLES GARRETT  
TEACHER EDUCATION CENTER



ELEANOR & CHARLES  
GARRETT TEACHER  
EDUCATION CENTER

1908 BOBBY K. MARKS DR.

COLLEGE OF ED  
DEAN'S OFFICE  
DEPARTMENTS  
CURRICULUM  
EDUCATIONAL



## SHSU NAMES TEACHER EDUCATION CENTER IN HONOR OF GARRETTS

By Julia May, Photo by Brian Blalock

### The Garretts have long been supporters of Texas education.

**T**he building on the campus of Sam Houston State University where thousands of Texas educators prepare to nurture the minds, skills and character of the students they teach now has a name.

Earlier this year the Texas State University System Board of Regents approved the university's request to name its Teacher Education Center in honor of alumna Eleanor Garrett and her husband, Charles, in recognition of their lifelong

support of elementary, secondary and higher education.

In addition, Mrs. Garrett received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree during Sam Houston State University's spring commencement ceremonies.

It was the first time the university had awarded an honorary doctorate since Bernard G. Johnson received one in 1987, and the only time that the honor has been bestowed during Jim Gaertner's nine-year tenure as president of Sam Houston State

University. Only six honorary doctorates have been awarded in the university's 131-year history.

The TSUS regents approved naming the building the Eleanor and Charles Garrett Teacher Education Center in appreciation of a noteworthy gift to the university's *Share the Vision* capital campaign from the Garretts. A formal dedication and naming ceremony took place on campus Aug. 6.

The facility, completed in 1976, is approximately 87,000 square feet and houses faculty and staff offices, teaching labs, classrooms and service areas for the departments of curriculum and instruction;



Eleanor Garrett when she was a student at Sam Houston State Teachers College.

office of the dean; educational leadership and counseling; and language, literacy and special populations; and the adjoining Counseling Education Center.

“We are so very grateful for the thoughtful and generous support that Eleanor and Charles Garrett have provided for our College of Education and its special education program, thus helping to enhance and solidify our college’s position of leadership in instructing and developing outstanding educators and administrators,” Gaertner said.

“The focus of their generosity occupies a very special place in their hearts, which makes their decision to give to Sam Houston State even more meaningful to those of us who know and value their friendship,” he said. “Mr. and Mrs. Garrett are difference-makers in their business endeavors, their personal lives, and in their support of education.”

Their gift provides funding for two areas within the College of Education—the Eleanor and Charles Garrett Endowed Chair for Special Education and the Eleanor and Charles Garrett Graduate Fellowships in Special Education.

Earnings from the endowed chair will support an individual of national

prominence in special education as a faculty member who will teach in SHSU’s College of Education, develop and broaden curriculum, conduct research, and collaborate with other educators through training programs and dissemination of information.

The fellowships will be awarded annually to help finance the education of graduate students whose primary emphasis is special education.

The Garretts, who live in Garland, are generous supporters of Sam Houston State University. In 2003, they established the Eleanor Smith and Charles Lewis Garrett Endowment to provide scholarships for students majoring in elementary education.

Mrs. Garrett served as a member of the SHSU *Share the Vision* campaign’s Executive Leadership Council and is a Life Member of the SHSU Alumni Association. She was named a Distinguished Alumna of the university in 2008.

Both Mrs. Garrett’s parents were teachers, and she grew up with the expectation that she would carry on the family tradition of teaching. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education in 1954 and a Master of Education degree in 1955 at what was then Sam Houston State Teachers College.

Mrs. Garrett was a visiting teacher in Trinity County and taught at schools in Nederland, Vidor, Port Neches and Garland before she and her husband, Charles, an engineering graduate of Lamar University, founded the Garrett Metal Detector Company in 1964.

Mr. Garrett had a passion for treasure hunting, and the company was established because of his desire to create a better metal detector. After 15 successful years, the Garretts expanded into the security industry.

The company has grown into the world’s largest manufacturer of virtually all types of metal detection equipment including hobby, law enforcement, security, and all-metal detection military devices. It provides walk-through scanners and hand-held detection wands at airports all over the world and has furnished security equipment to all the summer Olympic games and most of the winter Olympics for over 25 years.

The Garretts also maintain a tree farm in East Texas and were honored with the Texas Tree Farmer of the Year Award from the Texas Forestry Association in 2002.

Mrs. Garrett is a leader in many organizations, serving in local and state offices for the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and the Daughters of American Colonists. She is an honorary past Division Regent of the Magna Charta Dames and Barons and a member of the Manakin Huguenot Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, United States Daughters of 1812 and the Manx Society.

She was commissioned a “Yellow Rose of Texas” by Gov. Rick Perry, an award given to honor Texas women for outstanding volunteer and community service.

Mr. Garrett, who served in the Texas National Guard and U. S. Navy, was commissioned as an “Admiral in the Texas Navy” by Gov. Perry for his outstanding volunteerism and community service. ★

# BOOKSHELF

**Twenty-one books published by SHSU faculty members showcase the work professors do outside the classroom.**

## 2009

### **A Concordance of Pablo Picasso's Spanish Writings, Volumes I and II**

Enrique Mallen, professor of Spanish, compiles a comprehensive concordance of Pablo Picasso's writings, analyzing common themes such as the Mediterranean, bullfights, still-lives, landscapes and eroticism. The concordance was awarded the Adele Mellen Prize for Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship.

**Edwin Mellen Press, 2009—928 pages**

### **Antología Crítica de la Poesía del Lenguaje**

Enrique Mallen, professor of Spanish, provides a critical analysis of the Latin American literary movement known as Neobarroco, which shows certain similarities to North American Language Poetry, featuring such prestigious Latin-American poets as Carlos Germán Belli, Carmen Berenguer, Coral Bracho, Gerardo Deniz, Roberto Echavarren, Eduardo Espina, Reynaldo Jiménez, José Kozler, José Morales Saravia and David Rosenmann-Taub.

**Editorial Aldus (Mexico), 2009—378 pages.**

### **Dancing in the Flames: Spiritual Journey in the Novels of Lee Smith**

Linda Byrd Cook, associate professor of English, examines Lee Smith's novel-length fiction and the powerful reflection of the author's personal search for and journey toward spiritual reconciliation. Chapters describe how Smith has retrieved in her fiction a source of transformative power—the

power of the sexual, maternal, feminine divine—in hopes of creating a new image of the total, sacred female whose sexuality, creativity, spirituality, and maternity can reside comfortably in the bodies of everyday heroines.

**McFarland, 2009—248 pages**

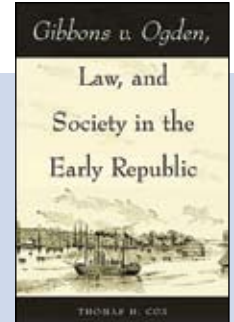
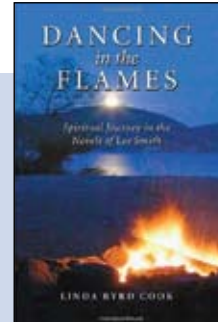
### **Gibbons v. Ogden, Law and Society in the Early Republic**

Thomas H. Cox, assistant professor of history, provides the first book-length treatment of the landmark 1824 Supreme Court decision that gave Congress the power to regulate commerce among the states. The case arose from a dispute between two steamboat owners to become a constitutional debate over the meaning of commerce in early American society. *Gibbons v. Ogden* provides the historical context for one of the Supreme Court's most significant decisions—a decision that is still taught in constitutional law courses and continues to influence cases involving interstate trade.

**Ohio University Press, 2009—264 pages.**

### **L'islam mis en relation: Le roman francophone de l'Afrique de l'Ouest**

Shirin Edwin, assistant professor of French, analyzes the political, social and post-colonial interaction of Islam in a selection of West African Francophone novels, correcting some of the theoretical imbalances by recognizing not only the syncretic aspects of Islam as it is practiced in West African societies but also its orthodox and strict versions where African Muslims do not always



readily mix Islam with non-Islamic practices.

**Kimé (Paris), 2009—210 pages**

### **Ruffled Flourishes**

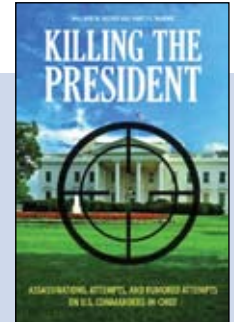
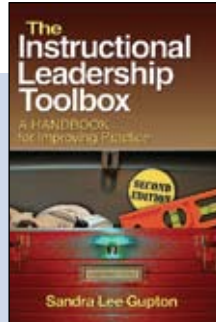
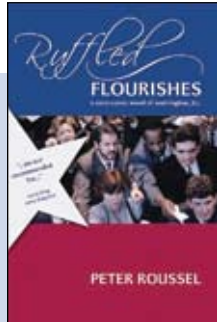
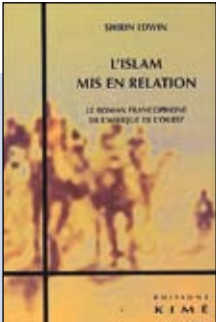
The novel by Peter Roussel, one of the mass communication department's Warner Endowed Chairs in Journalism, draws from his experience as a White House press spokesman. The story is told through the perspective of Sox St. Louis, the intrepid deputy press secretary to the president, who is besieged by the media on a daily basis as he attempts to communicate the actions and motivations of the executive office to the ravenous press corps.

**Bright Sky, 2009—256 pages**

### **The Instructional Leadership Toolbox: A Handbook for Improving Practice**

Sandra Lee Gupton, visiting professor of educational leadership, deals with the principal's role in facilitating leadership that integrates multiple sources representing all stakeholder populations—teachers, students, parents, and community members. Written from the perspective that shared leadership is the preferred orientation for today's school principal in all domains of responsibility, she focuses on the vital role of instructional leadership... to help school leaders ensure the most important part of any school's mission: that classrooms are places where teachers are effectively teaching and students are successfully learning.

**Corwin Press, 2009—216 pages**



### Forgive us Our Press Passes:

#### The Mickey Herskowitz Collection II

Mickey Herskowitz, one of the mass communication department's Warner Endowed Chairs in Journalism, shares 85 of his sports articles, covering nearly 20 years, in eight categories: football, baseball, basketball, horseracing, golf, boxing, patriotism and sports, and tributes to departed sports greats. Among the grand panorama of American sports Herskowitz covers are Jarrin' John Kimbrough, the Junction Boys of Bear Bryant, the Cowboys of Tom Landry, the thundering runs of Earl Campbell, from the splendor of Ted Williams to the feats of Hank Aaron, and from Wilt the Stilt to Michael Jordan. **Halcyon Press, 2008 (released 2009)—256 pages**

## 2010

#### Crime and Punishment: A History of Criminal Justice, 2nd ed.

Mitchel Roth, professor of criminal justice, updates the history of criminal justice to the impact of the current age of terrorism on the criminal justice system, examining recent trends in white-collar crime, constitutional issues, the decline in violent crime and other issues. **Cengage, 2010—448 pages**

#### Flannery O'Connor in the Age of Terrorism: Essays on Violence and Grace

Professor of English Robert Donahoo and Grand Valley State University associate professor of English Avis Hewitt edited the collection of 15

essays on how our changing views of violence in a post-9/11 world inform our understanding of a writer whose fiction abounds in violence. Among the essays is one by Donahoo, "Everything That Rises Does Not Converge: The State of O'Connor Studies." **University of Tennessee Press, 2010—277 pages**

#### Flint

Assistant professor of curriculum and instruction Robert (Bob) Maninger's murder/mystery novel, set in the small Oklahoma community, follows Dr. Bill Spence's pursuit of a ruthless serial killer, who is trying to frame the Cheyenne for the murders. **Aberdeen Bay, 2010—128 pages**

#### Global Organized Crime: A Reference Handbook

Mitchel Roth, professor of criminal justice, examines the continuum of international and global organized crime from the 17th century age of piracy to the present, looking at the impact of globalization on the growth of international crime syndicates. **ABC-CLIO, 2010—300 pages**

#### Killing the President: Assassinations, Attempts, and Rumored Attempts on U.S. Commanders-in-Chief

Will Oliver, professor of criminal justice, and co-author Nancy Marion, from the University of Akron in Ohio, offer a concise study of every presidential assassination, attempt, and rumor, including more contemporary incidences. Each chapter focuses on an American assassination,

as well as attempts and rumors, of U.S. presidents, providing an analysis of the president, the assassin, and the events that shaped their arrival at that place in time, as well as describing the assassination or attempt itself and the long-term impacts of the crime. **Praeger, 2010—240 pages**

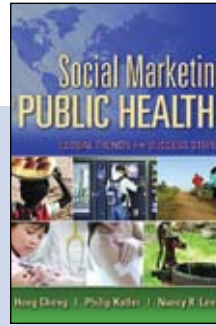
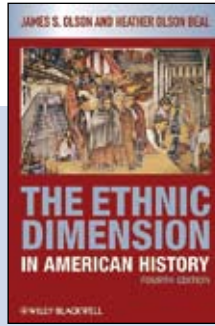
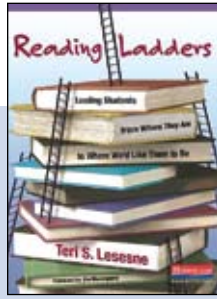
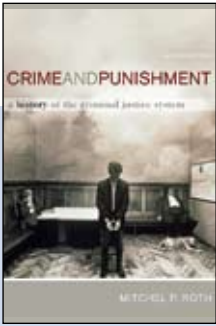
#### Reading Ladders: Learning Students From Where They Are To Where We'd Like Them To Be

Teri S. Lesesne, professor of library science, aims at literacy experts (teachers, librarians, coaches, administrators) to discuss how to motivate students in grades 4 – 12 to read, read more widely, and read increasingly more complex books. **Heinemann, 2010—144 pages.**

#### The Ethnic Dimension in American History, 4th ed.

James Olson, distinguished professor of history, surveys immigration in U.S. history, including the interaction between ethnic groups, religions, and racial minorities and the political and public policy controversies surrounding them. **Wiley-Blackwell, 2010—392 pages**

# TEXAS REVIEW GIVES STUDENTS GOOD PRESS



## Textbooks & Chapters

### Managerial Communication: Strategies and Applications, 5th ed.

Geraldine Hynes, associate professor of general business, addresses current trends, summarizes relevant research, and provides guidelines for strategic managerial communication for the contemporary workplace.

**McGraw-Hill, 2010—432 pages**

### Laboratory Exercises in Human Physiology: A Clinical and Experimental Approach, 2nd ed.

William Lutterschmidt, professor of biological sciences, and his sister Deborah Lutterschmidt, an assistant professor at Portland State University, introduce important and fundamental concepts in physiology while allowing students to investigate concepts within an experimental approach to learning.

**McGraw-Hill, 2009—224 pages**

### Social Marketing for Public Health: Global Trends and Success Stories

Mass communication instructor Ruth Massingill examines how social marketing initiatives are changing cultural behaviors to reverse the rate of HIV/AIDS infections in the book's fourth chapter, "Love, Sex, and AIDS: Using Social Marketing to Redefine Gender Norms among Mexican Youth."

**Jones and Bartlett, 2009—422 pages**

### Successful Inclusion Strategies for Early Childhood Teachers

Cynthia Simpson, associate professor of special education, and Laverne Warner, Professor Emerita of early childhood education, provide practical approaches for teachers of early childhood inclusion classrooms.

**Prufrock Press, 2009—140 pages**

### College Planning for Students with Learning Disabilities

Cynthia Simpson and Vicky Spencer, assistant director of operations at the Kellar Institute for Human Disabilities at George Mason University, supply a unique reference book that serves as a handbook for college-bound kids with learning disabilities.

**Prufrock Press, 2009—250 pages.**

### Teaching Children with Autism in the General Education Classroom

Cynthia Simpson and Vicky Spencer introduce inclusionary practices that serve children with autism, giving teachers the practical advice they need to ensure each student receives a quality education.

**Prufrock Press, 2009—350 pages.**

Since its establishment in 1979, the Texas Review Press has grown from a one-book-a-year press to one that publishes 14 per year.

Founded by Texas State University System Regents' Professor Paul Ruffin, the TRP sponsors four international book competitions and publishes an additional eight to 12 books for international, regional, and local audiences. Each year the press also publishes two issues of *The Texas Review*, an international literary journal, and an issue of *The Sam Houston State Review*, a journal for SHSU students.

The primary focus of TRP is poetry and fiction, from authors ranging from well-known American writers, including Pulitzer Prize winners, to those who have never published a book.

In addition, it serves as an outlet in which both graduate and undergraduate creative writing and English students gain practical experience in editing, publishing and layout work.

"One of the things I'm proudest of is the graduate Editing/Publishing class," Ruffin said. "There we do something no other creative writing program in the country does: we provide our students with the opportunity to solicit material for a book, edit the manuscript, and design the cover. The end product is a book edited by them and published by an established university press.

"Their book is featured in the consortium catalog, and it is sold all over the world; it is listed on amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com and numerous other online outlets," he said. "Do a Google search on one of those student editors, and their book pops up. Having that book to their credit is most valuable when they start searching for a job."

Topics have included high school mascots, Hurricane Katrina, The Wynne Home, and fiction and nonfiction from Texas Death Row.

"One of the most delightful things for me is being able to send royalty checks to those students," Ruffin said. "Not a lot of money, true, but how many college students can take a friend out for a nice dinner and say 'My royalty check paid for this meal?'"

SHSU's Texas Review Press has more than 100 titles in print available through the consortium's Web site, at <http://www.tamupress.com>, which includes a timely and lively blog about books, book events and reviews, book news and features. ★

## SHSU FACULTY MEMBERS SHARE EXPERIENCES AS FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS

The Fulbright Scholar Program is the flagship international exchange program of the United States and provides grants, which allow distinguished academics to spend extended periods of time studying and teaching at foreign universities.

Three Sam Houston State University faculty members are teaching and conducting research abroad after receiving grants from the prestigious Fulbright Scholar Program.

Thomas Cox, assistant professor of history, is teaching American history in China; Corliss Lentz, associate professor of political science, is lecturing in public administration at the University of Zambia and conducting research on people with HIV/AIDS; and Velvet Nelson, assistant professor of geography, is lecturing in Slovenia and working with students to examine issues associated with tourism.

Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields.

In the Oct. 23, 2009 issue of the Chronicle of Higher Education, Sam Houston State was named one of the top U. S. producers of Fulbright Scholars.

In the following, the SHSU faculty members provide an insight into their experiences as Fulbright Scholars this year.

### Thomas Cox

My journey from the piney woods of East Texas to the plains of northern China began, oddly enough, in southern New Jersey.

In summer 2008 I received a grant to research American economic history at Princeton University. A friend referred me to a biology professor who rented rooms to visiting scholars. For the next two months I lived with a Chinese family and interacted daily with Asian history professors.



Above: Thomas Cox at the ruins of Angkor Wat in Cambodia.

Left: Cox visiting the Beijing Botanical Gardens.

By summer's end my thoughts turned more to the influence of Confucianism on the development of Chinese philosophy than the influence of mercantilism on the development of American capitalism. This newly found interest inspired me to apply for a Fulbright teaching fellowship to China.

As daily news reports remind us, the U.S. and China currently face a range of economic, environmental, and human rights issues. The need for mutual understanding has never been greater. When I received the grant, I felt exhilarated at the possibility of contributing to such a process. The Fulbright commission assigned me to Northeast Normal University in Changchun, located in China's "northern neck" above the Korean Peninsula. Featured in the movie "The Last Emperor,"

Changchun is a university town, industrial center, and former capital of the Japanese puppet state of Manchukuo in the 1930s.

At NENU I taught graduate level classes in American constitutional history, American historiography, the American Revolution, and American thought and culture. I found my students to be highly motivated and genuinely interested in all things American. Through class discussions and weekly round table conversations over lunch we explored the intricacies of U.S.-Chinese relations. In many ways my students became my teachers, introducing me to the subtleties of daily life in China.

In addition to my teaching, I enrolled in a Chinese language school and for three hours a week struggled to learn the basics of "Beijing standard" (Mandarin Chinese).

I also presented papers at universities in Zhuhai, Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu, and Nanjing. My travel experiences included photographing a glacier lake at the summit of Mount Changbaishan on the North Korean border, wandering through Singapore's Muslim and Indian neighborhoods, exploring cathedrals in Macau, studying Buddhism at a Bangkok monastery, and snorkeling off coral reefs in the Andaman Sea. I watched the sun rise over Angkor Wat in Cambodia, crawled through tunnels beneath the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), and walked the Philosopher's Path in Kyoto, Japan.

To be certain, adjusting to the bureaucracy and culture of a developing country proved challenging. I also dealt with daily temperature of below zero during Changchun's coldest winter in 60 years. Nevertheless, my friends and colleagues never failed to help me meet the complexities of Changchun life.

After a year in China, I am ready to come home. But I will return to Sam Houston State with a deeper appreciation for different cultures, new perspectives on both American and Chinese history, many new colleagues, and cross-cultural teaching experiences which will enrich my classes at SHSU.

### Corliss Lentz

My husband and I arrived in Zambia in December 2009. So far our Zambian experience is very enjoyable. This is our third trip to Zambia. We love Zambia and wanted to return to further my research on people with HIV/AIDS.

My Fulbright Scholarship is primarily for lecturing in public administration at the University of Zambia but there is ample time to conduct research. My husband retired from industry before we left the U.S. and has been devoting his time to capacity building with orphanages.

We rent a three-bedroom house at a theological college where we have



Left: Corliss Lentz (far right) at a book turnover ceremony.

Right: An AIDS-free baby in Zambia.

many acquaintances. Although the accommodations are a bit rustic, we have electricity and running water but, alas, no air conditioning. The real downer here is the hot season, September to April. We have had a bit of time to travel to Livingstone to see Victoria Falls and plan to visit a game park in August. There isn't enough time to see all the places we want to visit in Zambia and other parts of Africa.

In March I was invited by the U.S. Embassy to be one of four women panelists (two American and two Zambian) in an International Women's Day forum to discuss women's rights in the U.S. and Zambia. I also presented the keynote paper at an Education Symposium on Zambian Education at UNZA in May. In June I participated in a "book turnover" ceremony to give the UNZA library about 100 books and textbooks on political topics that I brought from the U.S. Most books were donated by U.S. book publishers, and I purchased a number of books using Fulbright book funds.

Teaching at UNZA has been an interesting experience. Many lecturers teach large survey courses with 250 students as part of their three-course teaching load. Students in all the classes take an essay final examination that must be graded by the instructor. I team-taught an undergraduate course and also taught a small graduate class both semesters.

The campus infrastructure leaves much to be desired. The classrooms are in deplorable shape. During rainy season many

offices and classrooms flood. Deep potholes in the road which surrounds the university are treacherous. The university calendar is a guess of semester dates. A three-hour class will meet three times a week but at different times each day and in a variety of locations, which may change mid-semester. In spite of the poor infrastructure, the quality of the teaching is very good. Most faculty in my department hold master's or doctoral degrees from western universities.

My research focuses on an examination of The President's Emergency Plan for HIV/AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which was begun by President George W. Bush in 2003 and reauthorized in 2008. There has been great success here in Zambia due to PEPFAR—the medical infrastructure expanded, education programs started, and 250,000 Zambians now receive anti-retroviral therapies (ARVS). But, with reauthorization due in 2013, policy makers need to know if the program is working.

My research focuses on the success of the ARV therapy by interviewing people with HIV/AIDS who receive ARVS. So far we've interviewed 118 respondents, with more interviews scheduled for a total of about 200. The survey asks respondents to discuss their health symptoms before and after ARVS. Other questions involve family and financial issues, cultural issues, marital history, food situations, and personal behavior. The one-hour interviews are conducted in private with a translator.

It has been rewarding and heartbreaking to discuss the problems of the poor burdened





Left: Velvet Nelson in her classroom in Slovenia.

Right: A view of Koper from the University of Primorska.



by HIV/AIDS. It is heartwarming to see how well these people have responded to the drug therapy and that our government has been instrumental in restoring their health and keeping them alive to raise their children. Several of the respondents have thanked me for American support. We Americans have a right to be proud of this wonderful program.

Another research project has emerged—to survey pastors of several denominations to determine what type of sermons and projects are given in their congregations to change behavior and promote HIV/AIDS awareness. Pastors and church leaders of at least two denominations will be surveyed at their annual synod meetings. Data from this project will result in church-based workshops in October to help pastors, evangelists, and elders bring HIV/AIDS issues into their sermons and leadership activities.

I resume teaching at SHSU in January 2011. I plan to incorporate my research findings into my graduate and undergraduate policy classes, where I focus on international health policy. I will teach about the role of personal behavior in contributing to the spread of HIV/AIDS throughout Africa and discuss the important role our government has had in combating the spread of HIV/AIDS.

### Velvet Nelson

One of the great things about being a geographer is that places all over the world can be potential study sites and contribute to our professional development. Although

I had not previously worked in Central Europe, coming to Slovenia has been a great opportunity for me. The work that I have done here has allowed me to draw upon my previous experience, while gaining new insights into my teaching and a new focus in my research.

Originally, my interest in Slovenia came from my research focus. Much of my research has been in the area of tourism geography because I think tourism provides the opportunity to study many different types of geographic issues in a very exciting context. While I have generally examined the issues of the well-developed Caribbean destination region, I was looking for an opportunity to expand on this base and examine some of the issues of an emerging destination region, like Central Europe. Slovenia has incredible tourism potential and is currently seeking to expand its industry, particularly in the coastal Primorska region where I am based.

Although I occasionally teach an elective course in tourism geography, much of my teaching has been in the area of regional geography with regularly taught courses in world regional geography and the regional geography of North America. I think regional geography plays an important role in expanding students' awareness and understanding of the world they live in.

This semester, I have taught a variant of the world regional geography course that focuses on the two Western Hemisphere regions (North America and Middle/South America) to first-year students across the

disciplines in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Primorska (Koper). This has been a valuable experience for me to find out how students in Slovenia view the United States and also how students in Slovenia understand the world compared with students in the United States.

I have also given lectures on topics in both tourism geography and regional geography to students and professors in other faculties and universities in Slovenia, including the Faculty of Tourism at the University of Primorska (Portorož) and the Department of Geography at both the University of Ljubljana and the University of Maribor.

I also had the opportunity to lecture at the newly-created Euro-Mediterranean University (Portorož) that brings together a diverse set of students from across the Mediterranean region, including countries in both Europe and North Africa.

Ultimately, my experiences in Slovenia have helped me to combine these two areas of interest—tourism geography and regional geography. I am currently working on a project that uses regional geography to examine the way in which Slovenia is situated as a tourism destination in Europe. ★

# A DIRTY JOB



John Strait

## Professor Gets Taste Of Antiquated Tradition With Geophagy Research

**T**here is a soul food restaurant on the south side of Chicago where busses of tourists stop to get a taste of Deep South cuisine: chitlins, greens and a side of pan-fried clay.

Throughout his years of researching as an urban and socio-economic geographer, Sam Houston State University associate professor of geography John Strait has encountered a number of people who practice geophagy, the eating of clay or soil-like substances.

Strait has eaten the “side dish,” what he said is served in Chicago like a condiment.

“It looked like what I would say are cucumbers, but they were slices of clay, and it was pan-fried, served with vinegar and pepper,” he said.

The tradition of geophagy extends back to Native Americans, with evidence indicating that it was practiced in varying degrees throughout the Americas, but it is more commonly associated with the earliest presence of slaves because the practice is characteristic throughout Sub-Saharan Africa, the source of most slaves that came to North America.

“I would describe the existence of it in America in that manner, because the Victorian tradition wouldn’t have adopted something from Native Americans to begin with, other than eating corn when it was necessary to live,” he said. “It would be safe to say that the American population did not adopt this from Native Americans.”

After the Civil War the Mississippi Delta area became more densely populated

by African Americans, some of whom eventually moved north to such places as Chicago during the Great Migration throughout the 20th century.

“Geophagy is practiced everywhere; it’s not specific to the black population,” Strait said. “A lot of the work that I do focuses on African influences, and in the Deep South it’s generally perceived to be strongly prevalent because of African slaves brought here.”

Strait’s research in “blues culture” encompasses the broader cultural environment from which the music evolved, informed by and reflecting the cultural conditions that make the Delta somewhat unique—Jim Crow segregation; cotton agriculture; sharecropping; economic, social and political apartheid; maintenance of African traditions, including food traditions such as geophagy; and African expressions, including religion.

“In places like the Mississippi Delta, where my research has taken me, there is



a fairly strong presence of African culture historically and has been since it was settled, so it's where African traditions are most strongly maintained," he said.

While the practice has been viewed as "backward" and generally has a stigma attached to it, associated with poverty, there are a number of reasons why people consume clay.

"People take Kaopectate, which is technically clay, for a stomachache; some people say they eat it because it tastes good; in Haiti, they obviously eat it because that's what's available," Strait said.

"What I can tell at this point is that among white southerners, the two populations who would consume it the most were pregnant women and young kids, primarily for dietary or nutritional purposes. When you have a limited diet, or possess specific dietary needs (like that of pregnant women), it would alleviate deficiencies," he said. "But also among white men who perceived this to be something that would make them more sexually virile."

Among those living in the Mississippi Delta region today, the average African American under the age of 50 has probably never heard of the practice, and even older people who may have been familiar with the tradition likely don't look favorably upon it now, according to Strait.

"I only know six or seven people whom I've talked to in person that claim to have eaten it," he said. "A colleague of mine, who works in the Delta and whom I have worked with for these field classes (taking students to the region during the summer),

has talked with people who claim to remember eating it when they were kids."

However, in places like juke joints, blues clubs and soul food restaurants such as the one in Chicago, clay can still be purchased. Strait recalled witnessing this with Asian tourists when he revisited a Chicago restaurant, whose owner also ran a beauty salon.

"I found out by talking to the owner that there are a couple of tours that come through the neighborhood fairly frequently, and they come in and eat soul food for the first time," he said. "Then I realized that pretty soon, you started seeing these jars of clay with nicer labels and labeled Mississippi, so you have Mississippi clay being sold to an Asian tourist in Chicago. I have witnessed this kind of thing on a number of occasions.

"It's actually become part of the culture that's being consumed, literally, by someone else. If they want to experience African American culture for a day, they go there; eat the food, eat the clay, in a nice authentic place; get their hair done; get their picture taken," he said. "I don't think that's really wide-spread, and I don't think you could go to every place and see all these tourists from around the world going to eat clay, but in that particular incident, there were certainly tourists."

This, in part, is where the geography comes into play.

"As a geographer, one of the things that interested me most was not that there's this tradition where people eat clay but that people perceive certain clays to have certain properties and certain qualities based on where it's from," Strait said.

"It goes beyond just the soil quality. As people in France will tell you it's not just the soil that makes French wine the best; it's how the grapevine is cultivated, it's how its pruned, it's because 'we're the best wine makers in the world.' There's a sort of territoriality about it," he said. "I think that's what's evident here. Certain clays from certain places are perceived to have this quality because of people expressing an attachment to home, literally and figuratively.

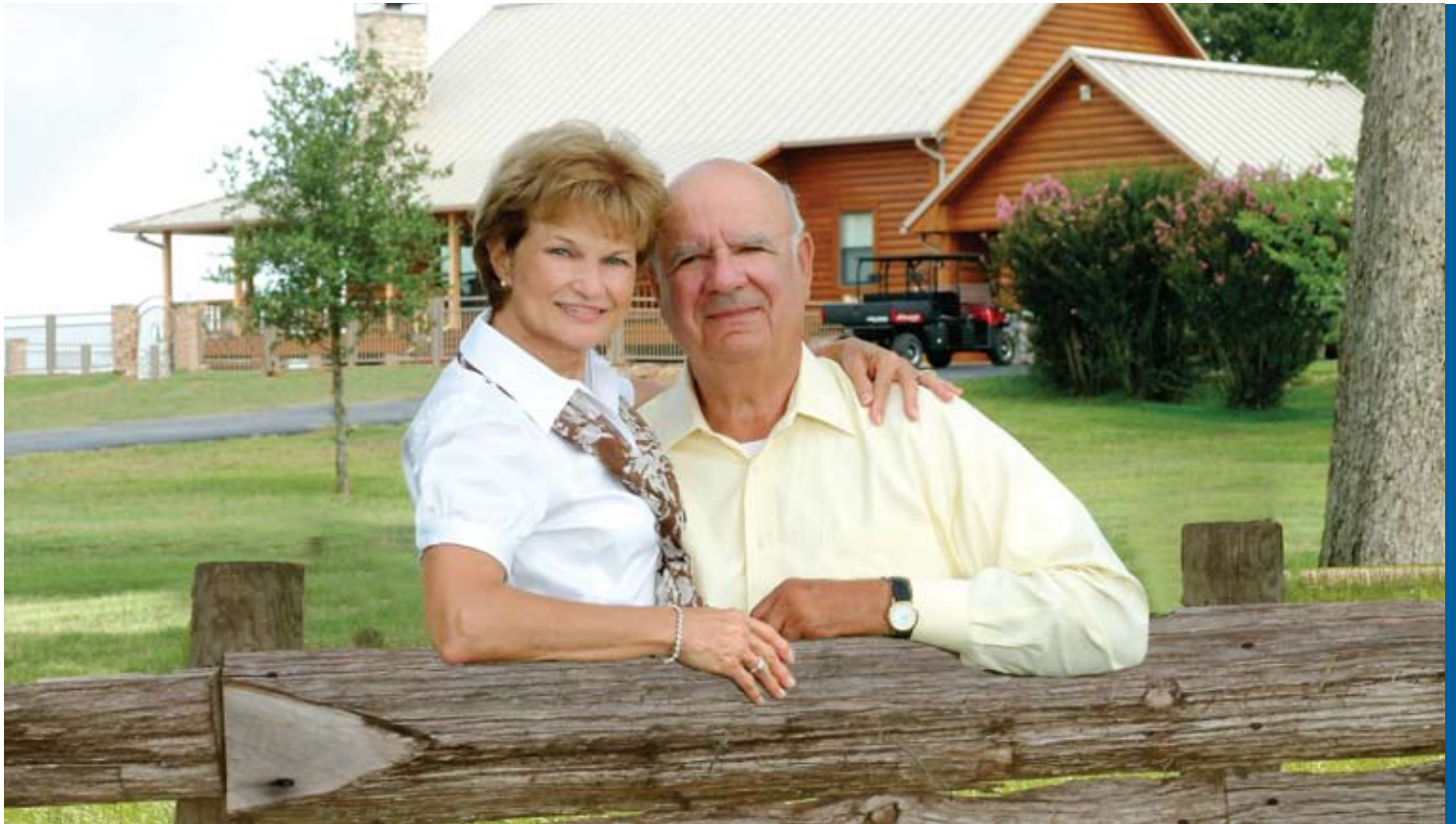
"Being a geographer, I'm interested in geographical variation over space, why this aspect of culture is different here than over there," he said. "So even the same cultural practice, consuming something, might manifest itself differently in different regions."

The idea of geophagy as an area of study is relatively unforaged; Strait said he had never considered it an area of "expertise" until he was approached by a Food & Wine magazine reporter and realized there hasn't been a lot of research in the area.

He and a colleague are planning an oral history project on geophagy, documenting and interviewing people about their personal experiences with the practice.

"It's something that has really piqued my interest in trying to give this writer information," he said. "It seems unique, it's something I can involve students with and it fits in with some of the other stuff that I do that focuses on blues culture because it's essentially somewhat specific to that cultural environment. Plus, I think it's pretty cool; not too many people you run across do research on people eating dirt." ★

## SHARING HIS SUCCESS



**Tommy Frank was able to start a college career because of two scholarships. Today, he and his wife, Pat, are helping Sam Houston State University students by providing scholarships.**

**T**ommy Frank grew up with a strong work ethic and a deep-seated faith that stressed the importance of sharing.

Coming from a family with modest means, he worked his way from a delivery truck helper for Conn's Appliances in 1957 when he was a teenager to chief executive officer and chairman of the corporation before retiring in 2009.

With a generous spirit and a desire to give back, he and his wife have established the Thomas J. and Patsy P. Frank Industrial Technology Scholarship Endowment with a \$500,000 gift annuity.

As a youngster in Beaumont, Frank discovered that he had a talent and a love for woodworking. When he was 14 years old, he built his first boat.

Inspired by his woodworking teacher, Frank decided to go to college to become a woodworking teacher himself.

"I was the first person in my family to go to college," he said. "I enrolled in Lamar University as the recipient of two scholarships and with a job at Conn's Appliances making \$1 an hour."

He continued to pursue his goal of teaching. However, at that time the only two schools in the area that offered teaching

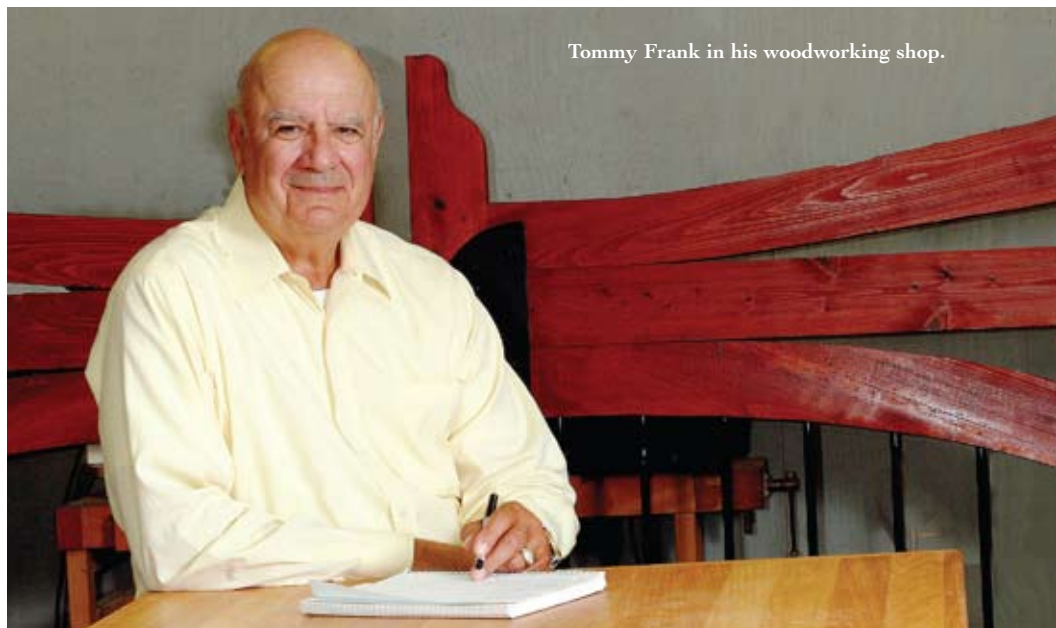
degrees in industrial education were Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston State. So after taking classes at Lamar for two years, he decided to change colleges.

His cousin, a teacher, was married to (former university president) Dr. Harmon Lowman's brother, and she encouraged Frank to attend Sam Houston State.

"I loved Sam Houston," he said. "I've had the opportunity to be involved with several educational programs, and Sam Houston has always been at the top, because I always felt comfortable there."

"At Sam Houston, I was able to have a very personal relationship with all my teachers," he said. "It didn't matter if they taught industrial education, or English, or math, or history. They all wanted you to succeed. They cared about you, and they wanted to make sure you got a good education."

*With a generous spirit and a desire to give back, he and his wife have established the Thomas J. and Patsy P. Frank Industrial Technology Scholarship Endowment with a \$500,000 gift annuity.*



Tommy Frank in his woodworking shop.

Frank commuted from Conroe and worked three jobs to pay for school. He delivered the Houston Post on weekends, worked at a convenience store, and cut grass at the trailer park where he lived.

With all the demands on his time, he still made good grades, was inducted into Alpha Chi Honor Society, and graduated in 1963 with honors and a degree in industrial arts.

He was offered and took a teaching fellowship at Texas A&M University.

However, with the arrival of his first child, he had to leave before completing his thesis and getting his master's degree.

He taught in public school for a short time. But when C. W. Conn offered him a job back in Beaumont with a much more lucrative salary than what he was making as a teacher, he decided to go into the business world.

"Conn's was a small company at the time, and they were interested in growing," Frank said.

He became certified to teach Dale Carnegie Management Seminar classes, and for the next 20 years he taught in Houston and worked at Conn's, holding key positions in all areas of the organization,

including distribution, service, credit, information technology, accounting and general operations.

In 1980, he completed Harvard University's Small Company Management Program, which offered graduate work in business for senior executives of small companies. That year, he was also named to Conn's board of directors.

He became Conn's CEO and chairman of the board in 1994, and from then until his retirement in 2009, the company grew from 21 stores and \$100 million in annual sales to 72 stores and \$1 billion in annual sales.

Today, he spends his time with his wife, Pat, and family on his ranch outside of Beaumont.

Although he is officially retired, he says he is still working. But this time, it's in a very different environment.

"I work every day in the fields, on my tractor, at our ponds—and I love it," he said.

He especially enjoys having time with Pat.

"She is a vital part of my success," he said.

The Franks put much thought into making their generous gift to Sam Houston State University.

"I have been financially successful well beyond my imagination," he said.

"My parents had a very modest income when I was growing up, and I was able to start college because of a \$50 scholarship from Monroe Dry Cleaners and a \$100 scholarship from the American Legion Auxiliary," he said.

"One of the things that was impressed upon me at Harvard was that as you become successful and acquire wealth, and along with the aging process, giving back to others is a part of your success," he said.

"Also, my upbringing in the Catholic church taught me that giving is a part of life," he said.

"When I was asked about giving to Sam Houston State, I saw that there was a vehicle in place that met my objectives of making a gift that would be funded after my death, while still having income for my wife and I as long as we are alive," he said.

"It was in line with my beliefs and foundation that came from lessons learned in church and from my parents about success and the value of giving back," he said. "I was glad to know that Sam Houston State University had that kind of a program." ★

## NEW PERFORMING ARTS CENTER OPENS

This summer, faculty and staff began moving into Sam Houston State University's new Performing Arts Center and preparing for the return of classes in the fall.

The spectacular venue is sure to become a showplace in Southeast Texas and a crowning feature on campus. With improvements to the existing University Theatre Center complementing the new 92,000-square-foot complex, the next generation of performing arts teachers and professionals will train and perform

with the finest lighting and acoustics in the industry.

The new center features an 800-seat concert hall, a recital hall and dance theater, as well as an outdoor performance arena, studios, rehearsal space, production facilities and a spectacular lobby adorned with commissioned artwork.

The PAC will be dedicated on Sept. 30 with a ribbon cutting and opening celebration. The premier season will include music, theater and dance performances, culminating on April 30, 2011, with *Encore: See Sam Houston Light Up the Stage*. This event will enrich

performing arts education by raising money and establishing an endowment for the future of the facility, faculty and students in SHSU's performing arts programs.

The PAC opening offers opportunities for honoring former faculty, graduates or family members by naming a room, stage, seat or other part of the facility. In addition, major sponsors are needed for *Encore* to help establish the Performing Arts Endowment.

For more information, contact the Development Office in University Advancement at 936.294.4061. ★

*See Sam Houston Light Up the Stage...*

# ENCORE

*benefitting the Performing Arts at Sam Houston State University*

**April 30, 2011**

**Allen Shamblin**  
Texas Heritage American Songwriter with many #1 hits including "He Walked on Water," "Walk on Faith," "Don't Laugh at Me," "I Can't Make You Love Me," and currently on the charts, "The House That Built Me" single by Miranda Lambert.

**Mark Wills**  
With several #1 hits under his belt including "Don't Laugh at Me" and "19 Something," Mark has recently returned from entertaining the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. He joins us as a guest performer.

**Mike Reid**  
Retired Cincinnati Bengals defensive tackle and now a Grammy Award winning artist and composer. Mike graciously joins us as a guest performer. Mike's credits include writing "Stranger in My House," and co-writing "I Can't Make You Love Me" and "Walk on Faith."

**Encore** celebrates the inaugural season of Sam Houston State University's new Performing Arts Center. SHSU will showcase performing arts students and a star-studded, alumni line-up including musical performer and dancer Greg Graham '99, from Tony Award winners "Hairspray" and "Billy Elliott;" dancer and choreographer Elijah Gibson '98, of Gus Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago; musician Ed Gerlach '46, of the Ed Gerlach and Glenn Miller Orchestras; and American songwriter Allen Shamblin '82, who wrote "The House That Built Me;" plus many more.

Encore benefits the performing arts at Sam Houston State University through the establishment of the Performing Arts Endowment, Encore Season Sponsors, Patrons and Friends. We invite you to be a leader and See Sam Houston Light Up the Stage at this spectacular event.

**Seating is limited. Contact us at 936.294.4061 or email [jangel@shsu.edu](mailto:jangel@shsu.edu) for more information.**

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

By Paul Ridings, Photos by Brian Blalock



## FRITZ FACING CHALLENGES WITH OPTIMISM

Willie Fritz has definite goals for the SHSU football program both on and off the field.



**A**fter his first six months on the job, Willie Fritz is more excited about being at Sam Houston than he was when he was named as the 14th head football coach in Bearkat history last December.

"The reception our football staff has received across the state has been fantastic," Fritz said. "Everywhere we've been in the community, people are excited about Bearkat football. In April, we had the most successful football auction we've ever had, and this summer, season ticket sales are going well."

Even more important to the coach, who owns an overall record of 220 victories and 66 losses in a 28-year career as both a head coach and an assistant, is the reception the coaching staff has found in Texas high schools.

"Our staff has visited close to 700 high schools this spring and the response has been excellent," Fritz said. "All our coaches came back talking about how many Sam Houston graduates there are coaching in the high schools. A staff member had one day

where he visited six high schools and three of the coaches were Bearkats."

The "winningest" coach in the University of Central Missouri's 113-year football history, Fritz rolled up a 97-47 record as the Mules' head coach from 1997 to 2009. He produced a 39-5-1 record and two national junior college championships at Blinn from 1993 to 1995.

"It's tremendous to be back in Texas and see the passion people have for football," Fritz said. "Texas high schools are our No. 1 priority, especially the Houston area. It has been big for our new coaches to get out to their new recruiting areas and establish relationships."

Fritz is no stranger to Sam Houston State. He served as a graduate assistant for Kat squads that went 16-6 in both 1984 and 1985 and won the 1985 Gulf Star Conference championship. Fritz returned as the secondary and special teams coach for the Bearkats in 1991 and 1992.

As special teams coach during the 1991 Southland championship season, Fritz started a special teams tradition called the

"Block Party" that continues today. The Kats have blocked 90 kicks in the past 19 seasons including 64 punt blocks, 18 field goals and eight points after attempts.

The new coach faces a special challenge his first season in 2010. Never in Sam Houston's 23 years in the Southland Conference has a Bearkat team lost as many lettermen from one season to the next.

Only 28 of the 60 players who lettered on last year's 5-6 team return this fall. The previous high total of lettermen lost was 28 in 1993 when the Bearkats went 2-5 in Southland Conference action.

### **Fritz faces the challenge with optimism.**

"With only five scholarship seniors returning, our young players definitely are going to have plenty of opportunities to play this year," Fritz said. "That was a big selling point for us in recruiting last January, and

we're really excited about the young players we signed.

"Counting red-shirts and lettermen, we return about 50 players and this spring we got to see what the guys could do. We're definitely inexperienced. But the players showed an outstanding work ethic during the spring and will continue to make progress as we move through the season."

Fritz has put together an outstanding coaching staff that includes two former Southland Conference head coaches, Scott Stoker of Northwestern State and Bob DeBesse of Texas State, who will serve as defensive and offensive coordinators.

Jeff Conway came with Fritz from Central Missouri to serve as assistant head coach and wide receivers coach. Other staff members are Ben Beasley from Northwestern State (safeties), Johnny Jernigan from Murray State (defensive line), Derek Warehime from Arkansas-

*"Our No. 1 goal for all of our student-athletes is to get their degree. Also, I want guys to have a passion for football."*

Willie Fritz, SHSU new football coach

Monticello (offensive line) and Anthony Johnson from the University of Texas (running backs).

"I'm proud of the staff we have assembled here at Sam Houston," Fritz said. "They are excellent coaches with a lot of energy."

Fritz and his staff have definite goals for the SHSU football program both on and off the field.



"Our No. 1 goal for all of our student-athletes is to get their degree," Fritz said. "Also, I want guys to have a passion for football. I want guys who are interested in getting stronger, quicker and faster and being the best football players that they can be and never losing sight of the fact that they want to be on a championship team."

"I also want to make sure that I lead guys in the right direction so our guys leave here a better person than when they came. Last but not least, we want to do all these things in the right way." ★

A promotional graphic for SHSU football season tickets. The background features a collage of football players in orange and white uniforms. In the foreground, a man (Willie Fritz) is smiling and holding a Wilson football. To the left, there is a football with the SHSU logo and an orange baseball cap with the SHSU logo. The text reads: "Season Tickets", "2 Tickets", "2 Footballs", "2 Hats", "FOR ONLY \$150", "Mid Field Bleacher Reserve", and "for ticket info: www.gobearkats.com (936)-294-1729". The name "Willie Fritz" is printed on the man's shirt.



## 'BATTLE OF THE PINEY WOODS'



*"The Battle of the Piney Woods is one of the great traditions in college football in the state of Texas."*

Jamey Rootes, LSSE President

### A new chapter in the "Battle of the Piney Woods" football rivalry begins this fall.

Since its birth in 1923, the annual gridiron grudge match between the Bearkats and the Lumberjacks has been something special.

With 84 meetings, the series ranks as the second oldest NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision rivalry in Texas.

Among the state's college rivalries in both FCS and the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) that have played annually since World War II, the SHSU-SFA series stands as the seventh longest. Only Texas-Texas A&M (115 games), Baylor-Texas A&M (106), Baylor-Texas (98), SMU-TCU (88), SMU-Rice (86) and Sam Houston-Texas State (86) have totaled more meetings.

More than 60 athletes who went on to play in the National Football League and 52 who earned NCAA Division I All-America honors have participated in past "Battle of the Piney Woods" games.

With both Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin competing in the same league since the two began competing, the winner of the "Piney Woods" showdown has gone on to become conference champion 15 times. Sam Houston holds a 48-34-2 edge in the series. The Bearkats have won 10 conference titles in their football history while SFA has totaled five.

*With both Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin playing in the same league since the two began competing, the winner of the “Piney Woods” showdown has gone on to become conference champion 15 times.*



The move of the series to Reliant Stadium for the next four seasons comes from a partnership between Lone Star Sports & Entertainment and the two universities. LSSE is an independent event management company which is closely affiliated with the NFL's Houston Texans.

“The Battle of the Piney Woods is one of the great traditions in college football in the state of Texas, and we are proud to bring it to Reliant Stadium,” said LSSE president Jamey Rootes. “We want to make Reliant Stadium the premier venue for every level of college football in Texas, and this rivalry brings us one step closer to that goal.”

Perhaps the proximity of the two universities named for Texas history heroes has been a factor in the intensity of rivalry (the distance between Huntsville and Nacogdoches is less than 100 miles). Whatever the reason, the annual game always has been a grudge match.

After a 6-0 Bearkat victory in 1925, the university's first football win over the Jacks, the Sam Houston Alcalde reported “In the hardest fought game of the season the Bearkats downed the sturdy Lumberjacks

at Nacogdoches. This fray was marked by unusual roughness and hard playing.”

In 1930, a victory over SFA propelled Sam Houston to its first conference championship as a 20-0 shutout in Huntsville completed a 9-1 season with a Texas Intercollegiate Athletic Association championship.

Between 1926 and 1941, both teams ended their seasons with the “Battle of the Piney Woods” contest. Ten times, the game was played on Thanksgiving day. The pair met in season finale matchups 23 more times from 1949 to 1983. The rivalry settled on a mid-October date after both moved up to the Southland Conference.

Thirteen times since 1988, one or both teams have come into the “Piney Woods” shoot-out ranked among the top 25 NCAA Division FBS teams. Sam Houston won six of those meetings including victories over a nationally-ranked SFA squad in 1996, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2004.

The 2001 “battle” that matched No. 16 Sam Houston and No. 19 SFA and featured a showdown between future pro quarterbacks Josh McCown and Wes Pate brought the highest ratings ever for a Southland Conference regional telecast. Sam Houston won 24-21 and went on to win the league title.

Since that 2001 game, six of the nine contests have been decided by less than a touchdown.

“That shows you how competitive this rivalry has become,” Sam Houston Director of Athletics Bobby Williams said. “We’re excited about bringing this fantastic rivalry to Houston fans.”

The winner of the “Battle of the Piney Woods” earns more than bragging rights. Since 2007, a 21-pound solid cedar trophy that displays replica pistols, similar to the pistols that were on the original “Piney Woods” trophy in the ‘70s, awaits the game winner. The logos from both universities are engraved on the handle of the pistols. Below are nameplates to display the outcomes of the contest for the next two decades.

“Rivalries add to the excitement and pageantry of college athletics,” said SFA Director of Athletics Robert Hill. “This game is one that the fans look forward to each and every season. The trophy will add even more excitement for everyone involved in the series.”

Battle of the Piney Woods tickets are on sale through Sam Houston's Athletics Web site [www.gobearkats.com](http://www.gobearkats.com). Also featured on the Web is a series on the 20 greatest “Battle of the Piney Woods” football games. ★

# HOOTEN NAMED MEN'S BASKETBALL HEAD COACH

by Jason Barfield, Photo by Brian Blalock



## The new men's basketball coach is no stranger to the Bearkat program.

**J**ason Hooten, assistant coach for Sam Houston State the past six years, will be leading the men's basketball program this season as the Bearkats' new head coach.

Hooten succeeds Bob Marlin who coached the Kats to a 225-131 record the past 12 seasons. Marlin now is head coach at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

In his six seasons with the Bearkats, Hooten has helped direct the program to a 127-59 record, four 20-plus victory seasons, Southland Conference regular season and tournament championships and an NCAA tournament appearance in 2010.

"As we began to look at candidates for our head men's basketball coaching position, the support for Jason Hooten from team members, supporters close to the program, university administration and athletics

department internal staff was overwhelming," said Bobby Williams, director of athletics.

"Jason has been an integral part of our men's basketball program, the most successful in our conference over the past 12 years. With Jason as our head coach, the transition period will be much easier."

The 25-8 record for Sam Houston in 2009 – 10 marks the highest victory total for a Bearkat squad in SHSU's 23 seasons at the NCAA Division I level. Sam Houston stands as one of only 52 programs out of the 340 teams in Division I basketball that have posted 20 or more wins four of the last five years. Among those 52 teams, the Kats have the 28th best winning percentage.

Hooten joined the SHSU staff July 1, 2004, helping run practice, recruiting, scouting, scheduling and academics. In 2009, RecruitingRumors.com selected Hooten as one of the top 100 NCAA

*"Jason has been an integral part of our men's basketball program, the most successful in our conference over the past 12 years."*

Bobby Williams, director of athletics

assistant coaches, and CollegeInsider.com named him Mid-Major Top 25 assistant coaches honorable mention.

"We have an outstanding group of eight players returning from the championship squad plus three signees," said Hooten. "We will continue to recruit the quality young men like those who have come here and built Sam Houston basketball into a program that is successful both athletically and academically." ★

## MICHAEL RETURNS 'HOME' WITH SHSU'S HELP

Track star has been spending his summer with his family, thanks to an NCAA initiative.

**F**or years, Sam Houston State junior track and field runner Julius Michael did not know if his parents in the Sudan were alive or dead.

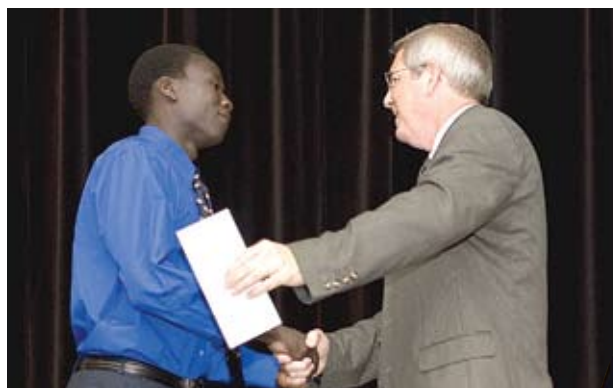
In March 1997 his family sent 7-year-old Michael to the United Nations assistance group so that he could be sent to America. He found a home in Houston with Martha Yuggu where he attended Lamar High School and eventually earned a scholarship to Sam Houston where he participates in cross-country and track.

During 12 years of separation Michael learned nothing about his parents and sisters. In July 2009, however, he received word his parents were alive and he had additional siblings. Within a short time frame, he got to speak to his parents on the telephone, and he was granted his American citizenship.

In the spring semester, as he was one of the student emcees for this year's Sam Houston All-Sports Banquet, Michael learned during the event that he soon would be going home to see his family in person.

Through the efforts of Sam Houston Director of Athletics Bobby Williams, Associate Athletic Director Chris Thompson and Compliance Coordinator Curtis Collier, the athletics department obtained funding for a round trip ticket to the Sudan and ground transportation so that he was able to spend three months this summer with his family.

The money came from the NCAA's Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund, one of many efforts by the NCAA using dollars generated by the "March Madness" basketball championships. The NCAA provides grants through each conference and provides guidance for what the money may be used. Sam Houston applied for



Julius Michael and Bobby Williams

funds for the trip through the Southland Conference Office.

"Julius is such a special person and has been through so much, it was a thrill to be able to present him with this opportunity," Thompson said. "Julius always finds the positive side. His life story is amazing, but more importantly what all of us can learn from him is even better. Funding the trip home was permissible by the NCAA through the Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund and no one deserved this more than Julius."

Michael is a year away from graduation and plans to become a world history teacher.

"The award was so wonderful and such a surprise. I was speechless and didn't know what to say," Michael said. "Coming to Sam Houston State is one of the best things that has ever happened to me. I want to teach history in high school because I feel I have a lot to share with kids. So many people—my coach and my counselor in high school and the coaches and staff here—have made it possible for me to come this far. I feel like I can help kids the same way."

Michael arrived in Sudan on May 28. The final leg of the journey was an 11-hour bus ride from Kampala, Uganda, to Moyo.



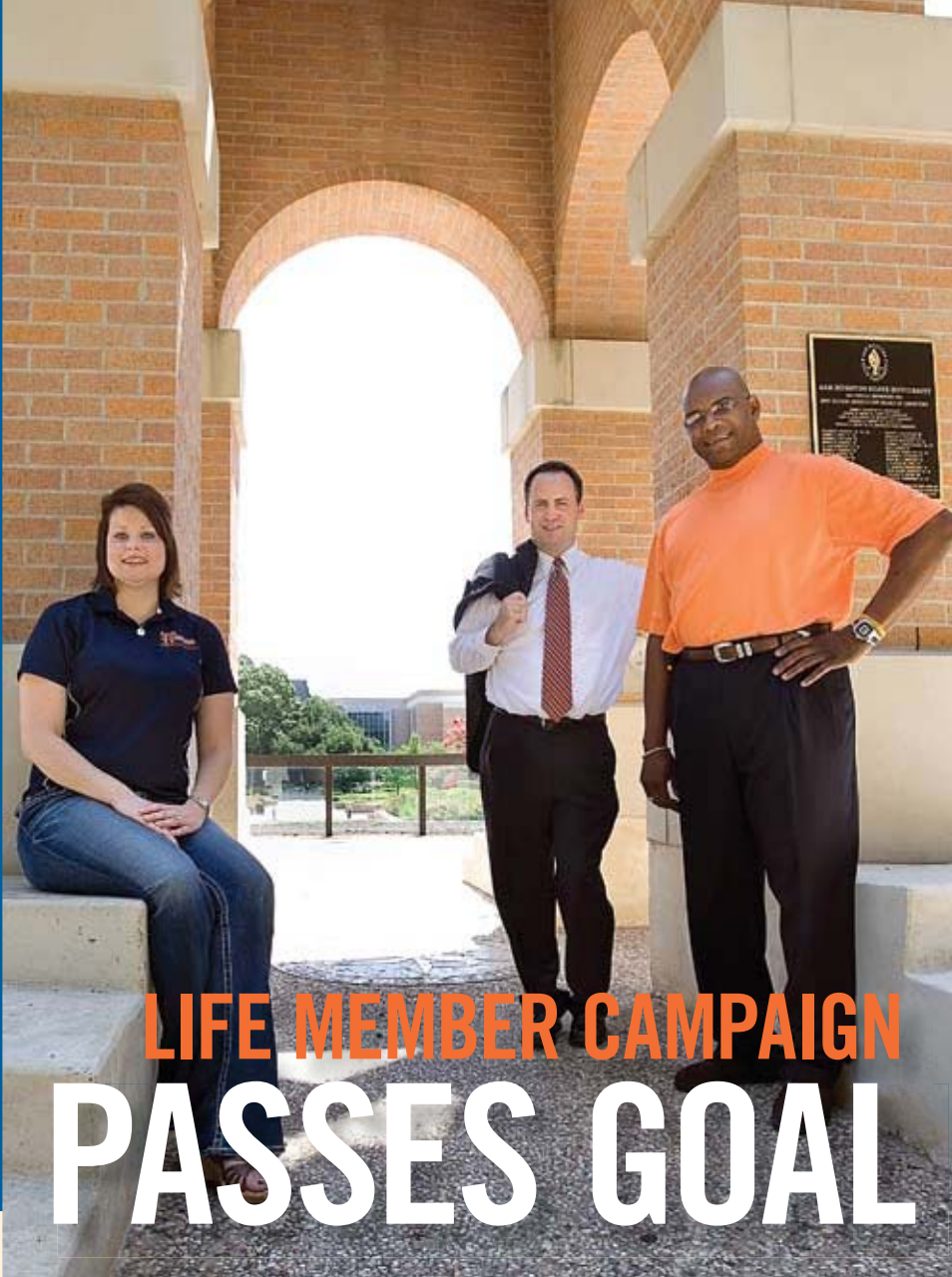
His sisters met him at the bus stop and walked him back home—a five-hour walk.

"Everything has gone so well. It is unbelievable," Michael said. "The whole town prepared a 'welcome home' party for me with lots of relatives, friends and church family to celebrate with us. When I first arrived my father, mother and sisters treated me like royalty."

Michael has written back to SHSU friends that he is eating plenty and even starting to run again. He is planting peanuts on his own little plot of land, and his goats and chickens are having kids and chicks.

He wrote that he is very happy to be home and be with his family, and they are excited about the prospect of coming to the United States after all the stories they've heard from Michael. ★

by Jennifer Gauntt, Photo by Brian Blalock



### *My Membership Is For Life*

“The days we spent at Sam have benefitted us in many ways. Our success is due, in large part, to the educational foundation we received. Our Life Membership in the Alumni Association helps keep us connected to the fond memories we have about the university we love.”

**Jacki Ashorn** (BS '05, Agricultural Business; MBA '09, Business Administration)  
Occupation: Assistant Director, Bearkat OneCard Services & Student Money Management Center

**John Garrett** (BFA '97, Radio/Television)  
Occupation: Publisher & Founder, Community Impact Newspaper

**Ed Owens** (BS '80, Criminology and Corrections)  
Occupation: Retired, Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice Deputy Executive Director

**O**ne hundred and seven alumni and friends became Life Members of the SHSU Alumni Association, helping a group of volunteers to exceed its goal during the association’s first Life Member campaign.

The Life Membership Drive sought to collect 100 new members and push the Life Member Endowment over the \$1 million mark during the six-week period between April 1 and May 15. Both goals were reached, according to Charlie Vienne, director of Alumni Relations.

SHSU now has a total of 1,320 Life Memberships, up from 350 four years ago, and the Life Member Endowment is well over \$1 million.

“Many volunteers, primarily consisting of current Life Members, dedicated their time, energy, and resources to ensure a successful campaign, and we could not have reached our goal without their support,” Vienne said.

Volunteers from all over the state assisted by reaching out to alumni to solicit their support in becoming Life Members, he said.

“The Alumni Association is especially appreciative for the work of association board member Dr. Susan Lenamon (of Pearland), and Mr. R.H. Bond (of Conroe), who secured the most new Life Members during the campaign,” he said.

Life Members receive a number of benefits, including reduced rates for campus-related activities, such as the use of Raven Nest Golf Club, as well as off-campus entities such as

Hertz car rental; invitations to university events; access to the Sam Houston credit card and an insurance program for both car and home owners insurance.

Memberships, which are \$1,000, or \$400 for senior citizens and recent graduates, can be paid for in installments and can also be counted as a tax credit. Joint Life Memberships are also available at a special rate.

For more information on becoming a Life Member, to purchase a Life Membership, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at **800.283.7478** or visit <http://alumni.shsu.edu>. ★

## THIS ALUMNA'S 'LIFE OF CRIME' MAKES A GREAT TV SHOW



### Jenna Jackson's journey from "The Houstonian" to CBS included guidance from a fellow alum.

**I**f Jenna Jackson thought about living and working in New York City when she was a little girl, it was as a dancer—not a producer for one of CBS's most popular television programs, "48 Hours."

She wanted to be a dance teacher and in preparing to make a choice about which college to attend, she visited several schools, including SHSU.

"Both my parents had attended Sam Houston, and at first I was determined NOT to go there because they had!" she said.

However, after visiting the campus she changed her mind.

"Everyone was so friendly, and it was such a pretty campus," she said. "I felt at home. I wasn't as nervous there as I had been when I visited other schools."

Jackson knew she would be paying her way through school, so she applied for and was awarded several scholarships, including a dance scholarship and the Ferol Robinson Journalism Scholarship.

"I had always loved to write," she said, "but I never thought of being a journalist."

During her senior year in high school, she injured her knee, which ended her plans for becoming a dance teacher. She accepted the journalism scholarship and became a member of "The Houstonian" staff her freshman year.

"I immediately fell in love with journalism," she said. "It kind of became an obsession."

At the end of her sophomore year, she was named an assistant editor of “The Houstonian,” and she took a full-time job with the “Huntsville Item”—covering prisons.

“To some people that may not sound like a fun job,” she said. “But I enjoyed it, and I was hooked. I loved prison reporting and trying to figure out why these people had done what they had done, whether or not they had done it, and all the forensic evidence that was available to put the pieces together.

“That’s why I feel like I have the perfect job now; because ‘48 Hours’ is all about crime,” she said.

She credits her college experience with helping prepare her for her exciting career.

“The work I did at both ‘The Houstonian’ and the ‘Item’ taught me how to write a news story and meet deadlines, and I learned how to interview people and get them to tell me their story, which is a huge part of what I do now,” she said.

“But being a Sam Houston student also gave me the opportunity to meet Dan Rather, and he became my mentor,” she said.

Jackson met Rather during her sophomore year at SHSU, while she was serving as president of the Student Society of Professional Journalists.

“We were having an auction for a fundraiser, and I was reading Dan’s first book,” she said. “I knew he was coming to Sam Houston for the naming and dedication of the Communications Building that semester, and I decided to write him and ask if he would bring a signed copy of the book for the auction.”

While reading about Rather growing up in The Heights in Houston, Jackson came across her grandfather’s name.

“He grew up with Dan and played high school football with him,” she said. “I had no idea! He had never mentioned anything about Dan Rather, so I called him and

asked him if he really knew him and could this be him in the book. He said ‘yes.’

“So I wrote the letter to Dan and asked if he would bring an autographed copy of his book,” she said. “I added a P.S.: ‘I think you once knew my grandpa, Lynwood Jackson.’”

A week later, Jackson was in the newsroom of the Houstonian when she

*“... being a Sam Houston student also gave me the opportunity to meet Dan Rather, and he became my mentor.”*

got a reply from Rather. It was a five-page handwritten letter.

“I was so excited, I broke out in hives,” she said, laughing. “It was a very touching and sweet letter.”

When Rather came to Huntsville for the building dedication, he joined Jackson and her grandfather for dinner.

“From that moment on, he has been one of my greatest supporters,” she said. “There were several times when I was doing prison reporting as a college student, that I was overwhelmed and wanted to quit, wanted to do something in journalism that was less stressful.

“During that time, Dan wrote me letters of encouragement constantly, would call and check on me, would send me faxes on my

birthday,” she said. “He would tell me, ‘It’s a calling. Your experiences make you strong.’ He still tells me this now whenever I get frustrated.

“In every way I would not be where I am today without Dan Rather,” she said. “Even though I have known him for 15 years, I am still in awe of him. He is such a good mentor and an amazing role model. He’s just a great individual.”

After Jackson graduated from SHSU, she worked as a reporter for the Beaumont Enterprise for nine months. However, she was not happy.

With one suitcase in hand, she left Beaumont and went to CBS in New York City and applied for an entry level position.

CBS hired Jackson as a production secretary for “48 Hours.” Within six months, something happened that stunned the country, and Jackson was called upon to help do work beyond the typical duties of a secretary. The event would come to be known simply as “Columbine.”

“I was in Denver for three weeks, making arrangements for interviews, doing research, helping with production,” she said. “Normally, someone would not be sent into the field after being hired for only six months; but it was such a big thing, they needed everyone.”

Because she was able to arrange good interviews and do significant work, she was recognized and rewarded. Eventually, she was promoted to producer.

“I’ve been very lucky,” she said. “The job is a perfect fit for me because of my interest in crime and my work experience while attending Sam Houston.”

While noting that all the stories she works on are interesting, Jackson said that some are bizarre, some are sad, and some have shown examples of extraordinary courage.

“You meet these people who are going through the most difficult times in their lives,



*“I’ve been very lucky — the job is a perfect fit for me because of my interest in crime and my work experience while attending Sam Houston.”*

Jenna Jackson

yet they have this amazing resiliency,” she said. “I’ve become friends with some of the people we’ve featured and kept in touch with them, even 10 years after we did their stories.”

Jackson recognizes that the job has not been without challenges. One is trying to balance a professional life with a personal life. She has been divorced twice, and she is a single mother of three-year-old twins. She admits that she has had to become more focused in order to do her job well, yet be available for her children. Even though her office is in New York City, she’s been able to work out of her home in Houston.

But the rewards of the job have been greater than the challenges.

“I’ve met amazing people that I never would have met otherwise, and I’ve traveled to places I wouldn’t have gone to on my own,” she said.

In addition to her job as a producer, Jackson has also co-authored a book with

“48 Hours” correspondent Peter Van Sant entitled “Perfectly Executed.”

“We did a special on this case in Seattle about two boys who were accused of murdering the entire family of one of the boys,” Jackson said. “I spent five years on this story, and we just couldn’t figure it out.

“Peter and I felt that they were probably guilty, but if we had been on the jury, we couldn’t have convicted them because there was just no evidence linking them to the crime,” she said. “There was even some evidence that implied their innocence.

“It was very disturbing because there were so many questions,” she said. “We did a one-hour special, then a two-hour special, and we felt that there were still so many details that people should know, so we decided to write a book. We still get questions about that case.”

The boys were convicted, and they have been sentenced to life imprisonment in

Washington, although the conviction has been appealed.

Jackson has advice for Sam Houston students who are planning careers in journalism.

“Get as much hands-on experience as you can,” she said. “Learn to write well. I’m sure my writing skills gave me the edge at CBS and enabled me to move up the career ladder as quickly as I did.

“And meet every alum you can,” she said. “You never know when they are going to have a job opening in their organization, or a friend who does, or have an internship you might want. Sometimes you might just want to have lunch with them to pick their brain.

“Also, don’t limit yourself,” she said. “Think big. There is a whole big world out there. I was terrified when I first walked through the CBS doors on 57th Street in New York City. It just so happened that I was smart, I worked harder than most, and I really, really wanted it. Everything has turned out just fine.”★



## BEATING SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES



Photo by Paul Olle

**Using his own money plus a \$10,000 loan, Sam Dominey developed a method and apparatus for continuously detecting cracks in propeller and helicopter rotor blades, which has saved many lives.**

**S**am Dominey, a native Texan, grew up in Dodge on the family ranch.

He came to Sam Houston State planning to major in agriculture but changed to physics after he took a class under L. G. Lapham, head of the department.

“I made the highest grade in the class, and Dr. Lapham persuaded me to change my major,” Dominey said.

As a Sam Houston student, Dominey served as president of the senior class, president of the YMCA, and was a member of the Mountain Dew Boys, a folk band that played music live on KSAM radio. None of

the band members could read music, so they all played by ear.

C. R. Hackney, the head of Sam Houston’s music department, contacted Dominey and asked him to teach music students to play the ukulele and other instruments by ear.

“I was paid 40 cents an hour as a student teacher, and the students I taught received course credit,” he said.

Dominey was scheduled to graduate after finals in January 1953. However, in December 1952, with the Korean War into

its third year, Sam Houston's dean of men told all students who were passing that if they joined the service, they would be excused from their final exams and could graduate a month early.

Along with many other students, Dominey elected to take the offer and volunteered for the U. S. Army as a private. He was stationed at Ft. Belvoir, Va. and assigned to work at the SM-1 Nuclear Power Plant, which was one of the first nuclear power plants in the world. Dominey served until he was relieved of active duty in 1954 as a lieutenant and company commander.

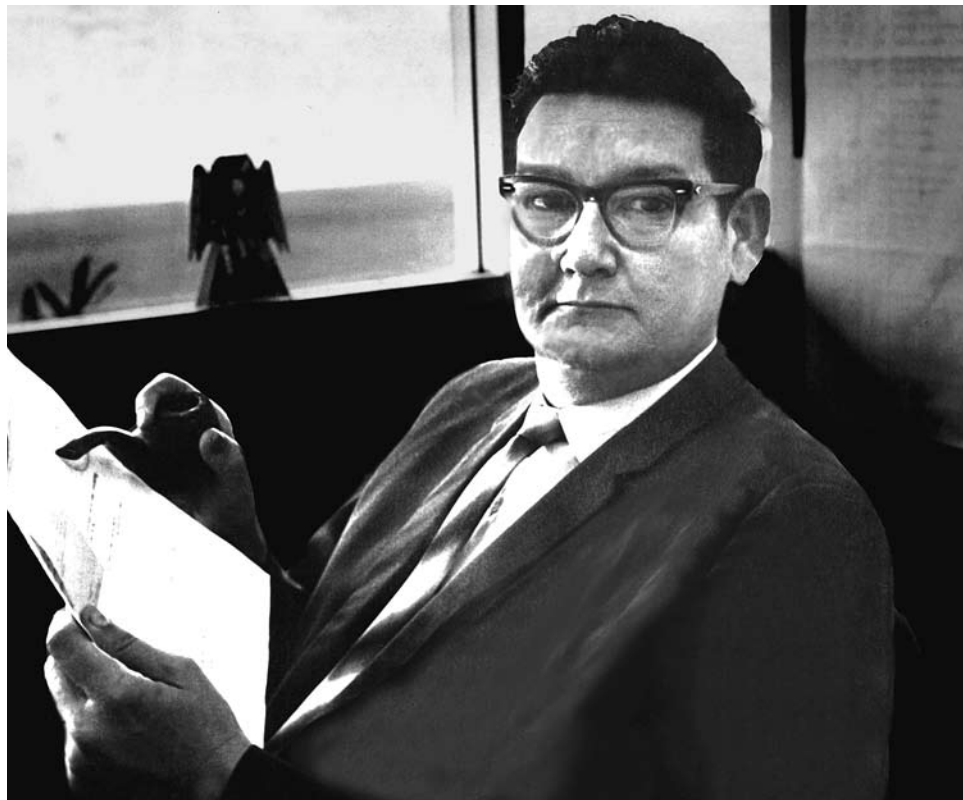
After the war, he went to work for Consolidated Aircraft, now known as General Dynamics, in Fort Worth to help develop nuclear aircraft for use by the U.S. military. It was here that Dominey developed a way to measure neutrons.

Due to his expertise, he was assigned to many different government locations across the U.S. working on various projects that related to measuring neutrons. One of these assignments was at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, where he worked on such projects as testing the effectiveness of underground shelters in case of a nuclear war. While at Oak Ridge, Dominey worked with Wernher von Braun, who is considered the greatest rocket scientist in history.

He also worked for Westinghouse where he tested nuclear hydrogen rocket propulsion for NASA.

Dominey also worked for Ginannini Controls, a company that manufactured instruments for aircraft and missile guidance systems for NASA's Apollo program. He was program manager on the project that led to the development of nuclear gauges used to measure hydrazine in zero gravity in space.

Later, at Lockheed Missile and Space Division in Dawsonville, Ga., Dominey was manager for the nuclear vulnerability group. He received an award for the largest cost savings in the history of Lockheed for



the development of a laboratory method of testing weapon effects from nuclear bombs.

Throughout his career Dominey developed many patents for the companies where he worked. A friend suggested he seek employment at TYCO, a company that would give him royalties for his patents while under their employment. He was hired by the company and sent to Pomona, Calif., as president of General Nucleonics, a division of TYCO. In June 1980, Dominey purchased General Nucleonics, which included ownership of all his patents during his employment with TYCO.

#### **A Change Of Focus**

After purchasing General Nucleonics, Dominey changed his focus from bombs to using nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

Quoting from the Bible, Dominey said, "They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning

hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore." The plowshare is a symbol of a creative tool that benefits mankind, as opposed to a sword, symbolizing a destructive tool of war.

"Had nuclear energy been used first to produce energy instead of a nuclear bomb," he said, "nuclear energy would be more accepted by the general public and perhaps the real value to mankind could have been achieved much quicker.

"It is my opinion that nuclear energy has been misjudged as an evil deed, when in reality it can be used for saving lives and for such positive things as medical treatment, safety devices, detecting energy sources, weather forecasting, and food irradiation therefore 'beating swords into plowshares,'" he said.

During his lifetime, he has worked on a number of projects that use nuclear energy for positive and peaceful benefits. One

of his most important patents involves a system that has saved numerous lives.

A former Marine pilot employed by Dominey as a salesman at General Nucleonics brought to Dominey's attention that the military was in desperate need of a method to detect cracked blades on helicopters. "When a blade cracked, the helicopter would crash, killing the passengers," Dominey said. "There were too many servicemen being killed."

Using his own money plus \$10,000 that he borrowed, Dominey developed an in-flight blade indicator system for helicopter blade crack detection. He wrote his patent out in long hand and took it to an attorney in Beverly Hills to protect his ownership.

After word spread about his invention, Dominey was invited to Washington to demonstrate the detection system. Although the system was successful, Dominey was unable to secure contracts with any U. S. manufacturers. He pursued other sources and was able to sell the blade detection system for government and commercial use to companies in England, Italy, Canada, and others for use on their helicopters.

Determined to prove that the system would save the lives of U.S. servicemen, Dominey sent a demonstration video to the Navy.

"I also sent a video to the U.S. Coast Guard because they had to fly at lower speeds to reduce the stress in the blades to keep from crashing, and they really needed to be able to fly at high speeds in order to accomplish their tasks," he said.

After a presentation in Washington the Coast Guard and the Air Force contracted with Dominey for his system to be put on their aircrafts.

"Because the Coast Guard could fly faster with my system in place than the Navy, new specifications were initiated for Navy aircraft to require the detection system to be on all new helicopters," he said.

It wasn't long until the Air Force and Marines required all their aircraft to use the system. Today, the in-flight blade indicator

system is considered so valuable, it has been installed in all the helicopters used to transport the U. S. president.

### Sam Houston State's Impact On Dominey's Life

"Dr. Lapham and another physics professor, Dr. Kidd, taught me the value of exploring ideas and 'thinking outside the

*"Many people who have disabilities can play music beautifully. Do not discount any person."*

box'," Dominey said. "They definitely had an impact on my career.

"Dr. Lapham encouraged his students to seek sources outside the classroom and to talk with anyone about the problem, as long as the students themselves came up with their answers," he said.

His classroom experiences taught Dominey that for every 'one good idea,' a person might go through hundreds of failures.

"You have to learn from your failures," he said.

Do not discount any person.

A childhood experience left Dominey with compassion for people who are

physically or mentally challenged, especially children. He said he was misjudged in elementary school because he was cross-eyed and stuttered and at times was seated in the back of the room, discounted as mentally challenged.

"I have discovered that people can be physically or mentally challenged in one area, but superior in another area," he said.

Dominey speaks from personal knowledge, not only because of his own



experience, but also because his son, Mark, is mentally challenged. Yet Dominey has been able to teach him to play the guitar.

"Many people who have disabilities can play music beautifully," Dominey said. "Do not discount any person."

Those who are handicapped were on Dominey's mind when asked what he wanted his legacy to be.

"I hope that people in the future will pay more attention to the mentally and physically challenged," he said. "And I hope I will be remembered as someone who has taken swords and beaten them into plowshares by making things that helped to save lives and benefit mankind." ★

# FIVE HONORED FOR LIFE'S SERVICE

Photo by Brian Blalock

Dan Richard Beto, Gordon Brown, Nancy Gaertner, John McManners and Erin Steele were honored for their fulfillment of the university's motto, "The measure of a Life is its Service," on May 7 with SHSU Alumni Association Service Awards.

The award recognizes those who have exhibited exemplary service with their time, professional expertise, and resources and who have displayed outstanding commitment to their respective communities.

## Dan Richard Beto

Dan Beto, an alumnus of Sam Houston State University, spent more than four decades working in the criminal justice system.

He earned both his bachelor's degree in sociology and his master's degree in criminology at SHSU and worked in the probation sector for departments across the state.

He was the founding executive director of the Correctional Management Institute of Texas at SHSU, a position he held from 1994 until 2005, when he retired.

## Gordon Brown

A retired coach and public school administrator, Gordon Brown received both his Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees from SHSU, where he was a quarterback and three-year letterman, class president and class favorite, named to "Who's Who," and was a member of the Ramrod Social Club.

A criminal investigator and member of the football team for the U. S. Army, he also served as coach, teacher, athletic director and assistant superintendent during his career.

Brown was the head coach of the Katy High School state championship football team, District Coach of the Year, and was



From left: Gordon Brown, Nancy Gaertner, Dan Beto, Erin Steele and John McManners.

named Superintendent Emeritus of Katy ISD upon his retirement.

## Nancy Gaertner

In addition to serving as the First Lady of Sam Houston State University for nine years, Nancy Gaertner has provided service to the communities where she has lived.

Before her retirement, she taught all subjects in elementary school, working with students with varying abilities—from struggling readers to gifted math students—and mostly teaching fourth grade math and science.

Gaertner has been involved in many Huntsville community activities and boards, and has volunteered in many university activities.

## John McManners

John McManners graduated from SHSU in 1962 with a Bachelor of Science degree in history.

Through ROTC, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in field artillery, spending

his initial tour as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division. He retired in 1992 after a 30-year military career, which carried him to many parts of the world including countries in Europe, Vietnam, Laos and Bosnia.

After his retirement from the military, he worked for a law firm in San Antonio and Austin specializing in social security disability.

## Erin Steele

Erin Steele is a native Houstonian who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Teaching degree from SHSU in 1980.

She married her husband, Robert, in 1980 and worked as a speech language pathologist in the Pasadena and Pearland school districts.

Robert and Erin were named Citizens of the Year for 2008 by the Pearland Area Chamber of Commerce. They serve on the board of the Steele Charitable Foundation and have awarded over \$100,000 in scholarships to children of employees of Texas Honing, Inc., since 1998. ★



# See Sam Houston... A Great College

Sam Houston State University is a great place to work . To learn, teach, create. To live. To help the world answer difficult questions, solve difficult problems and to teach others how to do so as well.

Serving some 17,000 students on one of the most scenic and functional campuses in the nation, in the heart of the majestic Piney Woods of East Texas, Sam Houston State is a great place to fulfill the measure of a life.

Huntsville itself is a lively community of 40,000 that values education, the arts, history, diversity and culture, bounded by abundant and picturesque forests and a brief drive south to the urban amenities and attractions of The Woodlands and Greater Houston itself.

Sam is a campus community preparing to celebrate the opening of a new state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center to support its nationally recognized programs in music, dance and theater. Sam is home to a fully accredited College of Business Administration, including AACSB, that includes the nation's only complete BBA and MBA programs in banking and financial institutions. SHSU has one of the nation's most comprehensive colleges of Criminal Justice, including an accredited Masters Degree Program in Forensic Sciences. Sam is a community of superior scholars, teachers, authors, artists, performers, scientists, mentors and advisers who value student success, collegiality, achievement and service to others.



See Sam at [www.shsu.edu](http://www.shsu.edu)

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

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Alumni are doing interesting things since leaving SHSU. Look to future issues for people you may have sat next to in biology, business or English. We may even feature you!

### Ernie Deats (BS '62)

During their annual gala in May, the College of the Mainland Foundation honored Ernie Deats as one of the 2010 Mainland Heroes for his philanthropy and service to Dickinson and surrounding coastal communities.

Deats graduated from Sam Houston State in 1962 with a double major in physical education and English. He was president of his sophomore class and was a member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity for which he also served as president.

He coached in the Hitchcock and Refugio Independent School Districts before returning to Dickinson, where he has been an active community volunteer.

He previously served on the College of the Mainland board of trustees and the Sam Houston State University Alumni Association board of directors. He is also a Life Member of the Alumni Association.

Deats is also involved in the Dickinson Historical Society, Dickinson ISD Educational Foundation Board, Dickinson ISD Alumni Association, and First United Methodist Church of Dickinson. He was the founder of the Dickinson ISD Athletic Hall of Honor.

He has authored three books: "Dickinson 1860 – 1960—History, Hard Work, Honor," "A Kid's Tale from the Prairie," and "The Highway 75 Club."

Deats and his wife, Kathy, reside on their ranch, where they farm and raise Charolais cattle.



Ernie Deats (BS '62)



### Kelly McCann (BS '83)

McCann graduated from SHSU with a degree in psychology and later did some graduate work in clinical psychology.

She worked for the Texas Department of Corrections (as it was called in those days) as an associate clinical psychologist at the Goree Unit in Huntsville before moving to Houston and working in community mental health.

In 1996 she went into the HIV/AIDS field full time. She currently serves as chief executive officer for AIDS Foundation Houston.

"I know the work I do is vitally important because AIDS poses a major threat to our citizens and our country," she said.

"HIV disease is not only physically debilitating and life-threatening, but it can be emotionally, socially and financially devastating as well," she said.

"HIV impacts people from all walks of life, regardless of age, gender, race, sexual orientation or economic status, so the work I do potentially affects everyone," she said.

"Through my work, I provide services for men, women and children who are desperately in need of assistance to help them live longer and healthier lives," McCann said.

"I also work to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS which helps to eliminate stigma and reduce the number of new infections."

Although McCann would like to see her work contribute to the eradication of HIV/AIDS in her lifetime, she said she knows it's a "pretty tall order" given the complexity of the disease and difficulty of getting people to change risky behaviors.

"Perhaps more attainable are short-term goals that include preventing as many new HIV infections as possible through education, routine testing, linkage to medical care for newly diagnosed patients, and of course, easing the suffering of those living with HIV/AIDS," she said.

In addition to the work she is doing now, McCann served as an external consultant for the Surgeon General's Call to Action on Correctional Health Care in 2004; she's written a monthly column for Texas's leading gay magazine, "OutSmart;" and she was elected Female Grand Marshal of Houston's Gay Pride Parade in 2008.

### Robert Andrews (BS '81)

Robert Andrews understands the physical as well as psychological challenges of recovering from a major sports-related injury.



**Maggie Brune Selman (BS '41)**

and helps with the annual Christmas coffees honoring Sealy teachers. Hosting events to honor teachers is one of Selman's many contributions to the district during her career, as well as the introduction of computers in the classroom during the '90s.

Selman has made lifelong contributions to the field of education outside the district as well. She has served in leadership roles and has been honored by many professional organizations, including Texas Council of Women School Executives, Texas State Teachers Association, Texas Elementary

It was his own high school and college experiences in recovering from injuries that inspired his passion in sports psychology.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in physical education from Sam Houston State University in 1981 and a Master of Arts degree in psychology from the University of Houston-Clear Lake in 1995.

He then founded The Institute of Sports Psychology in Houston. Through his private practice, he helps high school, college, professional and Olympic athletes achieve peak levels of performance, particularly following major injuries when an athlete's confidence may be impaired.

"My first passion is helping athletes overcome the mental, emotional and psychological aspects of recovering from a sports-related injury," Andrews said. "There are athletes who heal physically, but are never able to overcome the mental and emotional aspects of the injury. That is how I want to help them."

In addition to helping athletes work through the trauma of sports-related injuries, he also helps them develop techniques to strengthen the psychological aspects of performance, as well as training coaches to maximize their effectiveness with athletes.

Andrews lives in Houston with his family: Gisele, his wife, and their two children, Galen and Abby, who are both athletes.

#### **Maggie Brune Selman (BS '41)**

Maggie Selman's childhood brings memories of picking cotton and attending Sealy schools where she graduated as Sealy High School's Class of '35 valedictorian.

A few years later, she would return from college to dedicate a 63-year career to the same school district.

Selman graduated from Sam Houston—then Teachers College—in 1941 with a Bachelor of Science degree in education. She described her experiences at Sam Houston as "wonderful," even though she said she was very homesick for the first semester.

During her career with Sealy, she taught first through eighth grade, was the elementary principal for 30 years and retired from the position of assistant superintendent of the school district. The district has named two schools in honor of her service: Maggie B. Selman Elementary School and Maggie B. Selman Intermediate School.

At the age of 92, she continues serving the district on a daily basis as a volunteer

*"My love is in working with the Colonial Bell Nursing Home here in Sealy," she said. "It was built in 1965, and I have been going every week to visit since it opened."*

Maggie Brune Selman

Principals and Supervisors Association, Texas Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Texas Association for Gifted and Talented, Austin County Teachers Association and the Texas Retired Teachers Association.

She is active in the Sealy community having served in community service organizations and on local boards, including: Sealy Medical Center Foundation, Sealy Area Historical Society, Austin County

## CLASS NOTES



Amy Spigener-Hobbs Broad (BFA '81)

*"I'm absolutely over-the-moon-crazy in love with the work I get to do"*

Amy Spigener-Hobbs Broad

Historical Commission, Stephen F. Austin Park Association, First United Methodist Church, and Sealy's Gordon Public Library.

"My love is in working with the Colonial Bell Nursing Home here in Sealy," she said. "It was built in 1965, and I have been going every week to visit since it opened."

Selman enjoys spending time with her dog and cat and is an avid Astros fan.

### Amy Spigener-Hobbs Broad (BFA '81)

It's impossible for people who work with Amy Broad to avoid being caught up in her enthusiasm.

"I'm absolutely over-the-moon-crazy in love with the work I get to do," the theatre graduate said.

As the owner of Rock Eagle Productions, the work she has done as a director, producer and freelancer has given her not only the opportunity to satisfy her curious nature, but has also allowed her to explore the psychology and sociology of whatever subject and topic is at hand.

Since leaving SHSU, she has produced and directed documentaries for PBS; produced tribute films for the creator of The Weather Channel Frank Batten, Williamsburg philanthropist Lois Hornsby

(mother of musician Bruce Hornsby), and professional wrestler John Morrison, among others; and produced more than a hundred environmental documentary, training, marketing and awareness films for national and international corporations.

She has also worked with Bill Gates, Denzel Washington, Gene Hackman, Sam Elliot, Burgess Meredith and Mikhail Gorbachev.

Her awards include Best Historical Documentary at the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival, Short Market Award at Cannes, and Best Documentary from the Virginia Association of Broadcasters. She has also won CINE, Telly and Matrix awards.

"The variety of work I do is amazing," she said. "One day I'm producing a serious documentary on an incredibly important issue such as childhood obesity, and the next month I'm producing a recruitment film to interest kids in engineering and technology.

"Many times a tribute film is sandwiched in, with a comedic approach, then on to a very serious advocacy film like the one I'm working on entitled 'Cruel Coal,'" she said.

Broad is the mother of two teenage girls and lives in Newport News, Va.

"I was never a very good actor; my lack of math skills precluded me from anything in that field; and domestically I'm a little challenged," she said.

"Storytelling is probably my gift, and to be able to take almost any topic and turn it into a compelling media piece is the work I love best." ★

**Shirley D. Brinkley '57** was recognized in March during the state meeting of the Texas Association of Family and Consumer Services for 50 years of service to the profession.

**Carl E. Westman '66** was recognized for nearly two decades of leadership with NCH Healthcare Systems. During Westman's five-year tenure as chairman, NCH underwent numerous transformations, including its shift from being a sole community provider to being a major destination for patients throughout southwest Florida.

**Terry Sanford '77**, executive vice president and chief financial officer of Carriage Services, Inc., a public company headquartered in Houston, has been elected president of the Houston chapter of Financial Executives International. The Houston chapter of FEI includes approximately 350 financial professionals.

**Ladd Gibke '81** was named a member at Cozen O'Connor Law Firm. Gibke, who practices out of the firm's Dallas office in the subrogation and recovery department, previously served as assistant criminal district attorney in the Collin County District Attorney's office.

**Charles W. Jones '81** Life Endowed Member was presented with the "Community Builder Award" from the Vickery Masonic Lodge 1351 AF&AM in Dallas on June 3. The award is given by the Masonic Lodges to individuals who are not Masons and serve their community through charitable and volunteer needs.

**Mary DeChambres '89** recently won a Primetime Emmy for "Outstanding Picture Editing for Reality Programming" for "Project Runway." Her other recent editing credits include Oprah's "The Big Give," "Real Housewives of New York" and "Jersey Shore." She is currently producing a documentary on the life of Carla Laemmle.



**Robert Horton '90** was honored with the first Korz recognition award in May as the overall outstanding doctoral student in the SHSU College of Education. He is in his 19th year of teaching and is currently the head choir director of The Woodlands High School. Under Horton's direction his students have been awarded consistent sweepstakes trophies and named "Best in Class" at various festivals. He currently serves as president of Texas Choral Directors.

**Kurt Stoll '92**, founder and principal marketing consultant for MetaBrand, took time to give back to SHSU by presenting to spring semester systems analysis and design students, sharing his insight and experience on the social media marketing trend.

**Donald W. Roberts '95** was recently approved to serve as a full director of the Woodway Financial Advisors board of directors. Roberts is vice president and trust officer with Woodway Financial Advisors, where he oversees the planning, administration and investment of client accounts.

**Chanel Mead '98** owns and directs a performance company called the Boulder Stars. In December 2009 she and her husband moved to New York City, where she teaches music full time at the Stephen Gaynor School in the Upper West Side.

**Bradley Froebel '98** was named Klein Collins High School Teacher of the Year in February and Klein Independent School District's Secondary Teacher of the Year in April. Froebel teaches journalism, photojournalism, yearbook, and newspaper. He is the first two-time Teacher of the Year for his campus, previously earning the honor in 2006.

**Elizabeth Wegener '98** recently married Jerry Seekford. She has begun her Master of Business Administration in E-Business at the University of Phoenix.

**Melvin F. "Trey" Hunt '01** was promoted in June to audit partner in assurance services with Weaver LLP. Hunt is a certified public accountant and maintains memberships in the Petroleum Accountant Society of Houston, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants, as well as its Houston chapter. He has also authored multiple technical articles on oil and gas accounting topics.

**Tiffany Thomas '03** has been accepted to the Women's Campaign School at Yale University for the 2010 session.

**Leenette Wilke '03** was promoted this spring to deputy senior property manager for ARKLATEX, for which she will oversee the management of federal buildings, U.S. courthouses and properties leased by government agencies.

**Olivia Orellano—Dakers '04** graduated from the Galen University in Belize with an MBA in December 2009. She currently manages the Belize Social Security Board's Santa Elena Branch office.

## OBITUARIES

Doris Hartman '47  
Ed Sandhop '48  
George Buckow '56  
John "Pete" Gipson '63

To be a part of the Class Notes section, share your accomplishments at: [http://www.shsu.edu/~alu\\_kat/services/classnotes.html](http://www.shsu.edu/~alu_kat/services/classnotes.html).



**Save The Date**

**Sam Houston Birthday Celebration**  
**Bob Bullock Museum**  
Austin, TX  
March 3, 2011

# HOMECOMING SCHEDULE '10

<b>WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13</b>	SAM JAM Carnival	Holleman Field Parking Lot	7:00 PM	Student Activities 936.294.3861
<b>THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14</b>	Homecoming Parade	Sam Houston Avenue	6:30 PM	Student Activities 936.294.3861
<b>FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15</b>	Golden Circle Reunion	Lowman Student Center Ballroom	11:00 AM	President's Office 936.294.3415
	Distinguished Alumni Gala	Lowman Student Center Ballroom	6:00 PM Reception 7:00 PM Dinner	Alumni Relations 936.294.1841
<b>SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16</b>	Alumni Coffee and Pre- game with the President	Austin Hall	10:30 AM	President's Office 936.294.3415
	Alumni Tailgate	SHSU Bearkat Alley Bowers Stadium	12:00 NOON	Athletics & Student Activities 936.294.3861
	SHSU vs. Southeastern, La	Bowers Stadium	2:00 PM	Athletics 936.294.1729
	Black Alumni & Friends Club Reception	Lowman Student Center Ballroom	7:00 PM	Alumni Relations 936.294.1841

## 2010 Alumni Association Tailgate Schedule

September 4—Tailgate @ Baylor—Waco, Tx  
 September 25—Tailgate @ SHSU vs. Gardner-Webb  
 October 2—Tailgate @ Lamar—Beaumont, Tx  
 October 16—Homecoming Tailgate  
 @ SHSU vs. SE Louisiana  
 October 23—Tailgate @ Battle of The Piney Woods  
 SHSU vs. SFA, Reliant Stadium—Houston, Tx  
 November 6—Tailgate @ SHSU vs. McNeese State  
 November 20—Tailgate @ SHSU vs. Texas State

## Save The Date

New York Alumni & Friends Event  
 Sam Houston State University Alumni Association

Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

### '21' Club

21 West 52nd Street  
 New York, NY  
[www.21club.com](http://www.21club.com)

7:00 p.m. Cocktails  
 8:00 p.m. Dinner

For more information, contact the  
 Office of Alumni Relations at 800.283.7478 or visit [alumni.shsu.edu](http://alumni.shsu.edu)



## 38th Annual Distinguished Alumni Gala October 15, 2010

### Distinguished Alumni

Calvert Harrison '89                      Brenda Love-Jones '74  
 Marcus Luttrell (attended '94-'98)    George Miles '61

Outstanding Young Alumnus  
 John Garrett '97



# Planting Seeds for Success

The Honorable Danny and Cindy Pierce

Photo by Paul Olle

**T**he Honorable Robert D. “Danny” Pierce, Jr., Walker County Judge since 2003, and his wife Cindy have planted financial and personal seeds that are sure to harvest bouquets of successful students for Sam Houston State University now and in the future.

The Pierces operate a small cattle operation and own Heartfield Florist. They have supported Sam Houston with both monetary and in-kind contributions. Many of the breathtaking floral blooms that set the atmosphere at Sam Houston events are from their Huntsville floral shop.

Both Pierces attended Sam Houston as did their seven children—Debbie, Robert III, Joy, Jason, Sicily, Krystal, and Natalie. Pursuing their desire to carry on the family floral business, three of the Pierce daughters, Krystal ‘07, Natalie ‘10, and Sicily—a senior, have focused their studies on agriculture and business.

“Our lives have revolved around agriculture from growing up on a farm to owning a flower shop and running a small

cattle operation. Sam Houston has been a part of our lives in many aspects. Our desire to establish the Danny and Cindy Pierce Family Scholarship Endowment to provide scholarships for students in the agriculture department seems only appropriate.”

Danny and Cindy are both members of the SHSU Alumni Association and are Bearkat Champions. Danny serves on the SHSU President’s Circle and was a 2004 Alumni Association Service Award winner.

Having served the Walker County community throughout their lives as leaders, volunteers and business owners, Danny and Cindy understand the impact that Sam Houston State University has on the local economy and their business.

“Huntsville and Walker County are so richly blessed to be the home of Sam Houston State University,” Judge Pierce said. “The leadership at SHSU has put the university in the forefront of academics, athletics, agriculture, online education and facilities.”

**To learn more about ways you can support Sam Houston State University, visit [www.shsu.edu/giving](http://www.shsu.edu/giving) or call 936.294.3625.**

Sam Houston State University  
Office of University Advancement  
Box 2537  
Huntsville, Texas 77341-2537



2010

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