

Heritage

Honoring Our Traditions. Envisioning Our Future.



THE CHAMPIONSHIP TRADITION CONTINUES

THE Vision



Share the Vision. Share the Fun.

We have so many positive things for which we can be justifiably proud and grateful to have at Sam Houston State University. In past issues of the Heritage, we have highlighted our five academic colleges and their many accomplishments. We have also reported on the myriad of construction projects that have literally changed the landscape of our beautiful campus, thus making it more attractive to prospective students while better serving the needs of our more than 16,400 enrolled students.

No matter when we graduated or what kind of degree we earned, athletics is the one thing in which all Bearkats can share a common interest and enjoyment. As Frank Holmes, our vice president of university advancement, says, "Athletics is the fun part of alumni relations." Accordingly, this issue focuses on intercollegiate athletics.

Under the leadership of Bobby Williams, our outstanding athletic director, we have developed perhaps the finest athletic facilities in the nation for the level at which we compete. Previously, our university's teams have won an unprecedented three consecutive Southland Conference Commissioner's Cups, which is awarded to the best overall athletic program. Doing well in two or three sports will not win a cup. You must excel across the board.

During these times of exceptional achievement on the athletic fields and courts, our players led our conference in the classroom, setting university records for GPAs. Chris Thompson, our associate athletic director, deserves special thanks and recognition for her excellent dedication in ensuring the academic performance and progress of our athletes. I am also proud to say that our young men and women have represented our alma mater in an exemplary manner both on the campus and in their respective communities. Moreover, we have strived successfully to be competitive within the spirit and the letter of the law of NCAA rules and regulations.

Over the past few years, our teams have had special opportunities to play against the elite athletic programs in the nation. While we have not always fared as well as we would have liked in those contests, we have always competed well, earning the respect of our opponents and their fans. More importantly, when we compete against the best, it raises the visibility and, yes, the perception of our university. People often assess who you are by the company you keep, so it does not hurt to be seen with the likes of The University of Texas, UCLA, Oklahoma State, Texas Tech, Kansas, and others of their reputation.

"our university's teams have won an unprecedented three consecutive Southland Conference Commissioner's Cups, which is awarded to the best overall athletic program. Doing well in two or three sports will not win a cup. You must excel across the board."

Approximately 350 student-athletes compete in intercollegiate athletics at Sam Houston State. As we know, only a handful of them will continue their respective sports at the professional level. While providing us with thrills and victories, they are binding us to each other and to Sam. They are also working for something much more important: The opportunity to earn a high-quality education that will change their lives forever just as it has yours and mine.

What could be more fun or better than that? Please, share the vision! Join us this coming year for entertaining and spirited intercollegiate athletics. You will appreciate our young athletes, and they will most assuredly appreciate your support.

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Spotlight

2 Teamwork Brings Success To Bearkat Athletics

It's been quite a run for Sam Houston sports.

7 Student-Athletes Appreciate Lessons Inside, Outside Classroom

Sometimes they learn about themselves.

9 Sports Brings People Together Like Nothing Else

Differences vanish when you're pulling for your team.

12 Going Crazy For The Kats

Who are those guys?!?

Contents

Volume VIII • Number 2 • Fall 2008

Departments



14 University Focus

2008 Faculty Excellence Award Winners; Provost Wins Pacesetter Award; Report Confirms Textbook Cost Concerns; Harman To Direct New Center; and other university stories.

22 Eye On The Kats

Bomar Ready For Season To Start; Bearkats Win Conference Tournament ... Again!; SHSU Team Stays 'On Track' With Winning Record.

26 Building The Vision

Mafrige's Latest Gift Honors Sculptor And Soldier; Lettermen Support SHSU Long After Playing Days End; Samuel Houston Society Dinner Set; Game ... Set ... Match!

30 Alumni Look

2008 Alumni Association Service Awards; Wall Of Honor Spaces Available; Save The Date; Tailgate Schedule 2008; Homecoming Calendar.



Teamwork Brings Success To Bearkat Athletics

By Paul Ridings

Maybe it's a bit theatrical to call the past four seasons a "Golden Age" for Sam Houston State intercollegiate athletics.

But few other periods in the 102-year history of sports at Sam Houston can match the current program for growth, winning teams, national exposure, and success in the classroom.

Since 2004, Sam Houston State athletic teams have won nine Southland Conference regular season championships, three Southland post-season tournament titles, posted 16 runner-up league finishes, and won three Southland Conference Commissioner's Cups, emblematic of the SLC's all-sports championship.

The university's athletic physical plant has seen more than \$9 million of facility improvements, including a new strength and fitness center, baseball/softball complex, golf practice facility, scoreboards, and football stadium video board.

Sports fans across the country have seen Sam Houston State teams compete on national and regional telecasts on ESPN and

Fox Sports as well as in NCAA Division I championship competition.

This success has come without major NCAA compliance violations and with student-athletes who also have achieved unprecedented success in the classroom.

The 350-plus student-athletes who represent the university in 16 sports have compiled the highest grade point averages in department history.

This historic success has come through the hard work and a true team effort of quality athletic administrators, coaches, and student-athletes.

Success Starts At The Top

Bearkat director of athletics Bobby Williams, future NFL all-pro running back Eric Dickerson, and college sports TV analyst Craig James all made their college football debuts when Rice and SMU met at Texas Stadium in 1979.

"Eric and Craig both gained more than

TEAMWORK BRINGS SUCCESS



125 yards rushing and scored touchdowns,” Williams recalled. “I dropped two passes. My career and Eric and Craig’s headed in different directions after that.”

Fortunately for the Bearkats, that career path led to Huntsville. After starting two years as a wide receiver for the Owls, Williams’ first job after earning his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Rice was at Sam Houston State.

He served nine years as an assistant coach for Ron Randleman and seven years as assistant athletic director before being named interim director of athletics for the 1997 – 98 school year.

When he was named director of athletics on April 29, 1998, he set a goal for the program—to win the Southland Conference Commissioner’s Cup.

“Becoming a director of athletics was a lifetime goal. I have always been a goal-oriented person,” Williams said. “As a secondary coach, we set and met important goals on teams that ranked among the nation’s defensive leaders. As an administrator, we set goals such as raising our department grade point averages, which we accomplished.

“As director of athletics, I have set goals.

We’ve strived to bring this department to the forefront in computer technology, to improve our athletes’ academic standing and retention rates, and to increase our revenue through fund raising and monies generated from bigger crowds at games.

“Another important goal is to win. Winning three Southland Conference Commissioner’s Cup All-Sports Trophies, two men’s all-sports cups, and the 16 league regular season and tournament titles since 1998 show that we are taking that goal seriously.”

Williams has been recognized both regionally and nationally for the department’s successes. In June, he received the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision West Region “Athletic Director of the Year” award presented by AstroTurf at the 2008 National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics convention in Dallas.

“Certainly, Bobby Williams is not only one of the finest athletic directors in the Southland Conference, but also one of the best that I have worked with in more than 20 years in intercollegiate athletics,” Southland Conference Commissioner Tom Burnett said. “I would stack Bobby’s body of work up against any of his contemporaries.”

Burnett points in particular to the fact that Sam Houston State has achieved success in athletics while staying in compliance with NCAA rules.

“With all things in NCAA compliance, good and bad, things start at the top,” Burnett said. “Sam Houston State has what I would call a model program in the area of NCAA compliance. Problems in compliance are always going to happen, but if you have a

great control system in place, you can handle the little problems before they become the bigger ones you see at some universities. Bobby Williams and Sam Houston State have worked hard to develop a system that makes sure things are done right.”

Williams is in his final year as chair of the Southland Conference Athletic Director’s Committee and will become vice president of the SLC’s Athletic Council.

“What speaks so well of Bobby’s efforts is his new appointment to the NCAA Leadership Council, a very select group of



Spotlight

senior administrators from every conference,” Burnett said. “With Bobby’s knowledge of NCAA affairs, he is going to give us great representation with this important body.”

Quality Coaches

Sam Houston State’s staff of quality coaches is another reason for the success the program has experienced.

Two Bearkat head coaches rank among the top 20 in total victories among active coaches in their sports.

Mark Johnson ranks No. 16 among active NCAA Division I head baseball coaches with his 23-year record of 953 victories and 482 losses.

In his first season at Sam Houston State in 2007, Johnson directed the Bearkats to a 40-win season for the first time in 20 years. The Kats won the Southland Conference post-season tournament and reached the finals of the NCAA Division I regionals at Oxford, Miss., Sam Houston’s best NCAA Division I playoff finish ever.

This spring, the Bearkats earned a second consecutive NCAA playoff berth with another Southland tournament championship. During Johnson’s two seasons as Bearkat coach, the team has set 17 school records including a Southland Conference season best .335 team batting average in 2008.

Johnson came to Sam Houston from Texas A&M where he was coach for 21 years. He directed the Aggies to two NCAA College World Series appearances and five conference titles.

“Sam Houston State has been an ideal fit for my wife and me,” Johnson said. “We’re excited about what is happening here at Sam Houston, not just in baseball and athletics, but with the university as a whole. I have really been impressed by the quality of the people on campus and their desire to succeed.”

Bob Brock, a 1969 Sam Houston graduate, ranks No. 13 among NCAA Division I active softball head coaches with a record of 910 victories, 499 losses, and one tie.

Like Johnson, Brock made a name for himself at Texas A&M. Brock rolled up a

TO BEARKAT

688 – 255 mark there from 1982 to 1996, leading the Aggies to NCAA World Series five times including national championships in 1983 and 1987.

When Brock became SHSU head coach in 2002, the program had gone eight years without a winning season and had not seen post-season action since 1993.

Quickly the coach turned things around. The Bearkats made Southland post-season playoff appearances in 2003, 2004 and 2005. Last year, Sam Houston won the SLC tournament to earn its first NCAA Division I playoff berth.

“I’ll always remember that first practice in 2002,” Brock said. “All the players were afraid I was going to clean house. The practice was horrible. At the end of the day, I sat them down and told them there would be no cuts. They were the players we were going to turn things around with. It really was a thrill watching that group work so hard to improve. Sure enough, several of those players were seniors on the 2005 team that reached the Southland tournament finals.”

Bob Marlin and his Bearkat men’s basketball team have brought national recognition to Sam Houston State from coast to coast.

Among the 20 NCAA Division I men’s basketball teams in Texas, only the Texas Longhorns have won more games in the 21st century than Sam Houston. Totaling the nine seasons from 2000 to 2008, Texas has won 225 games, Sam Houston 172, followed by Texas Tech 163, Texas-El Paso 157, and Texas A&M 142.

Sam Houston State owns the second-longest non-conference home court winning

streak in NCAA Division I basketball (44). Only Duke has a longer streak with 57 straight home wins.

Marlin’s 55 – 35 non-conference record includes victories over Texas Tech, Missouri, Nebraska, and Baylor (Big 12 Conference), New Mexico State and Fresno State (Western Athletic Conference), and Houston, Central Florida, and Southern Mississippi (Conference USA).

The 2008 Bearkats produced a 23 – 8 record, marking the first time for SHSU men’s basketball to put together three consecutive 20-plus win seasons. Sam Houston went 22 – 9 in 2006 and 21 – 10 in 2007.

“The most rewarding aspect of coaching here at Sam Houston State is the quality student-athletes my staff and I have had the opportunity to work with,” Marlin said. “Our senior class of Ryan Bright, Shamir McDaniel, Jeremy Thomas and John Gardiner compiled an 84 – 39 record in their four years. They are leaders on the campus as well.”

Curtis Collier has directed Sam Houston State to six Southland Conference track and field championships since being named as head coach in June 2003.

The Bearkat women’s track team has won three of the last four SLC outdoor titles and back-to-back indoor championships. Sam Houston’s men won consecutive outdoor titles in 2005 and 2006.

Collier gives credit to the hard work of his coaching staff and the solid foundation by previous coaches before Collier took over the program in 2003 – 04.

ATHLETICS



“John Lumley and Greg Hinze did a great job building the program and putting it in a position to win,” Collier said. “We have a great coaching staff here as well. It was exciting this spring at the indoor to see our sprints, hurdlers, and horizontal jumps coach, Dave Self, become the first assistant coach ever to earn Southland Conference coach of the year honors.”

First-Class Facilities

Outstanding athletic facilities have given the Bearkats a winning edge.

Since 2003, Sam Houston has hosted Southland Conference championship events in Huntsville eight times. The Bearkats emerged the champion in six of those competitions—SLC men’s basketball final in 2003, Southland men’s track and field in 2005, the league’s women’s track and field in 2005 and 2008, SLC softball in 2007, and SLC baseball in 2008.

“There’s no doubt that playing a post-season event in your own backyard is a competitive edge,” director of athletics Bobby Williams said. “Hosting major events at our facilities also brings an economic impact and media attention for the Huntsville community.”

With the goal of centering all athletics facilities in one area of the campus, Sam

Houston State has opened several new facilities in the past few years.

Don Sanders Stadium is the new baseball facility located east of Bowers Stadium. The complex includes spacious dressing areas, indoor hitting cages, coaches’ offices, and the Bud and Joan Haney Diamond Room. Also included in the \$5.5 million complex is the Bearkat Softball Stadium.

Located between Sanders and Bowers Stadiums is the new Ron Randleman Strength and Fitness Center. The 11,000 square foot center is used by all 16 Sam Houston sports teams and consists of coaches’ offices, dressing rooms, and a 9,000 square foot area for weights.

The Meredith and Miriam York Track Complex at Bowers Stadium with its new throwing center has been the site of the Southland Conference outdoor track and field championships three times.

Bowers Stadium, home of Bearkat football, has received major improvements as well including new luxury suites and other improvements to the press box and a video board for instant replays at games.

Ron Mafrige Field House is the site of the athletic administration offices, training room, team meeting rooms, and team lockers. Also housed in the facility

is the modern Athletic Learning Enhancement Center (LEC).

The center features study and work areas, 24 computers, printers, and hosts the tutorial program strictly for student-athlete use. Also in the LEC is the Enterprise Career Center which offers career advise on resume writing, interviewing skills, and assistance for the job market. The Enterprise Car Rental Corporation offers seminars each semester with hands-on advice for the job market.

Bernard G. Johnson Coliseum also has seen renovations including new offices, training facilities, dressing rooms, scoreboards, and team meeting areas.

Winning In The Classroom

Student-athletes at Sam Houston State University are committed to excellence both on the playing field and in the classroom. In return, the university strives to do all it can to make sure each athlete makes steady progress towards earning a degree.

Each student receives the help he or she needs to be successful in Sam Houston State University’s challenging environment. Chris Thompson, associate athletic director for student services, oversees this area.

Among the many resources offered student-athletes are tutoring sessions,



supervised study halls, assistance in selecting majors, degree plans and courses, and use of the Sam Houston State Athletics Learning Enhancement Center.

The NCAA CHAMPS/Life Skills program provides a mandatory class for all incoming freshman student-athletes to further enhance their opportunities for success at SHSU. The class covers topics to ease transition into college athletics, academics and their path in life.

Included among the speakers for the class are current junior and senior student-athletes who relate their own experiences in dealing with life as an intercollegiate sports participant.

The success of Sam Houston State's academic advising, counseling, and tutoring program is readily apparent. For the past seven semesters, SHSU's 16 intercollegiate sports teams have posted an overall grade point average (GPA) higher than 2.75. Six times, the athletics GPA was a mark higher than the GPA for the university's general student population.

During both fall and spring semesters of the 2006 – 07 academic year, Bearkat athletes produced a 2.90 GPA, the highest of any athletic department in the Southland Conference and a record mark for Sam Houston State. For the past 23 semesters, Sam Houston's athletic GPA has been 2.5 or higher.

While winning the Southland Conference Commissioner's Cup (symbolic of the SLC's All-Sports championship) in 2005, 2006 and 2007, Sam Houston athletes also have led the league in performance in the classroom. Each of those years, more Bearkats have earned SLC Commissioner's Academic

Honor Roll recognition than any of the other 11 universities in the league. To earn a spot on the honor roll, a student-athlete must maintain a 3.0 or higher GPA.

Learning enhancement services offered by the Sam Houston State University athletic department academic advisors for student-athletes include mandatory academic advising, academic monitoring, study skills groups, and tutorial assistance.

"We are extremely proud of our athletes' achievements in the classroom and commend our coaching staff for the tremendous job they do in recruiting quality student-athletes," Williams said. "The No. 1 goal for each of our sports teams is to have our athletes earn their Sam Houston State degrees. We are proud that 90 percent of student athletes who complete their eligibility at Sam Houston earn their degree."

Contributions In The Community

Bearkat student-athletes make an impact on the Huntsville community through programs organized by the Sam Houston State Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). So successful have been the committee's activities that other universities in the Southland Conference have used the group as a model for their own campuses.

Activities on the committee's annual calendar include the NCAA CHAMPS/Life Skills program; a mentor program with the Huntsville Independent School District (HISD); Rita B. Huff Animal Shelter fundraiser; sports festivals at HISD elementary campuses; canned food drive benefiting The Good Shepherd Mission;

pop tab drive for M. D. Anderson Cancer Center/Ronald McDonald House; student-athlete welfare, diversity; and Student Life Awareness Programs (alcohol, nutrition, time and stress management).

Each academic year ends with the annual All-Sports Awards Banquet sponsored, planned and hosted by the committee.

"The goal for SAAC is to provide our athletes a quality academic and athletic experience that will culminate in graduation from Sam Houston," associate athletic director for student services Chris Thompson said. "SAAC seeks to help our athletes develop professional skills and work habits, to facilitate peer involvement, to fulfill the responsibilities that are part of the privilege of being a student-athlete, and to express pride in SHSU and team achievements."

The leadership role played on campus by Sam Houston student-athletes has been recognized nationally by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

Bearkat athletes have served on major NCAA committees including the NCAA Foundation Leadership Conference held each June at Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

"SAAC provides Sam Houston student-athletes with a voice to express our suggestions and concerns regarding the athletic program and options for improving the student-athlete experience," said Jonathan Harris, senior sprinter and an officer for the committee. "As student-athletes we want to represent Sam Houston State in the best way possible. We want to give back to the university and Huntsville community for their support that is so important to our success on the field of competition." ★

STUDENT
ATHLETE

Shamir McDaniel

Student
Athletes
Appreciate
Lessons
Inside,
Outside
Classroom

By Paul Ridings

“This year’s senior class has been part of the most successful four-year period in Sam Houston’s NCAA Division I sports history,” Williams said. “With 11 Southland Conference regular season and tournament championships, three Commissioner’s Cup victories and record grade point averages in the classroom, these 65 seniors have led our program to unparalleled success.”

What is most impressive about the 65 seniors is that 55 will receive their Sam Houston degrees in either May or August or have already graduated and are doing post-graduate work. The other 10 are expected to earn their diploma in December after completing their student teaching.

Typical of the 2008 Bearkat seniors is Shamir McDaniel, starting guard for the men’s basketball team.

McDaniel has been a vital part of Kat men’s basketball teams that produced an 84 – 38 record the past four seasons. Only the 88 – 22 record, compiled by the 1970 – 1973 teams in Sam Houston’s NAIA/Lone Star Conference days, tops the mark compiled by this year’s seniors.

An All-Southland Conference player as a senior, McDaniel wasn’t on anyone’s radar when he came out of Converse Judson High School in 2003. But thanks to encouragement from a fellow Alamo City product, Ryan Griffin, whom the Bearkats had signed to a

scholarship, McDaniel decided to attend Sam Houston State and major in marketing.

As luck would have it, Griffin ran into McDaniel on campus and again asked if he was going to go out for the team. McDaniel decided to give it a try and made the Bearkats as a walk-on. He emerged as one of the best all-around players in the Southland Conference over the past three seasons.

“There are two things about Shamir that I’m most proud about—he’s an outstanding person and a good student,” basketball head coach Bob Marlin said. “He has always been a solid performer. He is a winner, and this year we finally got him to shoot more, and thank goodness we did because we have struggled to score at times.”

McDaniel’s top game of the season was his 18-point performance against Texas Tech and the Red Raiders head coach Bob Knight at Johnson Coliseum. McDaniel earned Southland Conference “Player of the Week” honors after leading the Kats to a 56 – 54 victory.

“Being a Bearkat taught me a lot,” McDaniel said. “One of the most important things is that you have to do the little things to make the big things happen. When I first got here, I played strictly defense and couldn’t shoot a lick. But the coaches challenged me to become a scorer. I worked on it, did the little things like staying focused.”

An outstanding student as well, McDaniel earned ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District Six honors. District Six includes all NCAA Division I universities in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New



Shamir McDaniel

Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. McDaniel received his Sam Houston degree a year ago and has been working on his master's during his final year of competition.

For Brandon Hale, All-America offensive lineman for the Bearkats, life after Sam Houston State will include the opportunity to make every football player's dream come true.

Hale, a 6'3", 311-pound criminal justice major from Grand Prairie, signed a free agent contact with the Dallas Cowboys in April.

A reserve player as a true freshman in 2004 on Sam Houston's Southland Conference championship team, Hale started 22 games in a row the past two years at tackle. He blocked for the first two Bearkat running backs to rush for more than 1,000 yards in consecutive seasons, D. D. Terry and Chris Poullard. His blocking also paved the way for his former Grand Prairie teammate, quarterback Rhett Bomar, to rank No. 8 nationally in total offense last season.

Hale helped lead Sam Houston to back-to-back winning seasons and Southland runner-up finishes the past two years.

"Obviously, it's exciting to sign with an NFL team, especially the Cowboys," Hale said. "The success D. D. Terry had last season with the Jacksonville Jaguars shows me it can be done. I had a great experience at

Sam Houston State, making lifetime friends and getting a great education."

Senior pitcher Casey Springer from Montgomery remembers the sheer elation that overcame him the second the Bearkats won the Southland Conference Baseball Tournament last spring.

What is remarkable to Springer is the change in attitude in the Sam Houston baseball program.

A team that a few seasons ago was just trying to squeak into the Southland tournament now expects to reach that level every season.

"Making the tournament, that's our lowest expectation," Springer said. "We're not playing and competing in games just to get into the tournament now. We're playing and competing in games to become champions—Southland Conference champions, regional champions, whatever.

"I knew when Mark Johnson took over as head coach, this program would become something special. With his knowledge, his know-how, the atmosphere he creates, things were going to turn around here. But I'm surprised it happened this quickly. Surprised would be an understatement, actually."

After going eight seasons without a winning record, the baseball team has produced a 77 – 49 mark the past two years, earning back-to-back NCAA playoff berths.

"The increased fan support we've received in the new stadium has been great as well," Springer said. "Playing at home in front of more than 1,000 fans for some of our games has been really exciting."

The 2008 senior class has left Bearkat athletics with a legacy and the underclassmen following in their footsteps are excited to pick up the leadership roles.

"You learn so many things from seniors like Shamir. Just his presence of the court is a learning experience," said Ashton Mitchell, the Bearkats' starting point guard as a sophomore in 2008.

"Whenever Shamir saw something that I didn't, he would come up to me and tell me to look out for that. Defensive-wise, he is one of the best I have ever played with.

Just being on the same court with him made us a better team and me a better player," Mitchell said.

After just two years as a member of Sam Houston's championship women's track and field teams, Jessica Fisher of Houston is already the Bearkats' most decorated athlete in Southland Conference competition.

Fisher has earned All-Southland honors in 19 events in her four SLC meets including 10 gold medals. Her performances have helped lead the women to the 2007 and 2008 Indoor SLC titles, a runner-up finish outdoors in 2007, and the 2008 outdoor crown.

While she didn't have the type of meet she was hoping for at the 2008 outdoor, Fisher battled through the spring with an injury to earn three medals with a runner-up finish in the 200 meters, a third place in the 100 meter dash, and a victory in the 4x400 relay.

"I'm proud of my team, and I'm proud of myself," Fisher said. "I had a hip-flexor strain, and it's serious. Sometimes it hurts to just walk. So just for me to come out here and finish was a great accomplishment. I'm just thankful that I have such great teammates that when I can't do something, they have the heart to do it."

Fisher was a raw, untapped talent when she joined the Sam Houston State women's track and field team as a freshman in 2007. While attending high school at Houston Worthing, she wasn't the one everybody was looking to beat. But with a little help from the Bearkat coaches, Fisher is quickly running out of wall space for all the hardware she has picked up over the last year.

"I definitely wasn't expecting the kind of success I had because coming in as a freshman, I figured there were going to be a lot of upperclassmen that were going to beat me," Fisher said. "I knew I had a lot of work to do coming from high school because I was an OK sprinter, but not an elite sprinter. But it all worked out. I have excellent coaches here, and I'm still kind of shocked. It's been exciting to be part of our team's success." ★



When the 2008 Bearkat football season kicks off on Aug. 28, there will be enthusiastic cheers, uplifting music from the band, and feelings of excitement and anticipation in Bowers Stadium—all of this coming from people of different ages, colors and backgrounds, who will be supporting the Orange and White.

Sports Brings People Together Like Nothing Else

By Julia May

Whether it is in the arena as a student athlete participating in an event against a rival school or in the stands as a fan yelling encouragement for the “good guys,” athletics is one area that transcends a multitude of barriers.

While die-hard Bearkat fans would love to see all sporting events with a standing room only crowd, there is no doubt that Sam Houston State University’s teams have a loyal following across the board from students to administrators to alumni.

Alumnus Bill Hall, an attorney from Houston, says being a Bearkat is like being a member of a family, even years after you have graduated from college.

“College athletics creates opportunities for young men and women from one school to compete against those from another school,” Hall said.

“When the history major from Sam lines up across from an accounting major from another school, they are doing it because one plays for Sam and the other the opponent. What’s important is that

he has a big ‘SH’ on the side of his helmet, not whether he is African-American, Hispanic or Asian,” he said.

“Whether you are in college or have graduated, people fairly or unfairly get grouped together for any number of reasons, be it job, education, race, religion or the like. But when you meet as a group because you are supporting your school, those barriers take a back seat to supporting your team,” he explained.

“If your team is winning, you ‘high five’ the persons near you in the stands and maybe hug a few people for good measure no matter who they are. If you lose, you mourn together, trying desperately to console one another. In both instances, you are totally comfortable in striking up a conversation with someone wearing your team colors because they are family,” Hall said.

“While you see this phenomenon for high school and professional athletics, the





bond you have for your college team is like that which you have for family. Among family members, you can cuss and discuss just about anything relating to your team, but no outsider should dare talk bad about your team to your face!" he said.

"Even today, when I know that someone went to Sam Houston, my immediate reaction is not to think of them as a Sam Houston graduate but as a fellow Bearkat immersed in orange and white, ready to go tangle with SFA in anything at the drop of a hat. Most of the time, they are ready to jump in with me. The fact that they are a fellow Bearkat takes priority over what they studied in school," Hall added.

Terry Thibodeaux, professor in the communication studies department, feels academics and athletics can compliment each other.

"College athletics is an important part of the collegiate experience on any college or university campus. Students benefit greatly from their experiences in athletics, just as they do any other co-curricular activity while in college," he said.

Not only does Thibodeaux support the SHSU teams when they play at home, he has traveled to watch them in action at other universities.

"While watching our sports teams perform in Huntsville is fun, it sometimes is even more so traveling to see them represent the university in Beaumont or San Antonio or Lake Charles," he said.

"I know the students appreciate all the fans who support them, but on the road, that support is even more important," he explained.

"Riding a charter bus for 24 hours together to see the Bearkats play Florida in the NCAA basketball tournament in 2003 made life-long friends of about 50 Bearkat supporters," he said.

"I still see many of those 'Bus Buddies' rooting for the Bearkats at sports events

both here and on the road. It's a pretty cool connection that we have," he added.

Trevor Thorn, director of undergraduate admissions, describes himself as a "huge sports fan," and said attending Sam Houston sporting events gives families a chance to be together.

"The events are a great opportunity for me to spend time with my family and for my children to experience college athletics," he said.

"Also, athletic events are a great place to see and visit colleagues, who we may not ordinarily have the opportunity to meet, and their families," he said.

"Sporting events also allow Sam Houston faculty and staff to spend time with the students outside of the normal classroom or work setting and allow us to support the student athletes that we have met, taught, or just know their names," he said.

Another faculty member who is also an SHSU alumnus, professor of agricultural sciences Bobby Lane, can be seen at many Bearkat games in all sports.

"I attend Sam Houston State athletic events for several reasons. One is that I am proud of my university (class of '77) and want to be a part of as many of its excellent programs as possible," he said. "Showing my support through my attendance and my encouragement is just one way I can do that.

"I often have athletes in my classes, and I like to be able to tell them, 'Good job' following a tough battle on the field or on the court. Their performance and my observation of that performance give us some common ground with which to begin a conversation," he explained.

"During games, I love to visit with my students, former students and friends from the community. Athletic events give me the opportunity to enjoy the company of many, supporting a common cause, in a relatively brief time period," he said.

Leroy Wilkinson of Huntsville has been an observer of Bearkat sports for many, many years. He was a Bearkat baseball player in the early 1960s and now serves as color

commentator on KSAM radio for Bearkat games in a variety of sports.

"More than anything, sports draws not only a diverse university together, but also brings a diverse community together," said Wilkinson.

"During a game, we forget about who we are or what our differences are. We forget about gender, color or financial circumstances. At that time, we are all orange and white, and we are all pulling together," he said. "Nothing else creates excitement and camaraderie the way that sports does.

"The success of a university's sports teams is something that stimulates a lot of interest, even outside of that university's home state," Wilkinson said. "When you have a successful athletics program, everyone wants to be a part of it. It's great that we have a program at Sam Houston State University that unites so many individuals."

Jack Parker, SHSU's vice president for finance and operations, said, "I enjoy competition and the anticipation of victory for our young men and women. SHSU strives for excellence on and off the field."

Parker, who is also a Sam Houston State graduate, explained, "As ABC sports states 'the ecstasy of winning and the agony of defeat' are all part of athletics and a replication of the ups and downs everyone faces. Enjoying a ballgame with fellow Bearkats makes for the best of experiences."

Senior health major Jeremy Thomas, who played guard for the SHSU basketball team, has first-hand knowledge of the power of sports in bringing students together.

"As an athlete, I know that sports unites individuals because we come together to fight for our school," he said.

"We may come from different cities, backgrounds and circumstances, but





the one thing we have together in common is this university. We feel pride for Sam Houston State University, and we are proud to represent it when we compete," he said.

Charles McDowell, assistant director of the Sam Houston Press, looks at sports as an educational experience.

"I starting playing Pee Wee League Baseball at 6 years old," he said. "From that day forward, sports became a tremendous part of my life. Through my participation in sports, I learned sportsmanship and the value of teamwork. I have developed many lifelong friendships while on the field and in the bleachers.

"My Mom loves sports and never missed any of my ball games or my brother's games. Now I have the honor of taking her to the SHSU games, which means a lot to me," he said.

Karen Hlozek, an accounting clerk in the SHSU business office, who is also the mother of a Sam Houston student, explains why she is a loyal Bearkat fan.

"I attend sporting events because I love the competition!" she said. "Nothing gets your heart pumping and your body on the edge of your seat like a close-scoring game.

"Any team can win or lose on any given day," she said. "It is wonderful when your team wins and heartbreaking when they lose, but that's part of the reason I attend. I don't leave a game until it's over, regardless of how lopsided the score is," she said.

"I think we owe it to our athletes to support them, win or lose," she said. "I admire the student athletes. They are playing for the love of the game and to represent their school, not because they are making millions of dollars. Between practice, watching film, travel and the actual games, they miss out on a lot of a 'typical' college life experience."

SHSU Vice President for Student Services Frank Parker says that having one goal — winning — keeps us focused on our similarities and not our differences.

"Sports gives all of us the opportunity to live the struggle for victory through the athlete," Parker said. "There is no greater 'rush' than winning, and sports brings us all together to help strike a blow against the arch rival. We all have a competitive side, and nothing unites people like a victory or a struggle."

Parker also likes the effect sports has on uniting Sam Houston students.

"Athletic events involve so many different areas of campus at one time," he said. "from the music to cheerleaders and the dance team. The fraternities participate through their attendance and placing letters in the stadium, student organizations are represented, as well as alumni, residence hall groups, etc. They all have a part in making a game successful.

"As an administrator in the Division of Student Affairs, I can tell you that witnessing student excitement, school spirit, and student involvement all working together personifies what we try to accomplish each day," he said.

There is probably no better example of how the Bearkat spirit brings and keeps people together over the years than Toby Gates.

The former Bearkat basketball player, who has been a tremendous supporter of the Sam Houston State athletic program for almost three-quarters of a century, recently celebrated his 90th birthday with a surprise party attended by numerous former student-athletes.

Gates and his wife, Melba, a teacher in the university's English department, made friends with countless students who came through the university's athletics program.

"He was an institutional memory of every athlete who ever came through Sam,"

said John McManners, past president of the SHSU Alumni Association. "You could name any student in the athletics program, and he could tell you what year he came through, how well he did, whether he was married or not, and how many kids he has now."

Even now, although Gates isn't able to make as many games as he would like, you might see him in the Coliseum watching his beloved Bearkats after all these years. ★





Christopher Whitaker, Daniel Walters and Nick Lineback

Going Krazy For The Kats

By Jennifer Gauntt

You may not know them, and if you don't, you have to look no further than the Bernard G. Johnson Coliseum on game night to meet them.

They will be the ones painted orange (with the obligatory wig), leading the chants in the stands behind the 4-by-14-foot, 16-gage steel sign.

They have been “shut down” by the refs, caught “stealing” trophies, attacked by Lumberjacks and embraced by the Bearkat sports community.

They are the “Kat Krazies,” a group of students devoted to showing their school spirit and keeping the crowd amped up during sporting events.

“We had always noticed that unlike other universities, Sam Houston’s crowd wasn’t really where it should be, especially considering where our basketball program is,” said Kat Krazies co-founder Christopher Whitaker. “There is really a stark difference.

“We should really have a huge, ginormous, rowdy, spirited crowd because our basketball team kicks so much butt during the year, and to sort of have the crowd go (half-heartedly) ‘yay’ at the end didn’t really jive.”

Formed during the fall 2007 semester, they met on Katfans.com and debuted with the now infamous (for basketball fans) “sign” during the Stephen F. Austin home game.

The six “essentially destroyed” the sign, their “centerpiece,” that night by hitting it with drumsticks, and a second sign was later donated to them by an alumnus.

“It was probably once we got the sign out that Kat Krazies really became a lot more noticeable,” Whitaker said. “The aluminum sign was loud, but once we started using the (rubber) hammers for the UTA game, we were hard to ignore, especially when we are all painted out and in our orange wigs.

“It gets pretty loud,” he said. “We hope it makes it a more difficult place to play.”

Their noise certainly has caught the attention of at least one referee, who actually stopped play and told them to quit within the first minute of one women’s game. A second time, during a men’s game, the same



Daniel Walters, Ryan Bridges, Christopher Whitaker and Ron Kiser stand behind broadcaster Kooter Roberson at a Bearkat basketball game.

ref allowed them to beat on the sign until halftime and then shut them down.

“School spirit—that gets us in trouble,” said Ryan Bridges, Kat Krazies other co-founder.

Despite a few mishaps with the refs and a few questionable looks from bystanders, the Krazies have otherwise been well embraced by the SHSU community.

The athletics department has allowed them to store the heavy sign at the coliseum and will allow them to move it to Bowers Stadium for football season.

During senior night, instead of painting the usual “K-A-T-S-!” on their chests, they created “jerseys” with the paint, complete with senior numbers and the stripe down their sides, a feat that took more than an hour and a half, according to Whitaker.

“It worked out really well,” he said. “After the game, we have a picture where we stood beside our players, and the players wore our wigs. It was a really neat picture.”

They have even worked with Sammy on several skits, including one in which they “steal” the Piney Woods trophy. While filming, they were caught with the trophy by a Lowman Student Center staff member before Sammy “saved the day.”

“If you’re not hoarse by the end of the game, you’re doing something wrong.”

—Ryan Bridges, Kat Krazies co-founder

They haven’t received quite the warm welcome when they travel to away games, being put on warning at the Southland Conference tournament before the game even began and being attacked by Lumberjacks at the game in Nacogdoches.

“They weren’t impressed with it (their display at the SFA game),” Bridges said. “They stole my wig and two other guys’ wigs. They were throwing stuff at us the entire game. We really didn’t care; we just tried to stay alive.”

Now that they are growing in notoriety, name recognition and size, they will take their antics to the football games this fall.

Pre-game, they will tailgate under a pavilion they have bought and spread the “kraziness” by “painting up” any Bearkat fan who wants to join them.

Being a Krazy doesn’t come without rules, though.

Krazies must wear an inordinate amount of orange (“the wig helps”) and be willing to stand and “scream your lungs out” throughout the entire game.

“If you’re not hoarse by the end of the game, you’re doing something wrong,” Bridges said. “We had to take cough drops to most of the basketball games because our throats were killing us by the end.”

Additionally, as representatives of the university who sometimes appear on TV, you must remain “family-friendly” in your cheers and jeers.

“We do stress to keep it clean,” Whitaker said. “If you have to curse, your taunt fails for lack of creativity.”

“We want people to have fun at games, win or lose,” Bridges said. “We want you to have fun there, and hopefully we’re contributing to the game-day environment.” ★

Sam Houston State University received exciting news in May when administrators learned that the university's board of regents had approved construction of a new multi-purpose Performing Arts Center. For the latest news about Sam Houston State University, log on to www.shsu.edu/today@sam.



Balasundram Maniam, Barry Friedman, Vic Sower and Jim F. Gaertner, *President*

Maniam, Friedman, Sower Are 2008 Faculty Excellence Award Winners

Two business professors and a physicist have been honored for their teaching, service and research skills as the 2008 Faculty Excellence Award winners.

General business and finance professor Balasundram Maniam is the recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award. He received the Excellence in Research award in 2003.

Physics professor Barry Friedman is the Excellence in Research award winner. In the past 10 years, he has received almost a half million dollars in grants, including five from

the National Science Foundation and the Texas High Education Coordinating Board's Advanced Research Program.

Management professor Vic Sower has become the second SHSU professor to win all three "excellence" awards after earning this year's Excellence in Service award. He previously won the Excellence in Teaching award in 1996 and the Excellence in Research award in 2001.

Each of the recipients was awarded a \$5,000 prize. ★

Provost Wins Pacesetter Award

David E. Payne, provost and vice president for academic affairs, has been selected as the recipient of the 2008 Pacesetter Award from the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA).

The award is presented to one administrator annually who exemplifies a commitment to academic advising and who has proven to be a true advocate for students and advisers. ★



Harman To Direct New Center

Marsha J. Harman, professor of psychology, has been named the director of the new Professional and Academic Center for Excellence at SHSU.

The center, open to faculty, staff and students, is designed to help improve teaching at the university, offer opportunities to improve skills and job satisfaction, and offer seminars to encourage professional development.

The center is scheduled to open at the beginning of the fall 2008 semester. ★

Report Confirms Textbook Cost Concerns

A report by the SHSU Office of the Vice President for Student Services and the Student Government Association confirms what students have been saying for years—textbook price increases across the nation have far outpaced standard inflationary increases, resulting in a rising and unrelenting financial burden on college students and their families.

The report was compiled at the request of The Texas State University System to address students concerns. The findings are based on a survey of students and faculty from component universities in the system, including Angelo State (now part of the Texas Tech System), Lamar University, Lamar Institute of Technology, Lamar State College-Port Arthur, Lamar State College-Orange, Texas State University-San Marcos, and SHSU.

“From our research, we determined that there is no one decisive solution for the problem,” said Frank Parker, vice president for student services. “However, we are encouraged that several solutions are available to help reduce the cost of textbooks, and through the report we’ve offered recommendations for action.” ★

Astros Teammates Include SHSU Researchers

The Houston Astros are “playing green” this year, and SHSU’s biodiesel research program is in the starting lineup.

The ‘Stro’s launched their Play Green™ campaign on April 22, which includes several environmental initiatives for the team and Minute Maid Park. At that game, SHSU students participated in displays relating to their research.

SHSU is providing biodiesel fuel to the Astros ground crew this season to use in two TORO mowers and a John Deere tractor. The Astros will also be working with SHSU to gather scientific data related to engine performance as they make the switch from diesel to biodiesel fuel.

Doug Kingman, assistant professor of agricultural sciences, is director of the biodiesel research project. ★



Study Links Obesity With Poor Grades

Two new statistical studies by SHSU educational leadership and counseling researchers have found a new risk that could potentially be correlated with childhood obesity: poor grades.

The studies, conducted by professor John R. Slate, doctoral student David Clark and Slate’s wife, Gina Viglietti, found that across racial lines, students whose body mass indexes place them into the obese category are more likely to do poorly in not only

teacher-assigned grading and conduct, but state-administered testing as well.

While studies in this area have been conducted nationally that produced similar findings related to academic achievement, Slate said he didn’t “know of any study that’s looked at teacher-assigned grades or state-mandated assessments like we did and to find that consistent gap between the obese kids and non-obese kids.” ★



Brady Announces Crime Lab Project

U.S. Congressman Kevin Brady (R-The Woodlands) has announced that more than \$1.5 million has been approved for a Sam Houston State University Regional Crime Lab which will serve communities in a 75-mile wide area.

This grant allows SHSU to build a Rural Crime Laboratory that will provide local law enforcement such services as identification of controlled substances, toxicology screening and fingerprint matching.

The funding allows SHSU — one of the nation’s foremost criminal justice universities — to build a regional crime lab and utilize its expertise in forensic science while partnering with Walker County to build a Rural Crime Laboratory that will provide vital services to local law enforcement. ★



Book Could Improve Hospital Quality

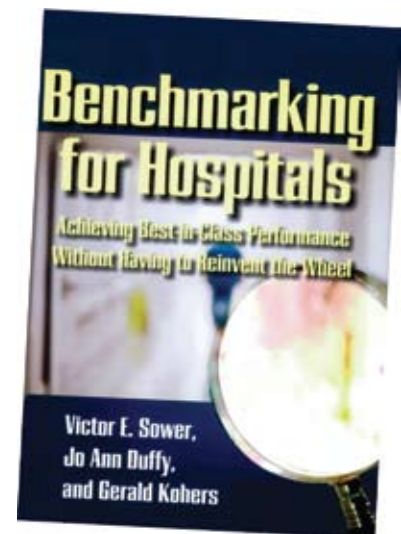
Sam Houston State University doesn’t have a medical school, but three of its management and marketing professors can tell you a lot about how to run a hospital.

Vic Sower, Jo Ann Duffy and Gerald Kohers found out that, for various reasons, patient satisfaction with hospitals is falling. So they wrote a book to help solve some of their problems through use of a management concept called “benchmarking.”

Benchmarking is a process in which an organization measures its strategies,

operations or internal process performance against best-in-class organizations within or even outside its industry.

The book is called *Benchmarking for Hospitals: Achieving Best-in-Class Performance Without Having to Reinvent the Wheel*. It’s available from the American Society for Quality’s Quality Press online at <http://www.asq.org/quality-press>. ★



Statue Honors Former SHSU First Lady



President Jim Gaertner, Linda Rushing, Charles Rushing, College of Education Dean Genevieve Brown

Inside the College of Education at Sam Houston State University students work at learning how to be great classroom teachers. Just outside the building is a new tribute to most students' favorite school period—recess—and to a former SHSU first lady.

On April 1 the Sam Houston State University College of Education dedicated a statue of a boy pushing a girl on a swing in memory of Frances Handley Bowers. Her daughter, Linda Bowers Rushing, and her son-in-law, Charles, donated the statue.

Frances Handley Bowers was a Huntsville resident for more than 50 years. She came to Sam Houston State Teachers College as a drum major for the Bearkat Marching Band and earned her bachelor's degree and two master's degrees from the university.

She also taught, mainly the fifth grade, within the Huntsville school district for 25 years and was active in the Huntsville community through civic organizations after she retired from teaching.

She served as the university's "first lady" during the administration of Elliott T. Bowers from 1970 – 1989. ★

Retired Faculty Member Gives Big

Although Professor Emeritus Paul Reed is a graduate and fan of the University of Notre Dame, he has come to love the university where he taught management in the College of Business Administration for 23 years before retiring in 2006.

He recently donated \$42,000 to SHSU to establish the Emily J. and Paul R. Reed Human Resource Management Endowment. This gift is in addition to the one he and his wife, Jan, donated to establish the

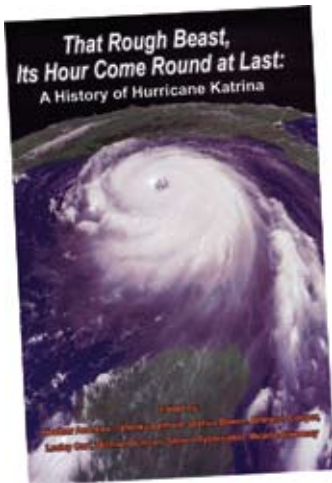
Helen Cochran Gilliland Human Resource Management Endowment Fund in 1999.

Over the years, the Reeds have made donations totaling almost \$100,000 to the scholarship funds and such areas as the volleyball program, the honors program, and the Smith-Hutson Business Building addition.

"I've been blessed to have worked here with such wonderful faculty, students and administrators," Reed said. "I'm so happy to be able to give something back." ★



Students Chronicle Katrina In Book



Students in English professor Paul Ruffin’s editing and publishing class have written and edited a book on the costliest hurricane ever to strike the United States and one of the most deadly in terms of human life.

That Rough Beast, Its Hour Come Round at Last follows Hurricane Katrina from its beginning as a tropical wave in the Atlantic through its eventual dissipation off the coast of eastern Canada.

Though a number of books have been written about Katrina, this book shows never-before-published pictures of the damage of the storm and presents interviews with victims who survived Katrina but lost nearly everything they owned.

Ruffin’s English 533 class this fall will produce a book on the impact of Katrina on churches along the Mississippi Coast, complete with before-and-after photographs, the history of the restoration of the churches, and interviews with ministers and members of the congregations.

Copies of *That Rough Beast, Its Hour Come Round at Last* may be purchased from the Texas Review Office, 152 Evans Building on campus, by phoning 936.294.1992, or through the Texas A&M Consortium, at 800.826.8911. It is also available online at amazon.com. ★

Student Personal Financial Education Center To Open

With the average college student graduating college with \$36,000 in student loans and \$4,500 in credit card debt, SHSU has taken action to ensure that its students have a firm understanding of personal finances.

Opening this fall, the Student Personal Financial Education Center will provide information on a broad range of money matters—including budgeting, retirement planning, identity theft and avoiding credit card debt—through seminars guest lecturers, interactive workshops, one-on-one confidential counseling, and other activities.

“There’s a direct link between the ability of students to stay in school and graduate and their finances,” said Kristy

Vienne, center director. “Students come in their freshman year, rack up credit card debt, max out their loans, and if they get in over their heads, a lot of times they have to quit school to go back to work.

“There was a genuine concern on my part that we needed to do something about this,” she said. “It’s an epidemic that’s not going away.”

The center was approved in November 2007, when the Texas State University System Board of Regents allowed SHSU to create a separate \$12 per semester fee that will fund both the Bearkat OneCard services and the center. ★



'Let's Talk!' Raises \$55,600 For Honors Program



Ron Koska and Marcus Luttrell

More than 230 alumni, friends and community members raised \$55,600 in scholarships at the first "Let's Talk!" dinner March 27, and everyone had so much fun that an encore date has already been set for next year.

The event held in the Lowman Student Center Ballroom benefited the Elliott T. Bowers Honors Program. Next year's "Let's Talk!" will take place March 26, 2009, in

the same location.

"Let's Talk!" is designed to help revive the vanishing art of conversation," said Nancy Gaertner, who chaired the event. "We hope it will become one of the most anticipated fundraisers in Huntsville."

During the first "Let's Talk!" there was a cocktail hour followed by a seated dinner and lots of lively conversation, followed by dessert and coffee.

More than 23 interesting and accomplished persons served as discussion leaders at tables of 10. Marcus Luttrell, former Navy SEAL and former SHSU student who wrote a New York Times best seller—*Lone Survivor*—about his daring rescue in Afghanistan, received a standing ovation when he was introduced.

Other topics included forensic science, the economy, challenges in higher education, Saddam Hussein's regime, as well as art, music, sports and more.

In addition to the \$100 per person ticket price, sponsorships were sold at levels of \$25,000, \$5,000, and \$2,500. The Sam Houston Foundation was the sole platinum (\$25,000) sponsor.

Silver (\$5,000) sponsors included Robert and Erin Steele, Bennie and Martee Rush and Jack and Kathleen Staggs.

Bronze (\$2,500) sponsors included the John G. and Marie Stella Kenedy Memorial Foundation, Inc., Huntsville Memorial Hospital, Ron and Donna Koska, Jack Heard, Jr. and Mac Woodward, Howard and Diane Payne, Texas State University System regent Trisha S. Pollard, and Dan and Eloise Leonard. ★

Faculty, Staff Giving Sets New Record

Although the Faculty/Staff Annual Fund Campaign continues through the end of the year, through the active phase, which ended Nov. 16, a total of 1,186 donors gave or pledged \$157,000. Last year 900 employees contributed \$146,000 through the same period.

Units with 100 percent participation included Academic Affairs, Student Services,

the President's Office, the College of Education, and University Advancement.

The unit with the highest participation increase, more than doubling their participation from 99 donors last year donors to 212 this year, was Finance and Operations. The College of Business Administration was recognized as the division with the most dollars raised—\$34,905. ★

Regents Approve \$38.5 Million Performing Arts Center

A new \$38.5 million Performing Arts Center, described by Sam Houston State University president Jim Gaertner as “transformational for our university,” has been approved by the university’s regents.

Construction could begin as early as September 2008, pending approval of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Bond Review Board. Completion is estimated in the fall of 2010.

The new building will be constructed on the parking lots just north of the Music Building and University Theatre Center, uniting the three into a Fine Arts Complex.

Features of the 91,976 square foot facility include a recital hall of approximately 150 seats, a concert hall of approximately 800 seats, a centerpiece outdoor performance area, practice rooms for dance and music, rehearsal rooms for theater, costume storage, and offices.

Gaertner called the project “one of the biggest things that has occurred on our campus since I’ve been here.” He believes the students who perform will appreciate the facility as well as those who attend events, and that it will become a cultural center for residents of Walker and surrounding counties.

“We have absolutely world-class performing arts programs here but our venues are simply unacceptable,” Gaertner said. “We’ve reached a stage where we deserve to have a venue that will be a tremendous asset for our campus, the community and the area.”

The primary users of the facility are components of the College of Arts and Sciences.

“The performing arts are an integral part of every university community,” said Jaimie Hebert, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “We are fortunate to have

nationally-recognized programs in our fine arts departments at SHSU. This new facility will allow us to showcase these top quality programs and provide a fitting venue to market and share our faculty and students’ talents with the campus and community.”

“The building will tie the Music Building to the University Theatre Center and brings dance into the mix,” said James Bankhead, who chairs the Department of Music. “It will be a major step toward forging a School of the Arts. It will be great place for social gatherings and events.”

Bankhead said the center “will put us in a league with the best schools in the state.

“It will be a place of learning, building, developing talent and sharing ourselves and our art with everyone,” he said. ★

An architectural rendering of the new Performing Arts Center.





BOMAR READY FOR SEASON

By Jason Barfield

An hour before the Annual Orange/White game this past spring, the first Bearkat football player comes walking down the ramp toward the field at Bowers Stadium. Dressed in a T-shirt and shorts, he starts going through some agility drills.

It was similar to what you would see any football player doing before playing a game. The only difference was he wasn't playing that day. It was just another typical morning in the rehabilitation process.

It had been five and a half months since Sam Houston State quarterback Rhett Bomar tore his anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee against Nicholls State on Nov. 3 of last season. Ever since that day, Bomar has been traveling a path he never envisioned he would be on.

"I have been around guys who have had this, but never paid attention to the rehab they were going through because you never think it will happen to you," Bomar said, "This is the first major injury I've ever had."

A few weeks later he was on the operating table when another surprise came his way. It turned out the ACL injury wasn't the only thing wrong with Bomar's knee. Doctors found a tear in the patella tendon as well.

"I had some soreness in my knee for two years that I thought was just tendinitis, but it turned out I had a tear in my patella tendon and they fixed that as well," he said.

The middle of May marked a big point in Bomar's rehab process. Just as he was getting ready to finish finals he also hit the six-month mark from his surgery.

"They say the rehab time for an injury like this is 6 – 9 months, so I am right at that point," he said. "If I really wanted to push it, I could have been ready to play right now. But as it is, I will be ready to go when camp starts."

"It has not been a fun process. I wouldn't wish this on anybody. It is a grueling process, and I have been doing it for four to five days a week for six months now."

Bomar said the time after the surgery was one of the toughest for him. The football team was peaking right at the end of the season, but instead of being on the field, he had to watch as senior Brett Hicks capped

off a five-game winning streak to finish out the year.

In the season finale, Hicks engineered a fourth quarter comeback against Texas State-San Marcos to lead the Kats to a 29-28 victory that was televised by Fox Sports Net Southwest.

"I had to sit there and watch the only TV game we get all year, and it was tough not playing in it," Bomar said. "It has been a rough couple of years for me. After playing a full year and then sitting a full year I was glad to be playing again. And then to get hurt and have to miss the last two and a half games was tough. The game I got hurt in, I felt like I was playing one of my best games. We were moving the ball, and I felt very comfortable."

At the same time, Bomar was beginning to cement himself as the leader of the Bearkat team. He spent his first season watching SHSU compile a 6 – 5 record, waiting for the chance to take over the team. He started taking snaps as the No. 1 quarterback the following spring, and immediately the team started to take note of his leadership abilities and his work ethic.

Bomar said that was the point where he started to feel like it was becoming his team.

"Coming into a new place it takes time to establish yourself as a leader, especially not playing the first year," he said. "But last spring I think I took a big step toward that role. But you have to do it on the field and earn the guys' respect in a game."

Bomar took it to the next level in the third game of the season last year. The Kats traveled to North Dakota State to take on the No. 4-ranked Bison. In that game, he passed

ON TO START

“Especially after getting hurt last year, I am looking forward to getting out there and playing again. I want go out there from the first game on and come out firing and never slow down.”

— Rhett Bomar

for 358 yards and ran for another 103. He led a fourth-quarter rally scoring two touchdowns in the final minutes including one with 26 seconds left to take the lead.

North Dakota State came back to score with seven ticks left on the clock for a 41-38 victory. Despite the loss, Bomar said the game against the Bison was a big one for him and the team.

“We didn’t do much the first two games,” he said about the Kats’ two opening wins against Angelo State and Arkansas Monticello. “We kind of held things back and didn’t show much until then. That was the most fun I had, because we opened it up offensively. It gave me a chance to show off my abilities against a good opponent, and I think that was one of the best games I ever played.”

Bearkat head football coach Todd Whitten agreed.

“He just had a phenomenal game,” the coach said. “He really took that game over with a dominating performance. I think the team saw something in him they had never seen before.”

What they saw, and what more than 18,000 fans in the Fargodome saw, was one of the best performances ever by a Sam Houston State quarterback. It was the fourth-best single game for a Bearkat quarterback in school history. He passed for 358 yards and four touchdowns and ran for another 103 yards. He put up 461 yards of total offense and in the process became the first SHSU quarterback to pass for 300 yards and run for 100 in the same game.

He finished the year with 2,209 yards, the fifth-best single season mark in school history, and 406 yards rushing. He also accounted for 17 touchdowns, including 10 through the air.

The big question he faces now, as he begins to prepare for his senior year, is will he be the same type of quarterback he has always been. One of the things that made Bomar the No. 1 quarterback recruit in the nation coming out of Grand Prairie High School was his versatility. Bomar poses a dual threat in the backfield, which makes him very tough to defend.

Despite the knee surgery, he doesn’t see that changing.

“Everyone asks if I am going to be able to run,” he said. “I don’t think anything is going to change. I am sprinting now, and it is feeling fine. You see guys come back all the time from surgeries like this.”

Whitten doesn’t think Rhett would have it any other way.

“I don’t think he could be a pocket passer,” Whitten said. “That is not his personality. He is a great athlete, and his work ethic is so good that he will force himself to get back to the form he was before the injury.”

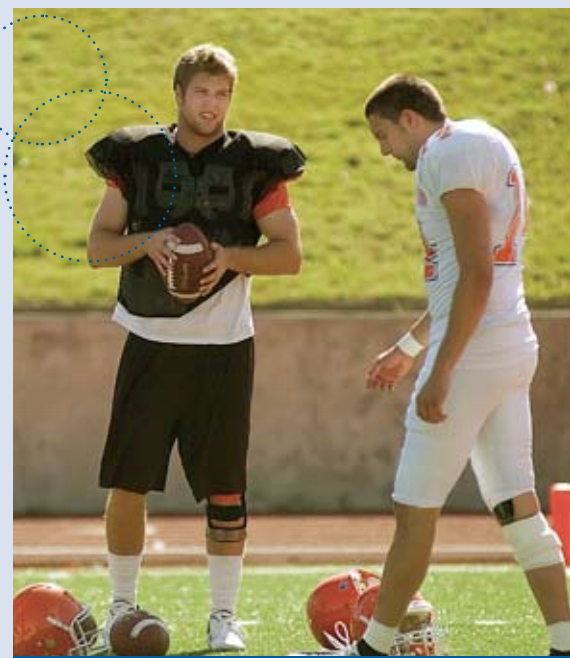
Bomar knows the last hurdle he will have to clear will be the mental aspect of recovering from the injury.

“I am looking forward to that first hit,” the senior said. “You worry about what is going to happen if you cut this way or get hit. They say after you get that first hit you are OK, and you don’t worry about it anymore.”

It has been four years since the Bearkats made the playoffs and a run to the I-AA semifinals. Bomar thinks this team has the ability to be just as good if everything comes together.

“I think we have a chance to have a good season,” he said. “Especially after getting hurt last year, I am looking forward to getting out there and playing again. I want go out there from the first game on and come out firing and never slow down.”

The Bearkats will open the season at home on Aug. 28 against East Central Oklahoma and then welcome Prairie View A&M to Bowers Stadium on Sept. 13 for Parent/Family Weekend. ★



Rhett Bomar and Ryan Hinojoza

Bearkats Win Conference Tournament ... Again!



Senior baseball players hoist the conference championship trophy at the Southland Tournament.

For the second year in a row and the fifth time in school history, Sam Houston State earned an NCAA Division I baseball playoff berth in 2008.

The Bearkats swept unbeaten through the Southland Conference post-season tournament held at Don Sanders Stadium in Huntsville. Sam Houston defeated No. 2 seed Lamar 15 – 7 in the finals.

In the NCAA Regional in Houston, the Kats battled No. 1 seed Rice to the last out, falling 3 – 2. Sam Houston fell to the No. 2 seeded Texas Longhorns in the second round.

The NCAA Regional appearance capped another outstanding season for coach Mark Johnson's baseball team. In his two years, Johnson has directed Sam Houston to 40 wins in 2007 and 37 victories in 2008.

Those 77 victories represent the most wins by a Bearkat team in consecutive seasons since SHSU won 45 and 44 games in 1986 and 1987.

Sam Houston rolled up its 37 – 25 won-loss mark in 2008 in record setting fashion. The Bearkats set both school and Southland Conference records with a team

batting average of .335 and 457 RBIs. Other team school records established this season include most hits (740), doubles (144), triples (25), and most at bats (2,212).

Six Bearkats earned All-Southland Conference honors. Third baseman Seth Hammock, outfielder Keith Stein, and designated hitter Bobby Verbick were first team selections. Outfielder Todd Sebek was second team All-SLC, and infielder Jamie Rohlmeier and pitcher Dallas Gallant were honorable mention selections.

Hammock (.380) was the Bearkat's leading hitter. The junior has 12 home runs and 56 RBIs to his credit.

Verbick (.343) was named Southland Conference post-season tournament Most Valuable Player. The senior led Sam Houston with 14 home runs.

Stein ended his two years as a Bearkat with a .379 career batting average, the highest in school history. Stein hit .355 for the 2008 season with 24 doubles, six triples, 10 home runs, and 58 RBIs.

Sebek, a third team All-America selection by Collegiate Baseball Magazine

and a member of the NCAA Regional All-Tournament team, hit .357 in 2008. As the Kats' leadoff hitter, the senior outfielder started the season with a 20-game hitting streak and had an 18-hitting streak end in the semifinals of the SLC tournament.

With the loss of NCAA Division I "Closer of the Year" Luke Pihoda to graduation and All-Southland Conference Jacob Howard to an early season injury, Sam Houston had to rely on a young pitching staff in 2008.

Dallas, Gallant, an NCAA Division I Freshman All-America honoree, emerged as a leader on the mound. Gallant was 9 – 4 for the year, going 7 – 1 in Southland Conference regular season action. The Trinity product picked up two victories in the Southland tournament and threw a complete game against the Rice Owls in NCAA play.

Verbick, Hammock, shortstop Ryan Weber, Stein, and Gallant all were named to the 2008 Southland Conference post-season all-tournament team. ★

SHSU Stays 'On Track' With Winning Record



Chris Cralle



Tiffany Singleton

For the third time in the past four years, Sam Houston State won the Southland Conference Women's Outdoor Track and Field championships at the York Track Events Center at Bowers Stadium May 9 – 11. Sam Houston finished with 175.5 points, well ahead of Texas State-San Marcos (148.5) and Stephen F. Austin State (124.83).

The Bobcats led Sam Houston 112.5 points to 76.5 heading into the running finals. But the speedy Kats soon caught and passed the field.

First, Tiana Lee, Jessica Fisher, Dess Meek and Regina Offord won the 4x100 relay. Then Lee, Jordan Heggie, and Tywanisha Spiller finished third, fifth, and sixth, respectively, in the 100-meter hurdles. Tiffany Singleton won the 400-meter dash and Desiree Taylor placed

fifth in the same event to whittle the lead to 12 points.

Meek won the NCAA regional high jump championship on May 31 to earn a berth in the NCAA National Meet. At nationals, she finished 16th.

Fisher and Offord put the Bearkats ahead to stay with third and fifth place finishes, respectively, in the 100-meter dash. Singleton later teamed with Brittany Henson, Monika May and Desiree Taylor to put the exclamation point on the team title with a gold-medal performance in the 4 X 400-relay to close the meet. It was SHSU's fifth SLC women's track and field title (2005, 2006, and 2007 outdoor and 2007 and 2008 indoor).

The Bearkat men and women turned in 17 NCAA regional qualifying times. Event winners included Lee (400-meter hurdles),

Allison Ferries (3,000-meter steeplechase) and Kendall Bass (shot put).

Fourteen Bearkat women earned All-Southland Conference honors by placing in the top three of their individual events. Lee, Fisher, and Meek led the team with All-SLC honors in three events.

Sam Houston's men placed fourth in the team competition. Lane Dennis, Darryl Hayes, George Whitney, and Michael Courtney won the 440-relay and Courtney also won the 400-meter dash.

Chris Cralle won the hammer with a Southland Conference record throw of 200 feet, two inches. Cralle placed 14th in the hammer, and Dennis 24th in the 400 meter hurdles in the NCAA National Meet. ★

Mafrige's Latest Gift Honors Sculptor, Soldier



Ron Mafrige and Jim Gaertner, *President*

BY FRANK KRYSYNYIAK

Throughout his life Ron Mafrige has had many interests. He has been an athlete, a U.S. Army officer and a business student, graduate and business owner. He has been successful personally and now is sharing that success with Sam Houston State University in an unprecedented way with contributions that mirror those diverse interests.

His latest gift to the university represents only a small part of the more than \$2 million he has given in the past 14 years—\$40,000 for a statue of Gen. Sam Houston—but it was done in typical Mafrige style. He didn't just go out and buy any old statue that the university could put his name on.

The Sam Houston statue is a 20-foot replica of the 67-foot "Tribute to Courage" that SHSU alum and renowned large media sculptor David Adickes presented to the city of Huntsville 15 years ago, and which stands on Interstate 45 on the southern edge of the city.

Mafrige said he was making the gift to honor Adickes and M. B. Etheredge of Huntsville, a former SHSU athlete and our

country's highest decorated surviving soldier of World War II.

Calling attention to others through his gifts to Sam Houston State is a theme of Mafrige philanthropy.

In 1994 he endowed a scholarship in the College of Business Administration in the name of Glenn Adams, one of his classmates who also served as president of his company. Mafrige earned his business degree in 1960.

Although Mafrige enrolled at Texas A&M to play football before transferring to Sam Houston State, his next donation was a tribute to the many baseball athletes he has admired. It was a collection of baseball memorabilia that includes items from some of the greatest names in the history of the sport—Mickey Mantle, Rogers Hornsby, Joe DiMaggio, Bob Feller and Hank Aaron.

That exhibit is encased just outside the Ron and Linda Mafrige Auditorium in the College of Business Administration.

Other donations indicate Mafrige's broad interests—historical items relating to Gen. Sam Houston and Santa Anna, a priceless "Gone With the Wind" collection now in the Theatre Center, and a boxing glove signed by both Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier.

Other individuals who have been recognized by his contributions include long-time and now-retired football coach Ron Randleman, business dean R. Dean Lewis, long-time business vice president Jack Parker and a number of former professors. The Athletics Complex strength and fitness center is named in honor of Randleman and the field house for Mafrige.

So why has Mafrige deflected attention away from himself and toward others in many of his gifts? This is his explanation.

"Quite honestly, I think people don't 'get it' if they think that life is just for them," Mafrige said. "You must give back.

I don't know how anyone can measure contributions to mankind, but I wanted to give back, and the people that I have honored are all people who have given back."

One of Mafrige's greatest gifts has been his service as national chair for the university's first-ever capital campaign, which has raised more than 80 percent of its \$50 million goal only two years into a five-year campaign.

When he agreed to chair the campaign, Mafrige also revealed a bit more of why he has been so generous to Sam Houston State.

"I love this university," he told those attending the campaign kick-off dinner. "The measure of an individual is largely what is left behind for your fellow man. I can't think of a better way to do that than to help young people get an education."

In addition to his monetary support, Mafrige serves on the COBA Advisory Council, the President's Circle, and the Sam Houston Memorial Museum board. He is a member of Delta Tau Delta and a Life Endowed member of the Alumni Association.

In appreciation, SHSU has presented Mafrige with the Alumni Service Award, the Distinguished Alumni Award, and selection as one of the College of Business Administration's first inductees into its hall of honor.

Sam Houston State is not the only beneficiary of Mafrige's generosity. He has served on almost 30 charity boards, most in the Houston area. Other organizations receiving his time and monetary support have included the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, San Marcos Baptist Academy, the Make-A-Wish foundation, M. D. Anderson, the George Bush Presidential Library, Chapelwood United Methodist Church, Delta Tau Delta fraternity, the Mystic Shrine Temple of Houston and the U.S. Army Retired Reserves.

One of his favorite charities has been the Recycled Baseball Items (RBI) foundation of Houston, which in January presented him their Nash Community Leader Award. Jim Gaertner, SHSU president, introduced Mafrige at that award ceremony.

"Ron is truly a 'hero' at our university," said Gaertner. "He was there before anyone else, and continues to make things possible at Sam Houston State that otherwise we could not have done. He has made a tremendous difference with his life." ★



Lettermen Support SHSU Long After Playing Days End

Over the years Sam Houston State athletes have given a lot on the fields and courts and they continue to give even after leaving the campus.

The Sam Houston State Lettermen Association got its start in the 1920s, making it the oldest Sam Houston State alumni group. While they have always been supportive in spirit, in 1992 they began making monetary contributions as well.

In that year the Lettermen Association made its first cash contribution of just under \$1,800, designated for use by the university's athletics programs.

The association has announced that this year their contribution will be at least \$10,000, which will bring their total given in the past 16 years to almost \$105,000.

"These funds have come from an annual golf tournament and the support of a group of donors, contributors and players that have come

back every year for the fun, fellowship and competition," said Jack Kyle, who has served in a number of Lettermen Association offices.

"This financial support would not have been possible had it not been for the folks that participated over the years," said Kyle. "We would encourage other organizations and individuals to look for ways to support the university."

The Lettermen have also been supportive in other ways, establishing a Hall of Honor program in 1971. This past year they joined the Sam Houston SH Association to induct both women and men for the first time.

The 2008 SH Association Hall of Honor induction ceremony has been scheduled for Dec. 6. ★

Samuel Houston Society Dinner Set

The Fourth Annual Samuel Houston Society dinner will take place on Friday, Nov. 14.

The event will begin with a 6:30 p.m. reception, followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m.

The Samuel Houston Society was organized in 2003 to honor the individuals and organizations that have made the

university a part of their philanthropic service. This year, those who have donated \$2,500 or more in the fiscal year beginning Sept. 1, 2007, are invited to join.

For more information, contact the development office at Sam Houston State University at 936.294.3625. ★

Game ... Set ... Match!

BY JENNIFER GAUNT

Matching Gifts Provide Great Way To Maximize Donations

When alumna Megan Burnham was selected as one of the first six women to ever be inducted into Sam Houston State University's Hall of Honor last year as a two-time Lone Star Conference tennis champion, she and her father Robert Burnham became motivated to contribute to the university.

The result was the establishment of the Megan Burnham Women's Tennis Endowment Fund, which will support the team "in any way it can."

"As we drove through the university, it brought back great memories of playing tennis and achieving a bachelor's, a master's and an administrative certification in education," she said. "I attended school on a full scholarship, and I wanted to be sure that opportunity was available for others."

When making the contribution, the Burnhams utilized SHSU's matching gifts program.

Through the program, companies affiliated with those who give add to the donation and double, triple or even quadruple the gift, according to Cindy Truax, director of annual giving.

The matching gifts program is an easy way to get more mileage out of any donation, whether it is giving an annual donation, establishing an endowment or scholarship, or pledging to the Capital Campaign, Truax said.

Participants simply fill out a matching gift form, usually available through their human resources department or the company's Web site, and send the form in with the gift.



The Burnham Family — Clay, Neal, Megan, Lyssa and Doug

Thousands of companies of all sizes and across the country participate in program, Truax said.

Some of these companies include ExxonMobil, State Farm Insurance, Shell Oil, Dow, Chevron Texaco, Chase—JP Morgan Chase, Baker Hughes, Anadarko, Hewitt Associates, Wells Fargo, Halliburton, AT&T, Entergy, Blue Bell, Coca Cola, General Electric, Bank of America and Allstate Insurance.

In the Burnhams' case, Highland Resources, the George R. Brown Partnership and the Brown Foundations made matching contributions.

These companies will match gifts of all sizes, from \$25 to \$25,000.

"If someone gives a \$100 gift, matching one-to-one, that becomes \$200," Truax said. "If someone gives a \$250 gift and they work for ExxonMobil (a three-to-one company), that's a \$1000 gift.

"It's an easy way to increase your gift amount, and you receive recognition for the full amount," she said.

Additionally, companies will match donations made by spouses, retirees or, in some cases, those who serve on the board of directors.

"Corporate matching gifts are a great way for Sam Houston alumni and friends to maximize personal contributions to the university and increase the impact of their gift, as was the case with the Megan Burnham Women's Tennis Endowment Fund," Burnham said.

"Corporations usually have a matching gift benefit established. All one has to do is find out what the amount is and submit the amount you donated to your company and they will match it," she said. "The program is already set up; all you have to do is utilize it, and the university is the winner."

Participants can search for their company to find out if it participates in the matching gift program by visiting www.shsu.edu/~ua_www/annualfund.html. ★

2008 Alumni Association Service Awards

Tommy Davis, Lois Kolkhorst, George Miles, Mike O'Day, Billy Ringo and Greg Smith were honored at a luncheon on April 18 in the Lowman Student Center Ballroom in recognition of their outstanding service to Sam Houston State University and beyond.



Thomas F. Davis

For longtime professor at SHSU Thomas Davis, whose relationship with the university started on the football field, “it would probably be easier to answer ‘what he hasn’t done for Sam Houston State University’ rather than ‘what he has done,’” his nomination form said.

The former All-Texas and All-America Bearkat football player earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in math from SHSU and his doctorate from the University of Texas.

Davis’ contribution to SHSU during his 47 years on the mathematics and statistics department’s faculty is wide spread, including service with the faculty senate and the faculty athletic committee. He was faculty representative to the Lone Star, Gulf

Star and Southland conferences and the NCAA and was president of the Southland Conference. He also served on numerous university committees.

Davis is well known for love for and support of Bearkat athletics. For most of his time on the faculty at Sam Houston, he has operated the clock for football and basketball home games.

He also has been and continues to be active in the Kat Pack, Bearkat Partners and Lettermen’s Association.

In 1996, Davis was honored with the SHSU Distinguished Alumni award.

He and his wife, Patty Sue, have two daughters. ★

Lois W. Kolkhorst

One of Texas' "Top Ten Best Legislators," Lois Kolkhorst has been described as a "protector" of SHSU.

A member of the Texas House of Representatives since her election in 2000, Kolkhorst serves House District 13, which includes more than 140,000 people in Austin, Grimes, Walker and Washington counties.

The Brenham native earned her bachelor's degree in advertising and public relations from Texas Christian University in 1988.

She has authored and sponsored a long list of bills that tackle issues as varied as private toll roads and the Trans-Texas Corridor, criminal justice and prison

reform, education funding, agriculture policies, consumer rights issues, economic development and domestic violence.

In 2007, she authored and pushed through the House and Senate HB1418, which ensures that the Texas State University System board of regents can never change the name of Sam Houston State University.

Her accolades include being named one of Texas Monthly's 2007 "Top Ten Best Legislators." She is a two-time recipient of the "Fighter for Free Enterprise" award and the "Freedom and Family Award."

She and husband, Jim, have two children, Lois Kate and Jake. ★



George D. Miles

A "friend" of Sam Houston State, whose "leadership is unsurpassed in service," Miles earned his bachelor's degree in journalism from SHSU in 1961 and his master's from Southern Methodist University's Graduate Banking School.

Miles served as a member of the SHSU alumni association board of directors, including time spent as president and past president; on the university's executive leadership council; as a member of university president Jim Gaertner's President's Circle; and on the board of the Raven Nest Golf Course.

In 2006, he created and was named president of the "Friends of the Sam Houston

Memorial Museum," for which he helped develop new interest and created programs for the entire family.

A 27-year resident of Huntsville, he is active in his community, including managing "funds for medical expenses for a local family in dire need," according to his nomination form.

"He has many associates but only a few peers in leading, organizing and motivating large groups to solve problems," the form said.

He and his wife, Beth, have three sons and two granddaughters. ★



Michael P. O'Day

One of a long line of Bearkats, State Rep. Michael Patrick O'Day, a 1972 SHSU graduate, serves District 29 as well as the university, in a variety of ways.

A member of the Texas House of Representatives since 2007, representing Matagorda and parts of Brazoria County, O'Day co-authored HB1418, preserving the name of SHSU.

He has served as a commencement speaker and a member of the SHSU Alumni Board, the Bearkat Boosters and Sigma Chi fraternity.

He is also one of 12 members of his family to have attended SHSU.

"Mike O'Day is an honest, hardworking, loyal, driven individual with an overabundance

of leadership skills," his nomination form said. "He is a community and state servant and is admired by his friends and constituents."

During the 80th legislative session, O'Day worked on improving border security, lowering the Margin Tax, keeping religion in schools and insuring pay increases for teachers and retired teachers.

"Mike is one of the most generous individuals," his form said. "He is always the first to give his time and funds to those who are 'down on their luck.'"

O'Day and his wife, Connie, reside in Pearland, along with their three children and three grandchildren ★.

Billy F. Ringo

Though he may not be a Bearkat on paper, Billy Frank Ringo is a "110 percent Bearkat" in his heart.

A Huntsville High School graduate and president of Ringo Tire and Service Center in Huntsville, Ringo is an avid Bearkat sports fan, following teams to Lubbock, Austin, Louisiana, Florida, San Antonio, San Marcos, Arlington and Beaumont.

"(We) have never attended a Bearkat sporting event without seeing Billy Ringo there," a nomination letter said. "Winning season or not, Billy is faithful to all teams at Sam Houston."

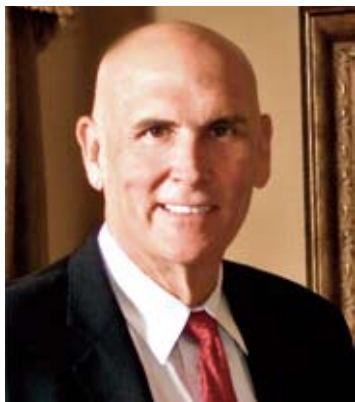
Not only a Bearkat athletics fan, which he supports and promotes, Ringo started

the Huntsville chapter of "Little Dribblers" basketball program in 1979; has coached both boys and girls teams in basketball, baseball, softball and soccer; and has recruited many local businesses to become members of the Bearkat Club.

"If all residents of Huntsville supported our town and our wonderful university as Billy and his family do, all of our sporting events would be at 100 percent capacity," another letter said.

His family is also filled with Bearkats: wife Kim graduated in 2000, his daughter Elizabeth graduated in 2007, his son Steven is currently attending SHSU and daughters Lindsey and Traci are "future SHSU students." ★





W. Greg Smith

The owner of three businesses, Greg Smith shares his “time and talents generously” with Sam Houston State University.

A graduate of North Texas Community College with an aviation degree, Smith began actively supporting SHSU when his son joined the Bearkat football team.

Since then, he has “dedicated his services unselfishly to enhance” SHSU through his participation in fundraisers for the theatre department; the baseball, basketball, football and golf teams; and has served as a member of the Kat Pack and on the board of directors for the Bearkat Partners, according to his nomination form.

“Greg Smith is always willing to step up to the plate and help Sam Houston and other organizations raise money,” the form said. “He is an extremely humble man and has chosen to make many of his contributions without any recognition.”

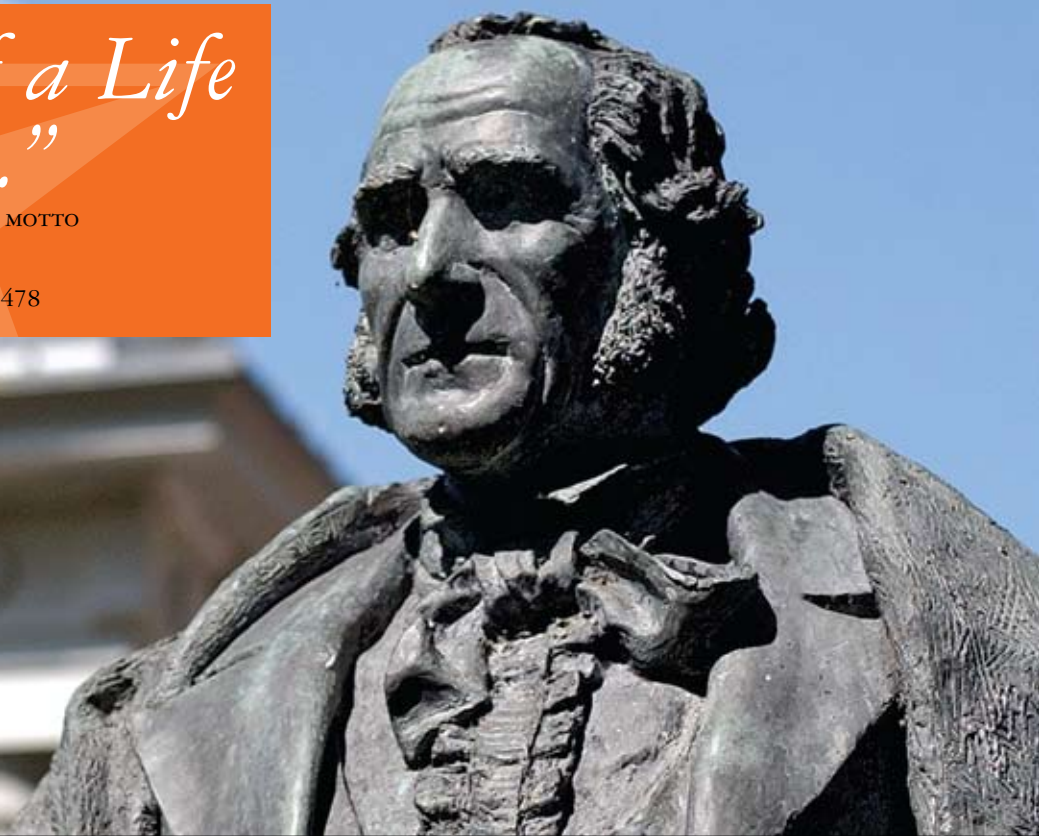
“His dedicated service-above-self actions for the university is reflected by the exemplary drive he provides to the university and community through his participation,” a nomination letter said.

He and his wife, Ruth, live in Montgomery. ★

*“The measure of a Life
is its Service.”*

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY MOTTO

JOIN THOSE WHO SERVE.
<http://alumni.shsu.edu> or 800.283.7478



Recognition Opportunities Available On Alumni Wall Of Honor

The naming of all rooms in the John R. Ragsdale Visitor & Alumni Center is complete, thanks to the altruism of several special alumni who have chosen to support Alumni Association programs through this manner.

The Alumni Association is grateful to those alumni for their vision and thoughtfulness. The alumni and the rooms which will be named in their honor include:

Robert & Gay Rod	Alumni Board Room
Diane & Alan L. Tinsley	Entry Plaza
R. H. & Kelley Bond	Lobby Area
Bobby & Karen Gray	Director's Office
Eleanor Smith Garrett	Assistant Director's Office
Ed McCrory	Event Coordinator's Office
Martee Leonard Rush	Assistant's Office
Chester D. & Pamela G. Crawford	Multipurpose Room
Ronny Carroll	Concourse

Alumni and friends of the university who would like to be recognized on the Wall of Honor in the Center still have a chance to be included. The listing is limited to 500 names, and honoring opportunities can be purchased for \$500 each.

All donations will be endowed to create a permanent fund to support Alumni Association activities and initiatives designed to engage alumni with the university.

John R. Ragsdale, for whom the Visitor & Alumni Center is named, is the inspiration for the naming campaign.

Ragsdale, an SHSU alumnus who owned and operated 23 Burger King restaurants in the Houston area for over 30 years, generously donated \$1.25 million to Sam Houston State University last year, most of which was designated to support the work of the Office of Alumni Relations.

For additional information about the Alumni Association Endowment Campaign, contact the SHSU Office of Alumni Relations at 936.294.1841. ★

Save The Date

The SHSU Alumni Association will host a Texas-size party to commemorate Sam Houston's birthday on March 3, 2009, at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in downtown Austin.

All alumni and friends are invited to the celebration. More details about the event will be available this fall.

Mark your calendar and make plans to attend!



TAILGATE SCHEDULE 2008

Come be a part of Bearkat football fun and excitement this fall by participating in Alumni Association tailgate activities prior to each home game.

DATE	OPPONENT	TAILGATE TIME	GAME TIME
Thursday, Aug. 28	East Central Oklahoma	4 PM	6 PM
Saturday, Sept. 13	Prairie View A&M Parent/Family Weekend	4 PM	6 PM
Saturday, Oct. 18	McNeese State Homecoming	Noon	2 PM
Saturday, Nov. 1	Stephen F. Austin	Noon	2 PM
Saturday, Nov. 15	Southeastern LA	4 PM	6 PM
Saturday, Nov. 22	Texas State University — San Marcos	Noon	2 PM



HOMECOMING CALENDAR 2008

**THURSDAY,
OCT. 16**

Homecoming Parade	Sam Houston Avenue	6:30 PM	Student Activities 936.294.3861
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**FRIDAY,
OCT. 17**

Distinguished Alumni Gala Reception	LSC Ballroom	6 PM	Alumni Relations 936.294.1841
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Distinguished Alumni Gala Dinner	LSC Ballroom	7 PM	Alumni Relations 936.294.1841
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**SATURDAY,
OCT. 18**

Raven Kids 1-Mile Race	Intramural Field	7 AM	Recreational Sports 936.294.1966
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Raven 5K Race & 1 Mile Walk	Health & Kinesiology Center	7:30 AM	Recreational Sports 936.294.1966
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Alumni Coffee	Visitor & Alumni Center	9:30 AM	Alumni Relations 936.294.1841
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Pre-Game with the President	Austin Hall	11 AM	President's Office 936.294.3415
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SHSU Bearkat Alley (tailgate party)	Bowers Stadium	Noon	Athletics & Student Activities 936.294.3861
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SHSU vs. McNeese Football	Bowers Stadium	2 PM	Athletics 936.294.1729
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SHSU vs. Nicholls State Volleyball	Johnson Coliseum	7 PM	Athletics 936.294.1729
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Regional & Special Interest Alumni Clubs Reception	LSC Ballroom	TBA	Alumni Relations 936.294.1841
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BUD AND JOAN HANEY AUDITORIUM



FROM DEDICATED ATHLETE TO DEDICATED BENEFACTOR

When Joseph L. "Bud" Haney attended Sam Houston State Teachers College, he was passionately committed to his alma mater, both as a student and as an incredibly gifted, award-winning centerfielder for the Bearkat baseball program.

Today, he is still passionately committed to his alma mater, although he demonstrates his loyalty in a different manner than he did as a student-athlete.

Bud received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting in 1963. After an injury ended his hopes of playing in the major leagues, he turned his attention to his business and has achieved accomplishments in the professional arena that are as impressive as the ones he made on the field.

His involvement with Sam Houston State University includes being a Life Endowed Member of the Alumni Association, a member of the President's Circle and a member of the College

of Business Advisory Council. He is in the SHSU Athletic Hall of Honor and in 2005 was named a recipient of the SHSU Distinguished Alumni Award. In 2007 he was inducted into the College of Business Hall of Honor.

Bud and his wife, Joan, have established many significant relationships within SHSU. Their benevolence to programs in the College of Business Administration, the Department of Athletics, Enrollment Management, Alumni Relations, and other areas exceeds \$1 million, providing support that has been much needed and is highly valued.

Because of the Haneys' generosity, students coming to SHSU are now better able to choose majors which will guide them to satisfying career paths. Also because of the Haneys and their thoughtfulness, student-athletes have a beautiful room in the baseball and softball complex to use between classes to relax or study.

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

**Homecoming
Parade
Thurs, Oct. 16
6:30 p.m.**

**Bearkat Alley
Tailgate
Sat, Oct. 18
Noon**

**SHSU vs.
McNeese State
Sat, Oct. 18
2 p.m.**



**SHSU HOMECOMING
AN
ORANGE
STATE
OF
MIND
OCTOBER 18, 2008**

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