

Heritage

Honoring Our Traditions. Envisioning Our Future.

TRANSFORMING

What will the campus look like in the years ahead?

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY



THE Vision



Be Proud. Share the Vision.

This fall, our university will welcome thousands of new and returning students to Sam Houston State University as we begin our 130th year. We witnessed a record number of students graduating during 2008–09 to become the newest members of our alumni family, and we now anticipate the largest and most academically qualified group of freshman students in our university's long and storied history.

This academic year continues the tradition that began with Bernard Mallon and Hildreath H. Smith making preparations to greet Sam Houston Normal Institute's first student body in 1879. It was an exciting and momentous time—just as this fall is for our students, faculty, and staff. Upon such a wonderful occasion, I cannot help reflecting on all that this grand old university has meant to so many people.

Throughout our university's history, including its recent years of tremendous growth and development, Sam Houston State has remained a very special place that really cares about and nurtures those who are a part of it. We are fond of saying that once prospective students, faculty, and staff visit our campus, beholding its beauty and experiencing the warmth of its people, they find it almost impossible to not become members of our Bearkat family. And, we really mean this.

“Beyond the bricks and mortar of new buildings and the landscaping of beautifully maintained grounds, the single most important thing about our university is the people who are integrally involved in the educational process.”

This issue of *Heritage* contains a good overview of our new master plan that will provide our university with flexible guidance for the future expansion and development of our campus over the next ten years. It is designed to accommodate a growing student body, while maintaining the beauty of the campus and serving our students' educational needs at the highest possible level.

While our campus master plan allows us to meet important facility objectives, our focus will always be on maintaining and enhancing the unique educational experience that is Sam Houston State. Beyond the bricks and mortar of new buildings and the landscaping of beautifully maintained grounds, the single most important thing about our university is the people who are integrally involved in the educational process. In this magazine, you also will read about the accomplishments of outstanding individuals—faculty, students, and alumni—that will most assuredly serve to increase your sense of pride in and connection with our university and its people.

In thinking about those earliest, almost primitive days of our university and the rapid advances in knowledge and technology that occur today, the one constant at Sam Houston State is the people. All of us benefit from those who preceded us as administrators, faculty, staff, students, and alumni. Quite frankly, they are the reasons that this place continues to be so very special in the hearts and minds of thousands upon thousands of people, and that fact never escapes me, especially as we prepare to open classes each fall.

It is, then, important for all of us to maintain a constant vision that includes preserving, refining, and building on all that is precious about Sam Houston State. I invite you once again to join with me in recalling all that is good about this grand old university and sharing a vision for the enormous possibilities of the future. Your loyalty as evidenced by your advocacy, involvement, and support are so critical to what we do everyday, and we place a high value on it. Thank you.

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COVER IMAGE: JJR, LLC, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

South is located at the bottom of the page, landscape is looking North; Upper left center is the clock tower.





What will the campus look like in the years ahead?

Transforming Sam Houston State University

By Julia May

It's hard to remember the last time the campus skyline wasn't punctuated with a construction crane or there were no sounds of power tools either muffled in the distance or rocking buildings with booms of progress.

These are unmistakable reminders that change is taking place at Sam Houston State University. The university is building for the future—erecting new academic buildings and facilities to meet the needs of those who call the university home as they make their journey toward careers and fulfillment.

For more than a year, campus planners were engaged in carefully drafting a plan to define the best way to prepare for the university's growth and development,

while maintaining the tradition and balance that has made Sam Houston State University a university of choice and provider of an exceptional education. At the end of last year, approval was given by the university's governing board to proceed with the plan developed by JJR, LLC, of Ann Arbor, Mich.

Recently, SHSU President Jim Gaertner answered questions about the Master Plan and what it means to those inside and outside the campus boundaries.



“During the process of creating a Master Plan, we analyzed existing buildings, outdoor spaces, transportation and utilities to see how we could make all of those elements work together.”

Left: 3-D models are used in the master planning process.

I thought Sam Houston State University already had a Master Plan? Is this a new Master Plan?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER: Each of the component universities in the Texas State University System is required to submit a revised campus Master Plan at least every 10 years. We last submitted a plan in 2000. However, because of our rapid growth during the past eight years, we decided to update the plan last year.

What does this revision involve?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER: The plan includes the razing and replacement of aging and outdated buildings, construction

of new buildings to meet our academic and program needs, and locations for enhanced recreational opportunities. The plan also identifies smaller projects that will move the campus toward the long-range Master Plan.

So, is this just a building plan?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER: Not at all. The Master Plan goes far beyond being a simple building plan, and the list of proposals is fairly extensive. During the process of creating a Master Plan, we analyzed existing buildings, outdoor spaces, transportation and utilities to see how we could make all of those elements

work together. From these analyses we determined that we needed additional classroom, office, laboratory, library, special, and general space; more residence availability; additional parking spaces; and additional recreation fields and bike trails.

What new academic buildings have been suggested?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER: Among the recommended projects are an agriculture complex at Gibbs Ranch; an art complex; a biology, nursing and allied health building; a College of Business Administration building; an agriculture building on campus; a forensic science



*The university is
building for the future.*

building; an addition to the Criminal Justice Center; and an expansion of the Teacher Education Center.

I'm familiar with most of the programs you mentioned. But I didn't know SHSU had a nursing program.

PRESIDENT GAERTNER: The development of a nursing program is one of the many new exciting things taking place at the university! We have received preliminary authority from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop a curriculum for the program, and we are going to the Texas Board of Nursing in the fall for program approval. We anticipate being able to offer classes for a degree in nursing beginning in the fall 2010 semester with all clinicals at Huntsville Memorial Hospital. The proposed building for the

nursing program will also make more space available for our biological sciences program, which is outgrowing its current location in the Lee Drain Building.

Will there be new residence halls or will there just be additions to existing ones?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER: A new 300-bed residence hall located across from the University Health Center is in the plan. In addition, the Office of Residence Life will be housed on the first floor of the new building.

What about non-academic buildings?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER: We will begin construction of a new dining facility this fall. The 26,000 square foot building will feature Aramark's "fresh food" concept with a variety of menu stations and will seat approximately 550. Other non-academic

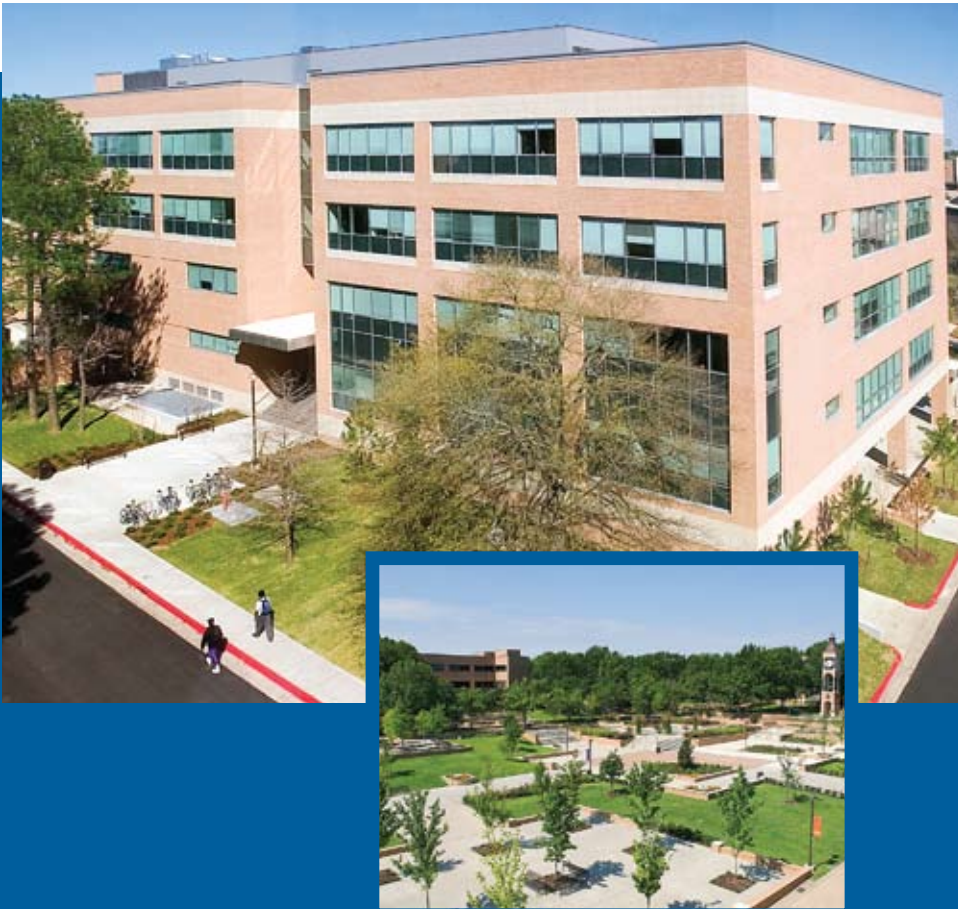
building projects on the horizon include the expansion of the health center, expansion of the recreational sports building, and the construction of a new alumni center adjacent to Bowers Stadium.

What buildings are coming down?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER: Lawrence and Mitchell Houses were taken down this summer. Other buildings on the demolition schedule are Academic Building III, the Art Complex, the Recital Hall, King Hall, the Agriculture Complex, and Randel, Vick, Spivey and Allen Houses.

Does the plan take into account how Sam Houston State University relates to the Huntsville community?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER: That is a big part of this effort. Although we need to



The College of Humanities and Social Sciences Building and Bearkat Plaza are two projects which were recently completed.

have boundaries that are defined and give us a sense of place, we want to be open and welcoming, as well. We want to have a campus that is connected to Huntsville, both physically and by our partnerships that are beneficial to both our students and the community. There are plans to redefine University Avenue between Bearkat Blvd. and 15th Street to link the university and the downtown area.

How much will these improvements cost, and how will the university pay for them?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER: Initial costs for the next six years are estimated to be \$350 million for all the projects. However, it is possible that not all projects will ultimately be approved. Funding for those projects that are approved will come from a variety of sources depending on the project. Some will

be paid for through tuition fund revenues, some by dining service fund revenues, some by residence hall room charges, and others by bonds and grants. Funds donated to the Share the Vision Capital Campaign that are designated for campus improvements will also be used to some extent.

In what order will various new construction and renovation projects be completed?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER: That is difficult to answer because so many of the projects are interrelated. Decisions will depend upon priorities and logistics.

Will SHSU acquire any additional land to complete these projects?

PRESIDENT GAERTNER: At the outset all construction will take place on land presently owned by the university. Toward

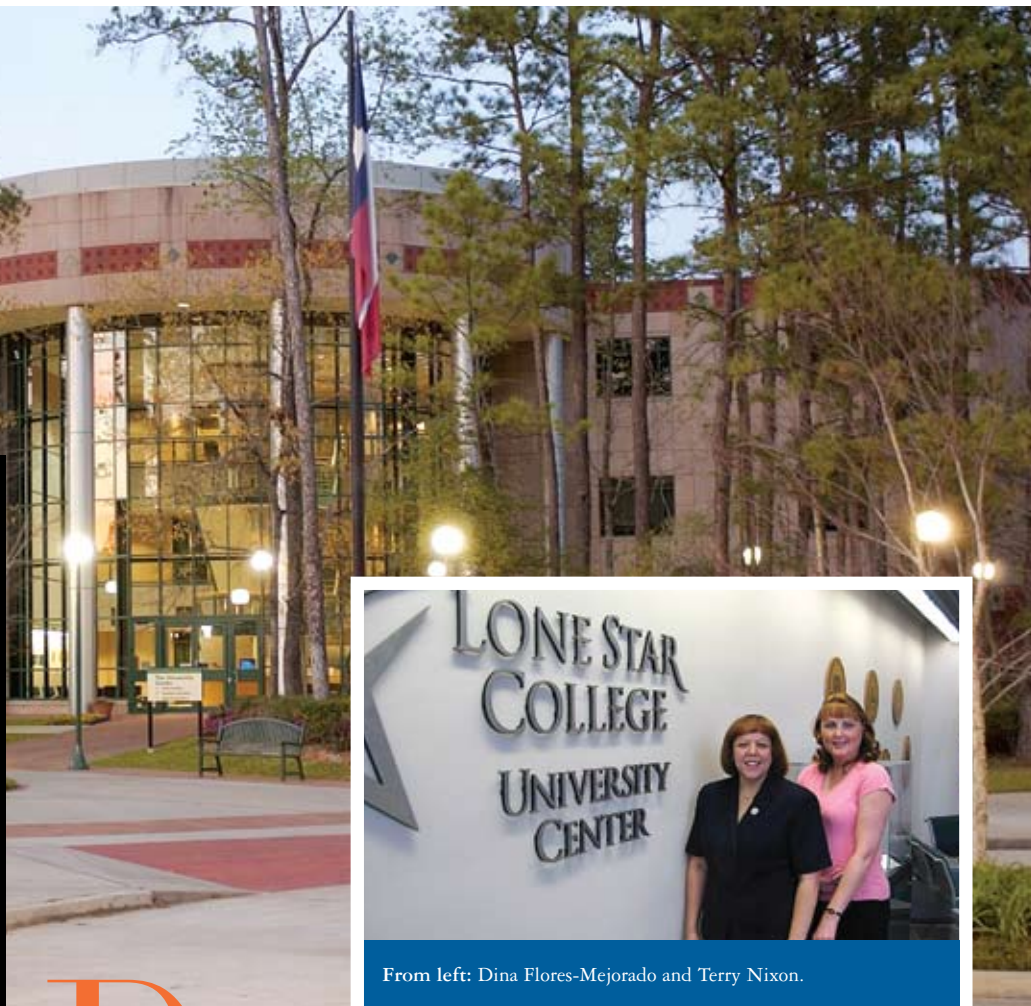


The Performing Arts Center is on target to open next year.

the end of the planning period it is likely that we will attempt to acquire some land adjacent to the university for expansion, much as we did when we acquired the land in 2003 to build Sam Houston Village. ★

Sam Serves Hundreds In The Woodlands Area

By Bruce Erickson



From left: Dina Flores-Mejorado and Terry Nixon.

Dina Flores-Mejorado and Terry Nixon are friendly and familiar faces to hundreds of hard-working and sometimes harried students who exit off of I-45 at College Park in The Woodlands, just after rush-hour and a full day at work.

By 6 p.m., the cars are streaming into the parking lot of the Lone Star College University Center, where Sam Houston State and five other universities offer a variety of unduplicated bachelor's and master's degree programs, along with special programs including a professional doctorate in Educational Leadership and post-baccalaureate teacher certification.

"The students taking classes here are highly motivated," said Flores-Mejorado, who is the director of Student Services for Sam's programs which entail a variety of duties including but not limited to juggling student needs with available classrooms, courses and

faculty, accountability with administrators and partner institutions.

Nixon is an academic adviser; both worked on the main campus in Huntsville, and Flores-Mejorado has represented Sam at the University Center since it first opened in the fall of 1997.

"SHSU at the University Center creates access, provides flexibility and convenience of a local university to individuals who depend on it to achieve their dreams," said Flores-Mejorado.

"A large percentage of our students work full-time during the day and they deserve a friendly face to greet them,

welcome them and be supportive when their days get a little hectic.”

More than two-thirds of the students are women.

Melissa Chase is a good example. She dropped out of community college years ago to work a variety of jobs and, with her husband, raise their family.

“I felt like it was time to get my education and actually get paid for what I was doing,” said Chase.

“Driving back and forth to Sam takes an hour (from her home in the Tomball area). Hands down, I would much rather be at the University Center.”

Chase will complete her degree in special education this fall, and one of her daughters will be following in her footsteps, taking Sam classes in The Woodlands.

Five other universities offer classes at the University Center, including the University of Houston, Texas A&M, Texas Southern, Prairie View A&M, and UH Downtown, but Sam enrolls more students, in more classes, than all the others combined.

Last Spring, 2,275 men and women were enrolled in classes at the University Center through all six partners; 74 percent—1,688—were enrolled in Sam’s classes.

Sam’s Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs David Payne said he expects to see Sam’s enrollment at the Center continue to climb and the number of course options and degree programs to grow.

“We’re delighted to serve the educational needs of the people in The Woodlands, North Houston and Lake Conroe area,” Payne said. “It’s our privilege. That center is making a positive difference in those communities; those services give people an opportunity to improve their lives and to reach their full potential.

“I can see a time in the future where we’ll outgrow the space.”

For more information about Sam’s programs at the University Center call Flores or Nixon at 936.273.7520 or go to www.shsu.edu/ucenter. ★

SAM TO BEGIN OFFERING ITS ONE-OF-A-KIND BBA IN BANKING IN THE WOODLANDS

Houston-area residents who have dreams of becoming the president of a bank or perhaps a bank loan officer just got a leg up on the competition.

Beginning this fall, SHSU is offering its one-of-a-kind bachelor’s degree in banking and financial institutions at the University Center.

SHSU’s College of Business Administration also offers a highly selective Executive MBA in Banking and Financial Institutions program on its main campus.

“Unique is a strong word,” said James B. Bexley, the Sam Houston professor who created and directs the programs, “but they are the only such bachelor’s and executive MBA degree programs, focused explicitly on banking and the management of financial institutions, among AACSB-accredited schools of business, in the nation.”

AACSB, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, is widely considered the most stringent accrediting agency for university business schools, and less than a third of the nation’s business schools meet their standards.

“Several AACSB-accredited schools have banking courses and certificate programs, but ours are the only bachelor’s and graduate programs with full majors in banking.”

Banks, consulting firms and federal agencies such as the FDIC, the Federal Reserve Bank and Comptroller of the Currency, compete for the programs’ interns and graduates.

Students get hands-on experience through internships in Texas banks, and



James B. Bexley,
Sam Houston
professor

many graduates go to work immediately for the bank they interned for.

To meet degree requirements, students must successfully complete an array of coursework in finance, capital markets, financial statement and credit analysis, the nature of financial derivatives, commercial banking, international finance, commercial bank lending, investments, analysis of securities and portfolio management, in addition to courses in management and accounting.

Most of the faculty, including Bexley, have executive-level experience in banking. Bexley is currently serving his second three-year term on the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, and he is the author of several books on banking.

For more information about the bachelor’s or executive MBA degree in banking and financial institutions call 936.294.3722 or go to www.shsu.edu/emba.

Ruffin Named 2009 Texas Poet Laureate

By Julia May



He loves football, shooting, riding his tractor, keeping up his truck, and doing his own carpentry, electrical, and plumbing work, and he is a long-time member of the National Rifle Association—not exactly the stereotypical image of a person who also loves words and is a master of arranging them into beautifully crafted poems and other literary works.

“The fact is that anybody can write poems that can’t be understood. The challenge is to write poetry that can be understood and appreciated on one level and yet possess sufficient depth to appeal to a more critical audience, and that’s what I try to do.”

Yet, that is Paul Ruffin, a Texas State University System Regents’ Professor, a Distinguished Professor of English at Sam Houston State University, and now the 2009 Texas Poet Laureate.

The Texas Commission on the Arts announced Ruffin’s selection in May, along with its other appointees including 2009 State Musician Willie Nelson, of Austin; State Two-Dimensional Artist Rene Alvarado, of San Angelo; and State Three-Dimensional Artist Eliseo Garcia, of Dallas. According to the commission, the appointees were selected for their outstanding commitment to the arts in Texas.

“State artists demonstrate the essence of what art in Texas is all about,” Rep. Mark Homer, chair of the House of Representative’s Committee on Culture, Recreation and Tourism, said. “The work of these artists, and others like them, ensures that art and culture thrives in our great state, and we are pleased to honor these talented men and women with this recognition.”

Anyone who knows Ruffin knows that he is proud of his Southern roots. His experiences and the people he has met along the way often show up in his writings.

He was also influenced by the times he was required to attend church services as a youth.

“My love of poetry came from memorizing the lyrics from the Broadman Hymnal in church, something I did to keep from being bored absolutely to death,” he said. “I discovered that hymn beat and realized that I could plug my own words in and make a poem. Oh, I also started writing fiction in church: I’d rewrite all the Bible stories and give them a different ending.”

His ability to compose poems was soon apparent and provided him with an entrepreneurship opportunity as a schoolboy.

“I could rattle off a poem on practically any subject almost on command, a talent that came in handy at school, where classmates would hire me to write poems for them when they had to turn one in in English,” Ruffin

said. “I would charge a nickel or dime or quarter, depending on the length. I made pretty good spending money, probably more than I make off poetry these days.”

His first of many awards and recognitions came while he was still living in Mississippi, when he won first prize in a statewide poetry contest sponsored by the Mississippi Arts Commission. He was presented a check after reading some of his poems in the Old Capitol Building in Jackson.

“The best part about that whole thing though, was that (award-winning Mississippi author) Eudora Welty sought me out after my reading and told me how much she enjoyed my poems; she also said to me, ‘You look like a Florentine painting,’ which I never did understand but certainly liked,” Ruffin said. “I have an essay on that experience titled ‘The Lady with the Quick Simile.’”

After that, Ruffin began seriously sending poems out for publication. After landing a few in journals and magazines, he was encouraged to utilize his talent even more.

The author of more than 1,500 poems—he doesn’t know the exact number—Ruffin feels that poetry is often misunderstood, “mainly because too many poets like to be obscure,” he said.

“To be misunderstood is to be great, you know. The fact is that anybody can write poems that can’t be understood,” he said. “The challenge is to write poetry that can be understood and appreciated on one level and yet possess sufficient depth to appeal to a more critical audience, and that’s what I try to do.”

Although his sixth collection of poetry, entitled *Cleaning the Well: Poems Old and*

New was recently released, most of Ruffin’s efforts these days have ventured away from poetry. He has a new book of essays due out later this year, and five novels in different stages of development, and he also works on essays and stories “all the time.”

But even so, his older poems often find new life in his fiction and nonfiction prose.

“I find myself revising my older poems and occasionally writing a new one,” Ruffin said. “I often pull from them when I write an essay or a story.”

“Back when I had a little cattle operation just outside Huntsville, I wrote a lot of dramatic poems about my experiences out there, and several of those poems became essays or stories,” he said. “I hope to have a collection of those dramatic poems out next year.”

Even though the Texas State Poet Laureate recognition brings a bit of celebrity status to Ruffin, he says he is not likely to change his lifestyle.

“Professionally I’ll go right on with my daily routine: working on *The Texas Review* or my own books,” he said. “The beat goes on—I work 12 months a year, right through summer and most breaks and most weekends, but it’s what I’m accustomed to, and I like it. Things won’t change much, except that I’ll be on the road a bit more.”

“Life at the house will go on as usual,” he said. “I have plenty of projects to work on, the most pressing of which are wiring and building shelves in my new shop and designing an addition to the house, a game room.”

In other words, he’ll keep doing the things he loves. ★

SHSU Forensic Science Graduate Program Earns Accreditation

The master's degree in forensic science at SHSU was recently accredited by the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission.

SHSU's program was the only one to receive full five-year accreditation this year. The Master of Science in Forensic Science program now joins those at seven other universities nationally that meet the standard of full accreditation. ★



Sarah Kerrigan is the director of SHSU's forensic science program.

Faculty Recognized For Excellence



From left: President Jim Gaertner, Joyce McCauley, Sam Souryal, Marcus Boccacini.

A professor who encourages research in the classroom, one who serves as a model for service, and another who has distinguished himself as an educator have been named the 2009 Faculty Excellence Award winners.

Assistant professor of psychology Marcus Boccacini is the Excellence in Research award recipient. He began teaching at SHSU in 2003.

Joyce McCauley is the Excellence in Service recipient. McCauley, who has taught at SHSU since 1994 in the language, literacy and special populations department, spearheads the university's American Democracy Project.

Criminal justice professor Sam Souryal became the third SHSU faculty member to win all three excellence awards with his Excellence in Teaching selection. He won the Excellence in Research award in 1990 and the Excellence in Service award in 2003. ★

Visitor Center Director Retires

SHSU lost its biggest “orange promoter” when Visitor Center director Joey Chandler retired in May.

Chandler was a part of the university’s enrollment growth since 1984, when she joined the staff as the assistant director of admissions to help coordinate the recruitment effort.

Chandler was named director of Undergraduate Admissions in 1992, and in 2005, the first year the university’s enrollment reached 15,000, she was named director of the Visitor Center. ★



SHSU Taps Gibson As Finance VP



Dana Gibson has been named the vice president for Finance and Operations at SHSU. She assumed responsibilities of the office in April.

She is the chief financial officer for the university, managing SHSU’s investment portfolio and real estate acquisitions and sales.

In addition, she is responsible for the divisions and departments of information resources, human resources, business office, public safety, purchasing, physical plant, university dining services and the University Press and Copy Center.

Before serving as president of National University, the second-largest, private, non-profit institution of higher learning in California, Gibson worked in the financial sectors of Southern Methodist University, the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Services Center, and Texas Woman’s University.

A Certified Public Accountant, Gibson received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Texas Woman’s University and her doctorate from the University of Texas at Arlington. ★

Bearkats Hold Top Positions With Regents



With the election of Sam Houston State University alumnus Ron Blatchley, of Bryan, as chair of The Texas State University System Board of Regents in the spring, two SHSU graduates now hold the No. 1 and No. 2 positions with the university’s governing body.

Blatchley joins Trisha Pollard, of Bellaire, who was elected vice chair of the regents in November 2008, for a second term.



“Sam Houston State is fortunate that both the chair and vice chair of the board of regents of The Texas State University System are Bearkats,” said SHSU President Jim Gaertner. “I am fairly confident that no school has ever had two of its graduates in this position with the board previously.” ★

Muehsam Named College of Business Administration Dean

Mitchell Muehsam, former associate vice president for Academic Affairs and dean of Graduate Studies, has been named dean of the university's College of Business Administration, effective August 1.

In addition to teaching, Muehsam served as associate dean and coordinator of

graduate studies for the College of Business Administration from 1995 to 2003.

Throughout his career at SHSU, he has either chaired or been a member of numerous university committees and has been a faculty adviser for several student organizations. ★



Smith Honored As Distinguished Professor Emeritus

Carol Smith, former university administrator and faculty member in the School of Music, was honored this spring by the Texas State University System Board of Regents with the title of Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Music.

She was recognized as an exceptionally gifted conductor, musician, teacher and educator, and for her accomplishments in research, service, leadership, publication, and civic and community activity while at Sam Houston State University.

Smith served as a member of the School of Music faculty for 29 years before her retirement last year. ★



SHSU Veterans Center

Making the transition back to “civilian life” as easy as possible for veterans and creating a more “military friendly” environment on campus are two goals the Enrollment Management division hopes to accomplish with the establishment of a new Veterans Resource Center.

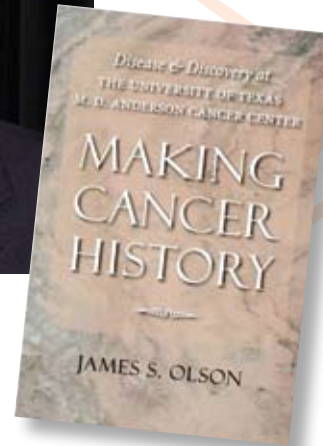
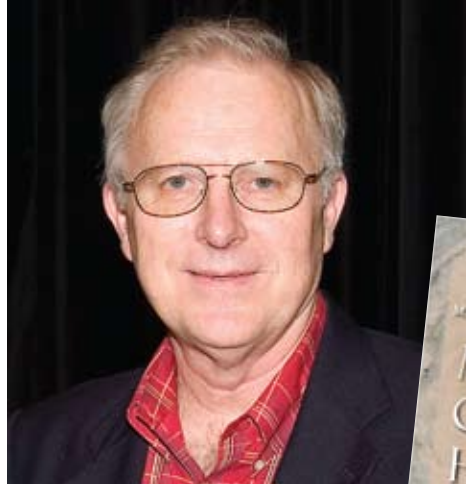
Scheduled to open Sept. 10, the VRC will provide a “one-stop shop” for veterans returning to college after service and act as a liaison between outside and university resources. Housed on the first floor of the Estill Building, the center will offer tutoring and counseling services, a veterans work study program, a veterans lounge and will work with the Texas Workforce Commission to help veterans find jobs, in addition to continuing to distribute educational benefits through the five different GI bills. For more information, contact the SHSU Enrollment Management Office at 936.294.1345. ★

Olson Pens Book On World Renowned Cancer Center

Distinguished Professor of History James Olson has written a new book about one of the world's most noted cancer centers.

His latest book, "Making Cancer History: Disease and Discovery at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center," is about the center, cancer, and the search for cures, treatments and an understanding of how cancers, in their many forms, begin and spread.

Not only is the book about the history and the science, but also about the personalities, the egos, the politics, the rivalries and economics of cancer research and treatment. ★



Roth Writes Book on Organized Crime

Sam Houston State University criminal justice professor Mitchel P. Roth has written a new book entitled "Organized Crime."

Roth gathered data from government reports, archived research material, newspaper accounts and recent intelligence reports to write the book. He also utilized information from the global contacts he has made as a part-time instructor at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Roswell, N. M.

Roth has been recognized for his expertise in international criminal justice, terrorism, the history of criminal justice, and organized crime. ★



BY JASON BARFIELD



WHAT A

Hit

W

hen the 2009 NCAA baseball regular season ended there was one player on top of the national hit list. It wasn't anyone from national powers Texas or North Carolina. LSU, Rice or USC? Nope. After the conference tournaments were all said and done, the name at the top of the list was Braeden Riley—Sam Houston State.



The sophomore from Woodville opened the 2009 campaign with three hits, including his first home run of his college career. He never slowed down from there. Riley finished the season with 111 hits, breaking the Sam Houston State and Southland Conference record of 103, set by Keith Stein in 2007. Riley hit safely in all but eight games this year which included hitting streaks of 13 and 16 games.

"When you get in a zone like that, you just want to play as many games as you can," Riley said. "I've definitely had some games where I've caught some breaks, and I've had some where I've hit the ball hard and didn't find holes."

Riley finished the year with 37 multiple-hit games in 60 games this season. During the 16-game hitting streak in the middle of the season, he batted .506 (38-for-75). The streak included five consecutive three-hit games.

Riley capped the regular season for the Bearkats with a four-hit performance in the Southland Conference Championship game at Whataburger Field in Corpus Christi. After striking out in his first at bat, he followed with an RBI triple and then three

singles. He also scored a run in the Kats' 7-1 win over Texas State-San Marcos, the third-straight SLC Championship for the Bearkats.

"If you look at my first at bat, I had to make an adjustment because it was probably one of my worst at bats of the year," Riley said after the game. "I just went up there looking for the fastball and got it a few times where I was able to take advantage of it."

Riley's 2009 season continued what is becoming a recurring theme for Sam Houston State hitters. In the 55-year history of the Southland Conference, only three players have ever amassed 100 or more hits in a season. They have all been Bearkats and they have all done it in the last three seasons under SHSU head coach, Mark Johnson. In addition to Stein's 103 in 2007, Todd Sebek collected 101 hits in 2008. Also this year, senior Nick Zaleski fell a hit short of becoming the fourth player to do it.

"It's good any time we can get Sam Houston State baseball recognized nationally," Johnson said. "I'm proud we can get our name out there and for Braeden to get the recognition."

"I don't think it has really sunk in yet. I try and not get caught up... if the hits come, they come. If not, I'll try and do what I can on defense."

Riley was named first-team All-SLC at second base and was a finalist for several All-American teams. He still has two seasons left to play for the Bearkats and a couple more seasons like the one he just had will leave him as the all-time SHSU hit king.

"I don't think it has really sunk in yet," said Riley, who had just 22 hits in his first season. "I try and not get caught up in that stuff. If the hits come, they come. If not, I'll try and do what I can on defense." ★



BY JASON BARFIELD

BUILDING ON A SUCCESSFUL SEASON

From the moment he stepped foot on the Sam Houston State campus, life was a whirlwind for new Bearkat soccer coach Tom Brown. After accepting the position in June of last season, Brown packed up and moved from Angelo State, where he had been the head coach for 11 years.

He had to find a place for his family to live, move everyone from San Angelo, settle into his office, and at the same time figure out how he was going to turn around a program that had never finished higher than fourth in the five-year history of the program.

Brown had a lot to do and very little time to do it. He didn't have a chance to bring anyone to the program, with the recruiting already done for the 2008 season. The main focus for Brown and assistant coach "Topper" Cogan was to make sure the players knew what was going to be expected of them.

"I think the thing we needed to focus on first was educating our current players," Brown said. "They had to know we wanted them to be willing to learn and work hard.

For the most part I think they have done that."

While Brown knew it would take a little while for the players to adjust to him, he said one of the biggest challenges for him was to learn what the team was going to be capable of doing.

"I came in so late in the game we were not able to have any kind of impact on the players' fitness," he said. "Also, we were only familiar with about four of the 25 players on the squad, so it was a challenge to figure out tactically where they were best suited to play and how they would figure into what we wanted to do."

Although the Bearkats had their first winning season (9–7) in the six-year history of the program, the first year under Brown didn't end the way he wanted. The team

missed the Southland Conference postseason tournament by just a game on the final day of the season.

However, Brown said just having been in the league for a year and having seen every one play once will be a big help in his preparation for each conference foe the second time around.

"I think for me it is a tremendous help to have personal observations of the teams we are playing," he said. "Even though you get scouting reports on the teams, you just don't know how complete they are. You just have a better understanding for trends having actually seen the team in person."

With the 2009 season underway, Brown has high hopes for this year's club. He has put together a schedule he thinks will both challenge his team as well as give



Bearkat soccer coach Tom Brown

“I think the main thing we want to gain is building confidence in the players, but at the same time, we want situations we can use to teach them about what it takes to get to the next level.”

them opportunities to be successful before stepping into Southland Conference play.

“I think the main thing we want to gain is building confidence in the players, but at the same time, we want situations we can use to teach them about what it takes to get to the next level,” Brown said. “We don’t want to play a schedule where they get discouraged, but there will be some teachable moments when we take the field against Oklahoma, Texas A&M and North Texas.”

Despite being at the Division I level for a year now, Brown said there isn’t a lot he is changing about the way he coaches or recruits.

“My philosophy of coaching hasn’t really changed,” he said. “The philosophy is still the same, but we will see much more athleticism and competitiveness.”

Brown’s philosophy is simple... Keep pressure on the defense and try to create as many scoring opportunities as possible. He uses an aggressive formation with three forward and likes to push the ball up the field and attack the goal. Because of that, he said the high-energy play also makes for a better fan experience at Pritchett Field.

“The style of soccer we are going to be playing will be fun to watch, and I hope the Sam Houston community will come out and support this team,” Brown said. “I think we will be a better soccer team. How that translates to wins and losses we will just have to see.” ★



Brown addresses the team before a game.



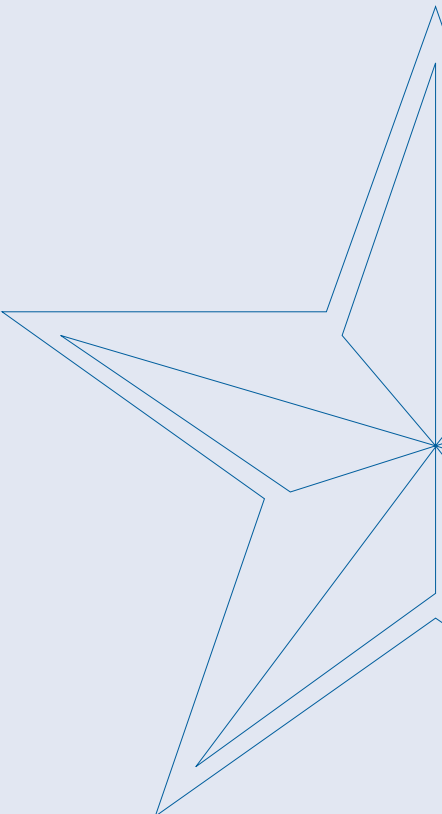
Southland Conference Champions

SPRING



Fergal Rafferty

Record-breaking performances in NCAA national and regional competition and Southland Conference tournament successes highlighted the spring semester for Sam Houston athletics in 2009.



BASEBALL The baseball team swept undefeated through the 2009 Southland Conference tournament in May to extend their league record-winning streak in the event to 12. Sam Houston is the first SLC squad to earn NCAA Division I regional playoff berths three consecutive years by winning the tournament.

The Bearkats knocked off the Southland's top three seeds in the league tournament, and the Kats held early leads in both NCAA regional contests before falling to Rice and Xavier.

The baseball team's 36–24 record in 2009 puts head coach Mark Johnson just 11 victories away from becoming the 37th coach in NCAA Division I baseball to post 1,000 career victories. Johnson ranks No. 17 among active coaches with a 24-year record of 989 wins, 504 losses and three ties.

Ryan Tepera, a 6-0 right-handed pitcher for Sam Houston State University, was selected in the 19th round of the Major League Baseball draft by Toronto. A total of 33 Sam Houston State baseball players have been drafted in previous years.

TRACK AND FIELD In track and field, a record six athletes earned berths in

the NCAA outdoor national meet in Fayetteville, Ark. The Bearkats also produced their first-ever NCAA indoor nationals participant.

Jon Tipton (discus), Chris Cralle (hammer), Lane Dennis (400 meter hurdles), Darryl Hayes and Michael Courtney (both 400 meter dash) and Dess Meek (high jump) all punched their tickets for NCAA outdoor nationals with outstanding performances at the regional meet in Norman, Okla.

Tipton became the third Bearkat to win NCAA Regional gold in the discus with a school record throw of 192-3.

Meek, who placed fourth in the NCAA outdoor regional high jump, became Sam Houston's first ever NCAA indoor championships representative with a school record leap of six feet in February. Also winning the Southland indoor high jump, Meek placed 11th nationally at indoors.

SOFTBALL Led by All-Southland Conference shortstop Hailey Wiginton and pitcher/designated player Morgan Mikulin, the Bearkat softball team made a strong run to the semi-finals of the Southland tournament. The event marked the team's sixth post-season playoff appearance in the last seven seasons.



Hailey Wigington



Jon Tipton



Morgan Mikulin



Ashton Mitchell

Sam Houston's Bob Brock now ranks 13th among active coaches in NCAA Division I victories with 938 in his 25-year career.

MEN'S GOLF Fergal Rafferty put Bearkat men's golf back in the national spotlight by earning an NCAA Division I regional individual berth, the sixth such appearance in Sam Houston's 21 years at the Division I level. The junior from Carrickmore, Omagh, in North Ireland, was a first team All-Southland selection in 2009 after winning two individual medalist titles this season.

MEN'S BASKETBALL Junior guards Corey Allmond and Ashton Mitchell became the highest scoring back court duo in Sam Houston men's basketball history as they led the Kats to the 2009 Southland Conference West Division title.

With Allmond averaging 15.4 points and Mitchell 12.6, the pair are combined for 28.0 points per contest. Since Sam Houston moved up to the NCAA Division I level in 1987, there has been only one other season when the Kats had two guards scoring in double figures—in 2006 when Chris Jordan (14.3) and Jejuan Plair (12.5) led the team from the perimeter.

Men's basketball posted its fifth consecutive top three Southland finish with an 18–12 mark in 2009. The victories upped head coach Bob Marlin's 11-year record at Sam Houston to 200–122. Marlin is only the second men's basketball coach to achieve 200 victories during his Southland Conference tenure. Mike Vining, head coach at Louisiana-

Junior guards Corey Allmond and Ashton Mitchell became the highest scoring back court duo in Sam Houston men's basketball history as they led the Kats to the 2009 Southland Conference West Division title.

Monroe from 1983 to 2005, holds the league mark with 383 victories. Marlin served as a graduate assistant for Vining in 1982 and 1983.

TENNIS Senior Irina Sotnikova, who produced a 25–1 season record in singles and a 22–8 doubles mark with Peta Taylor, earned Southland Conference women's tennis "Player of the Year" honors. The Bearkat tennis team posted an 11–8 season mark to roll to its fifth consecutive SLC post-season tournament appearance.

WOMEN'S GOLF Wendy Joyner was named All-Southland second team in women's golf after leading Sam Houston to a record-tying final day round of 300 at the end of the Southland Conference tournament.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL The women's basketball team was ranked as one of the top 10 most-improved teams in NCAA Division I, rolling up a record that included Southland victories over rivals Stephen F. Austin and Texas State. ★



Corey Allmond



Anna Ferguson

FALL PREVIEW



James Ashton



Jenny Price

ew faces dot the line-ups of each of Sam Houston State's fall sports teams this September. Each of the Bearkat football, volleyball, soccer and cross country coaching staffs are excited about the mix of new talent with veteran players in the quest for success in Southland Conference sports competition.

FOOTBALL In football, head coach Todd Whitten and his staff must replace 11 starters including eight on the defensive side of the line. But a solid group of athletes with experience as backups last season showed they are ready to step into starting roles.

"We were pleased with the progress our young defensive group made during spring ball," Whitten said. "They're learning a new scheme and appear to be right on schedule. I like their aggression."

Offensively, the Bearkats will look to run as James Aston and Chris Poullard return at running back. Aston rushed for 886 yards and 11 TDs in 2008, and Poullard totaled 1,038 yards and 13 TDs in 2007. Four starters including All-SLC guard Hunter Schmidt return in the offensive line.

The Bearkats must replace quarterback Rhett Bomar who finished his career ranked both as Sam Houston's all-time passing and total offense leader. Bryan Randolph, Bomar's backup in 2008, passed for 418 yards and three touchdowns in the Orange-White spring game. Chris Lucas and Jason Madkins who combined 68 catches last year lead the receiving corps.

"We have a good group of offensive linemen back and the opportunity to be more balanced offensively," Whitten said. "Our young receivers are becoming more comfortable in their roles and we look to be stronger with our special teams."

Four new assistant coaches with a wealth of experience joined Whitten's staff this spring. Scott Stoker, twice led Northwestern State to the NCAA playoffs as head coach of the Demons, is the Bearkats' defensive coordinator. Lee Hays, formerly offensive coordinator at Baylor, will tutor the offensive line. Also joining the staff are Ben Beasley (safeties) from Northwestern State and Brandon Jones (running backs, tight ends) from Texas Tech.

Sam Houston State will play six home games at Bowers Stadium in 2009 with two of the contests to be televised regionally on the Southland TV Network. In pre-Southland Conference action, the Bearkats will face Conference USA West Division and GMAC Bowl champion Tulsa and NCAA Football Championship Subdivision powers Western Illinois and North Dakota State.

VOLLEYBALL/SOCCER Both the Bearkat volleyball and soccer teams are undergoing a "youth movement" as well.

After posting its first winning season in the six-year history of the program, the women's soccer team features 12 freshmen and a junior college transfer on its roster. Second-year coach Tom Brown must replace all-time SHSU leading scorer Raquel Bueno (23 goals in four years) but returns six starters including forward Britni Martin, record-setting goalkeeper Jenny Price and talented defender Nicole Watkins.

Six freshmen make up half of the roster for the 2009 Sam Houston volleyball squad. Head coach Brenda Gray's team reached the semi-finals of the Southland Conference post-season event in November after a first round victory over Stephen F. Austin.

All-Southland Conference middle blocker Anna Ferguson averaged 2.70 kills per set last year and is expected to be one of the league's top offensive threats this fall.

CROSS COUNTRY The Bearkat men's and women's cross country teams feature line-ups of quality distance specialists who will look to propel Sam Houston State back into the upper echelon of the Southland Conference. Junior Taylor Ray and sophomore Joey D'Eramo led the men with top 20 individual SLC finishes last year. ★



Bryan Randolph



Barkley Falkner



Irina Sotnikova

SHSU ATHLETES
CONTINUE *to*
EXCEL
☆☆☆ in the ☆☆☆
CLASSROOM

Success in the classroom as well as the playing field is a long-time Bearkat tradition as evidenced this spring by the selection of two Bearkat seniors as Southland Conference “Student-Athletes of the Year.”

Barkley Falkner, an accounting major from Oxford, Miss., received the honor for men’s basketball while Irina Sotnikova, a finance major from Riga, Latvia, was recognized in women’s tennis.

The Southland Conference awards committee, which consists of one administrator from each of the 12 member schools, votes for the “Student-Athlete of the Year.” The award is presented to the one competitor in each sport who achieves excellence in both academics and athletics. All nominees must have earned at least a 3.2 grade point average on a 4.0 scale and demonstrated achievement in athletics for at least two years at the nominating institution.

In the past three years, Bearkats have earned SLC sport “Student-Athlete of the Year” honor eight times.

Falkner posted a 3.91 GPA in his three years at Sam Houston. He was an honorable mention All-Southland Conference selection in 2009 after averaging 8.7 points per game. His selection marked the third year in a row the men’s basketball student-athlete of the year award has gone to a Bearkat.

Sotnikova, a three-time first team All-Southland Conference honoree, also was named to the CoSIDA/ESPN the Magazine All-District VI academic honor squad in recognition of her overall 3.84 GPA. Her four-year won-loss records of 88–23 in singles and 97–21 in doubles rank her as the Bearkats’ all-time “winningest” tennis player.

During the 2008 fall semester, Sam Houston student-athletes produced an overall GPA of 2.94, the highest mark ever for the department and the 26th

consecutive semester SHSU athletes have posted an average GPA of 2.5 or higher.

In addition, 14 Bearkats were either first or second team Academic All-Southland selections and 42 student-athletes were honorable mention All-Academic.

“Chris Thompson and her staff in academics do a great job each year of coordinating our student-athletes’ efforts in the classroom,” athletic director Bobby Williams said. “We take as much pride in our student-athletes’ academic performances as we do in their accomplishments in the arena. Each year these young men and women seem to raise the bar for themselves.” ★

Joe Glenn Burleson—A Life Remembered



Esquire Club—Spring 1959.



The college experiences of a son lead parents to remember his alma mater long after he is gone.

The Joe Glenn Burleson Agribusiness Endowment Fund has been established by the Sunlock M. and Doris L. Burleson Estates to provide scholarships for the agribusiness and Master of Business Administration programs and assist a fraternity with housing maintenance.

Sam Houston alumnus Charles T. Mallery, of The Woodlands, is the trustee of the estates.

The endowment was established in memory of the Burlesons' only child, Joe, a May 1959 business graduate.

"After two years at Lee College in Baytown, Joe came to Sam Houston to finish his four-year college degree," Mallery said. "Joe and I quickly became friends, and we asked him to join our fraternity, Esquire Men's Social Club, later to become Delta Tau Delta Fraternity. Joe and I were very close.

"I recall going home with him on weekends and got to know his parents very well. Mr. Burleson was a long-time hard worker at what is now the ExxonMobil

Baytown Refinery. He worked night shifts, and we had to be very quiet during

the day, which was very hard for Joe and me because he loved to turn up the volume on his phonograph with the oldies and goodies of the 1950s," Mallery recalled.

"Mrs. Burleson was a sweet and dear lady, and she always fixed fried salmon patties, ranch style beans, cole slaw and French fries for us," Mallery said.

While attending Sam Houston State, Joe was also a member of the Business Administration Club, Sociology Club, Pioneer Roundup Association, and the Future Business Leaders of America.

"Joe was a fun-loving guy," Mallery said, "but he had his serious moments, too. He was very popular on campus, particularly with the girls and the fraternity. He could sell ice to a snowman, and all the administrators and his professors knew and liked him very much. I have fond memories of him, particularly at our famous, annual Jungle Parties."

Following graduation, Joe was stationed with the Army at Ft. Bliss in El Paso. He completed Army finance school and was a private first class working in the Adjutant General's office.

On Oct. 27, 1959, while on his way to Huntsville to attend Homecoming at Sam Houston, he was killed in an automobile accident. At the time of his death, he had planned to be initiated as a member of the Epsilon Zeta Chapter of Delta Tau Delta on Jan. 9, 1960.

Joe was an only child, and his parents grieved his loss deeply. Mallery kept in contact with the Burlesons and remained close to them throughout their lives.

"My wife, Ann, and I always sent them cards at Easter and Christmas, and we would hear from them as well," Mallery said. "We would try to visit them once or twice every two or three years. Mrs. Burleson always said I reminded her so much of Joe."

In the late 1990s, the Burlesons began talking to Mallery about their last wills and testaments.

"They wanted to remember Joe and Sam Houston State University," said Mallery. "We talked off and on for a couple of years about various scenarios, and they wanted to remember Delta Tau Delta as well.

"Neither one of them had a college degree, but they understood the importance of young people having an education," Mallery explained. "Mr. Burleson asked me if I would serve as trustee of the scholarship funds to go to Sam Houston and Delta Tau Delta. I told him I would be honored to serve."

The endowment was established with a \$668,000 contribution from the Burleson Estates. The Joe Glenn Burleson Agribusiness Endowed Scholarship fund will receive 80 percent of the annual spendable earnings from the permanent endowment. Delta Tau Delta—Epsilon Chapter will receive the remaining 20 percent for their local shelter fund to be used for the repairs, maintenance and upkeep of the fraternity lodge and property. ★



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Private gifts are crucial to the continued academic and athletic success of the Sam Houston State University men's basketball program. Funds from the contributions are used for summer school, facility upgrades in Johnson Coliseum, and recruiting opportunities. Without monies from private gifts, our program would not be able to compete and keep up with other Southland Conference schools.

Bob Marlin
SHSU Head Basketball Coach

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SOUTHERN BOY FINDS

HERO IN LINCOLN

BY JULIA MAY

Although he grew up in the South and was taught to respect the legacy of his Southern ancestors, Sam Houston alumnus Thomas Tolbert Chisum (BBA '67) has always been intrigued by Abraham Lincoln.

As a youngster, Chisum often heard stories about his grandfather's service in the Confederate military at the Battle of Vicksburg, considered by many historians to be the turning point of the Civil War.

"The events were confusing to me," said Chisum. "I learned in school that Lincoln was one of our greatest presidents, and in most circles the greatest president. I couldn't understand why we were fighting against him."

Chisum graduated from Sour Lake High School and joined the Marine Corps. After his active duty ended, he enrolled at Sam Houston State and completed his business degree in three and a half years. He received the Wall Street Journal Award for being the outstanding business graduate in 1967.

He has maintained a close relationship with the university. He served as president of the SHSU Alumni Association for two terms, one of which was during the university's 100th birthday year. He and former SHSU President Elliott T. Bowers established the Distinguished Alumni Award, and Chisum himself was named a distinguished alumnus of Sam Houston State years later.

Following his graduation, he began a successful career with Aetna Life & Casualty that spanned almost 30 years and took him, his childhood sweetheart and wife Carrie (who also attended Sam Houston), and their daughter to Houston, Dallas, Hartford and Chicago, where he has been since 1986.

Photo by Andy Goodwin

The Chisums live in Kenilworth, a suburb north of Chicago on Lake Michigan. Their daughter, Debby, and her husband, Steven Goldstein, live nearby in Winnetka with their three sons, all named after Chisum—William Thomas, Zachary Thomas and Joshua Thomas.

Both Tolbert and Carrie worked in Huntsville while he was in college to pay for his school expenses. However, Chisum says he is especially grateful for the gift his father-in-law, Bill Vinson, gave him to get him started.

“He gave me money for tuition and books that first semester so I could begin college,” he said. “After that, I worked as a cashier at Campus Drugs, and Carrie worked as a telephone operator for Southwestern Bell.”

Today Chisum is the senior vice president of Wayne Hummer Trust Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of the bank holding company Wintrust Financial Corporation. He is also managing director of business development with Wintrust.

It was because of his experience and reputation in finance that he was asked two years ago to negotiate an agreement to purchase an extensive collection of Lincoln artifacts for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation in Springfield, Ill.

“The largest private collection in the world of Lincoln items, artifacts and documents was owned by renowned Lincoln scholar and collector Louise Taper of Beverly Hills, California. Her collection contained Lincoln’s most famous stovepipe hat that he wore every day, the blood-stained gloves he wore the night he was shot, the clock from his law office in Springfield, his wallet and spectacles, and approximately 1,200 other items and documents,” Chisum said.

The more involved he became with the collection, the more fascinated he became with Lincoln and the artifacts and documents.

“I have been greatly influenced by the ‘moral code’ Lincoln lived by,” Chisum said. “I’m not a Lincoln scholar, and I’m not a historian. But I love Lincoln and what he



Chisum shared Lincoln artifacts with SHSU students.

stands for. I read constantly about him, and when you study Lincoln as much as I do, it becomes part of you.”

The transaction for the collection, including the priceless stovepipe hat, was completed, and Chisum and Taper developed and have maintained a friendship based on their mutual respect and admiration for the nation’s 16th president.

Chisum now serves as chairman, president and CEO of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation.

His enthusiasm for Lincoln has not wavered. In fact, it was obvious and contagious when Chisum was at Sam Houston State in the spring as a presenter at the university’s “Let’s Talk” event.

He brought some of the artifacts from the museum along with a personal letter written by Lincoln. He came early so that he could address professor Katherine Pierce’s history class, which covers the United States from the writing of the constitution until Reconstruction.

“The students loved his presentation!” Pierce said. “Some said they thought it was

the high point of the semester.

“It was a nice, interactive event in that the students got to touch history as well as hear history,” she said.

“The students were also impressed because they had an opportunity to talk with a successful Sam Houston State University alumnus who shares their appreciation for the preservation of history through museums.”

Although Lincoln died almost 145 years ago, Chisum believes that his influence is as relevant today as it was during his lifetime.

“He was such a great, great man and an incredible leader,” Chisum said. “His contribution to mankind is respected and revered even today.

“If you could witness the men, women and children from different walks of life who enter the museum—they respect and honor Lincoln for who he was as a leader and as a man,” he said.

“He accomplished so much for America in his life, from growing up in poverty to becoming one of the greatest leaders in the history of the world.” ★

SAMMY TURNS



BY JENNIFER GAUNTT

As Sammy celebrates his 50th year on campus, the Heritage looks back at Sammy's progression from his origin as a papier-mâché head to the beloved (and fully developed) Bearkat he has become today.

He enrolled at Sam Houston State 50 years ago, and since that time, he's won national championships; performed with other mascots; skydived; graduated at least a dozen times; and has played matchmaker. He's also undergone approximately seven makeovers.

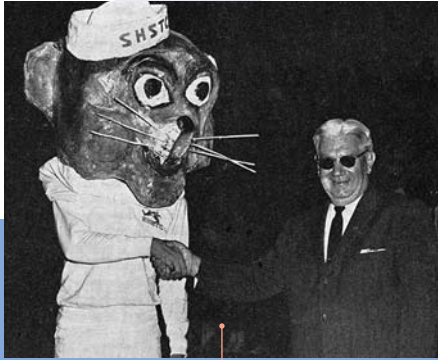
When Sammy the Bearkat joined the student body on Dec. 14, 1959, he debuted as giant papier-mâché head and a sailor hat that was worn with regular clothes. He was designed by assistant dean of women Dorothy Meek, art instructor Mabel Taylor, the cheerleaders and some art students.

During his first 20 years on campus, Sammy didn't have much of a presence, according to those who remember him.

"I remember Sammy, but I don't remember what he looked like," said university President Jim Gaertner, a 1965 and 1970 alumnus. "The idea of Sammy was new back then and, also, Tripod probably took away from him because Tripod's presence was so big back then." (Tripod, a mixed breed dog, was an unofficial mascot for 15 years, dubbed so because he carried an injured leg close to his body, looking as if he had only three legs.)

Throughout the 70s, various Sammys were created with a fox-like guise with heads made of plastic, plaster or papier-mâché, donning a brown body suit often covered with a football jersey. But like the Sammy of the 60s, the Sammy of the 70s was overshadowed by a live mascot.

"Sammy was not as prominent a figure back then as he is today," said 1974 graduate Carol Shaw. "I don't really remember a Sammy mascot, other than the little kinkajou (live South American animal) that we called the mascot."



Sammy in 1959

Sammy in 1969



Shelly Russell Stogsdill
as Sammy in 1982

In 1982, a “wiser-looking” Sammy, resembling the old 50s illustration of the ‘Kat in the (sailor) hat, was introduced, according to 1998 graduate and “Sammy expert” James Pharaon.

This time the mascot was an actual purchased costume, with a bear-like face, rounded ears, cat-shaped eyes and a white mustache and goatee, according to Shelly Russell Stogsdill, who was mascot in 1981–82. He also wore a white SHSU sweatshirt and a sailor hat.

“My first costume was hand made, and I had a papier-mâché head,” Stogsdill said. “My mom and I worked with Coach (Ronnie) Choate and were able to have a mascot uniform designed and made.

“The costume was designed with a large padding that was to be worn under to make Sammy look big and buff.”

After only a few years, however, Sammy was incarnated again, this time in the form of a chipmunk-looking “Bearkat.”

From 1985 until 1988, Sammy was known as the big brown ‘Kat, with big blue eyes; a small, bear-like tail; and an orange patch on his stomach. The outfit was topped off with orange gloves and feet.

In 1989, the costume received its third overhaul of the decade to become an animal that looked neither like a bear nor a cat, and Sammy the Bear... dog emerged.

“The mascot suit was a deeper orange, like an orange-red, and was actually a dog suit that was covered in orange fur,” said Pharaon, who served as Sammy for three years, beginning as the “dog” days were ending.

“The ‘dog suit’ was very heavy because the head was some kind of composite paperboard,” he said. “It had a hard hat bolted to the inside, so it was also very uncomfortable to wear. And the body was a triple-layer fabric that soaked up sweat like a sponge and got really heavy toward the end of a game or when it got wet.”

The Sammy we now know and love was created in 1996 by Pharaon, who said the idea for updating him came after he and some of his dorm-mates were “sitting in the cafeteria talking about how outdated Sammy looked in a painting that was on the wall.” A cartoonist, Pharaon gave Sammy a complete overhaul, including a new cartoon image, which debuted in 1997.

“Being the mascot, I understood what I would like to change in the mascot suit to make it fit and work better, and I designed it based on other mascot suits I had seen at mascot camp as well as Clutch the Houston Rockets bear, whom I had recently met,” he said. “The decision to change the suit was actually made first after the head of the ‘dog suit’ basically disintegrated during a football game late in the season when it started pouring rain unexpectedly. That was in October (1996).”

Pharaon said he created hundreds of drawings—originally wanting Sammy to



Sammy in a Parade

Sammy in the early 90s'



Sammy 2009 and Sammy circa 1960

“Sammy is very special to the university. He’s a rallying point for our students and alumni and has come to symbolize the tremendous amount of school spirit we have here at Sam.”

have a tougher, meaner look but eventually deciding to give him a friendlier appearance to make him more collegiate looking, as well as more child-friendly—using feedback from the administration.

“During the design process, my goal was to create a creature that was a Bearkat that had a little more cat influence, so we lengthened his tail, gave him longer fur in places, especially on his face, made his eyes more cat-like and gave him whiskers,” he said. “Representing the ‘bear’ are his rounded ears, his brawn, his nose and snout and his feet and paws.”

The costume was also created to be more user-friendly, with Pharaon making it lighter and easier to wear and also giving it more ventilation, as it is anywhere from 30–50 degrees hotter inside the Sammy suit than it is outside.

The new and improved Sammy debuted on Jan. 31, 1997, at halftime of the Bearkats basketball game against Stephen F. Austin State.

“At the time, it was the biggest home crowd in several, I think almost 10, years,” Pharaon said. “We generated a lot of buzz on campus, which was really exciting. The skit was a combination of live action and video skit showing Sammy's makeover.”

The mascot has actually received one additional makeover, though many may not have even noticed.

Patrick Gardenier, who took over the helm in 1999, said the Florida company from whom they ordered Sammy parts had become unreliable, sending a larger head and overstuffed hands that made his job very difficult.

When he switched to a Texas company, he requested Sammy come with baseball glove-type hands, a smaller head that allowed the performer to look out of Sammy’s eyes instead of his mouth and a longer tail, Gardenier said.

“I wanted Sammy to be able to do some more athletic things. I had gone to a Rockets game and had a chance to dunk

and wanted Sammy to do it,” said the 2004 graduate. “I wanted to have it so that Sammy could do back flips, so we needed to make sure the helmet in the original one—it was like a lacrosse or a rollerblade helmet—stayed on better.”

And thus, Sammy had become the ‘Kat who now appears at sporting events, in the student center mall area, at retirement parties and even at graduation, though many people may not have noticed it.

“A recent Sammy asked to wear his costume at graduation. We had to say no, of course, because we were afraid it would bring too much focus on him and that the people around him wouldn’t get the attention they deserved,” Gaertner said. “During commencement, a fellow came up and shook my hand, and I gave him his diploma. When he walked away, I turned and looked, and he had a Sammy tail pinned on his robe.”

Though the face and visibility has changed over the years, what Sammy has come to represent for SHSU has not, according to Gaertner.

“Sammy is very special to the university,” he said. “He’s a rallying point for our students and alumni and has come to symbolize the tremendous amount of school spirit we have here at Sam.” ★

2009 Service Awards

Former university employees and area businessmen were honored in April as those who have displayed outstanding commitment to both the university and their respective communities as 2009 SHSU Alumni Association Service Award recipients.



Dennis Culak

Marie Hayden

Kerry Murray

Joe And Winnie Farris Sandel

Photos courtesy of Paul Olle, The Gallery of Huntsville

Dennis Culak

Dennis Culak's service to SHSU included 34 years as a member of the University Police Department.

Culak earned bachelor's and master's degrees in criminal justice from SHSU, in 1973 and 1975, respectively.

When he retired in August 2008, he had risen through the ranks during his career with the UPD, from police intern/student assistant to director of public safety/chief of police.

"Dennis' management style reflected the motto of the university: 'The measure of a Life is its Service;' influencing the department's operations at excelling to go the extra distance to provide a level of service that reflected his own mantra," said a nomination letter.

Marie Hayden

Even though she retired as a professor of library science at SHSU in 2005, Marie Hayden's service to the university has not ended.

A 1969 SHSU graduate with a bachelor's degree, Hayden joined the faculty in 1970, when she completed her master's degree from Louisiana State University. She earned her doctorate from Texas A&M University.

Hayden's expansive service to the university led to her being recognized with the SHSU Excellence in Service Award in 2000.

She served on the Alumni Association's board of directors for 12 years and on the committee that designed SHSU's official class ring.

Hayden has established several scholarships, including the Gene P. Heinrich Endowed Scholarship, created in memory of her brother.

She is also active in community organizations.

Kerry Murray

The owner of Murski's Icehouse in Huntsville, Kerry Murray's "giving nature" has benefitted his alma mater both monetarily and through service.

The 1993 Bearkat alumnus, with a bachelor's degree in biology, has utilized his restaurant to support the SHSU athletics program through more than \$25,000 in in-kind gifts and the employment of more than 300 students during his 15 years as owner. He has also kept statistics at the football and basketball games.

A guest lecturer, Murray implemented a contest developed by a marketing class during the 2008 football season called "Points of the Game," in which a student is selected to win a free hamburger for every point SHSU scores.

Murray is the third in his family to receive the SHSU Service Award. His father, Guinn Hugh Murray, was honored as a

recipient in 1998, and his uncle, Michael Murray, is a 2007 recipient.

Joe And Winnie Farris Sandel

"Supporters of the youth of Walker County," both Joe and Winnie Farris Sandel are alumni of SHSU.

Joe attended SHSU from 1952–1954 before transferring to the University of Texas in Austin to receive a degree in petroleum engineering. Winnie earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education in 1956.

Currently "semi-retired," Joe serves as the chairman of the board for Sandel Energy, is active in cattle ranching in Walker County, and has provided leadership for a number of local entities, including serving on the President's Circle and the Athletic Department's championship committee.

A teacher for 13 years, Winnie is on the board of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, an organization serving SHSU's student athletes.

Together, the couple supports area youth, as well as SHSU students through the H. H. "Tubby" and Nuna Sandel Endowed Scholarship.

They also serve on the executive leadership council for the Share the Vision capital campaign and are members of the Samuel Houston Society. ★

Passion For Music Paves Road To Success For SHSU Grad

Songwriter Allen Shamblin is “for havin’ faith in something that hasn’t happened yet.”

That’s what he and fellow songwriter Marc Beeson wrote in the song “What I’m For,” recorded by Pat Green for his 2009 album of the same name, which debuted on the Billboard country charts at No. 2.

But Shamblin’s faith in something that hasn’t happened yet hasn’t come without tests.

After moving to Nashville from Austin at the behest of Warner Brothers Records executive vice president Martha Sharp, the 1982 Sam Houston State University business graduate was ready to give up on his dreams of being a songwriter in 1988 while struggling with a case of writer’s block.

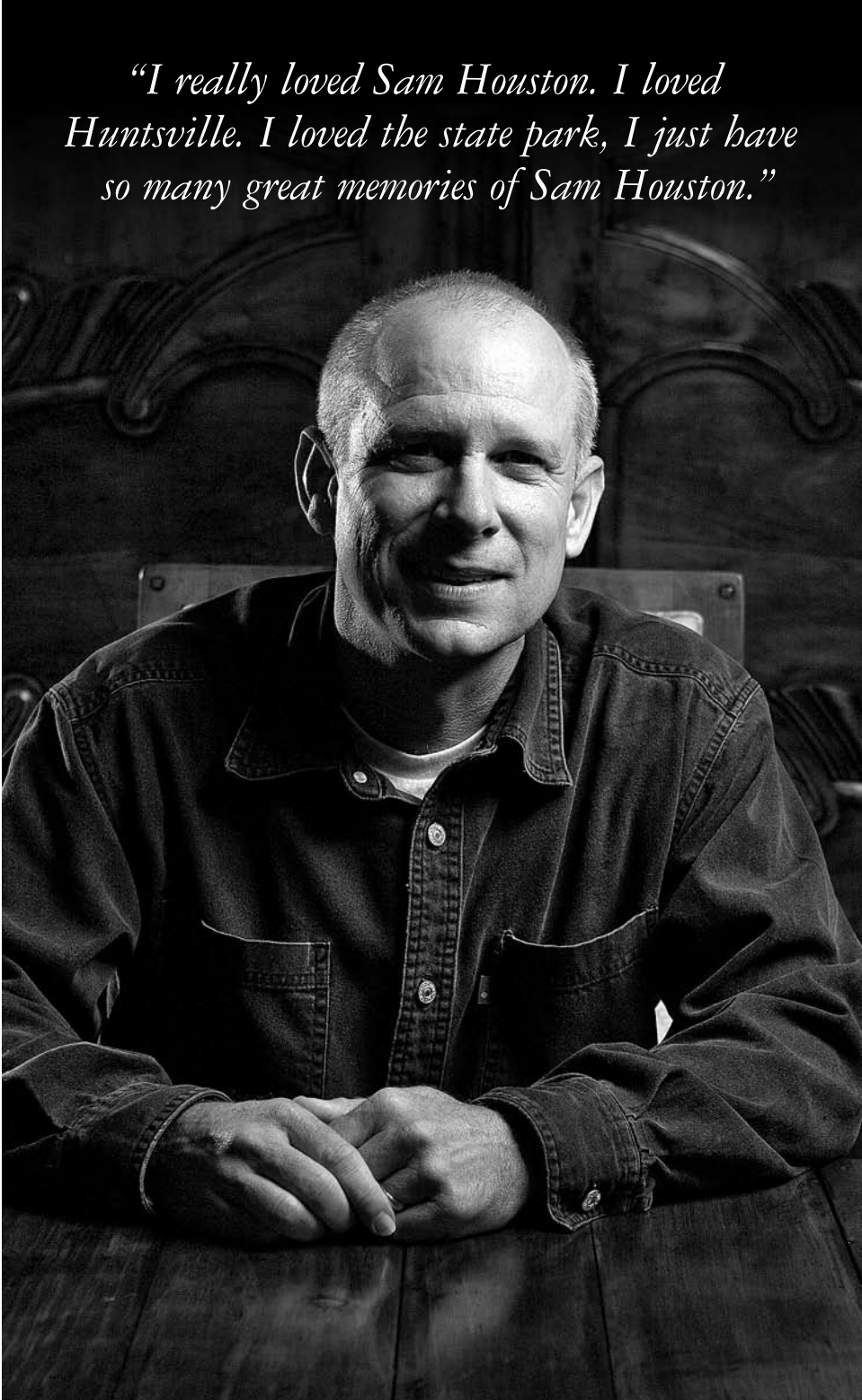
“It had been two or three years since I had written a song by myself, and honestly, I didn’t know if I could,” he said.

At the suggestion of his publisher, Shamblin returned to Austin for a week, hoping to reconnect with his Texas roots in the city in which he had written his first 14 songs.

“On Monday morning (back in Nashville), I got up in my little efficiency apartment. My couch was my bed—during the day it was a couch, and at night it was my bed—and I just turned on my TV and walked over to the little kitchen area,” he said. “I didn’t try to find a channel, but it was one of those early morning televangelists.

“Behind me I heard somebody say, ‘there’s somebody out there fixin’ to give up on a dream,’” Shamblin said. “I looked back, and he was like pointing right at me. And he said, ‘don’t give up. The race always gets toughest just before you cross the finish line.’”

With those words of encouragement, Shamblin headed out for his “day job.”



“I really loved Sam Houston. I loved Huntsville. I loved the state park, I just have so many great memories of Sam Houston.”

BY JENNIFER GAUNT

“About three miles down the road at a red light, at Harding Road and Trousdale, the lines to ‘He Walked on Water’ started coming to me,” Shamblin said. “I had no idea what it was about. I just wrote the lines ‘he wore starched white shirts buttoned at the neck, he’d sit in the shade and watch the chickens peck, his teeth were gone but what the heck.’ It just came out of nowhere.

“I wrote them down, went into my little office, and I was staring at them. I wrote them out again neater, and I got up to



walk around the room, and I just went, ‘He Walked On Water,’” Shamblin continued. “I got chills from the top of my head to the bottom of my feet, and I remembered my great grandfather, whom my mother would bring over to our house when I was a little kid, and the song just poured out like honey out of a jar. I played it for the publisher, and they liked it a lot and said, ‘yeah, that’s what we’ve been looking for out of you.’”

The song was played for one of the top country music artists at that time, Randy Travis, and became the third No. 1 hit off of Travis’ fourth album “No Holdin Back.”

With his first hit single under his belt, Shamblin found what seemed like overnight success in the music industry.

The Huffman, Texas, native began writing music “secretively” in his bedroom and apartment while at SHSU.

“I always wanted to be the person who wrote the songs,” Shamblin said. “Every time I would get an album or hear a song that I loved, I would go straight to the album or CD and try to find out who wrote it because I wanted to know whose heart that came out of.

“My heroes have always been the writers,” he said. “That was my goal, to write songs that someone would record.”

“Every day I write, I journey back to Texas somewhere because that’s where I grew up, that’s where just about all my firsts were: first love, first heartache, and usually those firsts are the deepest, the greatest joy. All of those firsts left the biggest mark on me, every day in my heart I’m somewhere down there, and a lot of those days, I’m in Huntsville.”

After graduating with a degree in marketing, he worked several jobs in Houston before moving to Austin to work as a real estate appraiser. But Shamblin didn’t find fulfillment in any of those jobs.

“I thought that life is so short, and I want to do something I’m passionate about,” he said. “I began to ask myself the question, ‘what are you passionate about?’ and the answer kept coming back music.

“So when I was in Austin, I began to write songs,” he said. “I would come home from work, eat a little snack, take a nap and get up and write. Just about every night that was what I did.”

His big break came only six months after he began writing. While in Wyatt’s Cafeteria

in Austin, he was discussing a song he had just written to a friend when a woman in line, overhearing the conversation, asked if he was a songwriter.

“I told her I was and she asked me if I was any good, and I said ‘well, I think so, but you’ll have to judge for yourself,’” Shamblin said. “She said, ‘well, I want you to come over to my house and play me your songs, and I might be able to help you.’”

As it turns out, that woman, Linda Orsak, not only is best friends with Sharp, but her brother-in-law is legendary fiddle player Johnny Gimble, who’s played with musicians from Bob Wills and the Texas

Playboys to Merle Haggard to George Strait to Willie Nelson.

“When I met Linda in the cafeteria, the instant I met her I had a strong feeling that she was the door I was supposed to go through, that she was going to help me get into writing songs,” he said. A lot of things like that have happened in my career, and I’m convinced that it’s not all me.”

After playing for Orsak, she took him to play with Gimble, and the two recorded some of Shamblin’s songs. Sharp later came to Austin to hear him perform, something he had never done publicly, he said, and Sharp, encouraged him to move to Nashville.

He moved there in August 1987. A year later he wrote “He Walked On Water.”



Far Left: Clark, Nelson, Murphey, Shamblin.
Left: Randy Travis and Shamblin.



It was a big deal because at that time, Randy (Travis) was one of the top artists in country music,” Shamblin said of having Travis record “He Walked On Water.” Though he says he still doesn’t feel like he’s “made it” in the business, Shamblin was selected in March for the Texas Heritage Songwriters Association’s Honor Roll, along with Guy Clark, Willie Nelson and Michael Martin Murphey.

Since then, Shamblin has written or co-written approximately 1,000 songs, more than 100 of which have been recorded, including such award winners as “Walk on Faith,” performed by Mike Reid; “In This Life,” performed by Collin Raye; “Thinkin’ Problem,” performed by David Ball; “Life’s A Dance,” performed by John Michael Montgomery; “We Were In Love,” performed by Toby Keith; “Live, Laugh, Love,” performed by Clay Walker; and “Where The Blacktop Ends,” performed by Keith Urban; as well as “Why,” performed by Rascal Flatts, a song Shamblin said is special to him because it was written about a young man from his hometown who taught him how to play the guitar.

Outside of the country music arena, songs such as “Don’t Laugh At Me” have been performed by Peter, Paul and Mary, and “I Can’t Make You Love Me,” originally performed by Bonnie Raitt, has been covered by artists Prince, Patty LaBelle, George Michael, Nancy Wilson and Kenny Rogers.

“Don’t Laugh At Me” also became the inspiration for a non-profit organization established by Peter, Paul and Mary’s Peter Yarrow called Operation Respect, a group dedicated to assuring “a respectful, safe and compassionate climate of learning” for youth “where their academic, social and emotional development can take place free of bullying, ridicule and violence.”

“They provide a school curricula to aid against bullying in several thousand schools now in the United States and even around the world, and the song has been translated into other languages,” Shamblin said. “What Peter Yarrow has been doing for the last few years is pretty amazing.”

In addition, this year Shamblin was inducted into the Texas Heritage Songwriters’ Association Honor Roll with music legends Willie Nelson, Guy Clark and Michael Martin Murphey.

“I feel like somebody has given me a pair of cowboy boots 10 sizes too big, and I’m going to spend the rest of my life trying to grow into them,” Shamblin said of being inducted with hero Nelson. “Awards are subjective, and I know there are a lot of people they could have put on the stage that day. I’m just trying to do the best I can to gracefully receive it.

“I realize I was inducted with icons and living legends, and I honestly don’t feel like I’m there,” he said. “I feel like I will spend the rest of my life trying to build a body of work that will be worthy to stand with theirs.”

Shamblin, who lives “a really simple, private life” on a farm in Tennessee with his wife Lori and their three children, currently

writes every day and occasionally tours with other songwriters, performing their songs and telling the stories behind how or why they were written.

Though he says he “didn’t apply” himself at SHSU, Shamblin said he not only has fond memories of his times at the university but has also managed to use his business degree in his work in the music industry.

“I really loved Sam Houston. I loved Huntsville. I loved the state park,” he said. “I just have so many great memories of Sam Houston.

“Every day I write, I journey back to Texas somewhere because that’s where I grew up, that’s where just about all my firsts were: first love, first heartache, and usually those firsts are the deepest, the greatest joy. All of those firsts left the biggest mark on me,” he said. “Every day in my heart I’m somewhere down there, and a lot of those days, I’m in Huntsville.” ★

Where Are They Now?

A

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



Jerry W. (BBA '62) and Angela Farris (BS '67) Fannin

Jerry and Angela live in Madisonville on a ranch where they moved after retirement. Angela loved writing and always wanted to have something published. Jerry is a freelance photographer, so together they traveled the countryside taking pictures of subjects that portray Texas lore and life.

Their efforts have resulted in four books—"Johnnies, Biffies, Outhouses, Etc."; "Porch Chatter: A Texas Gallery"; "The Complete Unabridged Armadillo Handbook"; and "Between Anvil and Forge (Pictorial Remembrances of the Blacksmith Shop)"—some of which have been featured in television productions about Texas.

Jerry and Angela have been the subject of articles in "Country Living" magazine, most recently in the April 2006 issue, which featured their collection of toy spinning tops.

Jerry also has an extensive collection of vintage metal toy cars and trucks.



William A. Bartlett (BBA '55)

Bill was known for his beautiful voice while he was a student at Sam Houston State and for years following his graduation.

During his Army service and the time of his employment by Texaco as an accountant, Bill used his talent in the Army Choir, in church choirs, and on stage. His specialty was opera, and he performed with the Houston Grand Opera and in many theatrical productions.

Today he is better known for what his neighbors and friends call his "secret garden." At his home in Houston, he has transformed five connecting patios into a paradise of approximately 1,000 orchids, ficus trees, dracaenas and peace lilies. The space is referred to as the orchid gallery by the Houston Orchid Society and was featured in the March 2009 issue of *Orchids*, the Bulletin of the American Orchid Society.



Charles R. Sappington (BA '72)

Charles's first full time employment as a photographer after graduation was for the NASA contractor later known as Ford Aerospace. He soon became known for his quality work and was transferred to the company's main facility in Palo Alto, Calif. Several of his works were featured in aerospace magazines during this time.

After returning to Texas briefly, Charles went back to California and worked in Los Angeles for a pre-press graphics company whose client list included ad agencies, movie studios, record companies, TV studios and freelance artists and designers. He made some connections, and while later freelancing, he created Bob Dylan's "Knocked Out Loaded" album cover.

He has now entered the world of event photography which has provided him the opportunity to cover six Super Bowls, photograph the rich and famous, and travel all over the world.

His work can be viewed at www.charlessappington.com ★

Sam Houston Birthday Event in Austin





JOIN THE **Jr.** **Bearkats**

The Junior Bearkats program was created to help the Enrollment Management division identify and connect with future students at an early age through age 13. Referrals for Junior Bearkats come from SHSU alumni and supporters, including their children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends' children.

Membership in the Junior Bearkats program is FREE. Members receive personalized emails, a Junior Bearkats member card, birthday cards and an emailed newsletter with activities and games.



For \$15, members can upgrade their membership to belong to the Whataburger Junior Kat Club. Junior Kat Club members receive a membership card, free admission to all SHSU sporting events, a t-shirt, and a mailed newsletter with activities and games.

For more information about the Junior Bearkats program, call 936.294.4260 or visit us at www.shsu.edu/jrbearkats
For information about the Whataburger Junior Kat Club, call 936.294.4118 or email mam066@shsu.edu.

New York Alumni & Friends Event Sam Houston State University Alumni Association December 10th - 13th

- ★ Round Trip Airfare from Houston Intercontinental
- ★ Lodging at the Park Central Hotel
- ★ Friday Night Alumni Event at the '21' Club
- ★ Broadway Show
- ★ Tour & Lunch at The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Register Now!

A \$250 deposit per person is due October 1, 2009

For more information contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 800.283.7478 or visit alumni.shsu.edu



We are updating our records

Email us your Email



sbaker@shsu.edu



Homecoming Schedule

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8	Homecoming Parade	Sam Houston Avenue	6:30 PM	Student Activities 936.294.3861
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9	Golden Circle Reunion	LSC Ballroom	11:00 AM	President's Office 936.294.3415
	"50 Years of Sammy" Reception	LSC Atrium	1:00 PM	Student Activites 936.294.3861
	Distinguished Alumni Gala Reception	LSC Ballroom	6:00 PM	Alumni Relations 936.294.1841
	Distinguished Alumni Gala Dinner	LSC Ballroom	7:00 PM	Alumni Relations 936.294.1841
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10	Alumni Coffee & Pregame with the President	Austin Hall	10:30 AM	President's Office 936.294.3415
	Bearkat Alley Tailgate	Bowers Stadium	NOON	Athletics & Student Activities 936.294.3861
	SHSU vs. Nicholls State Football	Bowers Stadium	2:00 PM	Athletics 936.294.1729
	Regional & Special Interest Alumni Clubs Reception	LSC Ballroom	5:30 PM	Alumni Relations 936.294.1841

James Ashton





a BEARKAT FAMILY

AIMING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

BOB ROD

a long time ago businessman Bob Rod discovered two things in life he enjoyed immensely: working and hunting.

He has traveled all over the world with his family on safaris and has faced the most fearsome of animals in some of the most exotic locations imaginable.

He shares his love of hunting with the less fortunate by hosting "youth hunts" and donates meat from his expeditions to the hungry.

Bob grew up in a family that practiced recycling, long before it was the cool and fashionable thing to do. He saved the money he earned as a youngster from carrying groceries and selling soft drinks on the campus of Rice University so that he could pay to attend

college at Sam Houston State. In 1964 he completed his education, earning a Bachelor of Business Administration degree.

Today, he is proud to give back to SHSU. He and his wife, Gay (BBA '65), are generous supporters of the university. In their honor, the boardroom of the SHSU Visitor and Alumni Center carries their names.

"My education at Sam Houston State University has contributed to my success," said Bob. "It gave me the faith in my ability to 'pull the trigger' when approaching my goals. It doesn't mean you will always bag the game. But you have the confidence to try."

Bob and Gay Rod are pictured in their home in Katy, Texas along with their daughter, Michelle Crawford, also a Sam Houston graduate —BBA '93.

To learn more about ways you can support Sam Houston State University, visit <http://www.shsu.edu/giving> or call 936.294.3625.

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



SHSU Homecoming October 10, 2009

For additional information and a complete calendar of events, log on to our website
www.shsu.edu/homecoming