

# Heritage

*The Magazine of Sam Houston State University*

The Bachelor  
of Science in

# Nursing Degree

at **SHSU** Opening doors for additional  
health-related programs p2



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## A NEW HORIZON



More than 100 years ago Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr, the French critic, novelist and author, wrote a statement that has evolved into, "The more things change, the more they stay the same." That phrase has become almost like a proverb and accurately describes how the face of our campus has changed while our university remains true to its traditions and values.

New construction and renovation have been a constant since 2002 as our facilities have grown significantly to meet the program and academic needs of a growing and talented student body. We opened the wonderful state-of-the-art James and Nancy Gaertner Performing Arts Center about six months ago. By next fall, we will have added a new residence hall and an eagerly anticipated dining facility to welcome yet another record enrollment.

Ground has been broken for our new classroom facility in The Woodlands, which will provide course offerings at the upper and graduate levels. This project is essential to providing educational opportunities for area students and for our university's long-term future. This long awaited building is the result of an effective relationship with Lone Star College.

Also located in The Woodlands, we are excited about the opening of the Sam Houston State University Regional Crime Lab, which began accepting evidence from state and local agencies just before Thanksgiving. The 5,000-square-foot facility is expected to handle up to 5,000 cases annually.

This spring, we welcomed our first class of 26 students into our new nursing program. This addresses a pressing need for more professional nurses and is being conducted in partnership with Huntsville Memorial Hospital.

The university, faculty, and staff continue to receive significant recognition. We are honored that Sam Houston State was selected by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching to receive the 2010 Community Engagement Classification. We are among 115 colleges and universities in the nation to receive this important designation and only 311 institutions of higher education have been awarded the classification since it was established.

While our university plans for continued progress and growth, Texas is experiencing a difficult financial crisis that has already affected higher education adversely through a significant loss of budget support for state universities. Additional reductions are certain and our university will shoulder its share responsibly. It is important to note that we possess a record of good stewardship of the state's resources, operating efficiently and effectively. While we are second to the bottom in per student funding, receiving about 2.7% of the formula, we perform well on coordinating board accountability measures, receiving about 5% of the incentive funding. We are lean on our operations, with only 10.7 employees per 100 students, while the state average is 25 employees per student.

We have a pressing need for two new educational facilities through state tuition revenue bond (TRB) funding. We are requesting consideration to receive TRB funds for a \$39.6 million building for biology, nursing and allied health and \$19.5 million for a forensic science facility. Again, we rank near the bottom in TRB funds per student.

To address needs for our region and state, we are seeking Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approval for an Engineering Technology program, which would be the first of its kind in the state and modeled after programs at Purdue and Utah. If we are able to move forward, the university has the very real possibility of gaining millions of dollars in private support.

Your continued interest and involvement are appreciated. Your advocacy of Sam Houston State with prospective students, within your community and with your state legislators would be incredibly helpful in maintaining our momentum.

We are optimistic about continued enrollment growth, the development of outstanding academic programs, and the expansion and improvement of facilities to meet the needs of our students and the state. We will continue to encourage and embrace change while retaining the values and beliefs that have made Sam Houston a great name in education. The more things change, the more they stay the same.

Sincerely,

Dana Gibson  
*President*

# Heritage

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## ON THE COVER



The highly anticipated Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree is now a reality.



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NURSING PROGRAM

# Opens Doors

FOR FUTURE HEALTH-RELATED DEGREES

By Julia May



## SHSU's newest degree program is helping to combat the critical shortage of nurses in Texas.

**T**he highly anticipated Bachelor of Science in nursing degree program at Sam Houston State University is now a reality and has taken its first cohort of 26 students.

The students began the program this semester, and those who successfully complete the required courses and clinicals will graduate in December 2012.

"This program will open the way for a dramatic expansion of Sam Houston State University offerings into a variety of allied health professional programs which will be developed over the next few years," said David Payne, SHSU provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Not only does the program lay the foundation for the addition of new health programs, it gives some of the 240-plus currently enrolled pre-nursing students the opportunity to complete their undergraduate work at SHSU. Before now, all pre-nursing students at Sam Houston had to transfer to other universities to receive their degrees.

Michelle Estis, of Huntsville, enrolled in SHSU in 2008 as a pre-nursing major. A single mother of two, Estis spent most of her professional life teaching pre-school. She was looking for a career change when she heard that SHSU had plans to establish a nursing program.

"Nursing is a 'giving' occupation, and I want a career where I can give and help others," she said. "It's also challenging and it will help me strive to be better.

"I have a caregiver personality, and I derive happiness from doing for others," she said. "I'm not naïve, though. I know that with a career in nursing, there will be challenges, struggles and sadness. But there will also be joy and happiness and good outcomes."

Estis said she worked hard and dedicated herself to her studies in the pre-nursing program, and she earned good grades.

*"We look forward to the expansion of the nursing program into articulation with other nursing programs and graduate programs in addition to the basic baccalaureate in nursing."*

SHSU Provost David Payne

In return, she was selected as a member of the first cohort of SHSU's nursing students and was named the first recipient of the \$5,000 per year Mary Ellen Ragsdale Nursing Scholarship.

"The scholarship means the world to me and my family," she said. "It allows me to dedicate myself to my studies without worrying about the expense of my education."

Estis said she is proud to be a part of something that has been so well received.

"There is a buzz all over campus about the program," she said. "People ask me questions about what we will be doing, and someone in the local vocational nursing program at the hospital said it was about time we offered a nursing degree at SHSU."

The nursing program is within the College of Arts and Sciences, headed by Dean Jaimie Hebert. Hebert was instrumental in laying the groundwork for the establishment of the program, according to Payne.

Louise Plaisance was hired in 2009 as associate dean of nursing to develop the curriculum for the new program and serve as its director. She has 28 years of nursing education and administrative experience and holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in nursing as well as a doctorate in nursing science.

Since then, four additional faculty members have been hired, including Kerri Cravey, Lori Neubauer, Mary Anne Vincent and Susan Mathew.

The primary goal of the program, according to Plaisance, is "to prepare and produce graduates who are eligible to take the national licensure examination to become registered nurses and contribute to alleviating the critical shortage of nurses in Texas."



The nursing faculty include (from left): Louise Plaisance, Lori Neubauer, Susan Mathew, Mary Anne Vincent and Kerri Cravey.

*Not only does the program lay the foundation for the addition of new health programs, it gives some of the 240-plus currently enrolled pre-nursing students the opportunity to complete their undergraduate work at SHSU.*

There are no professional nursing educational programs within a 40-mile radius of Huntsville and only one vocational nursing program in the local area.

In addition to civic leaders from Huntsville and surrounding communities who have endorsed the new nursing program, physicians in the area across several specialties also support the program, according to Plaisance.

Local health care facilities have indicated to Sam Houston State that space is available and students are welcome to do their clinical work at those locations.

“The university has agreements with Huntsville Memorial Hospital, East Texas Medical Center in Crockett, and two long-term care facilities in Huntsville,” said Plaisance.

“We are also working with three large hospitals in Tomball and The Woodlands. Others will be added,” she said. “We want the best possible clinical experience for our students.”

The Department of Nursing is currently located in Academic Building III on

campus, which has been renovated to include space for classrooms, offices, a conference room, and a skills laboratory.

“The program is designed for students to gain nursing skills through laboratory simulation experiences before they do hands-on patient care learning activities,” said Plaisance.

Although the nursing program is new to Sam Houston State, university officials are already exploring the possibility of adding an RN-to-BSN program. In this program students who have completed a two-year associate’s degree program would be able to take courses totally online for the completion of a bachelor’s degree in nursing science.

“We look forward to the expansion of the nursing program into articulation with other nursing programs and graduate programs in addition to the basic baccalaureate in nursing,” said Payne.

For more information about the Department of Nursing at Sam Houston State University log onto [www.shsu.edu/~nursing](http://www.shsu.edu/~nursing) or call 936.294.2371. ★

## NEW OFFICE PREPARES STUDENTS FOR DEGREES IN HEALTH PROFESSIONS

The Office of Medical and Allied Health Programs has opened to assist SHSU students with gaining admission to advanced degree programs in the specialized areas of medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, physical therapy and nursing professions as well as related areas of allied health.

At one time the university had a pre-professional advisement program, but it was discontinued when the university's general advisement structure changed. Since that time, students desiring to go into advanced medical studies were either advised through the biology department or through the Student Advisement and Mentoring Center.

"Economics changed the picture," said Jack Turner, the director of the office. "With the downturn in business opportunities, people began looking for careers with stability and those that would provide financial security. They began looking toward jobs within the health professions."

With more than 25 years of service at SHSU, 13 of which were served as chair of the former pre-professional program, Turner was approached in 2008 by Dean Jaimie Hebert of the College of Arts and Sciences to direct the new Medical and Allied Health Programs office.

At the beginning of that year, the office advised 121 students who were interested in furthering their studies in health professions. In 2010, the number of students had increased to almost 900.

"Although not all of those students will end up as health professionals, they all have the opportunity to try," Turner said.

"Through our program, we open doors for our students—we don't push anyone through them. We advise and guide them so they are able to make informed decisions about their future," he said.

Turner said his office doesn't promote or encourage students to major in one particular area.

"Each program is different and has its own demands," he said. "There are different time and energy requirements and different assessments of test scores and grade point averages.

"All students will get a chance. But after a year of taking classes, if they are not where they should be, we encourage them to re-think their options," he said. "At that point, they have not invested so much that they can't re-direct. We save many students a lot of 'wear and tear'."

In addition to providing current, individualized medical career-specific advisement, the new office offers advice as to the appropriate coursework required by the multiple state professional schools.

The office also provides assistance in preparing in-state and out-of-state professional school applications, as well as individualized review and university endorsement for students applying to professional schools.

When fully implemented, the office will provide computer-based tutorials and review assistance for such admission tests as the Medical College Admission Test, Dental Admission Test and Pharmacy College Admission Test.

"We believe that Sam Houston State University is among the leaders in providing the best guidance and direction for students planning to go into medical and allied health professions," said Turner. Many of our students are successful in their careers, and it's because of their hard work, determination and willingness to lay hold of the opportunity, the tools and the support offered here at SHSU. We have a lot of good students who begin here." ★



# PREHISTORIC PASSION

By Amy Barnett

## Patrick Lewis and his team of students travel around the world to research the past for a better understanding of the future.

**A**s a child growing up in Evansville, Ind., Sam Houston State University biology associate professor Patrick Lewis was always fascinated with fossils.

“I would sit in my gravel driveway and find hundreds of fossils every summer,” said Lewis. “I was a geeky kid who built dinosaur models and drew pictures of them.”

So it would seem only natural for Lewis to want to pursue a degree in archeology or anthropology. Even though he ended up taking that path in education, it wasn’t his first game plan out of high school.

Lewis had plans to go to medical school after getting his undergraduate degree.

But during his third year at Indiana University, he dropped out of college and joined the United States Air Force. He served eight years before finally realizing the career path he wanted to take. Lewis moved to Texas and attended Texas Tech University, where he received a bachelor’s degree in anthropology, followed by a master’s degree in evolutionary biology.

He later got his doctorate in biological anthropology and anatomy at Duke University.

In 2006, Lewis and his wife decided to move back to Texas where she has family. That’s when he came to SHSU to teach, do research and revisit his childhood passion of searching for fossils.

“I was always interested in the past, so I knew I would enjoy doing that,” said Lewis.

Lewis is currently involved in several research projects that cover a variety of locations and periods, but most center on the effects of environmental change on the skeletal and dental morphology of fossil animals.

One such project has taken Lewis and his team of researchers, which includes several SHSU students, to the Koanaka Hills region of the Republic of Botswana, a country in southern Africa.

“There’s a cave there that dates back to the Pleistocene (two million years),” said Lewis. “It has deep layers of fossils that pretty much span the past two million years, and most are of small mammals.

“Small mammals are really good at rebuilding past environments. So we’re interested in how the environment has been



changing over the past two million years in terms of global warming and ice ages, and how mammal populations respond to large-scale climate changes.”

Since 2007, Lewis and his team have made three trips to Botswana. Although they’ve gone each time equipped with tools, food, water and a detailed plan of what they need to accomplish, the obstacles they face are countless.

First, they have to fly into South Africa and drive for three days, partly off-road, to get to the cave site.

“Then we have to get down into the cave,” said Lewis. “It is a nasty cave; we have to wriggle down 150 feet before it opens up. It’s full of snakes and bats, and there are even leopards living down there. Plus, it’s very hot.”

After their first visit in 2007, Lewis decided to bring professional cavers with them to make sure they made it in and out of the cave safely.

He contacted Steve Thompson from the SHSU Outdoor Recreation Program, who, along with students, went to Botswana and taught Lewis and his team how to climb and rappel and helped them get in and out of the cave.

The Botswana military also joined them, focusing on keeping Lewis and his team out of harm’s way, often warning them of nearby elephants and lions. They also supplied researchers with 10,000 liters of water.

“Our first plan was to get fossils and compare them to the modern environment, but we realized we didn’t know about the modern environment because nobody had ever been out there to trap anything,” said Lewis.

Lewis invited SHSU biology professor Monte Thies, who is a modern mammalogist, to go as well. Thies spent his time in Botswana trapping and killing hundreds of reptiles, amphibians and small mammals to create a baseline for the study.

The group made an agreement with the Batswana to share the collection of modern animals for research. Botswana now has a collection of porcupines, honey badgers, bats, snakes, frogs, lizards, scorpions and approximately 25 different species of small mammals.

Lewis and his fellow researchers will continue to evaluate the modern collection so they will later be able to compare the climates of today and those of the Pleistocene.

The next trip will take them to Africa during its summer so trappers can find different animals and plants to study. That will also mean Lewis and his students will be up against more snakes and dangerous temperatures.

“I’m a little worried about it. It is a malarial area and it will be 10 times as hard to get out there because everything will be alive and growing,” Lewis said.

Until then, Lewis has other projects to keep him busy—one is keeping him close to home.

This site was discovered when an amateur collector found several mammoth tusks in a trench near Cypress Creek in the Katy Prairie Conservancy in Katy.

He contacted a professor at Texas A&M University, who contacted Lewis. Together teams from the two universities made a discovery that could change the way scientists view the effects of the last Ice Age on North America.

“We found a molar from a *Toxodon*,” said Lewis. “Probably not many people have heard of it, but it is a big rhinoceros type of animal that was only known to have lived in South America. So this is the first ever known in North America.”

The groups also recovered fossils from two different species of horses, camels, sloths, mammoths, and proboscideans, which are related to mammoths.

“This site in Katy preserves the height of the last Ice Age. It’s about 50,000 to 60,000 years old, we think,” said Lewis.



Lewis in a cave in Botswana

“Several sites in East Texas date to the end of the last Ice Age, but there’s not any that date to this age when things are at their coldest. We’re talking about a time when the last Ice Age is really getting going. We’re interested in seeing what animals were like then, so we can compare them to the end of the Ice Age.”

Lewis and his team, along with researchers from Texas Tech University, the University of Texas and Texas A&M, plan to return to the Katy site in May to continue digging for new evidence of prehistoric life.

What makes this site even more exciting, according to Lewis, is that it allows many SHSU biology students to get involved in the research.

“It takes a lot of time and money to work in Botswana; it’s dangerous and you can’t include everybody,” said Lewis. “But with this site, when we went down last year, we took the whole lab. We had 10 Sam students with us.”

While the act of digging up fossils was enough to keep Lewis’s attention as a child, he said he has an entirely different reason for doing it today.

“So much is being driven by climate change. We need to learn how climate changes in the past affected animals and plants at that time so we can better understand what’s going to happen in the future. Then we can learn what we can do to help prevent a real crash in the mammal population.” ☆



# W SHSU To Open New Campus In The WOODLANDS



By Julia May

**When completed in 2012, SHSU's new campus in The Woodlands will serve a growing population of master's and non-traditional students.**

**W**ith Sam Houston State University professors currently teaching over 90 percent of students at The University Center in The Woodlands, the university is looking forward to having its own facility at the center in 2012.

The new SHSU campus will house a four-story, 144,164 square-foot structure that will include classrooms, labs, enrollment counseling and advising, and administrative services, as well as a parking lot and a five-story parking garage.

The building will provide more space for the programs SHSU has been offering at The University Center. The Lone Star College System deeded SHSU seven acres of land adjacent to the current center where the new facility will be built. In return, Lone Star will have the use of 50 percent of the classrooms and free parking from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the next 10 years. After that time, Lone Star will have use of 25 percent of classrooms and parking for an additional 10 years.

The new SHSU building will address several issues that the university has

faced over the past few years, with steady growth of both students and citizens in the Montgomery County/North Harris County area. It will also provide a service for those individuals who would like to further their education but are unable to enroll on the Huntsville campus.

"Our experience with The University Center has shown us that there are a number of students in the Houston area for which driving to Huntsville is not practical," said Richard Eglsaer, SHSU's associate provost.

"These students include full-time professionals, as well as stay-at-home

parents,” Eglsaer said. “Competition for student enrollment is high, and we don’t want to lose any of our students who work in this area, especially since many of the students in the area have typically opted to get their degrees from SHSU.”

Sam Houston officials also hope to see a financial benefit.

In the original contract with The University Center, each university offering classes in the building (SHSU, University

fellowships taking place in Huntsville,” Eglsaer said.

“The exception is the doctorate in counselor education, in which most of our students are from school districts in the Houston area,” he said. “For that reason, we will have the majority of the classes in The Woodlands.”

Professional staff employed by the university will include a building liaison and computer and library support staff.

*The new SHSU building will address several issues that the university has faced over the past few years, with steady growth of both students and citizens in the Montgomery County/North Harris County area. It will also provide a service for those individuals who would like to further their education but are unable to enroll on the Huntsville campus.*

of Houston, Texas A&M University, the Lone Star College System, and the private sector) paid rent based on their percentage of enrollment. Because SHSU has always maintained at least 70 percent of the enrollments, the university pays more than \$1 million annually.

“We’ve been teaching the majority of classes in the building since the center was established,” Eglsaer said. “By having our own building, our money will go toward debt reduction rather than on a lease agreement.”

The majority of classes for baccalaureate and doctoral degrees will continue to be offered on the main SHSU campus. However, many classes for the master’s programs will be at The Woodlands.

“Most of our doctoral programs are residence programs with much of the classwork and activity associated with

Advisers and testing personnel will visit the Woodlands campus as needed.

SHSU has played a leadership role at The University Center since it opened in 1998. The center was the first of its kind in Texas and reflected what was then a new trend toward making higher education opportunities accessible to non-traditional students.

Although SHSU will offer a variety of programs at the new campus, there will be no duplication of programs offered by Lone Star College-Montgomery, Texas A&M or Texas Southern University, according to Eglsaer.

“It will be a continuation of what we are already providing, with more opportunities for non-traditional undergraduate students and graduate students working in the Houston area,” he said. “It will provide convenient access to higher education for many Texans working and residing in the north Houston area.” ★

## DEGREES OFFERED AT THE UNIVERSITY CENTER

### BACHELOR’S DEGREES

B.B.A.	Accounting
B.A.A.S.	Applied Arts and Sciences
B.B.A.	Banking and Financial Institutions
B.A. or B.S.	Criminal Justice
B.A.	English
B.A. or B.S.	Family and Consumer Science
B.B.A.	Finance
B.B.A.	General Business
B.A.	History
B.S.	Interdisciplinary Academic Studies in Elementary Certification
B.B.A.	Management
B.B.A.	Marketing
B.A. or B.S.	Political Science
B.S.	Psychology
B.A.	Sociology
B.A.	Spanish

### MASTER’S DEGREES

M.S.	Applied Geographic Information Systems
M.B.A.	Business Administration
M.A.	Communication Studies
M.S.	Criminal Justice
M.Ed.	Curriculum and Instruction
M.Ed.	Curriculum and Instruction with EC – 12 Physical Education Certification
M.Ed.	Educational Leadership: Educational Administration and Certification
M.Ed.	Educational Leadership: Instructional Leadership
M.A.	English
M.A.	History
M.A.	Kinesiology—Sports Management
M.A.	Political Science
M.A.	Psychology
M.A.	Sociology
M.Ed.	Special Education: Educational Diagnostician Certification

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Ed.D.	Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership
Ph.D.	Doctor of Philosophy in Counselor Education
Post-Bac.	Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Certification

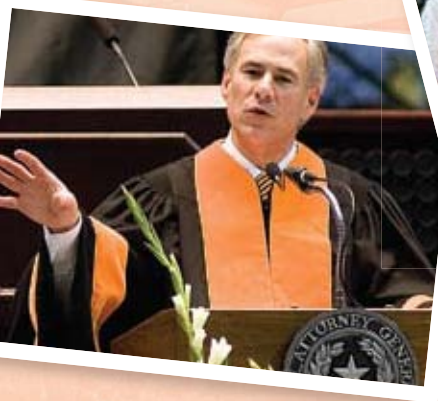


# COMMENCEMENT

**HOW MANY LITTLE DETAILS DOES IT TAKE  
TO MAKE A PICTURE-PERFECT DAY?**

*“Graduation is a huge task, and it takes help from several different areas as you can see. It is definitely a collaborative effort to pull commencement off each semester.”*

*Teresa Ringo, University Registrar*



While students dream about that one magic moment when their name is called and they walk across the stage at graduation, the rest of Sam Houston State University has been working for days, weeks, even months in advance to make the day a reality.

#### MONTHS EARLIER:

On behalf of the students, faculty, and administration, SHSU President Dana Gibson invites special guests to speak at commencement ceremonies.

The Registrar's Office has a checklist on the Destination Graduation website ([www.shsu.edu/~reg\\_www/destination/](http://www.shsu.edu/~reg_www/destination/)) to be used as a guide for completing the graduation process and participating in commencement ceremonies. The checklist covers such details from applying for a degree to checking that the student's name is actually in the program.

#### ONE MONTH PRIOR:

Degree candidates are reminded to confirm the date and time of their commencement ceremony. SHSU has three ceremonies at the end of the spring and fall semesters and two in August.

The Registrar's Office has been working for months with students to make sure that all their academic requirements have been met. As graduation day approaches, the staff in Johnson Coliseum goes into 'high gear' and begins transforming the building from a sports arena to a place for pomp and circumstance. Among the items on the "To-Do List" are:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Arrange for Coliseum windows to be cleaned                | Clean all floor chairs and replace damaged chairs with newer ones |
| Schedule golf cart drivers                                | Clean and stock concession stands                                 |
| Request wheelchair ramps and other graduation equipment   | Clean and polish showcases  |
| Clean every seat and chair back in the Coliseum           | Sweep and dust entire concourse                                   |
| Sweep all arena seating areas                             | Retouch handrails with paint                                      |
| Lay and tape the entire cover for the master sub-flooring | Clean and polish water fountains                                  |
| Push in floor bleachers                                   | Set up sound system   |
| Build stage   | Clean every nook and corner                                       |
| Mop stands  | Place platform party chairs on the stage                          |
| Tape sub-flooring   | Tape down microphone lines  |
| Set up chairs   | Arrange interpreter stand, gonfalon, and gold cord table          |
| Set up stage  | Adjust heating/air conditioning                                   |
| Place skirt around the stage                              | Obtain pop-up tents for golf shuttle                              |
| Build handicap ramp                                       | Place commencement programs                                       |

## LET THE CELEBRATION BEGIN!





# ‘ACCOMPLISHED’ ADMINISTRATOR TO RETIRE THIS SUMMER

Increased retention and graduation rates, new academic programs, and recognitions and awards are just a few of the things that have taken place under the leadership of **Provost David Payne**.

**A**fter 14 years of service to Sam Houston State University as its senior academic officer, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs David Payne is retiring on July 31, 2011.

“Provost Payne has established a strong, objective academic culture that continues to raise the bar on the quality of the academic programs and services at Sam Houston State University,” said SHSU President Dana Gibson.

“His rigorous expectation for quality benefits our current students, and since

it permeates the academic units, these expectations will continue to enhance student and faculty experiences for years to come,” she said.

During his tenure at SHSU, Payne has led the Division of Academic Affairs with 600 faculty located in six colleges offering 78 undergraduate and 49 graduate degrees, including five doctoral degree programs.

Payne earned a Bachelor of Science degree in sociology from Brigham Young University. He continued his academic studies in sociology, earning both a Master of Arts degree and a doctorate from the University of North Carolina.

He began his career at the University of Iowa. After positions at the University of Iowa, University of North Dakota, University of New Orleans, Southeast Missouri State University, Sangamon State University, and Emporia State University, he came to SHSU.

“I was interviewing for two positions at the same time in the spring of 1997,” Payne said. “One was at the State University of New York—Buffalo and the other was at Sam Houston State. At one location, the snow banks were high, and at the other location, the azaleas were in full bloom. It was not a difficult decision for us.”

Payne, and his wife, Grettle, had never lived in Texas. However, it was not long before they felt at home.

"I suppose you could say we were captured by Texas and all things wonderful about the state," he said. "We have truly enjoyed being Texans."

He doesn't mind expressing his affection for the Sam Houston State University community as well.

"The quality of people I have worked with is outstanding," he said. "Every person is really a fine human being. The administrators are skilled and that has made my life as provost pleasant.

"I am thrilled that the university has been recognized as one of 97 colleges named as one of the 'Best Colleges' in the country to work for and one of the top 100 businesses in the Houston area to work for," he said.

Payne said he was hesitant to isolate any one accomplishment that had occurred at the university under his direction.

"The credit for anything good that has taken place should be spread across the entire university," he said. "It wasn't because of the work of just one person."

However, several faculty leaders feel that Payne's involvement was the driving force in making things happen.

"Through his leadership and stewardship, and working with other administrators, the quality of academics and number of students here at Sam Houston have skyrocketed," said Texas State University System Regents' Professor and Distinguished Professor of Criminal Justice Rolando del Carmen.

"He has been a highly approachable administrator and always had time for anyone who wanted to meet with him," del Carmen said. "It is amazing to me how, throughout all these years, he was always available for meetings one-on-one with the faculty and how he listened to genuine concerns about academics and



Provost Payne serves lunch at the Administration and Organization Fair, sponsored by Student Activities.

other matters in their own colleges. He was always there to listen and be sympathetic. His heart and mind were in the right place and he truly cared."

"In my opinion, Dr. Payne has done more to elevate the academic standards of students and faculty than any other administrator in the past 40 years (my time at SHSU)," said TSUS Regents' and Distinguished Professor of History James Olson.

"In terms of tenure standards and research expectations for faculty, he has brought SHSU into the modern world, and he has managed to do so with gentility and grace," he said.

"Today, the quality of our faculty in many departments rivals the faculty at such premier institutions as the University of Texas and Texas A&M. Many administrators have pushed SHSU in that direction, but in my opinion David Payne is the individual most responsible for that transformation," Olson said.

"Dr. Payne's style of leadership has grown our democratic campus environment. He encourages rather than demands; he invites instead of tells," said Joyce McCauley, professor and graduate reading/language arts program adviser for

the College of Education and chair of the American Democracy Project at SHSU.

"He is a leader with vision and courage and helps to find ways to make things happen," she said. "He is sincerely interested in connecting the strengths of the university community with the strengths of the local community for the mutual benefit of both. Now, more than ever, faculty and students are understanding the power one person can have to make a difference by being informed and engaged in community."

"Dr. Payne has been a wonderful mentor to me and many of the administrators on campus," said Richard Eglsaer, associate provost. "As a leader, he refuses to micromanage. Rather he quietly shares his experiences to help us put our decisions into perspective.

"I have benefitted tremendously from his wise counsel over the last 11 years. He consistently maintains focus on the big picture as he makes decisions," Eglsaer said.

"I have been most impressed by his humility. As a leader he has deflected credit away from himself. Effective change has been the only reward he has sought or accepted," he said.



*“I have been most impressed by his humility. As a leader he has deflected credit away from himself. Effective change has been the only reward he has sought or accepted.”*

—Richard Eglsaer, associate provost

### AMONG PAYNE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND UNDER HIS DIRECTION, SHSU:

In reflecting on his work at SHSU, Payne said he also sees a bright future for the university.

“There is wonderful leadership in academic affairs at all levels, and I believe the university will continue to move forward after I have retired,” Payne said.

“Enrollment will continue to grow, the graduate program will be strong, and the distance learning component will enhance the attraction of the university,” he said.

“The new nursing program will open the door for the expansion of allied health programs, and it will give a whole new dimension to the university,” he said.

“And the Performing Arts Center will allow the university to better focus on those academic programs,” he said, noting that SHSU’s strength in the performing arts was one of the things that attracted him to take the job.

Even though his job as a university administrator will end in July, Payne has several projects that will occupy his time.

“I’ve always been interested in genealogy, and I plan to pursue it more aggressively,” he said. “I’ve served 23 years as a chief academic officer, and through the years I’ve been asked to do presentations and provide advice on how to be a successful provost. So I’m planning to write a book about that.

“And, of course, I will be playing with my 10 grandchildren,” he said. ★

- Increased freshman-to-sophomore retention by 26 percent
- Increase six-year graduation rates by 42 percent
- Introduced a freshman reader program
- Increased enrollment by 27 percent
- Moved the university from a Carnegie classification of Masters University to the classification of Research Doctoral University
- Established internal connections with 18 universities in eight countries
- Established the Professional and Academic Center for Excellence to enhance teaching
- Opened a multi-institution teaching center in north Houston
- Led a faculty development initiative more than quadrupling the number of semester or year-long faculty development leaves
- Conducted a major revision of the university’s core curriculum
- Increased 40-fold the student scholarship funds
- Doubled the size of all graduate assistantships
- Established academic enrichment centers to assist students with special needs in language and mathematics
- Established an innovative advising center, which was recognized in 2005 as one of the six best in the nation
- Established and staffed an Office of International Programs
- Brought to approval two doctoral programs and many master’s and baccalaureate programs, including the new baccalaureate program in nursing
- Led the institution through successful discipline-specific accreditations and two institutional accreditations
- Restructured Academic Affairs, adding two colleges
- Implemented a new automated degree-monitoring program
- Established benchmark community college articulation and transfer programs
- Led institution involvement with the American Democracy Project and the Political Engagement Project
- Increased externally funded research by 450 percent
- Established a distance learning office which has more than 5,000 online enrollments per semester in 12 full degree programs
- Established the Office of Student Success Initiatives, which sponsors such programs as the First Year Experience, the Common Reader program, the Learning Communities, and an Introduction to University Life course





# SHSU RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has selected Sam Houston State University to receive the 2010 Community Engagement Classification.

SHSU is among 115 colleges and universities recognized and is the only institution within the Texas State University System with the designation. Only 311 U. S. institutions of higher education have been awarded the classification since it was established.

Colleges and universities with an institutional focus on community engagement were invited to apply for the classification. The application asked for evidence that community engagement is incorporated into the university's mission, campus culture, institutional assessment, resource allocation, academic research, teaching, student-learning outcomes, faculty evaluations and activities of student organizations.

The community engagement initiative at SHSU was developed by Provost David Payne, who assembled a group of faculty members interested in helping students become more civically engaged.

"He wanted our students to use the skills, knowledge and dispositions learned at SHSU to make a difference, to improve life in our community by understanding their roles as citizens of the United States and to give back," said Joyce McCauley, chair of the Engaged Scholars Committee, which prepared the application.

In addition to McCauley, who represents the College of Education, committee members include Sanjay Mehta (Business Administration), Lee Miller (Humanities and Social Sciences), Sergio Ruiz (Arts and Sciences), and Raymond Teske (Criminal Justice).

The recognition is particularly rewarding for Payne.

"We are delighted to be classified as civically engaged university by the

*"With this recognition we join an elite group of universities that in practice care for the total development of their students."*

—David Payne, provost

Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching," he said.

"It is a validation of the work of many of our faculty who for several years have prepared our students for a lifetime of civic engagement as part of their education at Sam Houston State University. With this recognition we join an elite group of universities that in practice care for the total development of their students," he said.

To see the many ways SHSU is an engaged campus, go to [http://www.shsu.edu/~pin\\_www/T%40S/2011/CarnegieCommunityEngagement.html](http://www.shsu.edu/~pin_www/T%40S/2011/CarnegieCommunityEngagement.html). ★

# Enrollment Reaches Milestone



Sam Houston State University's enrollment reached another record high in the fall semester, exceeding even the projected growth.

Official 20th class day figures indicated that 17,214 students were enrolled in SHSU this fall, constituting a 2.8 percent increase over Fall 2009's enrollment of 16,772.

This breaks down to 14,659 undergraduate students; 2,256 post-baccalaureate and master's students; and 299 doctoral students.

Enrollment growth is based on three areas: new freshmen, with a 4.1 percent increase over Fall 2009; new transfer students, with an 8.1 percent increase; and the graduate student population, which increased by 18.1 percent over 2009, according to Heather Thielemann, vice president for enrollment management.

The total new undergraduate increase for fall 2010 is 256 students for an increase of 5.7 percent.

"I think new student growth is essential to the university, and these three areas impact not only SHSU, but also help us reach the statewide goals in these target markets," Thielemann said. "The freshmen growth is important because based on statistics for Texas high school graduates from May of 2009, 75 percent of them attended a community college, so for us to continue to increase in our freshman class is a success."

Thielemann attributes the growth to focused recruitment efforts and scholarship money available for transfer students.

"Students who transfer in 30 or more hours to SHSU are the most successful at completing a degree, but they can also receive their

associate's degree with our reverse transfer program," she said. "As for the graduate program, we have targeted different groups of students with marketing and recruitment. They have a full-time graduate admissions counselor

*The 2010 Fall enrollment breaks down to 14,659 undergraduate students; 2,256 post-baccalaureate and master's students; and 299 doctoral students.*

for general recruitment, and each college recruits for specific programs.

"I also think the new website has contributed to improvement in communications and current information," she said. ☆

# Criminal Justice's Doctoral Program Celebrates 40 Years



Professor Jerry Dowling (left) and then-Dean George Killinger in 1977.



**T**he brainchild of two visionary men—George J. Beto, former director of the Texas Department of Corrections, and Arleigh B. Templeton, former president of Sam Houston State College—was to establish a program of excellence in criminal justice education.

Forty years later, SHSU's College of Criminal Justice has produced 259 doctoral graduates, including prominent leaders in academia and in practice across the United States and world.

"Over the years, the College of Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University has produced quality doctorates that have worked across the State of Texas, the nation, and internationally," said Michael Vaughn, assistant dean for graduate studies

*"The 40th anniversary of our Ph.D. program is a time to honor the college as well as celebrate our graduates who have contributed so much to the academic discipline of criminal justice and criminology."*

—Michael Vaughn

for the College of Criminal Justice and director of the doctoral program.

"Sam Houston graduates serve on the boards and are office holders of key academic professional organizations in the discipline, including the Academy of Criminal Justice

Sciences and the American Society of Criminology. Moreover, the teaching, research and scholarship conducted by Sam Houston students, alumni and faculty have made the world a better place.

"The 40th anniversary of our Ph.D. program is a time to honor the college as well as celebrate our graduates who have contributed so much to the academic discipline of criminal justice and criminology."

The College of Criminal Justice celebrated its 40th year of doctoral education with a reception in March at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences conference in Toronto, Canada. ★

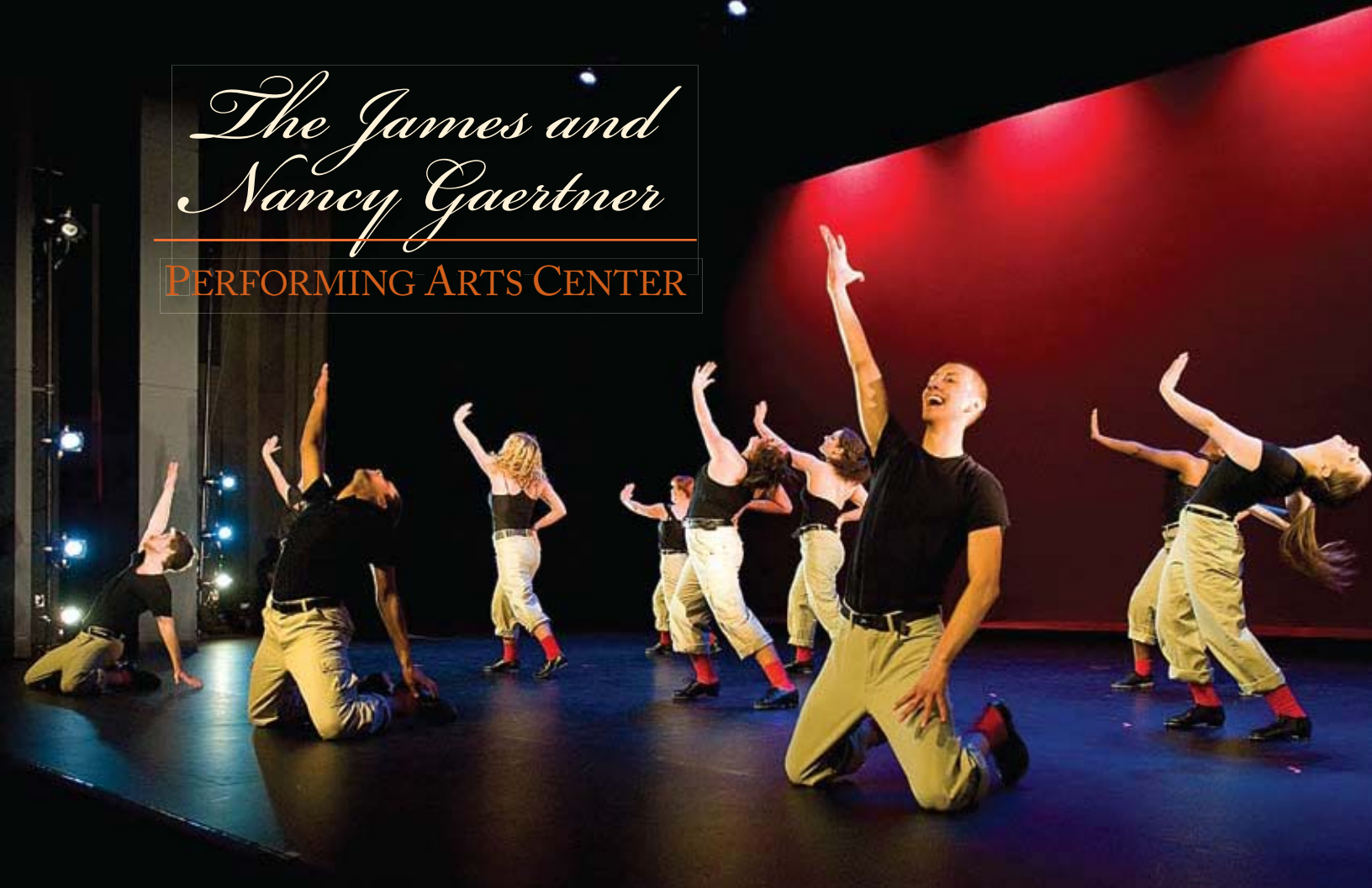


The James and Nancy Gaertner Performing Arts Center formally opened its doors on Sept. 30, 2010, with a ribbon cutting ceremony and an exciting evening of music, theatre and dance.



*The James and  
Nancy Gaertner*

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



*opening grand opening grand opening*



# Steeles Share Blessings Through Gifts of Scholarships



Linda Cowles (left), director of Keep Pearland Beautiful, receives a check from Erin and Robert Steele. The Steeles support a number of philanthropies as well as SHSU scholarships.

## Through their Steele Charitable Foundation, Robert and Erin Steele are taking their giving one step further.

**W**hen Robert and Erin Steele look back to 1980, they have many fond memories to cherish. It was the year they became husband and wife and Sam Houston State University graduates.

The Steeles met in 1977 while Robert was taking part in the university's 3/2 program, allowing him to earn a degree in

physics from Sam Houston while simultaneously earning an engineering degree from Texas A&M; Erin was working on a degree in speech pathology with a minor in special education.

The couple did very well during their time at Sam Houston. Robert was awarded the Outstanding Junior Physics Student Award in 1978 and graduated with honors; and Erin graduated Summa Cum Laude, served as

an Orange Key and was inducted into the Kappa Delta Pi Education Honor Society.

While this time in their lives brought accomplishment, Erin said she can't look back without remembering the struggles she faced as well.

"I was a very good student in high school, but I didn't get any scholarships," she said. "I came from a family with five kids and a stay-at-home mom. I was the first to go to college, and it was very hard.

"I had to work to pay for at least, if not more, than half of my expenses. I did laundry for Green Acres Nursing Home, watched the after-school kids at a day care in Huntsville, and even worked off and on at JC Penney."

Although Robert's father paid for his education, he saw first hand the stress Erin had to face. They knew early on, if they were ever in a position where they could "give back," they would.

"I always thought we would give back to students, because I remember how I struggled and the stress I was under," said Erin.

The Steeles began paving the way to that opportunity as soon as they graduated.

Erin taught at Garfield Elementary in Pasadena while Robert began working at Texas Honing, Inc., the company his father started just four years earlier with two business partners.

The company became family owned in 1982, and two years later, when his father retired, Robert and his brother, Will, bought his interest. In 1995, Robert bought Will's shares and became sole owner of the company.

THI provides a range of precision services including boring, straightening and drilling, and in 1998, it began offering something a little different—scholarships.

The Steeles started the Steele Charitable Foundation, offering scholarships to the children of Texas Honing, Inc., employees.

One recipient, Amanda Stephens, who graduated from SHSU in May 2010 with degrees in mass communication and photography, said the scholarship was a blessing.

"You don't see many businesses helping the children of their employees like this. College can be so expensive, especially when you have a double major, so the scholarship really helped a lot," she said.

The Steele Charitable Foundation has provided \$100,000 so far to families of Texas Honing employees, and even though the Steeles sold 90 percent of their interest in the company in 2008, they continue to provide financial aid to families of the employees.

Now they are taking their generosity a step further, providing scholarships to other students as well, by setting up two new

endowments, pledging \$1 million to Sam Houston State University.

The Robert and Erin Steele Science Endowed Scholarship is designed to aid full-time SHSU undergraduate students majoring in a science or engineering.

The Erin and Robert Steele Education Endowed Scholarship is for full-time undergraduates who have been admitted into SHSU's educator preparation program.

The Steeles call their decision to give the money to Sam Houston an "easy one."

"There is such a big difference with Sam Houston State University than with other universities," said Robert. "The professors make such a big difference by



Rodeo and serves on the committee for the Junior Poultry Auction. The couple also contributes annually to scholarships provided by the HLSR.

Erin is a past president and active member of Keep Pearland Beautiful, as well as Women in Leadership Society, which offers scholarships to single moms attending college, among other things. In 2010, she was named a recipient of SHSU's Alumni Service Award.

"I think everyone should have the opportunity to go to college if they choose, but, unfortunately, so many don't have the financial means to get there. So when we give money, we want it to go to education," said Robert.

*"I always thought we would give back to students, because I remember how I struggled and the stress I was under."*

—Erin Steele

making themselves more available and really spending time one-on-one with the students."

"That has not changed over the years," said Erin. "We also saw it with our daughter, Laura (who graduated in December). She was able to talk to her professors any time. As a parent, I'm very pleased that Sam Houston has not changed that policy."

The Steeles have two sons, Travis and Glen, who are also college graduates. As parents, Robert and Erin first set out to teach their children the importance of an education. Now they strive to teach them the value of philanthropy. And they do it by example.

Robert is on the board of directors for the Houston Livestock Show and

When they are not spending time with a charity group or managing Houston National Golf Course, which they purchased in July, they are likely spending time with their children or fellow members of First United Methodist Church in Pearland.

But no matter where they are, they are focused on setting a good example by giving back.

"We usually tell our scholarship recipients, when you are in the position to help someone else, whether it is with a scholarship, or by helping someone who needs their car repaired, you need to give back," said Erin. "We give back because we've been blessed so much." ★

# SCENE *at* SAM

The pictures on the next page are from events that took place at SHSU during the Fall semester.







Tree of Light Ceremony



Sammypalooza



Fall Festival



Golden Circle Reunion



Firefest



Dedication of the Erica Starr Theatre



Tony Dorsett, President's Speaker Series



Tree of Light Ceremony



Fall Festival



Firefest



Neishka Cardona

Dayna Galganski



# INAUGURAL BOWLING TEAM SETS SIGHTS ON National Title

**SHSU's newest intercollegiate sport is striking big in its first season.**

**I**n nearly a century of intercollegiate athletics at Sam Houston, the Bearkats have won eight national championships. The last title came in 1982 in softball.

Now a Bearkat team appears to have the potential to increase the university's national championship trophy collection to nine.

The opportunity comes in the university's newest sport — women's bowling.

Head coach Brad Hagen's squad of seven bowlers burst onto the NCAA Division I bowling scene this fall in spectacular fashion.

Playing in major intercollegiate tournaments in Missouri, Delaware and New Jersey, the Bearkats finished as runner-up in one event and third in two others.

The bowling team's fall record of 29 victories and only 12 losses includes 18 wins over teams listed in the National Tenpins Coaches Association 2010 preseason top 20.

Sam Houston has defeated nine of the top 10 teams including victories over defending NCAA champion and No. 1 ranked Fairleigh-Dickinson, 2008 national titlist and No. 2

Maryland-Eastern Shore, and 2007 NCAA champion and No. 4 Vanderbilt.

"We certainly have gotten the attention of everyone in the college bowling world," Hagen said. "Our seven girls have done a tremendous job this fall. Our level of preparation, competitive nature and NCAA record prove that we are not just another first-year program. We want to remain on course towards our goal of the NCAA championship in Detroit in April. We've turned heads, but we still have to go out and prove we're a contender."

Hagen, a U.S. Bowling Congress Silver certified coach with more than 15 years of competitive experience at the regional and

**Lisa MacAllister**
**Shaina Woolbaugh**
**Coach Brad Hagen and Aida Sanchez**
**Kimi Davidson**


national levels, joined the Bearkat staff in 2009. The native of upstate New York hit the ground running, recruiting all over the country to build a team.

“We went looking for quality over quantity,” Hagen said. “We wanted women who understand the importance of academics and the ability to learn, adapt and retain information on and off the lanes.”

Hagen also has succeeded in building corporate relationships for the new team that will benefit the program. The Bearkats are sponsored by Track Bowling, a brand of Ebonite International, Inc., and Turbo Grips, a bowling accessories company.

“We look for Track and Turbo Grips to be key influences in our present and future success,” Hagen said. “It’s exciting to have influential companies be a part of our vision and growth from the beginning, and I believe the synergy is a perfect fit.”

The Sam Houston bowling team opened its first season with a victory over rival Stephen F. Austin at the International Bowling Training and Research Center in Arlington.

“Starting the program’s history with a win over our arch rival was a tremendous motivational factor,” Hagen said. “As one of the first events in the new Arlington facility, it also brought Sam Houston major exposure in the bowling world. I’m so proud of how our team has performed on the national stage.”

The inaugural Sam Houston bowling squad consists of Texans Lisa Cummins, Kimi Davidson and Lisa MacAllister;

Florida’s Dayna Galganski; New Yorker Shaina Woolbaugh; Neishka Cardona, of Puerto Rico; and Aida Sanchez, of the Dominican Republic.

The bowling squad has earned a reputation not only for success on the lanes but also as strong supporters for the other 16 sports teams at Sam Houston State.

“Every home game, unless they’re at a tournament, the bowling team is in the stands giving their support,” associate athletic director for student services Chris Thompson said. “These young ladies have embraced the college experience and are having a great time.”

Galganski, a junior from West Palm Beach, Fla., who was a gold medalist at the 2009 Tournament of the Americas, loves the college game.

“The biggest difference between intercollegiate bowling and playing as an individual is having six teammates right there with you, rooting for you and giving encouragement,” Galganski said. “The whole team spirit thing is great. One of the best things about Sam Houston State is all the activities. It’s great going with my teammates to events like Firefest and Homecoming and supporting our other sports teams. It’s exciting and fun.”

Competition in tournaments across the country makes up the Bearkats’ schedule. During the spring semester, Sam Houston will travel to Arkansas, Nebraska, Alabama and Tennessee seeking to earn a berth in the NCAA championships April 14–16 in Detroit.

## CHAMPIONSHIP BOUND



On March 30, it was announced on the NCAA National Selection Show that the SHSU bowling team would compete in the NCAA Division I National Championship in Detroit April 14–16.

There are two types of team matches at the tournaments. On one day teams play traditional matches with each individual’s scores combined for a team total to decide the result. Squads also meet in Baker-format matches that are like a tennis dual match or match play in golf. The bowlers square off in one-on-one match-ups with the first team to win four of the pairings declared the winner.

Results from the first two days of competition are used to determine seeding for the final day, with the top four teams battling for the championship. This fall, Sam Houston qualified for the top grouping in each of the finals competitions.

“In bowling, strikes are fun but spares win,” Galganski said. “We’ve set getting to the NCAA nationals as a team goal and so far we’re on track to get there.” ★



# BATTLE OF THE PINEY WOODS

The 85th "Battle of the Piney Woods" at Reliant Stadium on Oct. 23, was a smashing success. The crowd of 24,685 was the largest in SHSU-SFA series history and the ninth biggest audience ever for a Bearkat football game. The event provided a stage for Sam Houston to gain exposure in the city in which more than 65,000 SHSU alumni call home. The No. 4-ranked Lumberjacks escaped Reliant Kat with a narrow 31-28 victory. With all but one starter back from the 2010 Kat team, fans already are looking forward to the 86th renewal of the series, again at Reliant. For complete information about tickets to the 2011 "Battle of the Piney Woods," go to [www.gobearkats.com](http://www.gobearkats.com).

**SAVE THE DATE—OCT. 8, 2011**



## Student-Athlete Service Goes Unrivaled



Bryan Randolph was one of the athletes who worked with children at a Huntsville elementary school.

### Sam Houston student-athletes have taken a leadership role in the Southland Conference with community involvement programs.

**T**he SHSU Student-Athlete Advisory Committee's activities have been so successful that other universities across the league have used the group as a model for their own campus.

Two projects during the 2010 school year illustrate the group's commitment. In March, SAAC's annual "Pop Tab" drive to raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House M. D. Anderson Cancer Center resulted in a record collection. Bearkat student-athletes collected 118.6 pounds of pop tabs from soft drink cans.

As part of the Southland Conference's "Twelve Days of Christmas" program in

December, each of the university's 17 sports teams worked to see that more than 60 underprivileged children at Sam Houston Elementary School will have school supplies for the coming year.

Other annual community-related activities for Bearkat student-athletes include mentoring programs with the Huntsville Independent School District; a canned food drive benefiting The Good Shepherd Mission; and Student Life Awareness Programs concerning alcohol, nutrition, time and stress management and diversity.

The leadership role played on campus by Sam Houston student-athletes has been recognized nationally by the NCAA. ★

*The leadership role played on campus by Sam Houston student-athletes has been recognized nationally by the NCAA.*

## Letter Associations Honor Eight Former Athletes



From left: Bobby Jones (brother of the late Jan Jones), Victor McKnight, Chris Thompson, Sylvia Anderson, Jody Conradt, Mike Stavinoha, and Brenda Gray

### The 2010 Halls of Honor inductees include program ‘pioneers’ and ‘outstanding’ men.

**F**our women and four men were recognized as the 2010 inductees into the Sam Houston Women’s Letter Association and the SHSU Lettermen’s Association Halls of Honor at the annual dinner in December at the Lowman Student Center.

Women’s inductees were Sylvia Anderson (basketball), Jody Conradt (basketball), Brenda Wedde Gray (volleyball) and Chris Cribari-Thompson (tennis).

Men’s honorees were the late Jan Jones (football), Victor McKnight (football), Tracy Pearson (basketball) and Mike Stavinoha (baseball).

“Each year, the Hall of Honor presentation is special,” director of athletics Bobby

Williams said. “But the 2010 event was particularly memorable. Just over 40 years after the inception of women’s athletics at Sam Houston State, we have the opportunity to honor several of the pioneers who built the foundation for our women’s programs.”

Jody Conradt was head coach for both the Sam Houston women’s basketball and volleyball programs from 1970 to 1973 and went on to roll up an incredible record as head women’s basketball coach at the University of Texas. She also served as women’s athletic director at UT from 1992 to 2001. In her 38-year career (that includes four years at Sam Houston), she won 900 basketball games, the second highest total for an NCAA Division I basketball coach.

Sylvia Anderson, a starter on the Bearkats’ 1973 women’s basketball team coached by Jody Conradt, was the first black woman to participate in intercollegiate athletics for Sam Houston. She helped lead the 1973 women’s team to a 20-7 record, the most victories in a season during the first 12 years in the program’s history.

Chris Thompson and Brenda Gray have played major roles in women’s athletics at Sam Houston both as student-athletes, coaches and athletic administrators.

Thompson was “Most Valuable Player” for the 1980 women’s tennis team and served 16 seasons as the program’s head coach. She now is Sam Houston’s associate athletic director for student services, overseeing an academic and student-athlete

welfare program that is the model for the Southland Conference.

Gray played volleyball for the late Rebecca Bilsing (a Hall of Honor inductee in 2008) on the 1979 and 1980 teams that rolled up a two-year record of 80-30 and finished as runners-up in the Texas Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women. Gray succeeded Bilsing as Bearkat head coach in 1984. In her 26 seasons at the helm of the program she stands as one of only 27 active NCAA Division I women's volleyball head coaches with more than 500 coaching victories.

"Sam Houston State is equally thrilled to welcome four outstanding former athletes on the men's side," Williams said. "I had the opportunity to see three of these gentlemen compete during my tenure here at the university and know what great honors they brought to our program as well."

Jones was quarterback and punter for Sam Houston on the university's football teams in 1941, 1942 and 1946. He earned All-Lone Star Conference first team honors and helped lead the 1942 and 1946 Bearkats to Lone Star Conference runner-up finishes. Jones still holds the school and Lone Star Conference record for most punts in one game with an incredible total of 31 set in a 0-0 tie with East Texas State on a muddy field in 1946.

McKnight was a four-year starter as a center for the Bearkats, earning All-Southland Conference honors in 1997, 1998 and 1999. His senior year, he was part of the offensive line that blocked for Walter Payton Award finalist Chris Chaloupka as the Kats set school passing and total offense records and started a tradition of nationally-ranked Bearkat aerial attacks.

Pearson stands No. 5 in all-time rebounds and No. 8 in career scoring in the Sam Houston men's basketball record books. He scored 1,406 points and pulled

down 733 rebounds as a center for the Kats. Pearson earned first team all-league honors both in the Gulf Star Conference in 1987 and the Southland Conference in 1988 and 1989.

As a pitcher for the Bearkat baseball team, Stavinoha also earned all-conference honors in two leagues. He was an All-Gulf Star Conference selection in 1986 and all-league in the Southland Conference in 1988. Stavinoha ranks No. 5 in career pitching victories at

Sam Houston with a four-year record of 26-8. His .765 winning percentage on the mound is the 10th best in Bearkat history.

The Sam Houston Lettermen's Association initiated its Hall of Honor in 1971, and this year's group brings the total of inductees to 164.

The first five women were inducted into the Hall of Honor in 2007. This year's inductees bring the number of women in the Hall of Honor to 19. ★



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# A History of Helping



Sam Houston State University has been a family tradition for the Koy's, three generations strong.

Sam Houston State University has been an important part of the Koy family “since way back,” according to Ernie Koy, who earned his Master of Business Administration degree in 1973.

The pro-football running back turned banker and his wife of 40 years, Barbara, reflect on what got them to Sam Houston and how the university opened doors to a new chapter in their lives.

Ernie, a graduate of Bellville High School, made a name for himself on the football field playing on the 1963 University

of Texas National Championship football team. In 1964, he led the Longhorns to an unexpected victory over the No. 1 Alabama Crimson Tide in the first night Orange Bowl game. There was no question the next step for the college athlete was to “go pro.”

“The AFL and the NFL were two separate leagues back then. I was drafted first or second with the Houston Oilers, and later that same month, I was drafted by the New York Giants,” he said. “I couldn’t sign yet because I had one more game to play in Miami.”

He laughed, “Joe Namath signed right under the goal that night after the game.”

Ernie decided to go to New York City, so he signed with the Giants. He enjoyed a six-year career with the team and was selected as an All-Pro.

During the off-season in 1970, Ernie was one of four professional football players hired by the Delta Queen Steamship to talk with passengers about football as the old riverboat made its way down the Mississippi River to New Orleans for the Super Bowl. Barbara was also on the boat, representing



Overseas National, the airline that had recently purchased the Delta Queen.

“We met on the boat and kept in touch,” said Barbara. “Our second date was in New York on Valentine’s Day. We dated when we would both be in New York. That went on for about six months, and by December of the same year, we got married. It was a funny way to date, but we managed.”

The next year, Ernie decided due to nagging injuries and the Giants’ desire to find younger and faster running backs, it was time to “lay the ball down.” As soon as he did, he got a phone call from his former high school football coach, Allen Boren, who was then head of athletics at SHSU.

“He said ‘why don’t you come and help coach the football team here and help out in the dormitory and you can go to school and get your master’s degree?’” said Ernie.

This was not a foreign idea to him. His father, Ernie Anyz Koy, became a graduate assistant at Sam Houston in 1938, after playing minor league baseball for several years. After completing his degree, he returned to the Major League, playing for the St. Louis Cardinals, Cincinnati Reds, Brooklyn Dodgers and the Philadelphia Phillies.

The Koyes decided to take Sam Houston up on the offer and moved to Huntsville. While Ernie was working on his MBA and helping with the football program, Barbara was earning a bachelor’s degree and a teaching certification.

“Her address went from ‘58th Street, New York City’ to ‘Men’s Gym, Sam Houston,’” laughed Ernie. “I got a call from her mom ... ‘where is she?’ she said.”

But Barbara never complained about living in the gym.

“I loved our time at Sam Houston,” she said. “I previously went to Queens College in New York, which had 40,000 students and it was a commuter school. It was a great school, but there were no dorms and no campus feel.



Above: (From left) Bobby Williams, Jess Koy, Ernie Koy and Willie Fritz.  
Right: Ernie and Barbara Koy at their home near Bellville.



“Even though we were married and older, that was my first campus experience and living in the men’s gym was really exciting,” she laughed.

That exciting time at Sam Houston led the Koyes to a new chapter in their lives. After graduation, Ernie began a 35-year career in banking; he retired two years ago to enjoy life on the couple’s ranch in Bellville.

Barbara began a teaching career and though not retired is taking time off as she recovers from her second bout with cancer. She continues to get stronger and debates how soon she’ll be able to return to the career she loves. (Unless her husband convinces her to stay home and enjoy retired life.)

The Koyes have four grown children: Robert, Andy, Lucy and Jess. Robert and Jess are also Sam Houston alumni; Robert even followed in his father’s

and grandfather’s footsteps, becoming a graduate assistant for SHSU’s football program. His wife, also named Barbara, attended SHSU during that time and completed her master’s degree as well.

Because of that strong family tradition, the Koyes decided they wanted to do something to give back to Sam Houston. They’ve created a scholarship fund to help others who are graduate assistants in the athletics department at SHSU.

“The graduate program has been a big part of our family. I know those guys do a lot; I’ve been there,” said Ernie. “They work for the coaches and then put the pencil down and run to class. We really wanted to do something to recognize them men.”

“We are so excited about the amazing things that have happened on campus,” added Barbara. “From the time we were there to what it is now, we’re just so proud of the direction it’s going.” ★

## A Picture of Success



*“(HLSR) Volunteers ‘pay it forward’ to many students who would not have had an opportunity to get an education, and we give them the feeling that 20,000 volunteers believe in them.”*

### Alumna Carolyn Faulk’s business accomplishments allow her to focus on another passion—giving.

If you measure a person’s accomplishments by the number of zeros in their company’s annual revenue report or by the accolades bearing their name, Carolyn Faulk is the picture of success.

In 2008 and 2010, Forbes Magazine called her one of the strongest businesswomen in Houston, and in 1995 Ernst & Young named her “Entrepreneur of the Year.”

But the owner of Houston-based A&C Plastics would not call herself successful by these measures alone.

The 1970 SHSU graduate believes a person’s achievements are only as important as what they allow the person to do for others.

“You reap what you sow. I love to help people and I love to give,” she said. “God blessed me to be a blessing to others.”

“My daddy always told me to ‘share the wealth.’ Anything I can do to make a difference while I’m here on this earth, I’m going to do it.”

But “giving back” was not always easy for her. After graduating from college, she began teaching at Jesse H. Jones High School in Houston making \$720 a month. During that time she was also moonlighting as a bookkeeper for several plastics companies in Houston.

In 1973, as she continued to teach, Carolyn and her husband at the time, Myrl Faulk, saw a business opportunity in Houston when the plastics manufacturer he worked for closed down. They took a leap of faith and started A&C Plastics with no credit, no inventory and only \$5,000 to their name.

They chose the name A&C Plastics for two reasons: “A” to be first in the phone book and “C” for Carolyn.

Although they lacked a lot of resources, the determination they had, she said, paid big dividends.

“I would set goals for myself, and when I reached them, I set new ones.”

With her “never quit” attitude and the knowledge she gained as a teenager from watching her father operate his own fabricating business out of their back yard, she slowly began growing the business.

In 1987, when she and her husband parted ways, she bought out his share of the company, prayed a lot and stayed focused.

Her determination led to a business plan she credits for making A&C Plastics the largest single plastics distributor in the U.S., with annual sales exceeding \$21 million.

“What we sell is service,” she said. “We throw in the plastic for free.”

The company, with 45 employees, is now shipping a wide range of plastic products from locations in Houston, Colorado Springs and Chicago.

Having a successful business means working late nights, traveling across the country to the company’s other branches and staying hands-on, keeping abreast of where plastics can be used in different industries. But she makes sure to find time for herself, doing the things she enjoys.

“If I make time to be good to myself, my great attitude is felt by everyone I come in contact with,” she said.

That is something folks with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo have seen first hand. For the past 33 years, Carolyn, who is an HLSR Lifetime Vice President, can be found volunteering in various facets of the rodeo—no job is too big or too small.

And for 25 years, she has also been hitting the trails, riding on the Magnificent 7 Wagon with the Salt Grass Trail Ride.

“We call this our ‘February family,’ and it is a family tradition,” she said. “My children have been riding for 25 years, too, and now I get to see my grandchildren grow up on the trail each year.”

Her love for horses brought out her competitive side for 10 years, as she took part in cutting horse competitions across the country; she even made the HLSR cutting horse finals one year.

But don’t think her time spent with the Houston Rodeo doesn’t have a hidden agenda.



She gives annually to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Youth and Education Foundation.

“I’ve been a volunteer with HLSR since 1978. Together volunteers ‘pay it forward’ to many students who would not have had an opportunity to get an education, and we give them the feeling that 20,000 volunteers believe in them,” she said.

While Carolyn has contributed to numerous charitable organizations throughout the years, in 2008 she found the need to start her own.

“I looked at the charities I was sending money to and I wasn’t sure what percentage of that money was going to the cause. I wanted to start a foundation that was strictly built on volunteers with no fundraiser. I wanted to help families have a better life,” she said.

She started the Faulk Foundation to help families dealing with a major illness.

“I wanted to show them first hand that there are a lot of people who care and are willing to help.”

When she’s not hard at work with A&C Plastics or the multiple charities she holds

*“You reap what you sow.  
I love to help people  
and I love to give.  
God blessed me to be  
a blessing to others.”*

—Carolyn Faulk

dear to her heart, Carolyn enjoys cooking, boating, fishing and even hosting an annual slumber party to reunite with fellow Bearkats and childhood friends.

As for the future, she hopes to have continued success, in all the ways that truly matter to her.

“I see me getting closer to my Lord and Savior, becoming debt free, giving more of my resources, spending time with my children and grandchildren and watching them become successful humans in their own right with honesty and integrity,” she said.

“It’s been quite a party, and I’m just getting started.” ★

# Where Are They Now



Jerry Hawkins (BS '61)

*Hawkins is a sustaining member of the Alumni Association and has been giving back to his alma mater since 1981.*



John Phelps (BS '56)

**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!**

## **CLASS OF 1961—Jerry Hawkins**

“My education at Sam Houston opened the door for my career at Dow Chemical in Freeport where I worked in basic research, epoxy resin research, safety, and quality control coordination globally before finishing my career in analytical analysis for hydroxy acrylate production and retiring in 1997,” said Jerry Hawkins, who graduated in 1961 with a Bachelor of Science degree and in 1963 with a Master of Science degree, both in chemistry.

After retiring, Hawkins taught freshman chemistry through Brazosport Community College to laboratory operators at a local industry and did some substitute teaching. He and his wife, Ann, moved to Livingston in 2000.

Hawkins was born in Austin and moved to Galveston as a child, where he grew up. After going to work for Dow Chemical in June 1963, he met his wife. They have two children, Greg (class of 1994) and Heather

Williams, along with son-in-law, Frank, and two grandchildren.

Hawkins is a volunteer with the Homebound Ministry group at the First United Methodist Church in Livingston, builds homes with Habitat for Humanity, and has gone on mission trips to Corazol, Belize, and several other out-of-state places. He worked with the Boy Scouts for approximately 20 years.

He started a running hobby in 1990 and, at the age of 71, is still a runner. He ran the Houston Marathon in 2007 and three half marathons before that. His other outdoor activities have included hiking and backpacking in the Grand Canyon, Glacier National Park, canoeing in Canada, and taking with many camping trips with the Boy Scouts.

Hawkins is a sustaining member of the Alumni Association and has been giving back to his alma mater since 1981.

His grandmother, Janie Hoge, attended Sam Houston Normal Institute in 1903.

## **CLASS OF 1956—John Phelps**

“Whether you have known John Phelps as a school teacher, insurance agent, city councilman, church member, father or neighbor, you know you have a good friend,” Houston Commissioner Sylvia R. Garcia has said.

The Harris County Precinct Two Commissioners recently named the new Pasadena courthouse annex the John Phelps Courthouse to recognize the longtime businessman and volunteer.

Phelps graduated from Sam Houston in 1956 with a Bachelor of Science degree in vocational agriculture. He is a Life Member of the Alumni Association. His brother, Lyndon, also attended Sam Houston.

Phelps served in the U.S. Navy and taught for the Channelview and Pasadena Independent School Districts.

He has been an insurance agent for 47 years with Phelps State Farm Insurance in Pasadena, the largest State Farm agency in the company for many years.

Phelps supports local charities and has served on the local YMCA board, in the Optimist and Rotary Clubs, as president of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the Southeast Economic

*“Whether you have known John Phelps as a school teacher, insurance agent, city councilman, church member, father or neighbor, you know you have a good friend.”*

Houston Commissioner Sylvia R. Garcia



*Sanders was honored by being selected to the 2005 class of the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.*

Rex M. Sanders (BS '72)

Development Association, Economic Alliance Houston Port Region, San Jacinto College Foundation, and the East Harris County Senior Citizen advisory board.

He was recognized as the Optimist Citizen of the Year, a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow, Rotarian of the Year, Pasadena ISD Distinguished Citizen of the Year, and the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year. He received the Jim Fonteno Senior Citizen Award, Economic Alliance—Houston Port Region Visionary Award, and the SEED Small Business of the Year Award.

Phelps has been supportive of Sam Houston, giving to the State Farm Friends of Sam Houston State University Scholarship Endowment.

John and his wife, Wynell, live in Pasadena.

#### **CLASS OF 1972—Rex M. Sanders**

Rex Sanders began his coaching career for the Texas Department of Corrections, coaching inmates on a “farm” team when he was a student at Sam Houston State University.

After graduating in 1972, he taught and coached at New Caney High School (1972–73), Huntsville High School

(1973–77), and Terrell High School (1977–79). In 1979, he became the head baseball coach at A&M Consolidated High School in College Station, where he remained until his retirement from coaching in 2003.

His career record stands at 462-231. Fourteen former players have been drafted into professional baseball, and more than 70 have played college baseball. Several former players have become coaches.

Highlights of his coaching career include coaching his son, Kyle, in the state baseball tournament in 1990; coaching the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association All-Star Team in 1990; hosting former President George Bush and former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev at a baseball game at A&M Consolidated’s Tiger Stadium in 2001; coaching the Houston Area All-Star team in 2003; being selected to coach the West Team in the first National All-American Game held at Yogi Berra Stadium in June 2003; receiving the Ray Knoblauch Award for excellence in coaching by the Houston Area Sports Foundation in 2004; serving as FCA Huddle Coach and on the Coaches Outreach Coaching Board; and working with outstanding assistant coaches and quality young men.

Sanders was honored by being selected to the 2005 class of the THSBCA Hall of Fame. In 2009 he was inducted into the National High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame in Tucson, Ariz., as the first coach from Texas to be selected to its Hall of Fame.

Sanders has served the THSBCA as poll director, secretary, treasurer, and now that he has retired from teaching, he is the executive director of the 3,000-plus member association with an office in College Station.

Sanders met “the love of his life,” Judy, in Miss Condray’s English class his first semester at Sam Houston State University. He said he made a “C” in the class, but she made an “A” and he knew that he “needed her.” They dated and married while attending Sam, and his grades improved significantly. He knows that the quality instruction that he received at Sam Houston, especially in its education department, prepared him to enter the classroom and coaching arena with the tools he needed to be a strong teacher and successful coach.

He and Judy have three children and seven grandchildren.

## Where Are They Now *(cont...)*



Sammy Citrano (BS '78)

*"My wife and I enjoyed two great trips to the White House, hosted by the Bush family, thanking us for our service. It is something I will never forget."*

—Sammy Citrano



Sharon Lindstrom (BS '87)

### CLASS OF 1978—Sammy Citrano

Sammy Citrano graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 1978.

While a student at SHSU, he met Charles Petronella, Damian Mandola and Nash D'Amico and went to work with them at their restaurant in Huntsville, called Damian's.

"Their families were from Sicily, as were mine," said Citrano. "I had the best time working there. I especially remember when the Houston Oilers were holding training camp, and Bum Philips and Earl Campbell came in. They really enjoyed the restaurant and the cold beer."

Citrano went to work at Steak 'N Spirits Restaurant in 1977 in Huntsville as a waiter, busser, bartender and cook. He went into management with the company after he graduated.

"We grew to five locations," he said. "David Tinsley was the owner but selected me as president of the dinner house group in 1982, an opportunity that not many 25-year-olds get."

"Sammy is the best hospitality man and networker in the community that I've ever seen," Tinsley said. "He knows how to run a business and is a superb restaurateur."

Citrano married Delonda Newhouse in 1982. They have a son, Kyle, a Texas Christian University graduate.

They moved to Waco in January 1986 where Citrano was the managing partner of the Elite Café and Health Camp Restaurant.

In 1994 he purchased an old landmark restaurant and bar called George's, which had been around since the 1930s.

"I kept the name, updated it and it continues to grow and is Waco's local favorite, famous for chicken fried steak and Big O beer," he said. "A song by my friend Pat Green, called 'George's Bar,' helped make it famous.

"We have catered to many, including President George W. Bush and the White House staff and press corps for the eight years he was president and vacationed in Crawford. My wife and I enjoyed two great trips to the White House, hosted by the Bush family, thanking us for our service. It is something I will never forget."

Citrano enjoys working with the local Chamber of Commerce, Texas Sports Hall of Fame, and First National Bank of Central Texas.

His hobbies include working with young people in their business and enjoying his

family's condo in Destin, Fla., "to recharge my batteries."

### CLASS OF 1987—Sharon Lindstrom

Sharon Lindstrom graduated from Sam Houston State University, with Summa Cum Laude honors, in 1987, earning a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting. While attending Sam Houston, she was part of Alpha Lambda Delta, Golden Key National Honor Society and the Accounting Honor Society.

She started at Arthur Andersen just after graduation and quickly became manager in the Houston office. She transferred in 1993 to the Chicago Arthur Andersen office where she had the opportunity to be part of the start up of their internal audit and risk consulting practice, becoming a partner in 1999.

In 2002, she and 64 other partners started their own company, Protiviti, with approximately 650 employees in the United States. Lindstrom is a managing director in the Chicago office, also responsible for the global manufacturing industry.

Protiviti is a risk consulting and internal audit firm specializing in solutions to clients in the areas of finance, operations,

*Lindstrom believes it is very important to leave a legacy, “something you are remembered for,” beyond work.*



Teresa Hearn George (BS '83)

*George started her own entertainment marketing company, Cornerstone Communications. Her first client was the Grand Ole Opry on their 75th anniversary special on CBS, hosted by Vince Gill and Dolly Parton.*

technology, litigation, and governance, risk and compliance. In eight years, Protiviti has grown to 2,500-plus employees in more than 60 offices in North and South America, Europe and Asia-Pacific.

Lindstrom believes it is very important to leave a legacy, “something you are remembered for,” beyond work.

She serves on the board of Umoja Student Development, a not-for-profit formed in 1997 to link the educational efforts of Chicago Public School students to the broader community and to serve as an advocate for young people. As a result of this involvement with underserved high school students, Lindstrom also started a scholarship program at Protiviti to support college-bound inner city students with scholarships through their college graduation.

Lindstrom has two sisters who also attended SHSU. Teri (Lindstrom) Tracey, '85 Bachelor of Science degree in social work from the College of Criminal Justice, currently resides near Dallas, and Jeanne (Lindstrom) Stewart, '87 Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education, currently resides in New Jersey.

Lindstrom remembers her time fondly at SHSU, especially the faculty and

her accounting classes in the College of Business Administration.

She resides in Lincoln Park, a neighborhood near downtown Chicago.

#### **CLASS OF 1983—Teresa Hearn George**

After graduating from SHSU with a bachelor's degree in journalism, Teresa Hearn George was employed at the Orange Leader newspaper as a city and crime reporter. From there, she went to Virginia after taking a job in television production and then moved to Nashville in 1988.

She landed a job working at the Country Music Association writing for its magazine CLOSE UP and doing public relations. That eventually led to jobs heading up their marketing, membership, communications, and creative services and serving as creative consultant for the CMA Awards telecast.

She also traveled internationally for them, as they have a London office and outposts in Australia and Amsterdam.

In 2000, she started her own entertainment marketing company, Cornerstone Communications. Her first client was the Grand Ole Opry on their

75th anniversary special on CBS, hosted by Vince Gill and Dolly Parton.

During that time, she secured corporate and promotional partners for the Academy of Country Music's television properties and strategic initiatives, including Dr. Pepper, The Home Depot, Cover Girl, The RAM Truck Brand, Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority, Miller/Coors, Neutrogena, Southwest Airlines, Westwood One, Justin, Wrangler and more.

She worked briefly on the marketing for a PBS children's show, and for the past six years, she has worked with the Academy of Country Music on its awards show, handling new business, television and brand development in Las Vegas each May.

She now works for the Academy of Country Music in Nashville as senior vice president, brand integration and strategic partnerships.

George lives with her husband, John Paddison, and their two children, Grace and Jake, in Nashville. ★

## Alumni Association 'Life Members' Honored At Special Dinner



New Life Members who received their plaques at the celebration are (from left): Meghan Burton, Justin Kinslow, Cameron Clay, President Dana Gibson, Rebecca Templet, Di Tubbs and George Griffin.

**T**he Sam Houston State University Alumni Association hosted its first Life Member Celebration on Feb. 24, at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel with approximately 200 guests attending.

Alumni Association president Alan Tinsley, '71, served as master of ceremonies, with the invocation by Roland Hendricks '80.

Charlie Vienne, executive director of the Alumni Association, thanked guests for their generosity in supporting the association through Life Memberships.

"Life Membership is more than just a state of mind," he said. "It is a powerful

tool for action and a vehicle for connecting alumni with one another.

"Life Membership is the foundation for the Alumni Association's continued well-being and development," he said.

Vienne told guests that the association had made tremendous progress in the past decade, going from nearly 300 Life Members to a current 1,461 members and total alumni endowments had increased from \$585,116 to more than \$2.7 million.

He also talked about alumni scholarships.

"Over the past five years we have averaged 40 scholarships to 40 different students each year and have awarded approximately \$40,000 in award money annually," he said.

SHSU's largest and most recognized scholarship is the "Tuition Drawing," which produces more than \$20,000 in award money distributed to 17 or more students annually.

The evening's special guest was SHSU President Dana Gibson, who said she had learned good things about Bearkat alumni since becoming president.

"I've learned that Bearkats look after their own," she said. "I've also learned that once a Bearkat, always a Bearkat."

She explained that while waiting to appear before the legislature on behalf of the university during the current session, she had support and encouragement





Among the guests attending the event were Maggie Parker, (upper left), Ronny Leamons, Jason and Leah Leamons, and Sandra Hanscom.

from alumni who were also in Austin for legislative matters.

"I looked in the room and noticed that other university presidents who were about to testify didn't have any of their alumni coming to them and voicing support," she said.

"Knowing that I had Sam Houston alumni backing me gave me a lot of confidence going before the legislature," she said.

Gibson also talked about university accomplishments and talked about plans for the future. She also gave examples of how SHSU is being a good steward of state resources, pointing out that even though the university's per-student state funding is low compared to other universities,

statistics show that SHSU students are receiving a high quality education.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of Life Membership plaques to those in attendance who had joined since Sept. 1, 2010. They included Meghan Burton, Cameron Clay, Dana Gibson, George D. Griffin III, Rick Hanna, Josh Leamons, Justin Kinslow, Rebecca Templet and Dimitri Tubbs.

John, '78, and Donna, '82 & '90, Gilbert; Roland, '80, and Jean, '82, Hendricks; Ron, '60, and Chrissy Mafrige; Law Office of Bennie D. Rush, P.C.; and Gary, '72, and Pam, '72, Whitlock.

Also (Gold) Roland Black, '61; R.H., '60, and Kelley Bond; Bill, '88, and Kerri Byler; Ronny Carroll, '65,-Ronny Carroll Homes; Glyn Gilliam, '56; Leonard Keeling, '63; Ron, '61, and Donna Koska; Tommy Metcalf, '71; Edgar, '56, and Carolyn Reeves; David Rex, '82, M.D.-Huntsville Radiology Consultants P.A.; Buddy and Larue, '62, Smith; and Dan, '65 & '67 and Marian Spence.

For more information about Life Membership and other membership levels in the SHSU Alumni Association contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 936.294.1840 or 800.283.7478. ★

# Association Recognizes Five As Distinguished Alumni



Left to right: John Garrett, Calvert Harrison, Brenda Love-Jones, President Dana Gibson, George Miles, and Marcus Luttrell at the Distinguished Alumni Gala

## Calvert Harrison

The owner of Best Care Dental in Atlanta, Ga., for more than 10 years, Calvert Harrison uses both his sociology degree (1989) as well as his doctorate in dentistry, which he received from the University of Texas Medical School in 1994, to help those around him.

Throughout his career, Harrison has built four dental practices in the Atlanta metro area from startup to multimillion-dollar corporations. He is certified in straight-wire orthodontics, Invisalign and Lumineers.

Outside of his practice, he not only provides dental care for underprivileged families at the Ben Massell Dental Clinic, but also provides counseling services at the Ella Mae Thomas House for recovering substance abusers, coaching them on healthy decision-making skills.

## Brenda Love-Jones

Owner of one of the top five advertising agencies in Houston, Brenda Love-Jones opened her Love Advertising in 1979 “with \$500 of start-up capital” and has since built a clientele that includes a number of Fortune 250 clients and annual billings in excess of \$30 million.

Love-Jones earned her bachelor’s degree in journalism in 1973 at SHSU and her master’s degree in advertising, public relations and telecommunications from San Diego State University.

Love Advertising has won numerous awards for its service, including the Houston Business Journal’s “Top Houston Advertising Agencies” and “Top 50 Women Owned Businesses in Houston,” and Working Woman Magazine’s “America’s Top 500 Women Owned Businesses.”

Love-Jones also has provided pro bono work for organizations and campaigns such as Susan G. Komen of Houston, the Chuck Norris KICKSTART KIDS Foundation, Lighthouse for the Blind, Catholic Ministries, The Orange Show, Interfaith Ministries and Peace of Mind Foundation.

## Marcus Luttrell

“A true American hero and patriot,” Marcus Luttrell is widely known for his actions as a Navy SEAL on the Afghanistan and Pakistan border.

His harrowing story as the lone survivor of what became the single largest loss of life in a day in the history of the Navy SEALs was chronicled in his New York Times best-selling book “Lone Survivor,” currently being made into a movie.

Since returning from his mission with Operation Redwing in 2005, for which he was awarded the Navy Cross by President George W. Bush, Luttrell has dedicated himself to veterans’ causes, donating all profits from his book to help the families of his fallen comrades and military charities. His Lone Survivor Foundation provides funds to various charities across the country, including the Wounded Warrior Foundation.

In addition to the Navy Cross, the Delta Tau Delta alumnus has been recognized with the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and two Life-Saving Medals.

## George Miles

A leader within his community and the university, George Miles has been “a great advocate of Sam Houston” who “has served diligently to do his part to enhance Huntsville and the university.”

The 1961 SHSU graduate, who also attended the Southwestern Graduate Banking School at Southern Methodist University, spent his career in the banking industry.

## CLASS NOTES *(from July 15 through November 15, 2010)*

Miles's work within the SHSU and Huntsville communities is vast, serving in leadership positions on committees and helping organize fundraisers for both, leading to his being selected as Huntsville's "Citizen of the Year" in 2007 and as a recipient of the SHSU Alumni Association Service Award in 2008.

As president of the SHSU Alumni Association in 2006, he was directly involved in the creation of the Alumni Garden, the completion of the Bell Tower and the restoration of the Old Main pipe organ and its installation in the Peabody Library.

### **John Garrett, Distinguished Young Alumnus**

The owner, founder and publisher of Community Impact Newspaper, John Garrett built a company from three employees to one with 65 employees in less than five years, generating \$6.9 million in 2009, just four years after it was established.

A 1997 graduate, Garrett's Community Impact Newspaper, with corporate headquarters in Pflugerville, has become the most widely distributed newspaper in Central Texas, producing seven separate, free publications that serve Round Rock, Pflugerville, Cedar Park, Leander, Northwest Austin, Central Austin, Lake Travis, Westlake, Georgetown, Hutto, Taylor and Southwest Austin.

In 2009, Garrett began a new publication in the Cypress-Fairbanks area of Houston, adding an additional circulation of 105,000 to his 450,000 Austin-area circulation.

The company has been recognized in multiple focus groups as the "first and only news source" where local residents get their news and is also the only 2009 National Newspaper Association award-winning newspaper in Central Texas, according to his nomination form. ★

**Raymond "Cotton" Lewis '50** performed at the National Cowboy Symposium for 20 years, telling stories. He is currently retired and lives in Olton.

**Charles Carlson '68** was elected to the Region 20 Education Service Center Board in San Antonio in June. He worked for 38 years in education in Del Rio and Hondo and retired in December 2005. A photographer, some of Carlson's images were in the November 2010 issue of Texas Highways, including the cover photo of the Frio River at Garner State Park.

**Judge W. Jeanne Meurer '75** was awarded the 2009 Lady Bird Johnson Humanitarian Award. She currently serves as the chair of the Travis County Juvenile Board. In the course of her 28 years of public service, she has served as a tremendous advocate for children and youth.

**Myron Frans '77** was selected as president of Leeds Precision Instruments, Inc., and Leeds Forensic Systems, Inc., headquartered in Minneapolis, Minn. He has been named to the Best Lawyers list every year since 1995. As president of the Leeds Companies, he directs the production and worldwide distribution of Leeds' forensic comparison microscopes used in crime labs and forensic training programs. He also oversees the distribution and service of Olympus microscopes in 14 states.

**Carol Houston '77 & '91** has been named the first female principal of Tomball school district at the high school level. She has worked at Tomball since 1998, moving from assistant principal to associate principal. She will lead the new Tomball Memorial High School when it opens in fall 2011.

**Dena Byrd '90** retired from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice as a certified Texas purchasing manager in February 2008. In April 2009, Byrd returned to work as an acquisition

specialist for the University of Texas Medical Branch.

**Dedre Ray '90** graduated with Magna Cum Laude honors from Prairie View A&M University on Aug. 14 with her master's degree in education administration. Ray is currently employed with the Alief school district as an AVID Elective and Exploring Careers teacher and resides in Sugar Land. She has one son, Blake, who is a junior at Alief Taylor High School.

**Cheryl Conley '94** was named 2011 Florida Department of Education/Macy's Teacher of the Year last year by Education Commissioner Eric Smith and Macy's senior vice president Karin Darmanin. She was recognized for her creativity and ability to help her students reach their fullest potential. Conley will serve for one year as the Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for education, visiting schools throughout Florida to share information on educational opportunities and challenges.

**Stephanie Hollis '02** returned to her alma mater last year to serve as the events coordinator for the SHSU Office of Alumni Relations.

**Kara Ellis Times '03** was recently named the Houston Fashion Group International's 2010 "Woman of Excellence" for "her tireless and humble dedication" to the organization. Times is the secretary of the board of directors for FGI Houston and the treasurer of the board of directors for The Fashion Group Foundation of Houston.

**Kevin Lunsford '10** was promoted last spring to chief of the Huntsville Police Department. A Walker County native, Lunsford has spent his entire career in the HPD, serving at all levels. He also has been named "Supervisor of the Year" on five occasions and "Officer of the Year" by the Huntsville Rotary Club.

## *In Memory*



### DR. WILLIAM R. "BILLY" HARRELL

*will be remembered by the many lives he touched inside and outside of the classroom.*

**A** distinguished educator at Sam Houston State University, Professor William R. "Billy" Harrell died Oct. 22 in Indiana.

With a doctorate in education (agricultural education/agricultural mechanization), Harrell came to Sam Houston State University in 1969 and served as professor of agricultural mechanization until his retirement in 2006. He was chair of the agriculture department from September 1985 through August 1995.

Harrell was actively involved with many organizations and conducted agricultural mechanics certification workshops for

the Texas Education Agency to qualify agricultural science teachers to teach pre-employment laboratory courses at the secondary level.

He also conducted non-credit agricultural mechanics short courses for secondary agricultural science teachers and developed and conducted FFA tractor technician contests for the 10 Texas agricultural sciences areas.

He developed and conducted the Area IX FFA Agricultural Mechanics Career Development event and hosted the State FFA Leadership Development events in agricultural skills.

He was a member of the Walker County Cooperative Extension Program Council, the Houston Community College Agricultural Sciences Advisory Committee, and Huntsville ISD Vocational Advisory Committee and served as chair of the Huntsville FFA Advisory Committee.

Harrell's awards and recognitions were numerous for his outstanding leadership and dedication in agricultural mechanization. Among the professional service recognitions and awards he received were: the Texas FFA Blue and Gold Award, International Who's Who of Professionals, North America Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Teaching Fellow, the Sam Houston State University Faculty Excellence in Service Award, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Hall of Honor, Texas A&M University Educator Award, Professional Ag Workers of Texas, and John Deere Agricultural Mechanization Award.

He produced numerous papers, publications and educational video series, including more than 25 DVD titles with CEV Multimedia, which have been used to instruct more than one million students in more than 10,000 classrooms across all 50 states and in 19 countries. ★

## *In Memoriam*

### 1930s

Maggie L. English '35

### 1940s

Albert S. Kelly '40  
Lola Irene Clevenger Wiese '41, '60  
Hazel Inez Lewter Murphy '42, '46  
Samuel McKinney Jr. '43  
Darwin B. Link '44  
Cecil Alyec Whatley Whitley '44  
E. Alice Seddon Brown '48  
Billie M. Holbert Burke '48  
John Lee Cook Sr. '49  
James Elbert Barnett '49, '58  
William Leonard McDonald '49

### 1950s

Leroy Henry Boenker '50  
James Don Magee '50  
Johny Ray Isgitt '51  
Jot Holiver Hodges Jr. '54  
Hugh L. Barnett '54  
Donald Franklin Vickers Sr. '56  
Francis Troy Dagle '57, '62  
Harry Gene "Hap" Roberts '57  
John Clinton Lowe '58  
Fred Malcomb Poole '58  
Della L. Frazier '59, '74  
Edgar Jerrell Groce '59  
Dan E. Williams '59

### 1960s

Marilyn Moore Hogue '60  
Penny Howard '60  
Sally Rose Black-Moore '61, '71  
Linda Lou Glass Woodman '62  
Ruby Helen Hall Ross '62  
Bura Joe Barker '63  
Carol J. Alford '63  
Mariella A. Smith Madden '65  
Charles Meredith Maiorana '65  
Dale M. Dow '67  
Weldon H. Newtor '68  
Orin Nelson Covell '68  
Ronald Hudgins Caldwell '69  
Carol Sue Downey Williford '69

## ALUMNI BOARD

### 1970s

Dorothy Pauline Morgan Lewis '70  
 Milburn Dean Armstrong '70  
 Ruth Reed Vegas '70  
 Walter Aron Foster '71  
 Richard Steven Robinson '71  
 Kenneth N. Hackett '71  
 Kenneth Mark Haynes '71  
 Elena Tamez De Pena '71  
 Jerry Frank Bullard '72  
 Nancy Jo Lowery Webster '72  
 Karen Dianne Blezinger Galle '72  
 Thomas Blackard '72  
 Richard Alan Winegarden '72, '73  
 Elaine M. Bethscheider Bergman '73  
 Irl R. Walker III '73  
 Gary Stephen Thomas '74  
 Herman B. Davis Jr. '74  
 Joe H. Rogers '74  
 Linda S. Cheshire '76  
 Herbert Ross Atwood Jr. '78  
 Alicia Lukaszewski '79

### 1980s

Terri L. O'Meara '80  
 Sallye Kersh Windham '83  
 Martha Jane Buis Penrod '83  
 Mary G. Calderon '85  
 Simone Therese Lejeune '87  
 Lazaro Hernandez '88  
 Ann Davis Roche '89  
 Barbara Bevis Houston '89

### 1990s

Kenneth Ray Blaylock '90  
 Max Allan Threadgill Jr. '91  
 Linda June Northcutt Smith '91

### 2000s

David Roy '00  
 Trent Ruchti Hepler '02  
 Jason Thomas McKinney '06  
 Heath Alan Schielack '10

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). ★



Officers of the 2011 Alumni Board of Directors are left to right (**front row**): Jack Compton, treasurer; Alan Tinsley, president; Barbara Grady Bright, secretary; (**back row**) Susan Smith Lenamon, vice president; Ed Owens, past president; and Mary Ellen Walker Thornton, president elect. The complete listing of board members can be found at [www.shsu.edu/~alu\\_kat/about/board.html](http://www.shsu.edu/~alu_kat/about/board.html). ★

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**APRIL 28** AUSTIN/WASHINGTON COUNTY ALUMNI RECEPTION  
 THE WELCOME HALL WELCOME, TX

**MAY 7** SHSU RECEPTION @ RANGERS BALLPARK IN ARLINGTON  
 TEXAS RANGERS VS. N.Y. YANKEES

**MAY 21** ALUMNI LEGACY GOLF TOURNAMENT  
 HIGH MEADOW RANCH GOLF CLUB, MAGNOLIA

**JUNE 28** SHSU NIGHT @ MINUTE MAID PARK  
 HOUSTON ASTROS VS. TEXAS RANGERS

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ALUMNI EVENTS,  
 LOG ON TO [WWW.SHSU.EDU/~ALU\\_KAT/](http://WWW.SHSU.EDU/~ALU_KAT/).**



look **BACK**

# HOME COMING 2010



**SAVE THE DATE—OCT. 15, 2011**

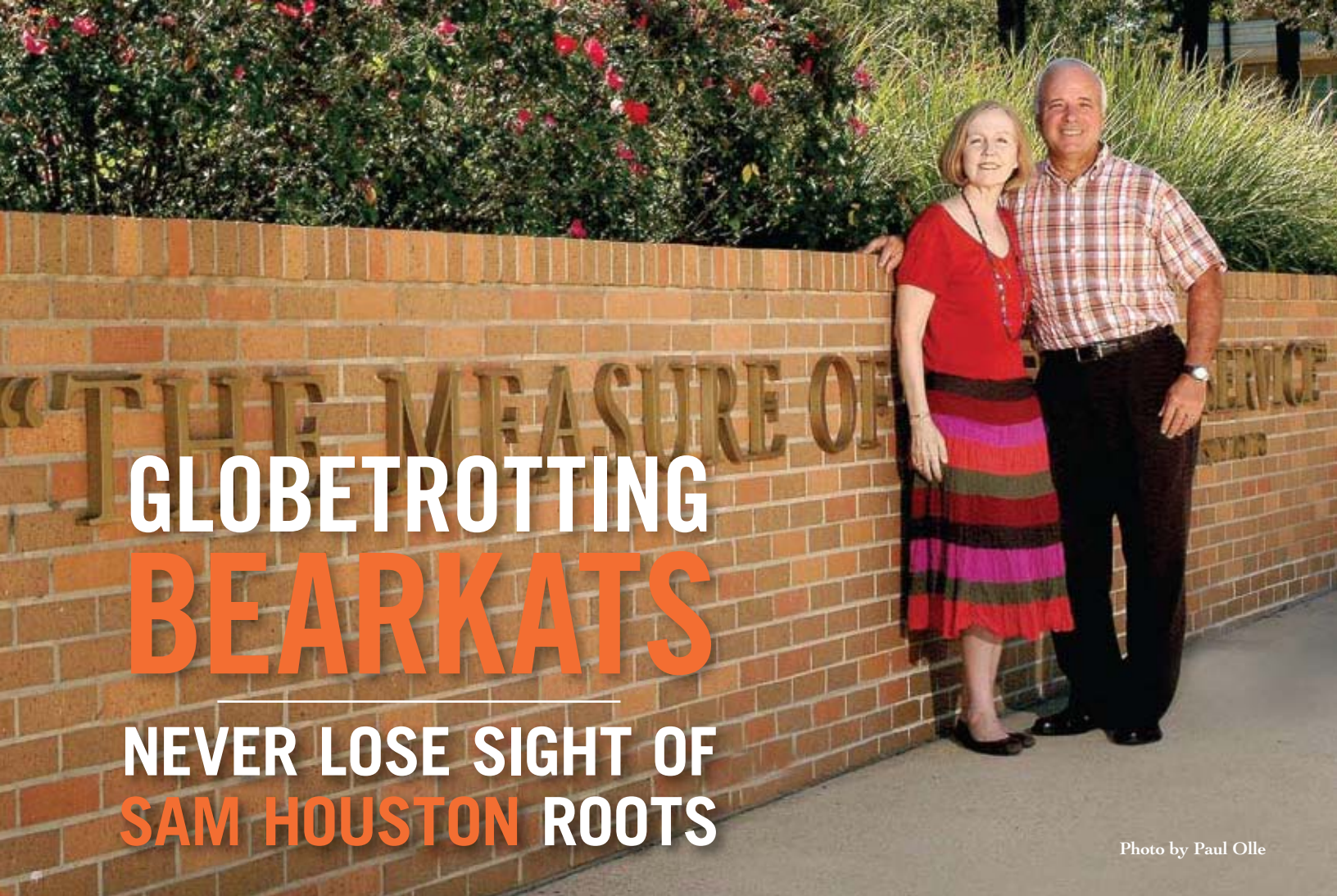


Photo by Paul Olle

# GLOBETROTTING BEARKATS

## NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF SAM HOUSTON ROOTS

**W**hatever country or exotic locale world travelers and dynamic couple, John and Nancy Hoyt, are visiting—Sam Houston remains a favored destination. John graduated from SHSU in 1975 with a bachelor's degree in

government and was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. Nancy graduated a few years later with a Bachelor of Arts degree in home economics. College sweethearts, the Hoyts went on to marry, start a family, and build a successful self storage business in Waco and Hewitt.

Both John and Nancy have been avid supporters of their alma mater in many ways. In addition to serving on a number of SHSU boards and organizations, John was on the Alumni Board of Directors from 2006 through 2010, including serving as President of the Association in 2009. The couple also established the Greg Lundgren Memorial

Athletic Endowed Scholarship in memory of Nancy's brother, a football coach at Columbus High School.

During the university's successful *Share the Vision* capital campaign, the Hoyts also provided critical leadership and support with John serving as a member on the Executive Leadership Council as well as a regional chair.

Of their three children—Matthew, Eric and Emily, it was Emily who continued the Bearkat legacy, graduating from Sam in 2002 with a BA in English and as a member of her mother's sorority—Alpha Chi Omega. Emily also participated in her parents' love of adventure. She and Nancy were contestants on the *Amazing Race* show in 2001 where they traveled 35,000 miles across four continents, all in 31 days.

So wherever the Hoyts may visit next, we can be certain they'll leave a trail of orange behind them!

**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.**

# ENCORE

BENEFITTING THE PERFORMING ARTS AT SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

APRIL 30, 2011  
[www.shsu.edu/encore](http://www.shsu.edu/encore)



## Allen Shamblin

'82 BBA Marketing  
*Texas Heritage American Songwriter with many #1 hits*  
"He Walked on Water"  
"The House that Built Me"  
"Life's a Dance"



## Elijah Gibson

'98 BFA Dance  
Legendary Giordano Jazz Dance  
Touring Company  
Tony Bennett's  
"An American Classic"



## Greg Graham

'99 BFA Musical Theatre  
Tony Award Winning  
"Hairspray" and "Billy Elliot"

## Mike Reid

*Former Cincinnati Bengals defensive tackle, now songwriter & musician*

"I Can't Make You Love Me"  
"In This Life"

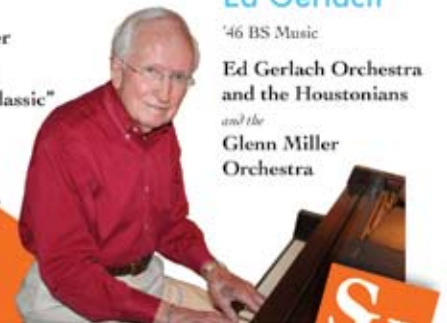


## Ebony Adams

'99 BFA Dance  
Lula Washington Dance Theater  
Celine Dion's "A New Day..."  
"Tony Bennett: An American Classic"

## Ed Gerlach

'46 BS Music  
Ed Gerlach Orchestra  
and the Houstonians  
and the  
Glenn Miller  
Orchestra



## Gary Powell

'74 BA Music Education

*Award winning composer and producer with over 125 musical productions, many from well-loved Walt Disney blockbusters.*

Disney's "A Bug's Life Sing Along"  
Joe Scruggs' "Bahamas Pajamas"



## Mark Wills

*An American favorite with many chart topping hits.*

"Don't Laugh at Me"  
"I Do (Cherish You)"

Your \$75 ticket includes a cocktail reception at 6:30 and the performance at 7:30 p.m. Seating is limited. Reserve your tickets today! Call the box office at 936-294-2339 or email [encore@shsu.edu](mailto:encore@shsu.edu). If you are unable to celebrate with us, join in the success of this event by making a donation. Mail to SHSU, Attn: ENCORE, Box 2537, Huntsville, TX 77341-2537 or call to contribute by credit card.

