

Heritage

The Magazine of Sam Houston State University



SMITH-HUTSON

MORE THAN A NAME ON A BUILDING



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THE MAYORS CLUB **p29**



Andrew Sullivan BBA '03, MBA '05
Smith-Hutson Scholar



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



This *Heritage* contains a heartwarming and inspirational story about the Smith-Hutson Scholars program within the College of Business Administration. It is the very essence of higher education where students learn to do well and to do good with their lives.

It is about a benefactor's thoughtful and quiet investment in the future of young people. And, it is about those young people embracing an extraordinary opportunity and positioning themselves to become difference makers.

The Smith-Hutson Scholarship recipients are without the financial means to attend a four-year university. They are capable students who are unlikely to receive sufficient merit-based funds for college. Their applications for the scholarship are meticulously reviewed to assess their financial need for a college education as well as their potential. Without the scholarship, many of these young people would not have the opportunity to attend and graduate from a university.

These students come to Sam Houston State with very little except an earnest desire to earn a college education. From a distance, their scholarship benefactor watches over their progress attentively to ensure that their needs are addressed. And, our business faculty and administration nurture and support these young scholars' development as students and future leaders.

Upon receiving their bachelor's degrees, these new graduates begin a chosen profession and enroll in outstanding graduate and professional schools. Smith-Hutson Scholars are often among the first in their families to have attained a college degree and, in doing so, have gained a unique appreciation for the value of higher education. They endeavor to make a lasting difference in society and in their families' lives. They become productive citizens and community leaders.

In an increasingly complex and challenging society, the Smith-Hutson Scholars program is literally changing lives each and every day. We should remember that education has enabled us to do well and, in turn, given us the responsibility to do good.

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Just like many of the former Smith-Hutson scholars, Andrew Sullivan has remained connected to the program since graduation. See page 2.

Cover and story photos by George Craig.



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MORE THAN A NAME ON A BUILDING

SMITH-HUTSON



Among the current College of Business Administration students who are realizing their educational dreams because of the Smith-Hutson Scholarship program are (from left): Maria Hernandez, Wells; Jonathan Kelley, Huntsville; Adrian Espinoza, Houston; Wesley Wright, Onalaska; Chelsea Seamans, Groveton; Brian Tinsley, Onalaska; and Noe Negrete, Huntsville.

UILDING

ON



By Julia May

Most people familiar with the Sam Houston State University campus recognize “Smith-Hutson” as the name of the College of Business Administration Building.

However, for some students “Smith-Hutson” is much more than a building: it paves the way to reach their educational goals that might have otherwise been unattainable.

The Smith-Hutson Scholarship program was established at SHSU in 1996 for incoming freshmen who are pursuing business degrees. It was, and continues to be, funded through an individual donor, who wishes to maintain anonymity to the public, the school and to the students. All funding is provided through a private family foundation that makes no solicitations for contributions.

Modeled after the scholarship program supported through the Terry Foundation, the largest in the state, the Smith-Hutson Scholarship program has grown to be the most generous and prolific scholarship program offered at SHSU. Currently, Smith-Hutson scholars are funded at up to \$14,000 per year for a maximum of four years. Since its establishment, the program contributions approach \$10 million for the education of SHSU students.

At the same time the scholarship program was created, the Smith-Hutson Endowed Chair of Banking was established with a \$1 million contribution, which has since been increased to \$1.5 million. The chair is managed by SHSU, with the scholarship program managed by Robert E. Hutson—a Houston banker and a 1965

graduate of the university with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree—as the designated representative of the donor, who is also a Sam Houston alumnus.

James B. Bexley, who holds the Smith-Hutson Endowed Chair of Banking, is a respected mentor and educator as well as a long-time Texas banker, industry consultant and author. He developed banking curriculums that now include the only accredited four-year undergraduate degree and web-based graduate degree in banking and financial institutions in the country. Under Bexley’s direction, the program has placed 952 interns in banks and regulatory agencies, such as the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and Federal Reserve Bank, as well as assisted bankers in recruiting these majors for full-time banking positions upon graduation.

The scholarship program focuses on students who have academic potential and are unable to attend college without financial assistance. All applicants must be graduating high school seniors who plan to enroll as freshmen in the upcoming fall semester.

The progress of all Smith-Hutson scholars is closely monitored, and outside assistance is provided for any subject for which a student may need tutoring. Graduate students and upper-classmen provide the tutoring and are paid for their service by the scholarship program. Scholars also have access to mentoring and the opportunity to develop a professional relationship with the College of Business Administration leadership. Valerie Muehsam, assistant

“This scholarship program provides an exceptional opportunity for the university to educate a well-deserving group of students, who, in turn, make a significant impact on the Texas workforce.”

SHSU PRESIDENT DANA GIBSON

dean for COBA and coordinator of the Smith-Hutson Scholarship program, provides personalized advising and mentoring for the scholars.

"We currently have 72 students enrolled and have had as many as 82 enrolled in previous years," said Hutson. "We have graduated 151 students since inception of the program in 1996, and 319 scholarships have been awarded and accepted during the last 16 years.

"A few students have transferred to other colleges, and a few have given up their scholarships to change their major," Hutson said. "The overall graduation rate for Smith-Hutson scholars is 70 percent."

Former Smith-Hutson scholar Andrew Sullivan says the scholarship offered him "a lot more than just a superb education."

Sullivan's mother died from cancer when he was in the fifth grade. By the time he was 16, he was on his own, providing for himself. He was diagnosed with a cerebral arteriovenous malformation and had to undergo major brain surgery. Determined to finish high school, he planned to graduate and work full time at an industrial job where he had worked during summer months.

"My very supportive high school counselors knew of my situation and informed me of the Smith-Hutson Scholarship at SHSU," he said. "At first I thought I did not have a chance of receiving the scholarship because my grades were average. I did not know if college was for me because I lacked direction and focus. But the scholarship offered a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me, and I applied."

Sullivan was selected and given funding for tuition, housing, books, and meals. As a freshman, he was employed in the College of Business Administration's dean's office, under Dean Lewis and his staff.

"They, along with the Smith-Hutson program taught me about generosity, perseverance, kindness, and what it truly means to care about people," Sullivan said. "As a college student, I was very poor and lacked confidence, among other things.

But the support I received was above and beyond anything I could have expected.

"When the dorms would shut down for the holidays, I did not have a place to sleep, and several people opened their homes and hearts to me," he said. "I always had a place to stay."

Sullivan lived most of the time in campus residence halls, but when he decided to get a place of his own, he could not afford furniture. One of the staff members found out he was sleeping on the floor, and the next day he had a bed.

of the tunnel," he said. "Every time the holidays came around, I would receive several offers to spend time with the staff members and their families instead of being by myself. Without the outpouring of love and generosity that surrounded me, graduating from college would have just been a dream and not a possibility."

Sullivan earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from SHSU and graduated with no student loan debt in 2005. He has been with Wells Fargo in Houston, where he resides, since he graduated, and he also has a farm in Muldoon.

"There is not a day that goes by that I do not reflect on the scholarship and the generosity the staff and faculty of the College of Business Administration showed me," he said. "I find it amazing that someone who did not know me would pay for my college education."

Sullivan has remained connected through the years to the program, contributing financially to the college and the Smith-Hutson program, even donating seven new laptops to Smith-Hutson scholars.

He, along with several other Smith-Hutson alumni, started a mentoring program to work with current students.

"Looking back, I would not want anything to change because my early struggles in life allowed me to cross paths with some astounding people," he said. "Words cannot come close to expressing my

thanks to the Smith-Hutson program and Sam Houston State University."

Another Smith-Hutson Scholarship has been established for transfer students from Lone Star College or Blinn College who have completed two years of study and are entering SHSU as declared banking majors.

Adam Trevillian transferred to SHSU after seeing a poster about the scholarship.

"I was in the U.S. Army for five years and took college classes from many different institutions during that time," he said. "When I finished serving, I decided to go to Lone Star College and consolidate all of my credits, and I earned an associate's degree in accounting.

"The donor and the donor's representatives have provided incredible gifts in money and time so others have opportunities to succeed. The program's funding and mentoring creates an environment allowing students to overcome overwhelming obstacles. The Smith-Hutson Scholarship program has touched the lives of our students, faculty, and staff, making the College of Business Administration and Sam Houston State University a better place."

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DEAN MITCHELL MUEHSAM

"When winter came, I would wear extra shirts because I did not own a coat, and one of the faculty members bought me a coat.

"When I was about to graduate, I could not afford a suit, so a staff member bought me one for job interviews," he said.

Another time, a faculty member bought a laptop computer for him. The faculty and staff also helped him connect with people in the Huntsville community for "odd jobs" on weekends to earn extra money.

Not all was easy for Sullivan, though. There was a time when he wanted to give up and leave college.

"The staff guided me through those times and showed me the 'light at the end

“My plan at that point was to go to the University of Houston for my bachelor’s degree in finance,” he said. “One day while walking in the halls of LSC, I noticed a poster offering a scholarship to the banking and financial institutions program at SHSU, and it seemed very interesting.”

Trevillian researched the program and decided that it was geared more directly toward the career he wanted in banking, so he applied to SHSU and for the Smith-Hutson Scholarship, as well.

Upon graduation, Trevillian received offers from multiple banks, accepting a job with Allegiance Bank Texas. He became a member of the team that opened the bank’s newest branch and was recently accepted into Sam Houston State’s Executive MBA program.

“I feel so fortunate for being able to be a part of SHSU and the Smith-Hutson Scholarship,” Trevillian said. “What I noticed about being a Smith-Hutson scholar was that we, among the other Smith-Hutson scholars, had a type of comradeship much like the brotherhood I experienced in the army.

“We have developed a Smith-Hutson alumni group where we are able to give back to the recipients that come behind us,” he said. “I think it reiterates how we look out for each other. It is a great opportunity for anyone who receives the scholarship because it is not just financial help but a whole support system to help you through your time at SHSU.”

For some of the Smith-Hutson scholars, the effects are far-reaching beyond the students themselves.

Marisol Saenz grew up in California where her father picked fruit and her mother worked in a restaurant to support their household of nine.

When she was 14 years old, due to gang violence where they lived, Saenz and her family moved to Texas, near her mother’s relatives. Saenz was in high school and started thinking about going to college.

While her parents never had the opportunity to go to college, they instilled in their five children the desire to get a degree and become successful.

The only obstacle was figuring out how to pay for a college education.

“My greatest concern was how I

would be able to afford college without burdening my parents,” she said.

During her senior year of high school, Saenz interviewed for the Smith-Hutson Scholarship program and was accepted. Even though her college expenses were covered, Saenz chose to work in the bookstore while going to school.

In May 2011, an entire year early, she did something no one else in her family had ever done. She walked across the stage and got her degree.

“It is not just my degree and my accomplishments; I do believe it is my whole family’s, my parents above all,” she said.

Since she completed her degree in three years, the donor allowed her to use the fourth year of her scholarship money to work on her master’s degree. She will graduate in August with a Master of Science degree in accounting and then begin studying to take the Certified Public Accountant exam.

Saenz has already accepted a position with one of the largest public accounting firms in Houston and will begin working in the fall. When the firm made her the job offer, it was a defining moment in her life and her parents’.

“When I opened the paper with the job offer, I just sat there for a minute,” Saenz said. “I couldn’t believe it. I thought ‘oh my goodness, it took my dad 17 years to make this much money.’”

Her parents are understandably proud of her, not only for her accomplishments but also for how she is managing her own money now.

“I immediately started budgeting. I guess it is the accountant in me,” she laughed. “But I’ve never had money before to budget. It is so liberating to know I can actually help my parents now and give back to them immediately. I am now their partner in my siblings’ education. I know college is not for everyone, but I believe everyone should have the opportunity to go; that’s what I want for my siblings.”

Another Smith-Hutson scholar, John Deveau, who is now with Deloitte & Touche, LLP, says he could not have gone to college without the scholarship.

“My parents told me during my senior year in high school that they

wouldn’t be able to help me if I went to college, as they still had five of my six siblings to raise,” he said. “Knowing I wanted to get a college degree in business, my high school counselor told me about the scholarship at SHSU that was specifically for business majors.

“Receiving the scholarship helped me in many ways. Not only did it provide much-needed financial assistance, being in the program provided me with opportunities to get advice from the administration and department chairs as they are all actively involved in the students’ success,” he said. “Having the scholarship enabled me to focus on school first and also to be involved in many campus organizations and participate in some study-abroad programs.”

After graduating, Deveau worked at KPMG, obtained his CPA license, earned his MBA at Rice University, went on a mission trip to Sudan, and recently sat for part two of the Chartered Financial Analyst exam.

“The Smith-Hutson program has helped dozens of individuals progress from being know-nothing freshmen to college grads entering the professional workforce, thanks to both the generous support from the donor and the collaborative involvement from the COBA administration,” Deveau said. “Because of their generosity, they have impacted my life, along with many others.”

“The Smith-Hutson Scholarship simply changes lives,” said Muehsam. “I encourage anyone who knows a prospective freshman who might benefit to tell them about this great program. The application is relatively short and easy to complete. The students complete the application form, write a short essay and provide financial information.”

Detailed information about the application process can be found at the Smith-Hutson Scholarship website, which can be accessed from www.shsu.edu/smith-hutson.

SHSU Celebrates The Grand Opening Of The Woodlands Center

By Julia May

Sam Houston State University-The Woodlands Center is officially open, and based on early registration numbers, the new facility is a welcome addition for students who live in the North Harris-Montgomery County region.

As of early June, approximately 800 students were enrolled in summer classes and 1,400 for the fall semester.

The Grand Opening Celebration took place on May 30 with a contingent of dignitaries and academic officials attending, along with SHSU students, faculty, staff and alumni. The ribbon-cutting ceremony and celebratory remarks were also live-streamed to the SHSU campus in Huntsville.



“Today is a historic day for our institution and yet another example of why Sam Houston State University is a great name in Texas education,” SHSU President Dana Gibson told the audience.

Gibson thanked the Lone Star College System officials, who donated the land for the new SHSU facility, for their vision in seeing what the alliance between the two institutions has meant and will mean in the future.

In the original contract with the Lone Star College System, Sam Houston State was among five universities offering classes at The University Center in The Woodlands. As time passed and SHSU continued to be the university with the most students, officials agreed that Sam Houston needed its own facility in the area.

In 2009, the Lone Star College System donated seven acres of land adjacent to The University Center to SHSU. In return, Lone Star will have the use of 50 percent of the classrooms in the new facility and free parking from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. for the next 10 years.

Lone Star will continue to offer freshman and sophomore courses at The University Center, while SHSU will teach upper-level and graduate courses at the new Woodlands Center.

Gibson also expressed appreciation to State Rep. Lois Kohlkorst, U.S. Congressman Kevin Brady, the Texas State University System Board of Regents, TSUS Chancellor Brian McCall and his staff, SHSU President Emeritus Jim Gaertner, and Provost Emeritus David Payne for their vision and work in accomplishing the project.

The building’s atrium was named in honor of Kohlkorst, who represented SHSU before the most recent redistricting of the state.

“While I have been redistricted out of Walker County, I will never leave Walker County,” Kohlkorst said. “I love Walker County, and more importantly, I love what this institution does for the people in the surrounding area.

“Today we are celebrating a beautiful building, but what we are really celebrating are the lives that will enter in, and, when they leave, the lives that we will have impacted,” she said.

The new facility is a 145,000-square-foot, four-story building that has classrooms, a 120-seat auditorium, three lecture rooms with stadium-style seating for 64, a five-story parking garage, an 80-seat computer lab, and a faculty support center with a computer lab, conference rooms, and eight “flex” offices for faculty.

A “one stop shop” is also available where students can apply for admission, register for classes, get a Bearkat OneCard, apply for financial aid, login to a kiosk to pay tuition, and access many other services.

In addition, counselor education students will share their expertise by providing free counseling services in the facility. The SHSU Community Counseling Clinic will serve as a training facility for master’s-level and doctoral students in the SHSU counselor education program, with members of the doctoral cohort offering sessions in family, couples and play therapy, as well as career counseling.

The executive director of SHSU-The Woodlands Center is Janet Mullings, associate dean and chair of faculty for the College of Criminal Justice at SHSU prior to assuming her current role on March 1.

According to Mullings, the response to the new facility has been overwhelmingly positive.

“The faculty have expressed appreciation for the attention to all the details in the building that will make their teaching experience pleasant,” Mullings said. “They’ve also commented that the facility provides a wonderful learning environment for the students.

“The SHSU presence is a huge contribution to the community, and we are looking forward to a mutually beneficial relationship between Walker and Montgomery counties, linked by SHSU,” Mullings said.

“Today is a historic day for our institution and yet another example of why Sam Houston State University is a great name in Texas education.”

SHSU PRESIDENT DANA GIBSON

FORWARD Thinking:

SHSU's "model" program for foster students strives to provide emotional and financial support to those who often have nowhere else to turn.

By Jennifer Gauntt

Recent Sam Houston State University graduate Leslie Johnson spent several of her formative years in Texas's foster care system.

As such, she—like other Texas foster, orphaned or state-warded children—would be eligible for tuition and fee waivers and other benefits that would assist her in attending college.

But Johnson was taken out of foster care a few months before her 18th birthday, and because she did not "age out" of the system, she was not eligible for those benefits. With no family to help support her, she had nowhere to turn for advice or help in securing resources to attend college.

"Every student we see (from one of those backgrounds) has a very different situation. Some, like Leslie have no benefits available to them," said Keri Rogers, former assistant vice president for Academic Affairs. "And that's frustrating."

That is where SHSU's FORWARD Program steps in. Created in 2010, FORWARD was designed as a haven for youths from those backgrounds, providing the support system necessary to pursue higher education and transition smoothly through college, to graduation.

Housed within the Student Success Initiatives office, the program includes 14–15 committee members from across campus who serve as points-of-contact in offices where students generally need help.

"Whenever someone needs help with financial aid, we know exactly who to send them to; it's a one-point person," Rogers said. "If they have a health issue, we get them over to the Health Center;

counseling, we walk them directly over. It's a really great program."

SHSU is considered a state leader among four-year universities in its work with former foster students, and FORWARD, unlike programs at other schools that are funded by grants, is self-sustaining.

"I'm told that we are considered a model program because we are sustainable," Rogers said.

Thousands of children are placed in foster homes in Texas each year, according to fosterintexas.org, and, according to Texas Reach, for every 100 students aging out of foster care, only approximately 50 will complete high school; 10 to 15 will enroll in some type of postsecondary education or training program; seven will receive an associate's degree or certificate; and two will earn a bachelor's degree.

SHSU had approximately 144 from those backgrounds on campus in the fall.

Because of these statistics, it's easy to see why youth from this group don't think college is even possible, Rogers said.

"They have a harder time completing college for various reasons: the fact that they don't have any support, many times there are emotional and stability issues, and financial issues; that's a huge obstacle for them," Rogers said. "What we hear from these students is that they want to put their past behind them and move forward, and we're trying to help

them do that through higher education."

Wally Barnes, director of SHSU's Reading Center and FORWARD committee member, can attest to this.

As a child in the 1950s and '60s, he bounced between his mother's and other relatives' homes and the Jackson, Miss., Methodist Children's Home before ultimately being placed at Memphis Boys Town, where he lived from the age of 9 until he graduated from high school.

The Boys Town director helped secure scholarships for Barnes and several others to attend School of the Ozarks in Branson, Mo., which operates on a work-study basis for all of its students.

"I probably wasn't ready for college and my first semester was terrible; that's probably part of my background," Barnes said. "I dropped out of college after one semester and joined the Air Force for four years.

"That's pretty typical of what foster kids do—they have a lot of trouble adjusting to college, and they also have a lot of trouble accepting help sometimes," he said. "I think I was sort of the same way."

A testament to Barnes's will to succeed, he ultimately

returned to college, while supporting a family of his own and working full-time in the oil fields and as a nightclub disc jockey. He earned a bachelor's degree in business in 1978, a master's degree in 1992, and in

"We can help them, and we do help them; I'm positive of that. Just from knowing a couple of the students who recently graduated, I'm sure we help tremendously."



FORWARD participants Reshunda Murray and Leslie Johnson said goodbye to their SHSU family during a graduation luncheon in April before receiving their degrees in May.

2010, he completed his doctorate at SHSU.

While Barnes did have a high school coach who looked after him after a troubled phase in his youth, one of the things that Barnes identifies with in today's fostered youth looking to attend college is that there is no backup in terms of support.

"My whole adult life, from the time I left Boys Town, I never had anybody to help me. There was no security net anywhere," he said. "You sort of have to depend on yourself to do everything, or else it doesn't get done. You can't call your dad; I only saw my dad one more time in my whole life after I was 12."

In being that "safety net" for SHSU's FORWARD students, there are times when campus resources and tuition waivers do not cover the needs of these students. What Rogers has found is that the FORWARD staff volunteers have stepped up to show their support for the program, putting their money where their mouths are to express their belief in the good that the program brings.

"We have an emergency fund so when

students need assistance we can help them with that. We had one student who had been sitting on the front row of her classes, but she was having headaches. She couldn't afford to pick up her new glasses at the optometrist's office. We were able to help," Rogers said. "We had a graduation luncheon for two of our FORWARD students in May, and Barnes and Noble donated the caps and gowns for them.

"We have also set up a scholarship to help these students; the three scholarships so far have been totally funded by the Faculty and Staff Annual Fund," she said. "We do one, \$1,000 scholarship a year. We'd love to expand that."

In considering whether a program like SHSU's FORWARD would have helped him as a youth, Barnes said he would like to think that it would.

"In the '60s, people weren't aware (of situations like his); you didn't have the safety net then," he said. "Now, I think sometimes the environment that our

foster kids are in is much more dismal, much darker. It's a different environment than it was in the '60s. I think it would have been a positive thing for me."

While some students from backgrounds such as his are more accessible than others, Barnes said he feels SHSU students are absolutely better off having the FORWARD program in place, as they reach out to students not only financially but emotionally as well.

"I think what the program does is it helps us understand who the foster kids really are now," he said. "We do have a safety net for them, and we can help them, and they do have somebody to call.

"We can help them, and we do help them; I'm positive of that. Just from knowing a couple of the students who recently graduated, I'm sure we help tremendously."

For more information on the FORWARD Program, call 936.294.3422 or visit www.shsu.edu/forward.

Storm Chaser

By Amy Barnett

When Lee Miller came to Sam Houston State University to join the department of sociology in 2005, she was not a stranger to the Huntsville community.

Miller lived in Huntsville in the mid-1970s with her family and completed junior high and high school in the Huntsville school district. Little did she know then, the small town she called home would one day inspire extensive research and become the focal point of her contributions to a book entitled *Displaced: Life in the Katrina Diaspora*.

After graduating from high school, Miller earned a degree in sociology from Smith College in western Massachusetts and then earned her master's degree and doctorate in sociology from Yale University.

Her dissertation research for her graduate studies took her to Italy where she studied small-firm networks, with a focus on determining how these small companies could compete economically and be successful in an increasingly globalized marketplace where larger, multinational corporations were prominent.

Miller lived in north-central Italy for 11 years where she worked on a variety of economic development issues, as well as projects in Tunisia and India with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

In 2002 she returned to the U.S. and moved to Elizabethtown, Pa., to work in international education.

"I enjoyed working with international programs, but I really wanted to be actively involved in research and teaching," said Miller.

That desire came true in 2005 when Miller returned to Huntsville as an assistant professor of sociology at SHSU. At the time, her research interests were focused on community-based learning, but in August of the same year her



research interests broadened when a unique opportunity presented itself.

"Late August 2005 brought us Hurricane Katrina and our community suddenly received a large number of evacuees from New Orleans," Miller said. "As soon as Hurricane Katrina hit, I was intrigued by how this community reacted to the arrival of evacuees, and I got in touch with some of my advisers from graduate school with expertise in disaster research and asked, 'What should I do?'"

Miller's advisers encouraged her to get involved and observe and study the social dynamics as the city of Huntsville

and Walker County welcomed evacuees.

"Typically when a disaster happens, it's in one part of a city or community, and evacuees can stay with friends or family in another part of town. But when we see total devastation like we did in New Orleans and along the Gulf Coast, that is not an option," Miller said.

The focus of Miller's research became clear: How does a small community deal with receiving evacuees from other places? How do communities help people who are displaced long-term?

"I have to say I was very proud of Huntsville and Walker County,"

Sociology professor Lee Miller has made a name for herself through her dedication to understanding disaster response.

Miller said. “Something developed here known in disaster literature as a ‘therapeutic community’ in which we saw a tremendous outpouring of volunteerism, donations and kindness.

“Churches opened shelters and coordinated groups to assist evacuees in local hotel rooms; within two or three days the school district included the shelters on bus routes so children could go to school; local employers who were hiring sent representatives to the shelters to interview; a shuttle service was provided to take people to Walmart or to be reunited with loved ones,” Miller said. “It was all fascinating.”

Communities across the U.S. were experiencing similar initial reactions to the evacuees.

“There were so many people who wanted to donate and volunteer that it was hard for them to understand that sometimes they couldn’t because sign-up sheets filled up, or there was no place to store their donations,” Miller added.

But here in Huntsville, residents would get the chance to help again, just three weeks later.

“Hurricane Rita hit the Gulf Coast and people from Galveston were told to head to Huntsville because we were, and are, a shelter hub for the state,” Miller said. “With Hurricane Rita, Huntsville grew by 50 percent in size in a matter of hours; an estimated 2.2 million evacuated and many drove through, or stopped, in our town.”

Miller teamed with colleagues across the country who also found themselves studying their communities’ responses to Hurricane Katrina evacuees. The group produced an edited book called *Displaced: Life in the Katrina Diaspora*, published by University of Texas Press, that focused on how Hurricane Katrina impacted the entire country through its evacuees. *Displaced* will be launched in New Orleans in October with royalties supporting a

community day care in New Orleans.

“We thought, ‘what better way to give back to the community in New Orleans?’” Miller said.

While the response to Hurricane Ike in 2008 demonstrated that Huntsville and the greater Houston area learned a lot from the previous storms, especially in terms of coordinating evacuation, managing contraflow lanes on Interstate 45 and safely evacuating people with functional needs, the storm presented yet another problem.

During Hurricane Ike, Miller collaborated with colleagues to study the delayed restoration of electric power since thousands of residents experienced outages for up to two weeks. This work received international attention after their article was published in *The British Journal of Sociology*. Miller fears another major storm, or even excessive summer temperatures, will demonstrate that the area is still at risk of more frequent and long-term power outages.

Miller, now an associate professor, remains dedicated to understanding more about disasters.

“Typically when we see a disaster on the news, we see how it impacts the community, but that is really the middle of the story,” she said. “The way we organize our communities, the way we do business and interact with each other creates the conditions the disaster comes into, and that is really the beginning of the story. So now I am looking at how social structure either helps or hinders us when a disaster strikes.”



She has appeared on the Houston PBS program “Houston 8” and on BBC Radio’s program “Thinking Allowed” to discuss her work on community responses to disaster.

Miller continues her research on community responses to disaster, but more recently her focus has been on an area of Montgomery County where residents are fighting the arrival of commercial wastewater injection wells.

While residents are concerned about the consequences of pumping liquid waste underneath the Conroe oil field, Miller is studying the community’s attempts to protect itself from the perceived environmental and health risks these wells pose and how it will handle a situation should the wells create future problems.

“I feel fortunate to work at an institution that values community-based research and teaching,” Miller said.

Miller encourages her students to connect to their own communities through research projects and community engagement activities in her courses. These courses provide students with opportunities to collaborate with community organizations and apply their knowledge in real-world settings, she said.



▲ Devastation of Katrina’s floodwaters.

◀ Lee Miller (second from right in front row), with a group of Social Science Research Council network researchers in a New Orleans FEMA trailer camp, where research on displacement after Hurricane Katrina was conducted.

UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

UNIVERSITY
FOCUS

Rocky Carrell, the UPD officer who helped prevent a major disaster involving a runaway vehicle a year ago, continues to receive recognition for his quick-thinking and selfless actions. This summer, the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education presented the State of Texas Law Enforcement Achievement Award for Valor to Carrell in Austin. He was also honored at the 100 Club's 58th Annual Heroes Awards Banquet in Houston for performance above and beyond the call of duty.

"I put on the uniform as a gratifying duty to protect and serve my community," Carrell said. "I'm compelled by a personal desire to help others in time of need. I get satisfaction helping to ensure that SHSU employees, students and visitors can interact with each other in a safe environment."



REPRESENTING SAM HOUSTON
STATE UNIVERSITY WITH PRIDE

A UNIFORM EFFORT

Students, faculty and staff at Sam Houston State University wear uniforms every day that help them in their jobs, their extracurricular activities, and their learning.

The following is just a sampling of the many uniforms worn on campus, from health professionals to athletes, scientists to musicians, and painters to college ambassadors.

Each person pictured has contributed to a recognition the university has received this year because of their efforts. They will tell you, however, that the reason they proudly wear their uniforms has nothing to do with recognition; it's all about pride for their work and service to their university.



CUSTODIAL SERVICES

For three consecutive years, Sam Houston State University has been recognized as a “Great College To Work For.” Among the areas in which employees consistently rate the university high are “workspace” and “facilities.” Part of the reason is the outstanding job the custodial staff does in maintaining campus buildings.

“When I wear my uniform, I feel like a caretaker of the university,” said custodian Mary Roark. “I like to keep my area as clean and safe as possible.”



Members of the custodial staff also support the university in other ways. In this year’s Faculty and Staff Annual Fund Campaign, Custodial Services reached an 83 percent participation rate—up from 19 percent last year.

CHEERLEADERS

Co-ed cheerleading captains Thaddeus Dryden and Kaitlin Williamson proudly wore their Bearkat uniforms when they competed in the National Cheerleaders Association National Championship in April at Daytona, Fla. The cheerleaders took first place in Cheer Division I for the first time in SHSU history.

“It’s an honor to wear my cheerleading uniform and represent Sam Houston State University because not many people get to do what I do,” Dryden said.



BASEBALL

Bearkat pitcher Caleb Smith, of Huntsville, contributed to helping the baseball team advance to the championship round of the NCAA Houston Regional Tournament in June. They were eliminated by the Arkansas Razorbacks, who went on to play in the 2012 College World Series.

“I’m proud to wear the Bearkat uniform,” said Smith. “Not many people get the chance to play baseball at a Division 1 college level, and I am blessed that I have the opportunity to play for Sam.”

MILITARY SCIENCE

“I am always proud to wear my uniform,” said Lt. Col. David Yebra, the U.S. Army Cadet Command’s “Professor of Military Science of the Year.” Yebra has led SHSU’s ROTC program since 2009 and was selected for the honor out of 273 of his peers across the country.

“The uniforms of our armed forces symbolize the history of our great country and those that fought to earn the freedom that we enjoy,” he said. “Our formal uniforms represent the proud traditions and service of so many Americans that have served. Our combat uniforms represent our current operations and our ability to adapt to the ever-changing demands all over the world.

“Our uniforms tell a story,” he said. “The symbols on our uniforms present a mosaic of our experiences. The patches, badges, and awards we wear make us stand a little taller. When members of the armed forces get together, we can rapidly relate to shared experiences just by what we wear on our uniforms. Our patches represent the units we are serving in, or have served with, and instantly bond strangers as friends. They can also be the source of fun-spirited rivalry.

“The flag I wear on my right shoulder reminds me why I serve,” he said. “Whenever I glance over at the red, white and blue, I remember all those that have given their lives in its defense, and remember all those that continue to serve.”



GROUNDS CREW

Whether it's the manicured green hills or the azalea blooms that make an appearance each spring, the SHSU campus has a reputation for turning heads.

This year the Professional Grounds Management Society awarded the SHSU groundskeeping crew with an honor award in the society's Green Star Awards competition. The award was given in the "University and College Grounds" category for exceptional grounds maintenance.

Fritz Freeman is a part of the award-winning groundskeeping crew. He is carrying on a family tradition of service at SHSU.

"My mom was an SHSU employee and retired after 28 years at the university, mainly working in the library," he said. "I'm thankful and blessed to be able to continue the family tradition by wearing this uniform."

The grounds crew also turned heads when the results of the most recent Faculty and Staff Annual Fund Campaign were announced—they increased their participation rate from 18 percent last year to 100 percent this year.

SH DINING

Catering Chef Michael South, a member of the SH Dining Culinary Team, was wearing his uniform when he prepared the award-winning entrée and dessert at the Southwest Regional Competition for ARAMARK's Culinary Excellence event.

In an Iron Chef-style activity, the chefs were tasked with using ingredients from a "mystery basket" to create their dishes. South's winning entrée was a Tuscan snapper with a white bean lemon butter sauce, served with sautéed broccoli rabé, shallots and bacon. The award-winning dessert was an Orange Cream, Grand Marnier panna cotta.

South brought home the gold medal and advanced as part of a three-person culinary team to represent the Southwest region at the national ACE event this fall.



ORANGE PRIDE DANCE TEAM

Senior Everest Guerra is one of three captains for the Orange Pride Dance Team. For the third year in a row, Orange Pride took top honors in the Open Dance I Division in the National Dance Alliance competition, in Daytona, Fla., in April. The Orange Pride Dance Team has established a national reputation as an exciting and competitive collegiate dance squad consistently turning out champions.

BOOKSHELF

Twenty faculty publications showcase the work professors do outside of the classroom.

2011

Better Business Decisions Using Cost Modeling

Victor Sower, distinguished professor emeritus of operations management, and SHSU alumnus Christopher Sower offer the business professional a concise guide to the creation, and effective use of, internal and external cost models. Development is discussed with illustrations showing how internal cost models can be deployed to assist in new product development, pricing decisions, make-or-buy decisions, and the identification of opportunities for internal process improvement projects. External cost models are discussed to provide insight into how their use can drive collaborative improvement efforts among supply chain partners, better prepare for price negotiations, and keep negotiations focused on facts rather than emotions—all while allowing for future discussions with preferred suppliers to focus on more strategic and operational improvement initiatives, and less on pricing.

Business Expert Press, 2011—138 pages

Children for Families or Families for Children The Demography of Adoption Behavior in the U.S.

Mary Ann Davis, assistant professor of sociology, analyzes the complex interactions between adopters and adoptees using historical and current data. The book explores domestic adoption trends including a shift to open adoptions and a notable increase in "hard to place" foster care adoptions of children who are typically older, have siblings, are ethnic minorities, and have physical, educational or emotional challenges. This book also provides statistics and demographic analyses on variables that impact both domestic and inter-country adoptions.

Springer, 2011—264 pages

Compelling Form: Architecture as Visual Persuasion

J. Donald Ragsdale, professor and chair of the department of communication studies, assesses the visual persuasiveness of buildings, demonstrating

that architecture is as capable of social influence as speeches or advertisements are and that an awareness of this influence provides an insight into buildings' cultural roles. Extending important theories of persuasion and visual communication to architecture and engineering, the book considers a diverse array of structures ranging from museums, to performance halls, to universities, to cathedrals, to governmental buildings, to palaces, and to skyscrapers.

Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2011—315 pages

Developmental Speech-Language Training through Music for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders: Theory and Clinical Application

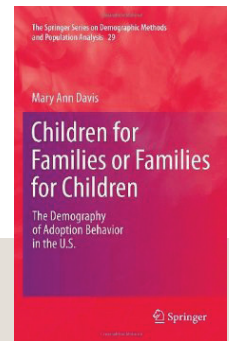
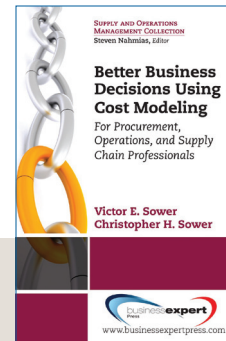
Hayoung Lim, assistant professor of music therapy and director of graduate studies in music therapy, connects Autism Spectrum Disorders and music, showcasing music as a valuable medium for improving the speech and language skills of children with ASD. The book serves as a comprehensive guide to Lim's highly effective approach—"Developmental Speech-Language Training through Music," providing a sound theoretical foundation that employs the most up-to-date research and analysing the clinical implications of DSLM protocols to explain specific interventions that can be used with the approach.

Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2011—204 pages

Fundamentals of Weight Training

Matthew Wagner, assistant professor of kinesiology; Gary Oden, professor of kinesiology; William Nix (deceased) cover the basics of establishing a safe and effective resistance exercise program. Sections of the book include core concepts and principles of resistance exercise, with an extensive step by step plan for the proper technique when performing different exercises. Both beginning and advanced exercise performance is reviewed, serving as an excellent textbook for the introductory weight-training student.

Kendall Hunt Publishing, 2011—78 pages



Making Microsoft Word User-Friendly for Dissertations, Theses, and Manuscripts

John R. Slate, professor of educational leadership, and Ana Rojas-LeBouef, literary specialist in SHSU's reading center, present in two parts steps and procedures for formatting the often "troublesome" components of scholarly writing, including tables, figures, running heads, footers, bar and line graphs, and the American Psychological Association (2010) formatting for references and citations.

Connexions, 2011—167 pages

It is available in Perfect Bound, WireO, or as an eBook at: <http://my.goop.com/store/NCPEA-Press-1781472103076212/?search=NCPEA+Publications>

2012

Before the Line: Vol. II, Letters from the Red River, 1809-1842

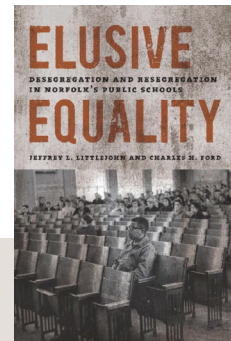
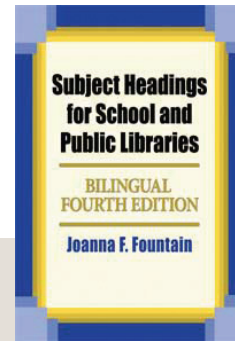
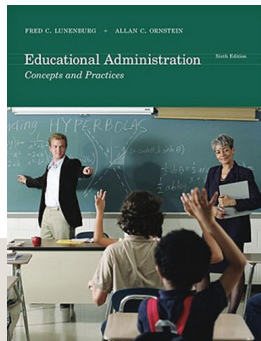
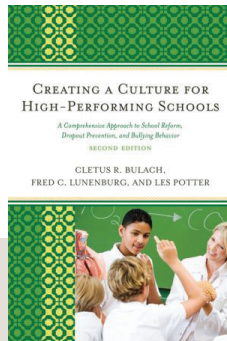
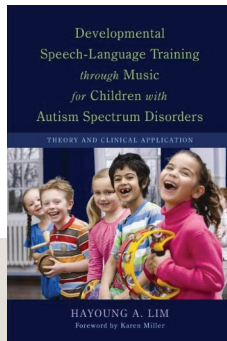
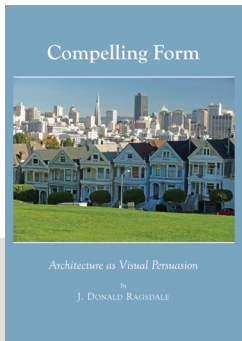
Jim Tiller, professor of geography, provides a transcription of materials contained within the National Archives' Letterbook of the Natchitoches-Sulphur Fork Factory (1809-1821), the letters of the Red River Agency (1824-1830), and the letters of the Caddo Agency (1824-1842). The work has been developed to assist those with a research interest in early nineteenth-century northwestern Louisiana and adjacent northeastern Texas.

The START Group, 2012—373 pages

Hard copies and eBook at: <http://cdm2635-01.cdmhost.com/cdm/search/searchterm/jim+tiller/order/nosort>

Changing Aging, Changing Family Therapy: Practicing with 21st Century Realities

Richard E. Watts, distinguished professor of counseling; Paul R. Peluso, associate professor of mental health counseling at Florida Atlantic University; and Mindy Parsons, a licensed mental health counselor, explore the ways in which family therapists' expertise in systems theory makes them uniquely qualified to take a leading role in helping families and individuals cope with the challenges and changed circumstances that aging brings. Clinicians will find detailed coverage and practical guidelines on a wealth of vital topics, including coping with the



illness of a parent or partner, working past retirement age, outliving one's savings, preserving physical and mental well-being over time.

Routledge, 2012—304 pages.

Crash Course in Family Literacy Programs

Rosemary Chance, associate professor of library science, and Laura Sheneman, director of library services for Harlingen school district, provide an introduction and an overview of the critical subject, defining what literacy, family literacy and family literacy events are, and covering critical topics such as sources of funding, conclusions of recent research, and bilingual family literacy. The first half of the book lays out background information about family literacy, while the remainder provides practical how-to information for public and school libraries to develop their own family literacy programming. The book shows perspectives of public librarians, school principals, children's bookstore owners, and school personnel who have successfully implemented a family literacy program. Planning sheets and lesson templates are included, making it easy to develop a family literacy program. A chapter on "What Does Research Tell Us About Family Literacy?" was contributed by Holly Weimar, assistant professor and acting chair of the department.

Libraries Unlimited, 2012—127 pages

Creating a Culture for High-Performing Schools: A Comprehensive Approach to School Reform, Dropout Prevention, and Bullying Behavior

Fred C. Lunenburg, professor of educational leadership, with Cletus R. Bulach and Les Potter, describe a comprehensive school reform approach for developing a high-performing school. Quantitative and qualitative data were collected in 195 elementary, middle, and high schools in Georgia, Kentucky, and West Virginia, including interviews of major school stakeholders in each of the school districts sampled. Based on the data collected, the authors provide four culture phenotypes: High-Performing School, Enlightened School, Permissive School, and Laissez-faire School. The school

phenotypes differ significantly with respect to the following characteristics: student achievement, teacher morale and job satisfaction, teacher and student absenteeism, student control behavior, student dropout rate, bullying behavior, and parental support. **Rowman & Littlefield, 2012—199 pages**

Educational Administration: Concepts and Practices, 6TH edition

In what has become the definitive text in the field of educational administration, Lunenburg offers students a complete understanding of educational administration, balancing theory and research with practical coverage of the development of administrative thought, organizational structure, organizational culture, motivation, leadership, decision making, communication, organizational change, government and education, finance, school law, curriculum development and implementation, effective teaching, and human resources.

Wadsworth/Cengage Learning, 2012—529 pages

Elusive Equality: Desegregation and Resegregation in Norfolk's Public Schools

Jeffrey L. Littlejohn, associate professor of history, and Charles H. Ford, history professor at Norfolk State University, place Norfolk, Va., at the center of the South's school desegregation debates, tracing the crucial role the city's African Americans played in efforts to equalize and integrate the public schools. The authors relate how local activists participated in the historic teacher-pay-parity cases of the 1930s and 1940s, fought against the school closures and Massive Resistance of the 1950s, and challenged continuing patterns of discrimination by insisting on crosstown busing in the 1970s and 1980s. Despite the advances made by local activists, Littlejohn and Ford argue that the vaunted "urban advantage" supposedly enjoyed by Norfolk's public schools is not easy to reconcile with the city's continuing disparities in relation to race and class.

University of Virginia Press, 2012—288 pages

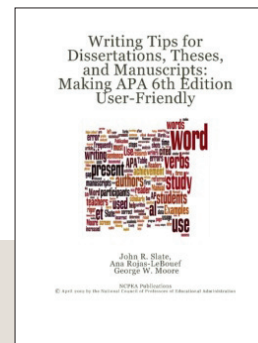
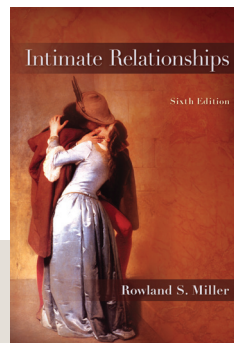
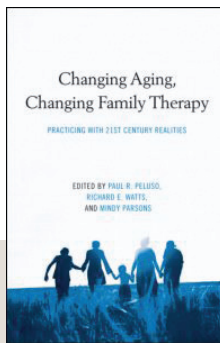
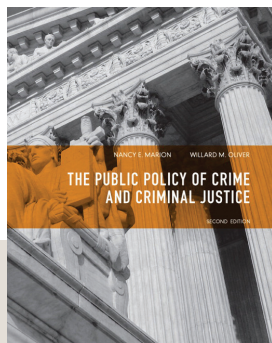
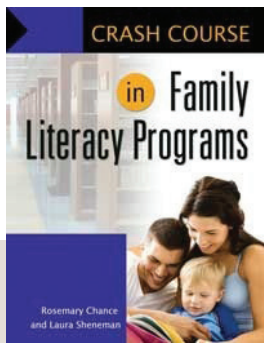
Insightful Quality: Beyond Continuous Improvement

V. Sower and Frank Fair, program coordinator and professor of philosophy, challenge leaders to think differently about quality while promoting and supporting traditional continuous incremental improvement activities within their organizations. By doing so, leaders will increase the creativity, innovation, and agility of their organizations and employees, as well as awareness of new developments in the marketplace and their possible impact on the organizations and their markets. This additional focus will be vital in attaining and maintaining market leadership in the increasingly dynamic business environment. The book presents new ways of thinking—new philosophies and new applications for classic philosophies and tools—to help managers become insightful leaders.

Business Expert Press, 2012—140 pages

Intimate Relationships, 6TH edition

Rowland Miller, professor of psychology, draws from all of the relationship sciences including material from social psychology, communication studies, family studies, sociology, clinical psychology, and neuroscience. He presents all of the new developments in the field, including new and expanded discussion on many topics and issues relevant to relationships, such as marital equality, Facebook, speed-dating, and conflict negotiations; thought-provoking vignettes that encourage students to connect with the chapter's material; research instruments; and updated online resources. Used in more relationships courses around the world than any other textbook, the sixth edition is the most accessible, comprehensive, and current work available. **McGraw-Hill, 2012—576 pages**



Public Policy of Crime and Criminal Justice, 2ND edition

Willard M. Oliver, professor of criminal justice, and Nancy E. Marion, from the University of Akron, explain the public policy process and apply it directly to crime and criminal justice. Both scholars in the field of criminal justice with backgrounds in political science and public policy, the two present a solid understanding of public policy and describe each of the various actors in the public policy process at the federal, state and local level. This edition includes an enhanced focus on state and local issues, updated research and illustrations that reflect the Obama administration. Finally, it closes with a real-world case study that illustrates how policy and politics impact criminal justice. **Prentice Hall, 2012—512 pages**

RFID for the Supply Chain and Operations Professional

V. Sower and associate professor of management Pamela Zelbst help those who have no prior knowledge of radio-frequency identification to get a better understanding of it and its benefits. The book provides the basics of the technology, guidelines for considering its use, examples of how RFID is being used effectively in a variety of organizations, and guidelines for implementing an RFID system, a technology that can supply decision makers with real-time information. RFID has many advantages over other auto-ID technologies including its ability to read tags at the item level while the items are still in boxes and pallets and out of line of sight; the capability of being reused, reducing associated costs; and are readily available. **Business Expert Press, 2012— 150 pages**

Subject Headings for School and Public Libraries, Bilingual 4TH edition

Joanna Fountain, assistant professor of library science, provides the only resource in both English and Spanish on subject headings for school and public libraries. Reflecting recent changes in Library of Congress subject headings and authority files, the book serves as a first-check source for the most frequently used headings, incorporating thousands of

new and revised entries to assist in applying Library of Congress subject headings and children's subject headings. It not only provides cross-references and direct entries in English and Spanish, serving users as a handy personal thesaurus for searching online, but also includes technical coding to simplify entering the terms in computerized catalogs. In addition, indexes to all headings and multi-use subdivisions are provided in translation from Spanish to English. **Libraries Unlimited, 2012—414 pages**

Writing Tips for Dissertations, Theses, and Manuscripts: Making APA 6TH Edition User-Friendly

Slate, Rojas-Lebouef, and George Moore, assistant professor of educational leadership and counseling, aggregate their years of working as editors and reviewers for student theses and dissertations, as well as for journals, to provide specific guidance regarding frequently occurring errors and, most importantly, ways to avoid making those errors in future scholarly writing. This book is specifically written for authors and anyone who engages in scholarly and academic writing using the American Psychological Association (2010) style of writing. **NCEA Publications, 2012—91 pages**

It is available online at <http://my.qoop.com/store/NCEA-Press-1781472103076212/>

CHAPTER

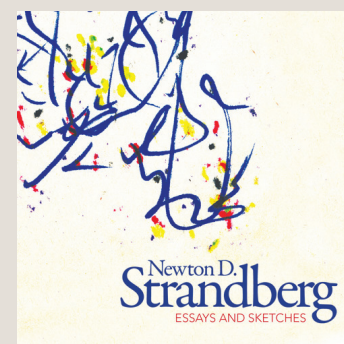
“Speech/Language Development: Understanding Communication”

Hayoung Lim, assistant professor of music therapy, discusses speech and language impairments in children with autism spectrum disorders in Chapter 14 of Petra Kern and Marcia Humpal's Music Therapy for Autism. Lim's chapter reviews research literature on the perception and production of speech and music in children with ASD and explains the common principles and mechanisms of music and speech perception and production in the children. The clinical application of the use of music in speech/language training for children with ASD also is described. **Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2011**

CD

“Essays and Sketches: Newton D. Strandberg”

The internationally released CD, with an accompanying CD-ROM book, by associate professor of musicology Sheryl K. Murphy-Manley includes recordings of four works by the late composer, Newton Strandberg performed by the London Symphony Orchestra, the New York Chamber Symphony, the Czech Radio Symphony Orchestra, and the Moravian Philharmonic Chamber Players. The book portion features a biography of the composer, work-list, critical essays on his compositions including articles by additional authors and SHSU faculty members Rebecca Renfro Grimes, Kevin Clifton, and David Cole, recollections from his students and colleagues, and images of some of his artwork. The essays explore Strandberg's place in American 20th-century music and establish a contemporary discourse for his unique musical style. Murphy-Manley served as executive producer of the CD, as well as editor and author. **Parma Recordings, Ravello Records LLC, 2012**



Pascarella Named College Of Sciences Dean



John Pascarella, former associate dean of Academic and Research Programs at Kansas State University-Olathe and professor of biology, took over as dean of the College of Sciences at Sam Houston State University on July 1.

“Dr. Pascarella’s diverse experiences in higher education administration, coupled with his enthusiastic vision for the College of Sciences, make him a tremendous asset to the university,” said SHSU provost and vice president for Academic Affairs Jaimie Hebert. “We’re very excited that he is a part of our academic community.”

Pascarella’s administrative and teaching experience includes work at Georgia Southern University and Valdosta State University in Georgia, and a year as an American Association for the Advancement of Science and Technology policy fellow at the National Science Foundation Directorate for Biological Sciences.

A native of Prairie Village, Kan., Pascarella has bachelor’s degrees in biology and Latin American studies from the University of Kansas and a doctorate in biology from the University of Miami.

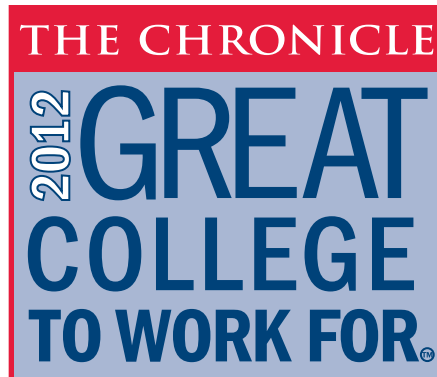
His research in plant population and community ecology has been supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and other sources, and his work has been published in a number of peer-reviewed publications.

SHSU Named A ‘2012 Great College To Work For’

For the third consecutive year, SHSU is one of the best colleges to work for, according to a new survey by The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Relative to other participating schools, employees rated SHSU high in: facilities, workspace and security; job satisfaction; work/life balance; supervisor/department chair relationship; and respect and appreciation.

In addition, because SHSU was rated highly in more than four categories, it was named as a 2012 Honor Roll school.



Faculty Excellence

Provost Jaimie Hebert and President Dana Gibson congratulate the four winners of the 2012 Faculty Excellence Awards. This year’s recipients include (from left, flanked by Hebert and Gibson) Stacey Edmonson, Excellence in Service; Richard Watts, Excellence in Research; John Newbold, Excellence in Teaching; and Phillip Lyons, the first recipient of the David Payne Academic Community Engagement Award.

For details see: <http://bit.ly/MMuO11>

Maniam Named 2012 Piper Professor

A Sam Houston State University finance professor who was honored with the university's most prestigious teaching award four years ago has been recognized for excellence in teaching at the state level.

Balasundram Maniam has been named a recipient of the 2012 Minnie Stevens Piper Award, which awards 10 Texas professors annually in recognition of superior teaching at the college level. He received \$5,000 and a commemorative pin from the foundation.

"Bala is grounded in ethics and is an example of scholarly grace and humility," said Charles Capps, professor of management. "He has a solid educational and experiential background. He has both the breadth and depth required to be successful. He has the communication and human relations skills to be effective, and he has the organizational and managerial ability to lead.

"However, his best quality may be his dedication to helping others succeed," Capps said. "I believe Bala was born to be an educator."

Maniam grew up in Malaysia in a family where education was valued. By the time Maniam finished high school, most of the family's savings had been spent on the education of his older siblings. However, his oldest brother sent him to the U.S. to attend college.

His brother's sacrifices motivated him to complete his undergraduate degree in computer science in two years, graduating magna cum laude from Arkansas State University, where he also earned his Master of Business Administration degree. Maniam earned his doctorate in finance at the University of Mississippi and began his teaching career at Texas

A&M International University in 1991. Maniam says that his teaching

philosophy comes from how teachers and professors influenced his life, which has translated into "what can I do" to enhance people's education.

"This is probably why after 20 years of teaching, I still get very excited in my classes and try to do my very

best each time," he said. "Some of this is apparent from my teaching evaluations and

student comments. I recognized that 'true' faculty must not only be good teachers and researchers, but must also support the students and community in whatever way possible. I also realized one can never truly be an effective teacher, especially at the graduate level, without relevant research.

"Professionally, I hope to become more recognized within my field and be a role model to other faculty in terms of teaching and research," he said. "However, I want to do all these things without sacrificing my commitment to teaching excellence. After all, a true teacher is one that makes a difference in the classroom before everything else, and I want to be remembered for my excellence in teaching before anything else."

"A TRUE TEACHER IS ONE THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN THE CLASSROOM BEFORE EVERYTHING ELSE, AND I WANT TO BE REMEMBERED FOR MY EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE."



SCENE

SHSU hosted a number of events during the Spring semester that brought together students, employees and alumni.

at SAM



Outgoing Miss Sam Houston Risa Mitchell crowns the incoming Miss Sam Houston Angelic Ortiz.



Newly named recipients to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Wall of Honor are (from left): Melissa Blohm, accepting the plaque for the late John Holcombe; Ron Koska; Bob Gammage; and James Olson.



Liberty Mutual presented a \$10,000 check to the SHSU Alumni Association in honor of Willie Fritz, who received the most votes for "Coach of the Year" for Division 1-FCS in the company's fall promotional event.



Future Bearkat Summer Quinn Dooley attended her first alumni event in May at the Austin-Washington County Alumni and Friends Reception at Welcome Hall near Brenham.



For the first time in the school's history, SHSU had four ceremonies covering two days during Spring 2012 commencement.



Baseball Hall of Famer and Texas legend Nolan Ryan (center) was the featured guest for "Mingling with a Major Leaguer," a part of the President's Speaker Series.



Comedian Gabriel Iglesias brought his "Fluffy Shop Tour" to SHSU as part of Student Activities' Spring Sammypoosza Series.



Sydney Redus, Laura Redford, James Ray and Adam Ray show off the brand-new class rings they had just received at the traditional SHSU Ring Ceremony.



Members of the baseball team celebrate after defeating the Rice Owls to advance to the championship round of the NCAA Houston Regional Tournament.



The annual "Let's Talk!" event continues to raise funds for scholarships, instructional support, cultural outings and operating expenses for students and faculty in the Elliott T. Bowers Honors College.



Bob Brock, second from left, became the 15th head softball coach in NCAA Division I history to get 1,000 wins. From left are Brock's wife Mary; Brock; SHSU President Dana Gibson; Athletic Director Bobby Williams; and Associate Athletic Director for Student Services Chris Thompson.



Football players Darius Taylor and Andrew Weaver proudly show off their Southland Conference championship rings at the Football Championship Dinner.



Reorganized Foundation Adds New Dimension To Fund Raising

Recent changes to a private support organization founded more than 45 years ago as a public, charitable and educational trust to benefit Sam Houston State University should help relieve some of the growing pains the university has felt as enrollment has increased and state funding has declined during the past decade.

At its meeting in May 2012, the Texas State University System Board of Regents formally recognized the Sam Houston University Foundation, Inc., by approving its bylaws as well as an operating agreement between the university and the foundation.

The approval followed the foundation's name change from Sam Houston Foundation to Sam Houston University Foundation, Inc. The reorganization included its move from a Section 509(a)(3) tax-exempt status to a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation to assist SHSU in private fund raising.

Earlier in the year, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board granted approval to the foundation to use the word "University" in its name, and the office of the Texas Secretary of State certified the foundation as a non-profit corporation.

"The foundation will be working closely with the university to conduct fund raising, which it has not done in the

recent past. The reorganization is mutually beneficial to both Sam Houston State and the foundation," said Frank Holmes, vice president for University Advancement.

"There are companies, foundations and individuals that restrict their contributions to 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations and will now be able to give to the foundation," he said. "The foundation will also provide greater latitude and flexibility to invest funds and endowments, and this will be enormously attractive to major donors. Making gifts to the foundation can also help maintain a degree of donor confidentiality, which is important to some contributors."

The new status has been informally discussed for a couple of years, according to Holmes.

"In a meeting of the foundation trustees about a year ago, President Gibson and the trustees agreed that it would be in the best interest of the university and the foundation to move forward with changing the foundation's tax-exempt status and for it to become more actively involved in the philanthropic support of the university," Holmes said.

"This change will put us more in line with most other major universities in Texas and throughout the nation," he said.

The foundation's permanent trustees at the time of regents' approval were Robert Bruner, Jack Parker, Ferne Frosch, Rick Hartley and Sonny Sikes. At its June 27 meeting, trustees elected Robert Hutson, Don Sanders, Bill Thomas and Gary Whitlock as members.

"The foundation trustees have expressed their excitement about this new role and are eager to work with Dr. Gibson to expand the board to include people who can provide expertise in asset management, fund raising and are willing and able to support the university through the foundation at a significant level," Holmes said.

Robert Bruner, foundation president, said that the foundation is looking forward to its newly defined role as an active partner with the university.

"The foundation will support the university wherever opportunities arise that enable the university to expand and enhance programs, including the acquisition and management of real property and personal property for the benefit of Sam Houston State for future allocations, transfer or use," he said.



CARRY THE VISION

Faculty, Staff Recognized For Successful Campaign

Volunteers for the Sam Houston State University Faculty/Staff Annual Fund Campaign were applauded for their record-breaking efforts during a recognition luncheon held Feb. 9 in the Peabody Library.

During the active phase of the campaign, which ran from mid-October through mid-December, a total of 1,320 donors gave or pledged over \$211,000. The dollar amount as of early July was more than \$294,000.

SHSU President Dana Gibson recognized the campaign volunteers, during which awards were presented to divisions that had 100 percent participation, the one with the highest participation increase, and one award to a volunteer.

Jim Bexley, campaign general chairman, announced some of the figures.

“We had five areas reach 100 percent participation in giving and an additional two areas reached over 90 percent participation,” he said.

“We now have approximately 33 percent of the donors on payroll deduction,” he said. “In addition, many people increased their monthly giving. In dollars, it is over \$9,100 per month.”

Sherry Henke, campaign staff chair, and Rosanne Keathley, campaign faculty chair, joined Bexley in handing out the awards. Bexley also encouraged contributions from faculty and staff for FY2011-2012 to continue through Aug. 31.

Units with 100 percent participation included Newton Gresham Library, Student Services, the College of Education, the College of Criminal Justice and University Advancement.

The unit with the highest participation increase over the previous year, going from 44.6 percent to 80.6 percent participation, was Information Technology Services.

A new award was given this year to honor a committee member. The “Outstanding Volunteer” award was presented to Noelle Thompson of Facilities Management. Thompson worked with several departments to increase participation and her efforts paid off. When combined, the departments of Custodial Services, Facilities Management, and Grounds Maintenance increased participation from 33 percent to 83 percent this year.

A listing of employees who have contributed and details on how to participate is available online at www.shsu.edu/~ua_www/facultyandstaff.



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WILLIE FRITZ



#6 Richard Sincere



#59 J.T. Cleveland



#20 Tim Flanders



#7 Dax Swanson



#38 Darnell Taylor

SETTING THE STAGE



For An Exciting 2012 FOOTBALL SEASON

In many ways, the 2011 football season was unlike anything ever seen in Huntsville. The Kats set records on and off the field as they made their way to a conference championship and national title game appearance.

By Jason Barfield

From 2005-2010, the Sam Houston State football team rolled up a pair of Southland Conference runner-up finishes. Also during that time, six Bearkats were honored with All-American recognition, including five in 2007. It was the most in a season since 2004, when seven were honored, including one earning a first-team recognition.

The magical season of 2011 changed all of that. In addition to the Bearkats first out-right Southland Conference championship (titles were shared in 1991, 2001 and 2004) and the school's first trip to the national championship game, the Kats also boasted seven All-American recognitions and a record 10 first-team selections. Darnell Taylor led the way with four first-team honors.

When the Kats swept through the Southland Conference postseason awards, it almost seemed like a foregone conclusion. Willie Fritz was named "Coach of the Year;" Tim Flanders, "Player of the Year;" Richard Sincere, "Offensive Player of the Year;" and Taylor, "Defensive Player of the Year."

But the national awards kept rolling in for the Bearkats. Fritz was named the American Football Coaches Association national "FCS Coach of the Year." Fritz quickly deflected most of the recognition to his coaching staff and the Bearkat players.

"An award like that is really just a reflection of the team and coaches you have," Fritz said. "You can't win a coaching award without having a great season, so everyone really gets the credit for this."

The players received plenty of individual recognition on the national level as well. Toward the end of the season, Flanders was named to the Walter Payton Award watch list and finished seventh in the final voting. The Walter Payton Award, sometimes referred to as the Heisman Trophy for FCS football, is given to the best offensive player in the Football Championship Subdivision.

It was the sixth time a Bearkat had been a finalist for the award, after Chris Chaloupka in 1999, Josh McCown in 2001, Dustin Long in 2004, D.D. Terry in 2006, and Rhett Bomar in 2008.

"This is an honor, especially since I didn't get onto the watch list until mid-season and had a few games where I finished at halftime," Flanders said. "It was exciting to get 10 first-place votes. That's something to look forward to this season. To be associated with an award named for one of the all-time great running backs in football is really something."

Last season Flanders was recognized by six different news outlets for All-America honors, including a pair of first-team selections from the American Football Coaches Association and College Sporting News. No Bearkat has ever

been listed on more post-season honor teams than Flanders was last season.

While Flanders topped the list for the most All-American honors, Taylor garnered the most first-team recognitions. In addition to joining Flanders on the AFCA and CSN first team, Taylor was also on the Sports Network and Phil Steele first-team lists. Only Michael Bankston (1991) and Jonathan Cooper (2001) have earned four different first-team recognitions in the same season.

Offensive lineman Travis Watson earned three first-team selections in 2011, while Chris Crockett and Sincere each earned one. Daxton Swanson and J.T. Cleveland were the other two Kats to earn national honors, with Swanson receiving a third-team pick and Cleveland a fourth-team selection.

The 2012 season is already shaping up nicely for the Bearkats in terms of postseason honors. Flanders makes a return to the Payton Award watch list, and he is not alone this time around, being joined by Sincere. It is the first time two Bearkats have been on the watch list for the Payton Award at the same time. The Kats will also have a player in consideration for the Buck Buchanan Award, given to the top defensive player in FCS football. Taylor is among the 20 players named to the preseason Buchanan watch list.



Kats Celebrate STELLAR Athletic Season

By Paul Ridings

Sam Houston State's athletic teams focused the national sports spotlight on Huntsville with stellar seasons in 2011-12.

The Bearkat football team rolled into the NCAA Division I Championship game with a 14-0 record and a No. 1 national ranking.

The baseball team climbed as high as No. 20 in the national polls, winning the Southland Conference regular season championship. The team followed up with an at-large berth in the 2012 NCAA Baseball Championships, reaching the finals of the Houston Region.

The women's bowling team again earned a high national ranking, and basketball, volleyball, soccer, softball, tennis, and track and field all saw post-season success.

"Definitely, it was a great year to be a Bearkat," Sam Houston State Director of Athletics Bobby Williams said. "Since men's basketball won its first Southland Conference championship in 2000, we've had a lot of success in our 17 sports programs.

"But this season the three big home football playoff victories and baseball earning its first national top 25 ranking have been a catalyst to bring excitement about Bearkat athletics to an all-time high."

In the 13 seasons since the 1999-2000 school year, Sam Houston State has won 16 regular season conference championships, six Southland post-season tournament titles and made 11 NCAA tournament appearances.

The Bearkats became the first and only team to win the Southland Conference Commissioner's Cup (symbolic of the league's men's and women's combined all-sports leadership) three years in a row (2005, 2006, 2007). Sam Houston also won two Southland Men's All-Sports cups (2000, 2007).

By contrast, during the 1990s, the Kats won seven league championships, made four NCAA playoff trips and won two post-season league tournaments.

"We've been fortunate to hire a group of talented coaches who have recruited quality young men and women to represent

our university," Williams said. "We've also had outstanding leadership from our university administration, providing the support necessary to achieve on the field."

The 2011-12 season began with SHSU rolling to 14 consecutive football victories and its first out-right Southland football title. The Bearkats were the No. 1 seed in the NCAA Division I Football Championship playoff and advanced to the National Championship Game in Frisco.

Record crowds saw the Bearkats defeat Stony Brook, Montana State and Montana in NCAA playoff games at Elliott T. Bowers Stadium, and millions more watched on ESPN, ESPN2 and ESPN3.

Men's basketball made its 10th consecutive Southland Conference post-season appearance. The women's basketball team played in the Women's Basketball Invitational. The softball team was runner-up in both the Southland regular season standings and the tournament. Women's bowling earned a No. 9 national ranking. Women's tennis, volleyball and soccer all reached the semifinals of their



SH
**EYE ON
KATS**



respective league post-season tournaments.

Baseball put the cap on a great year by winning its first Southland regular season title since 1989. The diamond crew took the title in spectacular fashion, winning 10 of their 11 league weekend series with three conference sweeps. The team tied the record for Southland wins in one season (24) and posted a 13-game winning streak that was the longest in the program's NCAA Division I history.

The baseball team equaled its best finish in an NCAA Regional by knocking off No. 1 seed Rice in the semifinals to earn the program's second regional finals appearance.

"It's a big achievement to reach the NCAA as the post-season tournament champion, but when you can get an at-large bid, that speaks volumes about where your program is," Williams said. "It shows the respect the program has nationally and the success we've had against the quality teams we play."

With all the success, Berkats in all the sports received post-season honors.

Willie Fritz and David Pierce were named as Southland Conference "Coach-of-the-Year" in football and baseball, respectively. Ten Bearkat student-athletes received "All-America" recognition and 37 were named "All-Southland Conference."

"It's amazing what football, basketball and baseball can do for an athletic department and the university," Williams said. "All sports are important, and we have 17 quality programs. But football, basketball and baseball are so high profile; when they have success, it takes everyone to another level."

The most exciting aspect of the winning marks in so many of the sports programs is that almost all of the teams fielded young squads dominated by underclassmen. Football, for example, returns 50 lettermen this fall. Baseball lost only five players from its roster.

The athletic department also continues to improve its physical plant. Current projects include replacing the chair-back seats for the 2012 football season, and the department is in the

process of securing funding for new video boards for the football, basketball, softball and baseball facilities.

Williams said other projects he would like to have completed within the next five years include an athletic/alumni events center, a renovated press box for Bowers Stadium, an indoor practice facility and a sports complex containing facilities for soccer and tennis.

"Hopefully, the success that all of our programs are seeing will grow our alumni base as far as donations and ticket sales so we can build these facilities within the next five years," Williams said.

ALL IN 2011-12

Four Honored With Alumni Service Awards

Four individuals who have displayed outstanding commitment not only to Sam Houston State University but to their respective communities were recognized on April 20 as recipients of the 2012 SHSU Alumni Association Service Awards. They include Yolanda Green, Tommy Metcalf, Frank “Poncho” Roberts and Don Strickland.

Yolanda Green

Yolanda Green is a community pioneer, children’s advocate, public speaker and Emmy-nominated television personality.

The former KIAH-TV Channel 39 community relations director and “Outlook Houston” host is the current manager of community investment for Comcast Houston, where she is responsible for all the company’s philanthropic efforts in the Houston area.

During her career, Green has spearheaded activities for the CW39 Cares for Kids Fund, facilitating the distribution of more than \$9 million to local non-profit agencies; became the driving force behind a comprehensive broadcast campaign that featured foster children on Channel 39 public service announcements, which resulted in more than 5,500 finding adoptive homes; and highlighted businesses, commercial products, government programs and local initiatives making significant strides in eco-friendliness in her “Going Green with Yolanda Green.”

Tommy Metcalf

A 1971 graduate of SHSU with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in general business, Tommy Metcalf is a private investor who currently serves on the board of directors of Spirit Texas Bank, the Montgomery County Child Protective Services board, and the Montgomery County Community Foundation, which has increased its

award to local charities from \$24,650 in 2007 to more than \$107,000 in 2011.

Metcalf, a former recognized Conroe mayor, was named “Most Valuable Mayor” by the Texas Foster Family Association for his work with the child protective services board. The association recognized Conroe as the No. 1 city in the state for adoptions per capita.

He has also been affiliated with numerous organizations in the Conroe area, including groups that work for children, the sick, and crime prevention.

Frank “Poncho” Roberts

Frank “Poncho” Roberts, whose signature statement is “My Family—That’s Togetherness, One More Time” is known both locally and statewide for his commitment to service.

After earning his degree from SHSU in 2009 at the age of 77, both the Texas Legislature and the U. S. Congress recognized him; he was named “Citizen of the Year” by the Huntsville Item in 2002; a number of local and national organizations have paid homage to him; and the City of Huntsville declared June 14, 2008, as Frank “Poncho” Roberts

Day for his work in acquiring a \$2.1 million aquatic center for the city.

After retiring from his 36-year career with Southwestern Bell Telephone Company—where he was awarded for “professionalism, dedication and outstanding support that greatly enhanced flight safety and mission success in communications at NASA”—the company established the annual Poncho Roberts Teamwork Award in his honor, given to an employee who demonstrates an outstanding spirit of teamwork.

Don Strickland

A successful businessman in real estate, banking and funeral service, Don Strickland earned both a bachelor’s degree in 1949 and master’s degree in 1954 from Sam Houston State University before enrolling in graduate studies at the University of Houston.

An owner of Strickland Funeral Homes, Memorial Oaks Chapel, and Fohner Funeral Homes, he has devoted more than 60 years to Rotary International, is a leader within the Methodist Church, and has been involved in numerous education-related, children-related and city organizations.



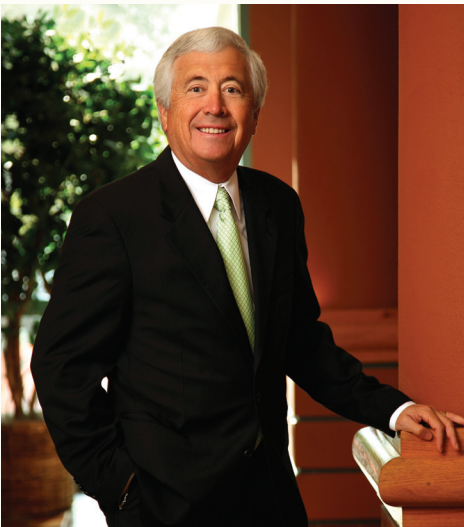
Left to right: Tommy Metcalf, Yolanda Green, Frank “Poncho” Roberts and Don Strickland

The Mayors Club

By Julia May

Almost 100 years after President Harry Estill approved the inscription of Sam Houston State's motto—"The measure of a Life is its Service"—on an Old Main chapel window, graduates are still heeding the call to be a part of something bigger than themselves.

One way is through public service, leading their city or town government as mayor. According to recent SHSU records, more than 30 Barkats are either currently serving or have served as mayors of Texas cities. Several shared their thoughts on how Sam Houston State prepared them for their leadership and what they have learned from their service.



Joe Adame – Corpus Christi

Although Joe Adame grew up in South Texas, he came to Sam Houston State because he felt the school would give him the opportunity to pursue a college career and because he "loved the piney woods setting."

He graduated in 1969 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. He was a member of Delta Sigma Pi business fraternity and served as president of the organization for a year.

Prior to his election as mayor of the eighth largest city in Texas, Adame

served as a member of the Regional Transportation Authority, Amistad Community Health Center, Del Mar College Foundation, Christus Spohn Development Foundation, and was both chairman and member of the Corpus Christi Economic Development Corporation. He was also appointed by the governor to serve on the Texas Real Estate Advisory Board at Texas A&M University-College Station.

He currently serves on the board of the Texas State Aquarium and South Texas Botanical Gardens and Nature Center, and he is active in the Leadership Prayer Breakfast and spiritual retreat "Walk to Emmaus/Journey to Damascus."

He is a commercial real estate broker and agent with Certified Commercial Investment Member, Society of Industrial and Office Realtors, and Counselors of Real Estate designations. He has owned his own firm in Corpus Christi for 40 years.

"I decided to run for mayor because I felt some business practices needed improving, and I believed my business background could add a lot to the community," he said.

"Because of my love and passion for the community, I ran on four principles: clean up the city; better customer service for our citizens; unite community-regionalism; and focus on and promote young citizens," he said.

Adame was elected in April 2009, and he will conclude his second term in November.

Of his accomplishments as mayor, he is the most proud of having the opportunity and the ability to unite the community and the region.

"I'm also pleased that I have been able to participate in changing the business culture of our municipality," he said.

He often talks to young people about service and leadership and offers four principles to encourage them in their personal and professional lives.

"I tell them to love people, work hard, take risks, and be a servant," he said.



Mackie Plaster Bobo-White – Bedias

Mackie Bobo-White wanted to be a teacher when she was growing up, so when she was offered scholarships to attend Sam Houston State, which was only about 30 miles from the family home, she readily accepted. She earned her bachelor's degree in 1965 and her master's degree in 1969, both at Sam Houston, before receiving her doctorate at Texas Tech.

She was active in many Sam Houston organizations, including Orange Keys, Alpha Chi Omega Sorority, Alpha Chi Honor Society, and was on the executive board of the Wesley Foundation. She also served as copy editor of the *Houstonian*.

"My involvement in student groups certainly helped strengthen my leadership and organization skills," she said. "Being active also provided me with a number of opportunities to speak publicly."

White lived in Lubbock for 30 years where she taught at Texas Tech University and served as president of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, captain of the United Way, president of the PTA, member of the Junior League and several Booster Clubs, and was on the bond committee for the Lubbock I.S.D. Because of her involvement, she received a community service award.

She also had a cooking school for more than 20 years and had her

own television cooking show.

She and her first husband, Mike Bobo, moved back to Bedia from Lubbock in 2000. Mike, also a Sam Houston graduate, was a member of the National Co-Championship Bearkat football team in 1964. He was also an educator and taught at Texas Tech for 30 years. He died in 2004.

Bobo-White immediately found service opportunities within the Bedia community.

She became one of a three-member team who was tasked with getting Bedia incorporated. The community became an officially recognized city in 2004, and Bobo-White was elected as its first mayor. She is also the only mayor because she has won each election since then.

One of her first projects was to oversee the creation of a public wastewater system for Bedia.

"We have been working on this project since 2004, and with the help of state and federal grants, the system will be completed this September," she said. The city also has streetlights and city signs now.

Bobo-White has also been active within the community in other ways. She is a founder and president of the Bedia Museum and Library, serves on the board of the Civics Club, is a member of the Women's Club, and is a former member of the Brazos Valley Council of Governments. She is also a member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in College Station.

She has been active within the education profession, serving as a teacher, principal, and a professor at Texas Tech and Texas A&M.

She is an education consultant and supervises teachers who are pursuing alternative education certificates. She also trains newly certified principals and assistant principals, and she is an adjunct professor for Concordia University.

She and her husband, Ben White, a former mayor of College Station whom Bobo met through the Brazos Valley Council of Governments, enjoy camping and traveling in their recreational vehicle.

"It's very important for people to become involved in order to grow and be successful," Bobo-White said. "It takes everyone at different levels to make a contribution, no matter what the organization is."



Clarke Evans – Livingston

When Clarke Evans came to Sam Houston State in 1957, he joined the Esquires, which became Delta Tau Delta fraternity in 1960, the year he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture. He earned his Master of Education degree at Sam Houston in 1966 in agriculture education.

He held various offices in his fraternity and was also involved in the Sam Houston Collegiate FFA, Alpha Chi Honor Society, and the Scabbard and Blade Military Honor Society. He was active in the Reserve Officers' Training Corp and was a Distinguished Military Graduate—all of which helped prepare him for his role as mayor.

"Participating in my classes and being active in my fraternity helped me develop the 'people skills' that I needed in life," Evans said. "Also, the leadership skills that I acquired in ROTC have been very important to me."

His decision to become involved in public service in his hometown of Livingston sprang from "a desire to serve a city that is caring and giving," he said.

"From the youth to senior citizens, the residents of this city have demonstrated many times that they are willing to give and to participate in activities that benefit others," he said.

Evans was a member of the city council from 2003 to 2008, when he was elected mayor. He was re-elected for a third term this year.

His most memorable event as mayor, so far, occurred four months after he was first elected. In September 2008, Hurricane Ike hit the Texas Gulf

Coast, impacting much of East Texas as the storm system traveled north.

"The dedication of our city employees in the aftermath of the storm was one of the most humbling things I've ever experienced," Evans said. "They worked long, hard hours to get the city up and running again. I have so much respect for them, and I learned quickly that this is a great city with great employees."

Evans is also proud that Livingston has grown under his leadership and that the city is financially solvent.

In addition to his service with the city, he has been a member of the Livingston I.S.D. trustees and the Lions Club, past president of the Livingston-Polk County Chamber of Commerce, past chairman of the Polk County Appraisal District board, a member of the Polk County Youth Rodeo Association, and has served on committees with the First United Methodist Church.

Evans has worked in real estate for 35 years and is also a rancher.

He said the personal fulfillment he receives is worth the time and effort that's involved in service.

"Giving back is the most rewarding experience a person can have, whether through public service or being an active part of your community," he said.



Betty Pinckard Reinbeck – Former Mayor of Sealy

Sam Houston State isn't very far from Betty Reinbeck's hometown of Livingston, and because she needed

to commute to college, it was a logical choice for her education.

"I had visited the campus while in high school, and I was impressed with it," she said.

Reinbeck was identified early as a leader, serving as a class officer all four years in high school and an officer in almost every school organization to which she belonged.

She attended Sam Houston from 1960 to 1962 before dropping out because of financial reasons. She returned, however, in 1966 and graduated in 1968 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree.

Although commuting made it difficult to be involved in student organizations, Reinbeck was inducted into Pi Omega Pi, the National Business Teacher Education Honor Society.

In 1985, Reinbeck was elected to serve on the city council in Sealy.

"After a few months as a council member, I decided that I didn't agree with the mayor on how he was conducting the business of the city," she said. "So after careful consideration and a lot of encouragement, especially from my husband, I filed to run against the incumbent in 1986."

Reinbeck was elected and served until September 2004, when she resigned to take the position of executive director of the Tomball Economic Development Corporation.

"While serving as mayor, I was fortunate to work with some excellent

council members, city managers, staff and employees," she said. "And together we accomplished so many positive things."

Reinbeck said she was especially proud that the city came back to a "healthy, stable financial condition" during her administration.

"All of my courses in the business department at Sam Houston were extremely helpful to me while serving as the mayor," she said. "I campaigned that I would run the city in a business-like manner, and that's what I did."

During her tenure as mayor, she also taught marketing education for the Sealy I.S.D. and served as chairman of the career and technology education department until she retired in 1997.

She then became manager of the Sealy Outlet Center until 2004, when she took the Tomball position.

Public service has been a large part of Reinbeck's life and continues to fill her time. In addition to serving her local community, she has been appointed to several state positions.

In 1996, Gov. George Bush named her to the State Community Development Review Committee, which is involved with the Community Development Block Grant Program. Three years later, he appointed her chair of the committee, and she served in that capacity until 2004.

In December 2004, Gov. Rick Perry appointed her to the Texas Building and Procurement Commission, which is now the Texas Facilities Commission. He named

her chair of the commission in 2007, and re-appointed her to the commission and as chair for a second six-year term in 2011.

Later that year, Perry appointed her to the newly created Public Private Partnership Advisory Commission, also known as the P3 Advisory Commission, to review all state agency P3 agreements. The commission consists of 11 members, of whom four are state senators, four are state representatives, and three are appointed by the governor.

"My service to the City of Sealy and to the great State of Texas has been very rewarding, exciting and educational," Reinbeck said. "I have had the opportunity to meet and work with many outstanding people from all around Texas, and I would encourage others to get involved at some level."

For those interested in leadership and service roles, Reinbeck offers the following points: Never forget why you were put into a leadership position; never stop listening to those whom you represent; assemble a good team and then work with them; and don't be concerned about who gets the credit when good things happen.



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Where Are They Now?



Jayne Simmons Edison



D. Lamar Miller

Alumni have been 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!

Jayne Simmons Edison – BAT '78

Jayne Simmons Edison is the president and CEO of OFI-Office Furniture Innovations, LLC, a Houston-based, full-service office furniture dealership.

While a student at SHSU, Edison managed the Spanish Keys apartments. She, along with her roommates Lori Harkins McGinnis and Melinda Hilliard Hammond, also worked at Waterwood Country Club.

“We considered ourselves ‘rich’ college students because we could make as much as \$500 each working on the weekends,” she said. Today, all three women are still close, with McGinnis and Hammond now working with Edison at OFI.

The week after she graduated from SHSU, Edison began working at Spring Branch Driving school. After two years, she switched to a career in sales.

Office Depot recruited her in 1996 to develop their commercial office furniture division. While there, she worked for two years on a bid for the Harris County Criminal Justice Center, but at the last

minute Office Depot decided not to submit because the margin was too small.

“I had worked so hard and it was very discouraging,” she said. One of the vendors, The Lowe Group, encouraged her to bid on the job herself.

“I was recently divorced, had just moved my ill mother into my home to take care of her, and was flat broke,” she said.

The Lowe Group agreed to loan her \$15,000, Sterling Bank loaned her \$15,000, and she mortgaged her house for a total of \$75,000. With the help of the architect PGAL, Edison convinced the HCCJC group that she could do the job and save them money. OFI saved the taxpayers over \$250,000.

“I won the bid, and OFI was born,” she said. “I have never looked back, and it has been the greatest gift I have ever received.”

The highlight of her career has been outfitting the Federal Reserve Bank on Allen Parkway in Houston and working with architect/designer Michael Graves. Graves, identified as one of “The New

York Five” in the architectural world, has become a household name with his designs for domestic products sold at Target stores.

OFI has outfitted some of the most prestigious buildings in the Houston Metro area, including the African American Library, Stewart Title, Aker Solutions, Harris County Criminal, Civil and Juvenile Justice Centers, and the Galveston Justice Center.

This year, she closed a project with Marek Brothers Construction, which will take her to her lifelong goal of being a \$25-\$30 million company.

The Houston Business Journal recognized OFI as the “Fastest Growing Woman-Owned Business” in 2006 and the seventh “Largest Office Furniture Dealership” in Houston in 2007. The National Association of Women Business Owners named Edison their “Business Woman of the Year” in 2010. The West Houston Chamber of Commerce gave the Star Award to OFI in 2012.

Known for her philanthropic endeavors, Edison chairs several events a year raising money for such organizations as Dress for Success, the Bridge Over Troubled Waters, and the Pink Ribbons Project benefitting breast cancer research. More



Daphne L. Session



Christopher L. Tritico



Mary McCollum Vitek

information about Edison and her company can be found at www.ofillc.com.

D. Lamar Miller – BBA '82

Lamar Miller is the vice president/internal audit for The Shaw Group, a Fortune 500 company serving the energy, chemical, environmental, infrastructure and emergency response industries.

Originally from Texas, Miller moved with his family to California after he completed a year at Victoria Junior College.

“I took time off from school and worked in the finance area at a car dealership and for Brown Oil Tools, putting together tools and delivering them to drilling locations all over California,” he said. “This experience taught me that I needed to finish my education.”

Upon returning to Texas, Miller came to Sam Houston because he “wanted to stay at a smaller school, but attend a school that had a good business program, as my grandmother’s expectations were for me to obtain an accounting degree.”

One of his fondest memories of being an SHSU student was taking the business management class where he met his future wife Pam. They have been married 28 years and have two grown sons.

“I had a really good time at Sam with a number of great memories,” Miller said. “I was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity, and we were involved in a lot of activities.”

After graduation, he started his career with McGee, Wheeler and Co. CPA firm in Conroe. A few years later, he went to Coopers and Lybrand.

“After the birth of our second child, I went to work for Amax Oil and Gas as director of Internal Audit before moving to the gas marketing segment as director of Finance and Administration,” he said.

“I grew to love the marketing and trading area, as this sector was experiencing robust growth with pipeline deregulation and the expansion of the commodity markets,” Miller said.

Amax was acquired in 1994, after which Miller spent 16 years with various energy companies in a number of administrative roles in either financial or commercial areas before taking his current position with Shaw.

“Nowadays with the boys grown, Pam has retired from teaching, and I try to make as much time to play golf as possible,” he said.

He has seen two U.S. Opens, two Masters, a PGA, and Ryder Cup and

has played on approximately 40 of the world’s top 100 ranked golf courses.

“SHSU provided the tools for me to have success in my career,” Miller said. “At SHSU I filled my initial ‘toolbox’ with accounting and analytical skills that have enabled me to work in a very dynamic industry and be a contributor to the different companies’ success that I have worked for. Also, balancing both the academic responsibilities of school and the social aspects of fraternity truly helped me prepare for my career after college.”

Daphne L. Session – BS '91

Daphne Session has served as the county attorney for Houston County since 2009.

Prior to coming to SHSU, she decided that she wanted to be an attorney. Since she was interested in criminal justice, a friend told her to get a criminal justice degree at Sam Houston because the program was so highly respected and well-known.

She graduated in 1991 with a degree in criminology and corrections, and her first job in the field was at Texas Youth Commission-Crockett State School campus.

In 1992, she became an adult probation officer for the Anderson

County Adult Probation Department. She worked in Anderson County for four years before attending law school.

She was offered a scholarship at Texas Tech University School of Law where she went on to earn her law degree. During law school she completed a summer internship with the Anderson County Criminal District Attorney's Office, a summer internship with a law firm in Jacksonville, and worked at the Student Legal Affairs Office at Texas Tech. In May 1999 she was awarded her law degree.

"I finished the bar exam on a Thursday and started work the following Monday as a junior assistant district attorney in Anderson County," she said.

From there she served as assistant district attorney in Anderson County, Houston County, and Smith County until 2006, when she opened a private practice in Rusk and Crockett.

"I handled cases in criminal defense, juvenile defense, and some general practice such as divorce and probate," she said. In order to keep her prosecutorial skills "sharp," she also continued to prosecute criminal cases as a special prosecutor and as one of the contract municipal court prosecutors for the City of Tyler. She maintained her practice until she was elected Houston County Attorney.

"The county attorney is the chief prosecutor for misdemeanor and juvenile cases and must be a good and competent lawyer inside and outside the courtroom," she said.

[Christopher L. Tritico – BS '83](#)

Chris Tritico received his bachelor's degree in political science from SHSU and his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree at South Texas College of Law.

He began working at the firm of famed Houston attorney Racehorse Haynes at age 18 as an errand boy and worked "in almost every capacity in the firm" through the years.

Tritico worked for the firm through college and immediately after graduating from law school, he joined the firm as an attorney in 1988. In 1993, he left Haynes's office to start his own firm, which today operates as Tritico Rainey, PLLC.

Tritico is a member of the State Bar of Texas, National Association of Criminal

Defense Lawyers, Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, Harris County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, and Houston Bar Association.

He was named a "Texas Super Lawyer" for 2003 through 2008 and 2012 by Texas Monthly magazine. He was also named one of the "Top Lawyers for the People" by H Texas magazine in 2005 through 2012, and a "Texas Top-Rated Lawyer" in 2012. He recently became the 42nd president of the Harris County Criminal Lawyers Association, the largest local bar association in the country.

As a defense attorney, Tritico has handled cases in both state and federal courts, ranging from environmental law to capital murder. He has represented notable professional athletes and was one of the trial lawyers who represented Timothy McVeigh in the Oklahoma City bombing case.

He has appeared on Good Morning America, World News Tonight, Nightline, CBS Evening News, Meet the Press, Dateline NBC, 20/20, CNN, Fox News Channel, Court TV, and other media outlets, both nationally and internationally.

Tritico is the host of Fox26Law and serves as the legal analyst for KRIV Fox 26 and News Radio 740 KTRH in Houston.

While an SHSU student, Tritico was president of the Student Government Association. His most memorable accomplishment was mobilizing a student petition to help save Peabody Library from demolition, which led to the restoration of the building.

"My time at Sam Houston was special in every way," he said. "I loved the feel of the campus; the teachers knew you and cared about you, and they had respect for the students. I loved the SHSU culture which is still present today."

Tritico is married to the former Deborah Lambert, a 1984 BFA graduate of SHSU, and they have two daughters and a son.

[Mary McCollum Vitek – BBA '86](#)

Mary Vitek is the chief executive officer of Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council. She is responsible for the operations and management of one of the largest Girl Scout councils in the nation, which serves more than 70,000 girls ages 5-17 and approximately 19,000 adults in a

26-county area of Southeast Texas.

While attending Sam Houston State University, Vitek was a resident assistant in Belvin-Buchanan Hall.

"My fondest memories at Sam Houston are probably of my days as a resident assistant," she said. "The stories I could tell! My closest friends from college are the girls that I was an RA with during those two years. Working as an RA while going to school helped me develop a strong work ethic."

Following her graduation with honors, Vitek began her career in public accounting and worked for KPMG for eight years.

"In addition to our client responsibilities, audit managers were expected to handle some of the administrative responsibilities of the firm, like training, recruiting and community service," she said.

"I was the firm coordinator for our Junior Achievement initiative, and it was the 'assignment' and the amazing children I met in my second-grade JA classroom that inspired me to consider a career in the non-profit sector, where I have remained for the past 18 years," she said.

Vitek joined the Girl Scouts as the controller in 1994 and was promoted to CEO in 1998.

She is committed to service in a number of areas including being a member of SHSU's College of Business Administration Advisory Board, the Houston Chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants, Leadership Houston, and the American Leadership Forum.

Vitek has been recognized as an Outstanding Young Houstonian by the Houston Junior Chamber, an Outstanding Young Texan by the Texas Junior Chamber, one of Houston's 50 Most Influential Women in 2008 by *Houston Woman* magazine, and was selected for the Lone Star Pathfinder Award by the Texas Society of CPAs.

In December 2011, Vitek was inducted into the Greater Houston Women's Hall of Fame by the Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce.

Vitek and her husband Mike are the parents of a daughter, Molly. They enjoy spending time on Lake Livingston, traveling, jogging, and hiking in national parks.

CLASS NOTES

Kenneth Welch, '60, and his wife celebrated their 50TH anniversary on a Danube River Cruise featuring Christmas Markets from Vienna, Austria to Nuremberg, Germany.



Class of '65 members met at a resort in Concan to visit about their time at SHSU and get reacquainted. The attendees were: **Jesse Green**, of Houston; **Jesse Hugh Harris**, of Belton; **Connie Fair**, of Ft. Worth; **Gary Hart**, of Sabinal; **Royce Turney**, of Ft. Worth; **Bob Drueckhammer**, of Mullin; **Mike Millican**, of Brownwood; and **Julius Dubcak**, of Pflugerville. (Picture above)

Tommy Baccaro, '66 and '79, retired in 2001 after 35 years with Pasadena ISD as a teacher, counselor, assistant principal, and the last 19 years as middle school principal; he then decided to go full circle, returning to SHSU as a student-teacher supervisor. After 41 years in education, he retired again, and with his wife, Carol, is now enjoying their family and being an active member of the SHSU Bay Area Alumni Chapter.

Mary Beth Kilgore, '69, retired from her second career in January 2012, with the Texas Department of Transportation where she had been a public information officer in the Abilene area for 18 years. Prior to that, Kilgore was a public affairs officer for the United States Air Force for 20 years, serving at eight different Air Force bases.

Mary Ann Appelt Kizer, '71, received her Master of Education degree in

workforce development from the University of Arkansas on Dec. 17, 2011. Kizer is the Jefferson County Extension Family and Consumer Sciences agent based in Pine Bluff, Ark.

Cheryl Northam, '74 and '77, a professor of health and human performance at McNeese State University, received the 2012 Honor Award presented by the Southern District of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance at the annual district conference in Orlando, Fla.

G.M. Cox, '79 and '87, graduated with his doctorate in public and urban administration from the University of Texas at Arlington on Dec. 18, 2011. His dissertation was titled: "Crisis in Police Recruitment: Public Service Motivation and Changes in Generational Preferences."

Charles (Chuck) W. Jones, III, '81, a senior vice president and indirect production manager for Wells Fargo Dealer Services, along with other southeast leaders from Wells Fargo Dealer Services, volunteered at the Lowcountry Food Bank in Charleston, S.C. The food bank feeds the poor and hungry of the 10 coastal counties of South Carolina by soliciting and distributing healthy food and grocery products to nonprofit agencies.

Janet Trumble, '90 and '94, recently published her first novel, *Don't Let Me Go*, with Kensington Publishing. The novel has received a starred review in *Publishers Weekly*. Trumble credits SHSU faculty members Paul Ruffin and John Schwetman with playing a tremendous role in her becoming a writer.

Louis Skipper, '91, is the author of *Pip and the Zombies*, a reinterpretation of Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*, which is now being used as part of a Dickens class at Florida State University.

Ted Irving, '92, one of the top three winners of the 2011 Comcast "Project Open Voice" contest has come a long way from being a news video editor, sports photographer and high school digital media instructor. Irving was awarded funds by Comcast to develop a mobile app that would be used as a tool to promote www.houstonvoice.com.

Jerry (Jay) McGee, Jr., '95, currently lives in Vancouver, Canada, where he works for the Department of Homeland Security as a chief customs and border protection officer. McGee is a combat veteran of the first Gulf War.

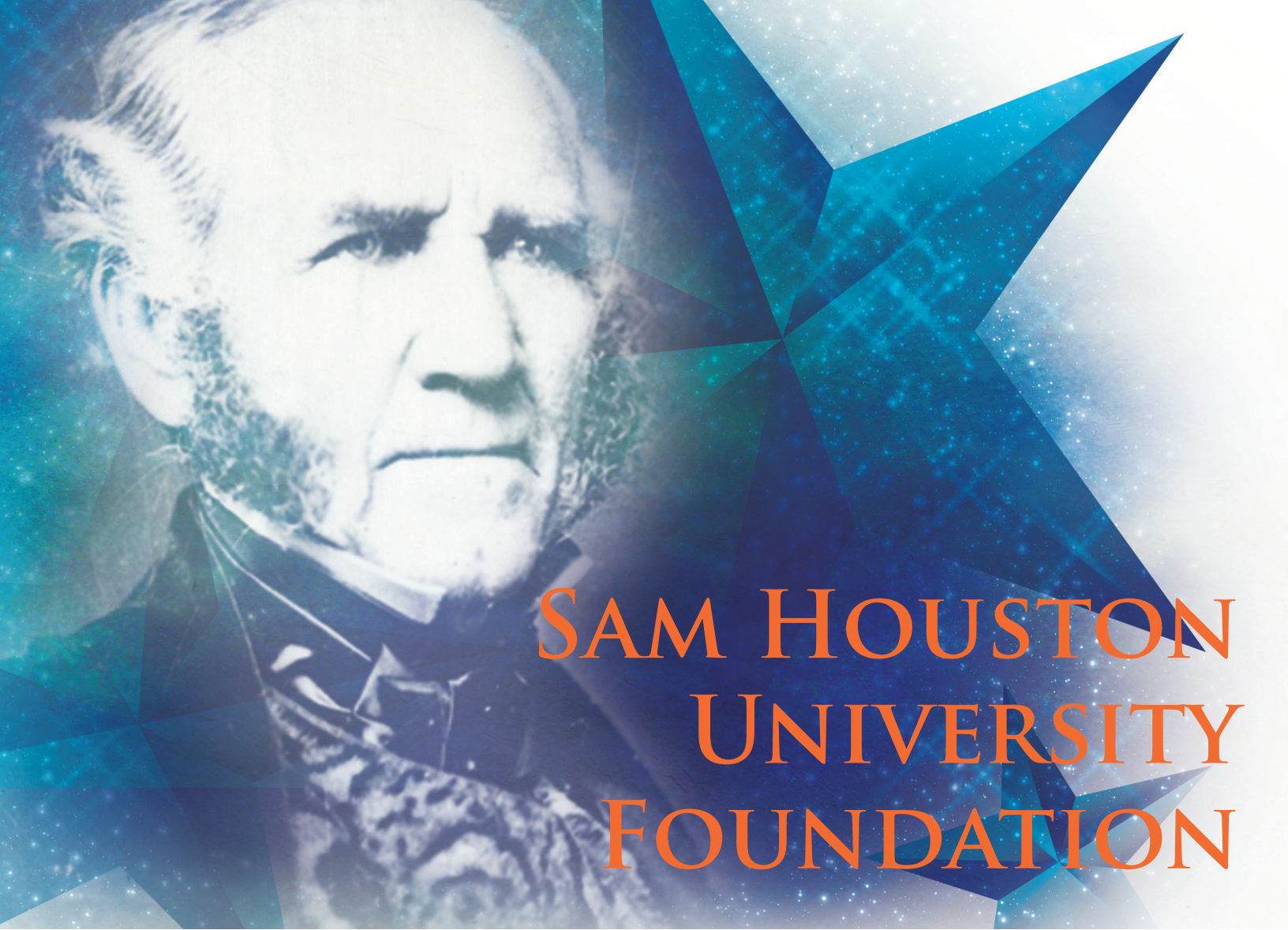
Johnnie (Jay) Burch, '97, was recently named chief of police for the City of Denison. Burch has more than 24 years of law enforcement experience and has been a police chief more than 11 years.

Brent Stephenson, '04, was named the new finance director for the City of Bullard in March. He previously spent three-and-a-half years as a financial analyst for the City of Tyler. Stephenson earned his master's degree from Nichols College, in Dudley, Mass.

Daniel M. Pfannstiel, '05 and '09, recently had his composition "Apollonian Ascent" performed by the SHSU Symphonic Band. The piece, written to commemorate the 40TH anniversary of the Apollo moon landing, was previously named winner of the 2010-2011 Dallas Wind Symphony Fanfare Composition Contest and was premiered last season by the Texas Christian University Wind Symphony.

Kay Clark, '08, became a first-time mother on Jan. 10, 2012, to a daughter Kaylee Mae Cooper. Kay also graduated from law school on May 11, 2012.

Patrick Baker, '11, and Jenny Dent, '10, were recently married.



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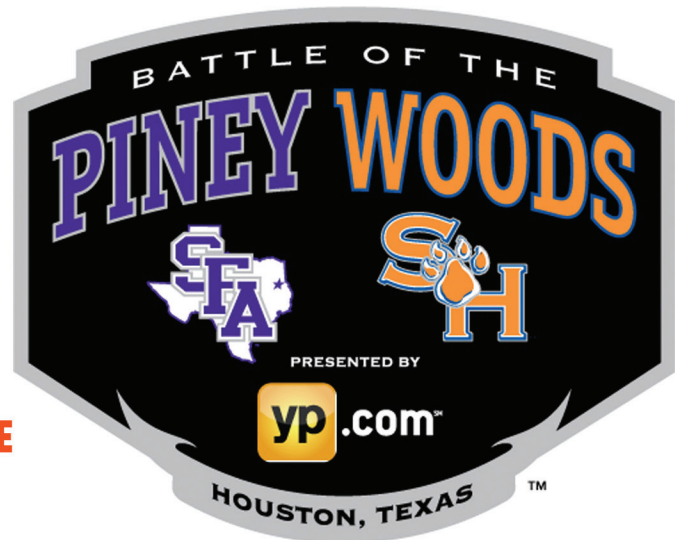
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