

# Heritage



*The Magazine of Sam Houston State University*



## **INSIDE**

**Why Art?  
SHSU Art Today  
Art Map!**



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



**C**reative thinking and reasoning are essential 21st century skills. While it may seem counter intuitive to think of the arts as a place for critical thinking and problem solving, research provides compelling evidence that engaging in the arts nurtures cognitive, social and personal competencies.

Henry David Thoreau once said, “This world is but a canvas to our imagination.” This quote so eloquently sums up the relationship between arts and innovation. It is through the arts that we are encouraged to “imagine.” And, it is through this process of imaging, that we learn to visualize multiple perspectives, which leads to expanded thinking and break-through solutions.

As the contemporary learning experience grows beyond traditional classroom borders, art plays an ever-greater role in creating a stimulating environment that propagates intellectual, career, and professional development within SHSU’s diverse community.

Not only does art contribute to educational improvement, it has a major impact on the economy. In today’s world, where the visual drives so much of our communication and information sharing, it is not surprising that the arts are responsible for generating billions of dollars annually for the state of Texas. Employment in the creative sector is growing rapidly as jobs can now be found in a number of diverse industries. In fact, the Texas Workforce Commission projects a 20 percent increase in creative sector employment through 2024.

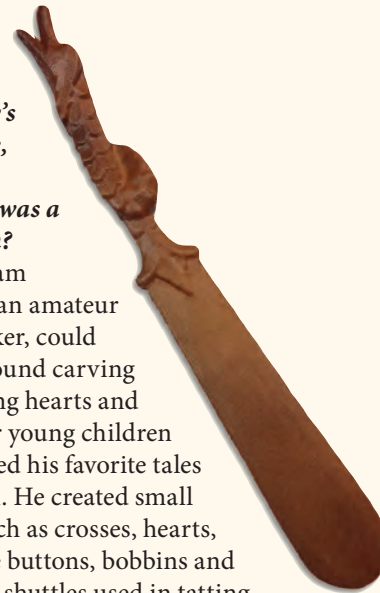
Art is one of the earliest expressions of culture. It is rooted in history and connects us with the past. Our graduates, from all the creative disciplines, represent our strong culture and proud history as they continue to influence art and commerce across the globe.

*Dana G. Hoyt*  
Dana G. Hoyt  
President

**Did you know that the university’s namesake, Sam Houston, was a craftsman?**

Gen. Sam Houston, an amateur woodworker, could often be found carving or whittling hearts and swords for young children as he shared his favorite tales with them. He created small objects such as crosses, hearts, decorative buttons, bobbins and miniature shuttles used in tatting and the making of lace.

The bookmark he carved while serving in the U.S. Senate as well as other small works are at the Sam Houston Memorial Museum.



# Heritage

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## ON THE COVER



Front Cover: “Latent Energy” by Joe O’Connell and Creative Machines lights up the new Fred Pirkle Engineering Technology Center on the SHSU campus.

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The arts generate \$5.5 billion each year for Texas’s economy and contribute nearly \$343.7 million in state sales tax revenue annually. As technology develops, the demand for artists in the workforce is increasing dramatically.



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Three SHSU art galleries, located both on and off campus, provide sites where students, faculty, alumni and guest artists can exhibit work and audiences can appreciate art in the 21st century.



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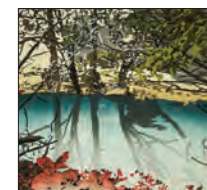
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By Julia May

# WYNNE HOME ARTS CENTER

From petroglyphs and cave paintings to computer animation in the digital age, art has been a creative expression of thoughts, feelings, and dreams—a reflection of mankind’s existence.

Art is far more than a brush and canvas. As technology advances, the demand for artists across a wide spectrum of disciplines is growing rapidly.

Recent data from the Texas Cultural Trust shows that the arts now generate \$5.5 billion each year for the state’s economy and contribute nearly \$343.7 million in state sales tax revenue annually. These figures represent a 25.1 percent increase over the past 10 years.

Texas’s creative sector—which includes jobs in computer and mathematical occupations; architecture and engineering; life, physical, and social sciences; and arts, design entertainment, sports and media—employs 800,000 innovation workers, or almost one in 15 Texas workers. Occupation employment forecasts from the Texas Workforce Commission project the

creative sector will increase by 20 percent, or 160,000 new jobs, by 2024.

SHSU and the Department of Art have been monitoring job trends in the state in order to prepare students to meet workforce demands.

Today, the art program offers four majors, which include computer animation, graphic design, photography, and studio art—painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, and printmaking.

“We prepare our students to succeed professionally by giving them the skills and training needed to compete for jobs,” said Michael Henderson, chair of the SHSU Department of Art.

SHSU art graduates are taking jobs in design, advertising, gaming, legal, oil and gas, fashion, engineering, sports, and entertainment.

“We also offer minors in art history and in secondary education for students who want to be certified to teach,” Henderson said.

A Master of Fine Arts degree in Social Practices, which

reflects a current movement in art to engage and benefit the local community is in the developmental stage.

“Our plan for the MFA program is to house the studios for graduate students in a location where they can have interactions with the community and create community-based projects,” said Henderson.

Fortunately, the foundation for the partnership between the SHSU art program and the City of Huntsville has already been established.

For many years, the SHSU faculty and students have contributed to the local art scene by serving on committees and engaging in civic dialog, teaching art classes, acting as advisors and judges, contributing art talent to community efforts to promote art, and changing the course of community development.

“Huntsville 2020: The Cultural Plan” reflects their involvement, as does the designation of a state cultural district in Huntsville.

“In particular, the Wynne Home Arts Center has interns each semester from SHSU, which enables the organization to develop classes and events to reach members of the community and also visitors,” said Linda Pease, cultural services coordinator for the City of Huntsville.

And the Wynne Home is only one venue in which collaboration with SHSU takes place.

Downtown Huntsville is the location of SHSU’s Satellite Gallery, where visitors can see student art and participate in the student and faculty art auction. Also, students volunteer to promote such sites as the HEARTS Veterans Museum, the Gibbs Powell House, the Sam Houston Memorial Museum, and the Sam Houston State and Visitors Center.

“The success of a city often depends upon its culture,” Pease said. “Since the early days of Huntsville, when it was called the Athens of Texas, the city has been considered rich in culture. The university provides an anchor for such a thriving community.” ★

## 2017 STATE OF THE ARTS REPORT

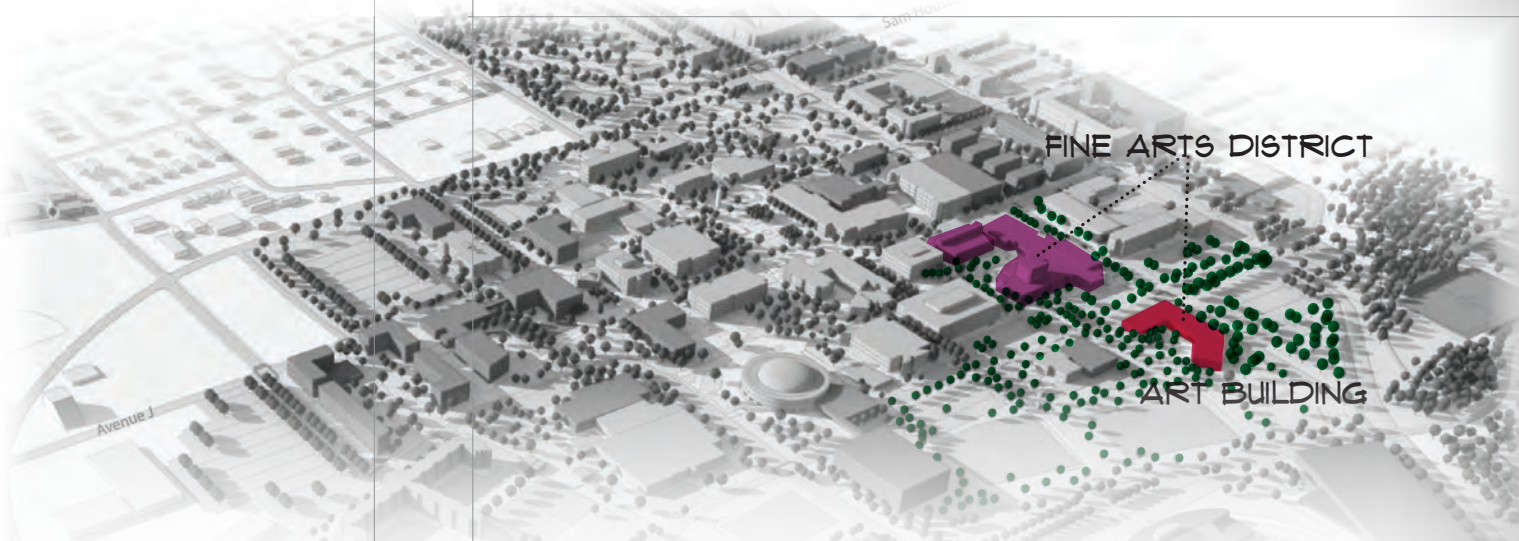
- The arts generate \$5.5 billion each year and contribute \$343.7 million in state sales tax revenue annually.
- At-risk high school students who complete more than one arts class are half as likely to drop out.
- Students who complete more arts classes have up to 15% higher pass rates on standardized tests than students with fewer arts classes.
- Schools that met the State Accountability Standard offered twice as many arts courses.
- High school students enrolled in arts courses attend an additional week of school each year.
- Nine out of 10 Texas parents support increased funding for the arts in their schools. 89% believe that art and music electives are as important as athletics.
- Texas’s creative sector employs one in 15 Texans—nearly 800,000 innovation workers—whose average wage is \$80,300 compared to \$44,000 for non-creative industries.

— Texas Cultural Trust



By Julia May

# NEW ART BUILDING ON HORIZON



In 1880, one year after Sam Houston Normal Institute opened its doors to begin training teachers, Myra Irwin Allen introduced drawing as part of the new school's academic curriculum.

A Department of Art was established in 1882, headed by Olivia Baldwin, and classes were moved from the Austin College building to Old Main following its completion.

For the next 100 years, classes in the art department were located in the Industrial Arts building, the Estill Library, Country Campus, the Woodworking building, the Graphic Arts building, a renovated turn-of-the-century rooming house, an old frame house on Ave. J, the Estill building, and temporary metal buildings. Today, the program is scattered across campus.

However, on the horizon is a new home in a dedicated building, which will be a part of the SHSU arts district.

The proposed building is a 70,000-square foot, four-level structure to be located across Bobby K. Marks Drive from the University Theatre Center.

"An art gallery on the main level will welcome guests to the building," said Michael Henderson, chair of the Department of Art. "The new gallery will be accessible and inviting to the

community."

Also in the building will be classrooms, offices, laboratories and open spaces for events, gatherings and art exhibitions.

"The building will have studio spaces for sculpture, ceramics, painting and drawing, printmaking, photography, and the WASH (Workshop in Art Studio and History) program will have a larger studio," Henderson said. "We have also provided space for seminar rooms for art history and art education."

The digital arts program, including computer animation and graphic design, will have a level, and the photography program will have a traditional darkroom and digital printing labs.

"There will also be open spaces for sculpture and performances," Henderson said.

The building is designed to take advantage of lighting conditions for specific artwork.

In addition to features that will facilitate creativity, the new building will incorporate mechanisms and processes to keep its occupants safe and comfortable.

"As part of our commitment to safety, an industrial hygienist has examined all our programs," Henderson said. "The building will be constructed to the highest standards of safety and ventilation, to

make sure we are providing students a healthy environment."

The facility is currently in the design phase of planning, with groundbreaking anticipated for early spring 2018.

The building is the final piece of the Sam Houston State University arts district, which, in addition to the new art building, is home to the Music building, the Gaertner Performing Arts Center, and the University Theatre Center.

"Besides providing inspiring spaces to teach and practice all forms of visual art, the new art building will bridge the campus with the community through enhanced patron accessibility and programming," said Ronald Shields, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Mass Communication.

"The location for the new facility will also build bridges across the arts at SHSU," he said.

"From academic study to artistic practice in the visual arts, from community engagement to an interdisciplinary approach to the arts and technology, the new art building, and its location as part of the SHSU arts district, will support student and faculty collaboration across the arts and underscore the importance of the arts as part of what it means to get a degree at Sam Houston State University." ★

By Emily Binetti

# THE ART GALLERIES OF SHSU

The art galleries associated with the SHSU art department showcase a wide range of mixed media by students, faculty and professional artists, that supports and enriches the educational and cultural environment of the area.

The Gaddis Geeslin Gallery, also known as the 3G Gallery, is located on campus in Art Building F. Presenting solo shows and group exhibitions, 3G features local, state, national and international artists with BFA thesis and undergraduate juried exhibitions. The gallery is committed to contemporary experimental programming with an emphasis on diversity and a mandate to serve as a dynamic teaching and learning resource, affirming the university's dedication to education, research and community service.

Through exhibitions, educational programming, and a visiting artist lecture series, the gallery is a forum where established, emerging and student artists can exhibit new work and where audiences from campus, the community and beyond can participate in cultural experiences that enhance the understanding of artistic practice in the 21st century.

In addition to the 3G Gallery, the Department of Art expanded its reach in 2014 by opening the Student Satellite Gallery in the heart of the Huntsville Cultural District. Located at 1216 University Ave. in the downtown square, the fully-remodeled 1,450-square foot, student-run gallery exclusively features student work.

The gallery also serves as a valuable source of cultural enrichment to the greater community of Huntsville through a variety of free art exhibits and events. It gives art students the opportunity to gain experience exhibiting their work publicly in a real-world setting.

Located and managed by the Lowman Student Center, the LSC gallery provides an opportunity for SHSU students from all academic fields to exhibit their work. Every spring and fall semester the gallery co-sponsors an exhibit with the Student Art Association titled "We Art Here," where art majors and minors are invited to enter art from all disciplines. All mediums including photographs, graphics, paintings, sculpture, ceramics, animations and mixed media are represented. Every fall, the LSC coordinates a reception and offers a cash prize to the winner of Best of Show, which is juried by a guest artist. ★



GADDIS GEESLIN GALLERY



LSC GALLERY



STUDENT SATELLITE GALLERY



# Art Sight



Around the Flower Wall  
by James Surls, 2010



Double-Double by Michael Boles, 1977



Rainbow Walker by Ali Boudoin, 1987



Sam Houston  
by Trace Gurthrie, 1979

Confluence  
by Bruce Marion  
Confluence by Bruce Marion, 2009







Tennessee Mountains  
by Tom Orr, 2017



Jewel Garden  
Statue of Ruth Whisenant  
by Leon Pledger, 1948



Mahogany and Metal by Charles Pebworth, 1988



Water Wall by Jesus Morales, 2013

Emerald Cascade  
by Tally Fisher, 2014



General's Market by Steffany Brady, 2016







Growth of Thought by Frances Bagley, 2017



A Generous Perspective  
by student artists:  
Jaycie Frazer,  
Nia Mason  
Daniella Mata,  
Cierra Obrien,  
Jennifer Soria,  
David Spanjer,  
Tyler Stanley,  
Kevin Wrice, 2017



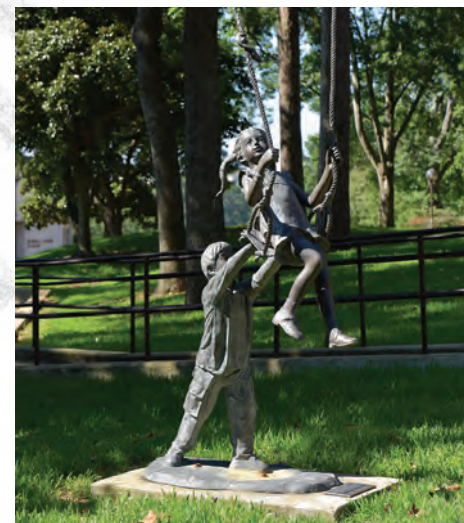
Latent Energy by Joe O'Connell and Creative Machines, 2017



The Raven  
by Ed Wilson, 2017

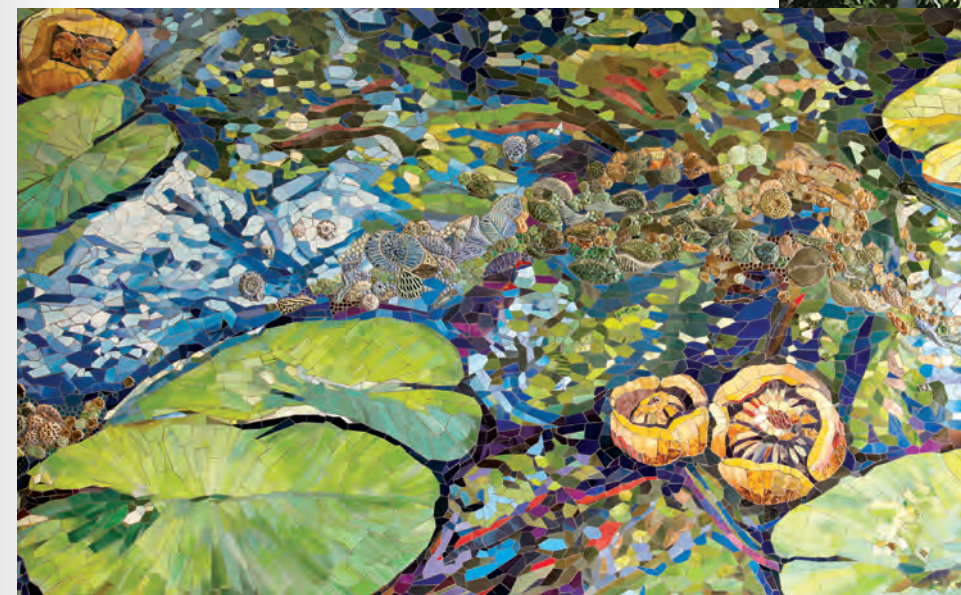


Fire Dance by  
Jason Lawson, 2010



The Frances Handley  
Bowers Statue, 2008

Mosaic by Dixie Friend Gay, 2012.



Sam Houston  
by David Adickes, 2008





# Online Education Meets Growing Demand for Flexibility



Kevin Edney

**W**e're faced with a dizzying number of choices every day, from the trivial to those that will shape our lives for years to come.

Whether you're young or old, have kids to raise, face pressing job responsibilities, live near a university or far from campus, online learning at Sam Houston State University provides flexible, quality education that works with both your lifestyle and life goals.

At SHSU, students who choose to earn their degree online represent a wide variety of ages, backgrounds, and needs. Well established in his business career, **Kevin Edney** was interested in expanding his knowledge and skills in order to advance professionally. The online MBA at Sam not only provided him with the flexibility needed for someone working full-time, this highly-ranked program delivered a quality education to help Edney remain competitive in his field.



Peary Perry

At 75 years old, **Peary Perry**, a former officer in the Houston Police Department and veteran, had a unique motivation for continuing his education. He chose to pursue an online degree at SHSU as a lesson for others. "This is not a professional opportunity," Perry says. "It's a challenge for me to pass on not only to my children, but to my grandchildren and others, that you're just never too old to learn."

And **Emily Jaso** from Austin, who was the first person in her family to pursue a graduate degree, enrolled in the online master's of criminal justice program after earning her bachelor's in the same subject. The online program's flexibility let Jaso gain professional experience on the job while earning a degree, giving her an advantage in the fight against white-collar crime.



Emily Jaso

While every online student has his or her own unique story, those who enroll in SHSU Online programs will all share the same flexible lifestyle benefits and high-quality learning experience.

**No matter where you are on YOUR journey, take the next step today with one of more than 25 online graduate programs ... all available through SHSU Online!**

By Emily Binetti

UNIVERSITY  
FOCUS

## ART AGAINST THE ODDS

**C**hildren whose parents are incarcerated face many challenges. The emotional trauma that can occur and the difficulties of a disrupted family life are only compounded by the social stigma they often face with having a parent in prison. In Huntsville, a special therapeutic art program devoted to supporting the fragile needs of these children continues to flourish thanks to the work of SHSU clinical professor of art Edie Wells.

Just a few blocks from The Walls prison unit, the Hospitality House offers families of those incarcerated a 'home away from home' when they travel to Huntsville for prison visitation. In addition to providing food and shelter during their Huntsville stay, the home also serves as a place where children can come together and share a common bond through art.

Art Against the Odds is a community-based arts project between Sam Houston State University's Department of Art and the Hospitality House. Developed for the

children of prisoners to provide a means of expression through the creation of visual art, the program offers a respite from the stress of their lives through creativity. The program also brings children and families together who share a common bond through their loss. The art they create together helps them talk about their concerns and pain in a nonjudgmental environment.

"When I first moved to Huntsville, I didn't know anything about the prison community," Wells said. "I found statistics, through the National Institute of Corrections, which indicate that without intervention, children of incarcerated parents are six to eight times more likely to become involved in a criminal lifestyle."

Wells saw an opportunity to use her passion for visual art as a means of making an impact with children in need and began her partnership with the Hospitality House. What started six years ago as an occasional weekend initiative soon turned into a larger community



Edie Wells

effort, with Sam Houston State students volunteering their time and artistic talent to interact with children staying at the house. Through Academic Community Engagement courses at SHSU, Wells has overseen dozens of students' involvement in the program, giving them the chance to mentor these children and become an integral part of their lives through art.

"The students have such a big influence on the kids because they are close to their age and set such a good example," Wells said. "It's great for the kids to meet students who are going to college."

Through the donations and support of the community, Against the Odds has grown in the past six years and expanded to include a new art studio at the Hospitality House.

"When I first started, we were creating art on the kitchen table after dinner, but now we have this beautiful art studio created by artist Dan Phillips and many volunteers," Wells said. "The studio is very typical of Dan's style, very whimsical with a wine cork wall where we hang the art and CDs on the ceiling and a beautiful mosaic floor with all sorts of animals and creatures. It's just a wonderful, playful space." ★



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By Julia May

# SHSU ART TODAY

Drawing was introduced as a part of the academic curriculum at Sam Houston Normal Institute in 1880, one year after the school's founding. A Department of Art was established two years later, expanding the single drawing course to include perspective drawing and art criticism.

Through the years, courses were added to the curriculum and more faculty with specialized training were hired.

Today, more than 400 undergraduate students are enrolled as art majors, with many alumni enjoying successful careers.

With degree options in computer animation, graphic design, photography, and studio art, students are becoming more engaged with the community and working toward positively impacting local children and adults, long after they have graduated from SHSU.

"In addition to our students' service project with the Rita B. Huff Pet Adoption Center and the work we do with prison families through the Huntsville Hospitality House, our animation students go into the local elementary

schools to teach workshops," said Michael Henderson, chair of the SHSU's Department of Art.

"We also visit high schools in rural communities to do art projects with



students who don't have readily available access to places where art is taught," he said.

"One of our faculty members directs her graphic design and digital arts students in something she calls 'the

Monster Project' for young children in the local schools," Henderson said. "The students get drawings of monsters from the children, which represent their fears. Our students then take those drawings and turn them into something much more pleasant and less frightening. Then they take the pictures back to the children and say, 'Look, this is what you were afraid of, and we've turned those monsters into art.'"

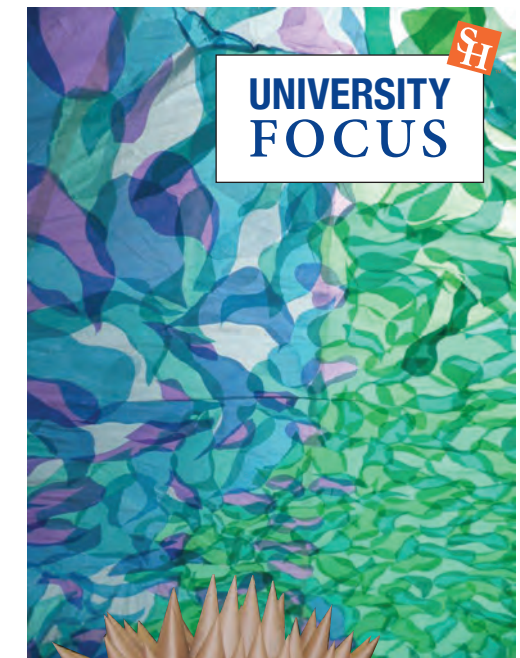
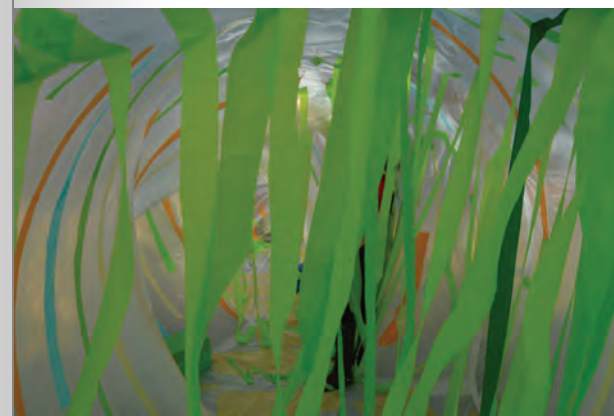
Although, funding for the arts is often debated, recent studies have shown that arts education benefits school children and helps them succeed.

According to the Texas Cultural Trust, participation in arts courses results in better test scores, including a 15 percent higher pass rate on standardized tests; increased attendance rates; and a decreased dropout rate. Furthermore, a survey of Texas parents found that 92 percent have a positive opinion of arts education; 78 percent would encourage their child to take more arts classes upon learning that creative occupations paid significantly more than other jobs; and 95 percent believe that the arts should be taught in public schools.

"With these statistics in mind, we are seeing that art education is growing, and we are hoping to attract more students who want to be art teachers," Henderson said. "It all ties together with our philosophy and mission."

A graduate program is under development and will have a community focus connecting art with teaching and community engagement.

"It's a really important part of our program, and guides most of what we're doing," he said.







Participation in student organizations combined with classes and service and community engagement opportunities provide art students additional experience and skills.

The Student Art Association organizes and hosts public art events and promotes interest and understanding of the arts in the community. The group also sponsors a silent auction each year to raise money for scholarships and operates the Students of Fine Arts Gallery where works are on display throughout the academic year. Earlier this year, members also co-hosted an Art Walk with the SHSU Department of Art and served as guides through exhibits at different venues in downtown Huntsville.

SHSU SIGGRAPH is a group of computer animation students who are members of the national organization ACM SIGGRAPH. The organization works to promote networking among its members and provide awareness about job opportunities in the field. SIGGRAPH students organize visits to animation studios and exhibitions and screenings of student work.

The Drawing Club is a very active organization for students interested in art and drawing. Open to all university



students, the group meets regularly to draw and discuss drawing used in many applications, including comic books, scientific illustrations, and fine art. Among their activities this past spring were gathering in locations across campus to draw and sketch, attending animation film festivals, traveling to the Houston Zoo to draw animals, and viewing animated movies together. The Drawing Club also conducts student-led critiques, and members participate in the Prison Drawing Classes by teaching.

The Student Design Collective Club is dedicated to the artistic and professional development of its membership. SDC helps to better prepare SHSU students for real life work environment, enhance classroom learning and promote professional relationships. Visiting

designers, lecturers and special events are open to the public to promote public interest and appreciation of the design world. Members of the club also create custom-designed sketchbooks, provide opportunities to network with Houston designers, developers, photographers, and print makers, and host the annual Graphic Design Senior Exhibition.

“Our students are learning to create art that is meaningful and engaging,” Henderson said. “They are following in the footsteps of some of our notable former students who have brought recognition to our program, such as art educator Lee Baxter Davis, who has influenced many young Texas artists; photographer Ken Childress; sculptor Danville Chadbourne; contemporary folk artist Andy Don Emmons; artist-curator Kim Cook; graphic designer Dan Pratt; and watercolor artist Cynthia Reid, among others.

“These and other alumni have provided examples of hard work and dedication and have continued to support the program by being guest lecturers, giving demonstrations and donating their own work for our auctions,” he said. “We are very grateful for their commitment to the department and our students.” ★

Above: faculty exhibit in the Gaddis Geeslin Gallery, painting by Martin Amorous, sculpture by Valerie Powell

By Emily Binetti

# ANIMATING ART



In 2006, Sam Houston State University was the first in Texas and one of the few in the country to offer a BFA in computer animation. Associate Professor and Department of Art Chair Michael Henderson, who developed the curriculum for the animation program, said that he used inspiration from other successful programs, such as Ringling College of Art and Design in Florida and the California Institute of Art, to design one for Sam Houston.

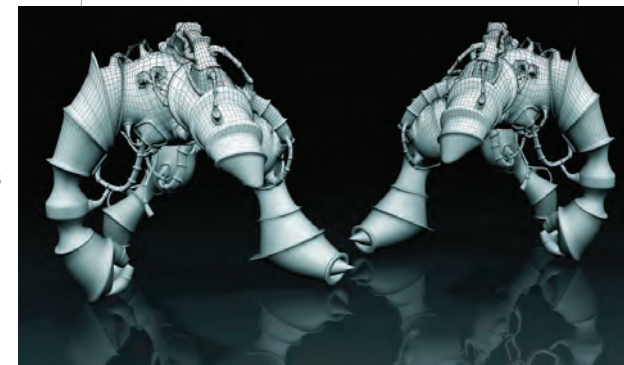
“I proposed a Bachelor of Fine Arts in computer animation that would be built on a foundation emphasizing drawing, figure drawing and the principles of design and offer upper-level courses in 2-D and 3-D computer animation,” Henderson said. “The program is designed to give students the necessary skills to pursue careers in animated filmmaking, computer game design, advertising, fine art or to continue their studies in a graduate program.”

For the fourth year in a row, the SHSU computer animation program has been recognized by Animation Career Review in their listing of Top Animation Schools and Colleges in the country. This year, SHSU ranked in the Top 50 Animation Schools and Colleges at Public Universities in the country and in the Top 10 Animation Schools and Colleges in the Southwest. For 2017, Animation

Career Review added a new listing of the Top 5 Animation Schools and Colleges in individual states. For the state of Texas, SHSU is ranked No.3 on the list.

The digital age and the ever-growing media-distribution platforms have given rise to an increasing demand for content creators and digital artistry services including animation. Once considered a skill specifically for creating animated films, computer animation has greatly expanded into an array of careers.

“The number of jobs in computer animation continues to rise as a number of industries are incorporating more digital



effects and animation,” explained Edward Morin, associate professor of art at SHSU. “Given the diversity of animation uses, there is a wide range of careers available to computer animation majors.”

Armed with a degree in computer animation from Sam Houston State, Cole Wiser, BFA '12, quickly landed a job

with 900lbs of Creative, an experiential marketing, design and visual content studio in Dallas. After three years, Wiser was named director of interactive where he now leads virtual reality, augmented reality, touch screen and other interactive technology related projects.

Ebbe Nielsen, BFA '09, now uses his animation talents as an environment artist at Logic Arts, a game development studio in Copenhagen, Denmark, where they create games for PC and mobile devices.

Rebecca Wallace, BFA '07, has also had an active career in gaming. Some of her projects include Spec Ops: The Line for Xbox/PS3/PC, Adera for Windows 8 Tablet, The Guitar Hero franchise, Band Hero Wii, Transformers 2 DS, and Backyard Baseball for the Wii and PC. She currently works in Round Rock as a senior UI artist at Certain Affinity.

Many animation students choose to continue on to graduate school after receiving their BFA and enter into some of the top programs in the country.

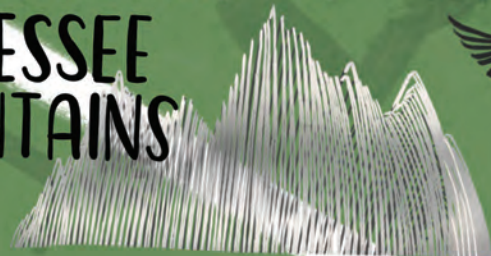
Caleb Jackson, BFA '09, who earned his MFA at Texas A&M's Vizlab is now a Pre-vis Apprentice at the prestigious Third Floor Studio, a digital media company in Los Angeles with clients that include Disney, Marvel Studios, Sony Pictures, 21st Century Fox, Warner Bros and Universal Studios. ★

Top: Building the Legend, SHSU Animation Program 2015; below Design by Kevin Mulcahy, rendering/lighting by Edward Morin



# ART AT SHSU

PINEY WOODS HALL  
**TENNESSEE MOUNTAINS**



CHEMISTRY/  
FORENSIC  
SCIENCE

**RAVEN**

BIOLOGY LAB



PIRKLE

**LATENT ENERGY**

VISITOR'S  
CENTER

ESTILL

WHITE HALL

**CONFLUENCE**

AB III

FARRINGTON

EVANS

**CENTENNIAL SAM**

HKC

LEE DRAIN

ADMINISTRATION  
BUILDING

DAN RATHER

**SAM HOUSTON**

AUSTIN HALL

**JEWEL GARDEN**

BEARKAT VILLAGE

**BOBBY K. MARKS DR.**

**WATER WALL**



CHSS

JOHNSON  
COLISEUM

**FRANCES HANDLEY  
BOWERS STATUE**

SMITH-  
HUTSON

LSC

**17th ST.**

**SAM HOUSTON AVENUE**

**RAINBOW  
WALKER**



TEC

NGL

ABI

**DOUBLE-DOUBLE**

MUSIC

PARKING  
GARAGE

OLD MAIN  
MARKET

SORORITY  
HILL

PHCC

**AROUND THE  
FLOWERS**

**MAHOGANY  
AND METAL**



THEATRE  
GPAC

GPAC

CJ CENTER

**BEARKAT BLVD.**

S

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N



**BOWERS STADIUM**

**FIRE DANCE**

UNIVERSITY  
HOTEL

LEMIT



# ARTS FOR ALL

**W**e have an exciting fall season of visual and performing arts events lined up for you. From the galleries, concert halls and stages, I applaud the rich diversity of artistic expressions that can be discovered right here at SHSU.

I am also pleased to announce our plans to establish an ARTS FOR ALL initiative within the College of Fine Arts and Mass Communication. Our goal is to establish a level of sponsorship whereby

## FALL 2017 FINE ARTS HIGHLIGHTS

Tickets/Info at 936.294.2339 or [shsu.edu/boxoffice](http://shsu.edu/boxoffice)

## DANCE

**Dances @ 8 Oct. 5-6, 8 p.m.**

**Thesis Concert Oct. 20-21, 8 p.m. (free)**

**Dance Gallery Festival Oct. 26-28, 8 p.m.**

**Graduate Concert Nov. 9-10, 8 p.m.**

**Senior Studio Nov. 16-18, 8 p.m.**

**Dance Spectrum Nov. 30, Dec. 1-2, 8 p.m.**

**Non Majors Workshop Dec. 4, 7 p.m. (free)**

## MUSIC

**Wind Ensemble-Symphonic Band Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m.**

**Symphony Orchestra Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m.**

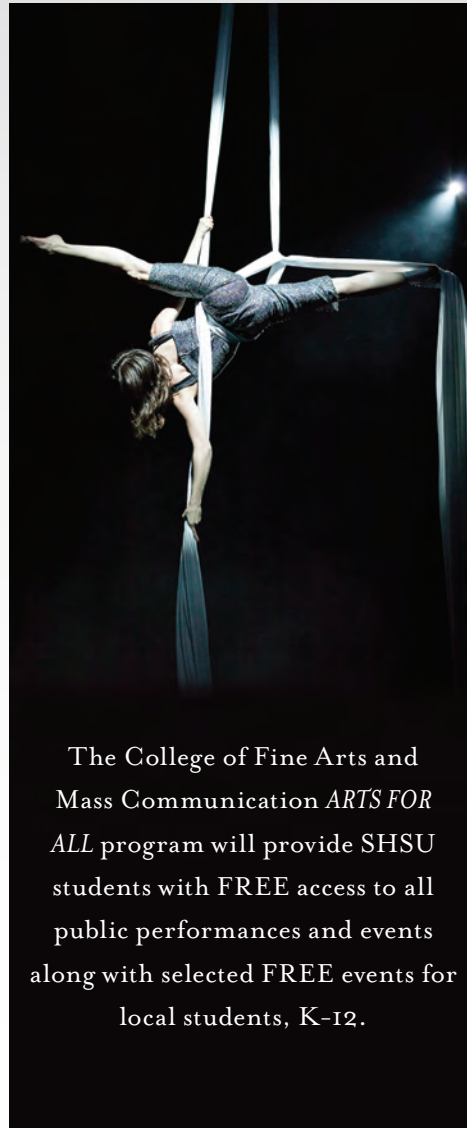
**Jazz Ensemble Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m.**

**Concert Choir and Women's Choir Concert Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m.**

**Wind Ensemble Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m.**

**Opera Performance Nov. 3-5, 7:30 p.m.**

**Chorale Concert Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m.**



The College of Fine Arts and Mass Communication ARTS FOR ALL program will provide SHSU students with FREE access to all public performances and events along with selected FREE events for local students, K-12.

**Jazz Ensemble Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m.**

**Symphonic Band Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m.**

**Holiday Concert Dec. 1-2, 7:30 p.m.**

## THEATRE & MUSICAL THEATRE

**Silent Sky Sept. 27-30, 8 p.m. (2 p.m. Sat matinée)**

**The Government Inspector Oct. 11-14, 8 p.m. (2 p.m. Sat matinée)**

**Director's Debut (show TBA) Oct. 24-29, 8 p.m. (2 p.m. Sat matinée)**

**Oklahoma Nov. 15-18, 8 p.m. (2 p.m. Sat matinée)**

we will be able provide FREE access to all public events presented by our college for all SHSU students along with selected FREE events for local students, K-12. The arts are an essential part of a complete education. Invest in SHSU's future! The artists and audiences of tomorrow depend upon you.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Ronald E. Shields,  
Dean – College of Fine Arts and Mass Communication

## ART

### Gaddis Geeslin Gallery Exhibits:

**Works by Recent Alumni May 31-Sept. 9**  
(Reception: Sept. 7, 6-7 p.m.)

**Photography in Place Sept. 18-Oct. 13**  
(Reception: Sept. 19, 6-7 p.m.)

**Drawn From Oct. 23-Nov. 21** (Reception: Oct. 26, 6-7 p.m.)

**Performance-Video Pop Up Show Nov. 28, 6-8 p.m.**

**Studio Art, Photography and Animation Senior Show Dec. 4-9**

### SHSU Satellite Student Gallery Exhibits:

**Huntsville Narratives May 31-Sept. 2**

**Graphic Design Now Sept. 3-16**

**Museum-Gallery Practices Exhibition Sept. 17-30**

**Work from Advanced Studio Oct. 1-14**

**Senior Preview Oct. 15-21**

**Senior Exhibitions Oct. 22-Dec. 2**

**Zeitgeist Dec. 3-Feb. 3, 2018**

# THE ART OF INFORMATION

**S**torytelling is an important part of society and culture. It influences all aspects of our life. Julia May, associate director of communications and public information officer, has been telling the Sam Houston State University story for over 37 years. As of August 31, she will begin writing a new chapter in her retirement.

Through her words, May has illustrated and chronicled an ever-changing picture of the university. She has been instrumental in building the SHSU brand and promoting the people who make this university great. May has also played an integral role in strengthening community relations.

Born in Louisiana, she grew up in a small paper mill town. Neither of her parents had a college degree, but they valued education. An enthusiastic reader with a love for the written word, she majored in journalism.

When she and her family moved to Huntsville in 1980, she began working at SHSU. Before long, May took a job in what was then called the university's "News Bureau," which included the Sports Information office.

Through the years, the News Bureau expanded and evolved. May assumed more responsibilities and she progressed from staff assistant to media relations specialist.

In 1995, she had the opportunity to work on the academic side when she was hired as the Assistant to the Dean of the College of Criminal Justice. In 1999, she transferred back to the Office of Public Relations as the communications coordinator, then assistant director, and to her current position as Associate Director of Communications for what is now the Office of Marketing and Communications. In this role, she has served as editor

and writer for the Heritage magazine and newsletters, prepared material for the university's main web page, and managed content development and distribution to area, regional and national media.

Her greatest service, however, has probably been in crisis communication, emergency notification, and serving as the university spokesperson.

She was the recipient of the Sammy Award for outstanding contributions to student life in 2007 and the SHSU Staff Excellence Award in 2013.

For many years, she has served in various advisory capacities for the SHSU chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha and she will continue as the organization's general advisor.

Julia and her husband, Jim, plan to spend time developing some of their newly-discovered and not-so-new interests and hobbies. She also plans to keep up her writing. ☆

## No such thing as typical Director of public relations finds job challenging, enjoyable

comes up, my work is ever-changing. May said there have been several instances during which she and her staff had to go into very different modes, such as during Hurricane Rita. "Obviously, at that point, our main concern was the safety of the students, but we also had to let the press know that all day long with our press releases and other documents." Considering her employment at Sam Houston as compared to other jobs she has held, May said she could not see herself working anywhere else. "While I love my job, I'm doing and I self leaving, if I do more, I she said. "I've ne any door of I'm that way, d have missed :riminal jus- y said she has oriented and to her sons' rowing up, I activities." e grown up, e our inter-

The hard times aside, May said she really does love the whole experience of working in public relations. "Every fall, when new students come in, I feel almost like I'm having a re-birth," she said. "I love working with the coolest students around. "My best friends work on this campus — the employees are incredible, the faculty members are extremely interesting, and this really does feel like a second home to me."

like gardening, reading and cooking — basically, I do a lot of things now I didn't get to do when I was helping with homework." While May lived in Louisiana before moving here, she said she and her family have come to truly enjoy being Texan. "This is absolutely home to us," she said. "This is truly the friendliest state I've ever been in, and I love it. Before I started working at Sam Houston, I did have other jobs, but this is just a better fit for me."

University in 1975. She was a writer and editor for her campus newspaper and worked as an intern for a television station in Monroe, La. Before coming to Sam Houston with her husband,





By Lane Fortenberry

## Evolution of Sammy

The Sam Houston State University athletic teams have been nicknamed “The Bearkats” since 1923. The current version of the Sammy Bearkat mascot began appearing at sporting events in 1959.

James Pharaon, 1998 journalism graduate, was Sammy from 1995-1998. His tenure stands out, though, because he helped design the character we all know and love today.

“When I started out, it was still the dog suit,” Pharaon said. “It was meant to look like the kinkajou, but the costume company that made it told me it was a dog suit they covered in orange fur. It was basically made of paper maché on the inside and held together with hot glue, because I had to put it back together several times.

“One day, it started raining at a football game and the suit just disintegrated around me,” he said. “That was a great opportunity because I’m also a cartoonist and worked for the Department of Student Activities. I went to my boss and said, ‘We’re going to have to order a new suit.’”

“I had been toying with the idea of updating Sammy’s image, and asked if we could look into it, and she told me to start sketching. We created a new suit, which debuted at the SFA basketball game on Jan. 31, 1997. We’re still using the same basic suit today.”

“Everyone always asks, ‘What is a bearkat?’ It’s a



mythical creature,” he said. “There are a couple of different animals that people call bearkats, but the Sam Houston Bearkat is an imaginary creature. I didn’t want to be limited as a performer or as a cartoonist to portraying it as a real animal with real animal characteristics.

“I wanted to have fun with it,” he said. “My original sketches were a lot more bearlike. He was tough and had these big, defined muscles.

He even had a tattoo at one point. He was intended to be kind of mean. After a while, he became a little more catlike. We made him look more friendly and approachable so kids would relate to him at the stadium.”

Ever since he created his first comic strip in the fourth grade, Pharaon wanted to become a cartoonist.

“I drew a comic strip during my time at Sam called ‘Tales from the Dormside,’

and it ran in the Houstonian for four years. To this day that’s still my favorite strip. It’s available on Facebook for everyone to see.

“Back then, there were comic strips in every newspaper,” he said. “Comics were a big part of the paper and were part of the reason you bought it,” he said. “Of course, that’s all changed. It’s kind of what made me change my career path. I realized there wasn’t a whole lot of money in

# HEROES — WILL — RISE

SHSU.EDU/HEROES

This year, students in Rebecca Finley’s Photographic Narratives class chose to work with the Rita B. Huff Humane Society in an effort to help homeless animals find forever homes. Setting up a makeshift studio at the center, students created a mix of formal studio photographs with each animal in costume, as well as candid shots of the animals at play and interacting with humans. With the help of the dedicated staff at Rita B. Huff, students were able to produce formal and fun portraits of each animal. The class hopes the images will promote animal adoption and community awareness of the excellent work being done by Rita B. Huff Humane Society.



Photo by Emily Schuetz



Photo by Michele Dudley



Photo by Miranda Stubbs



Photo by Michele Dudley



Photo by Michele Dudley

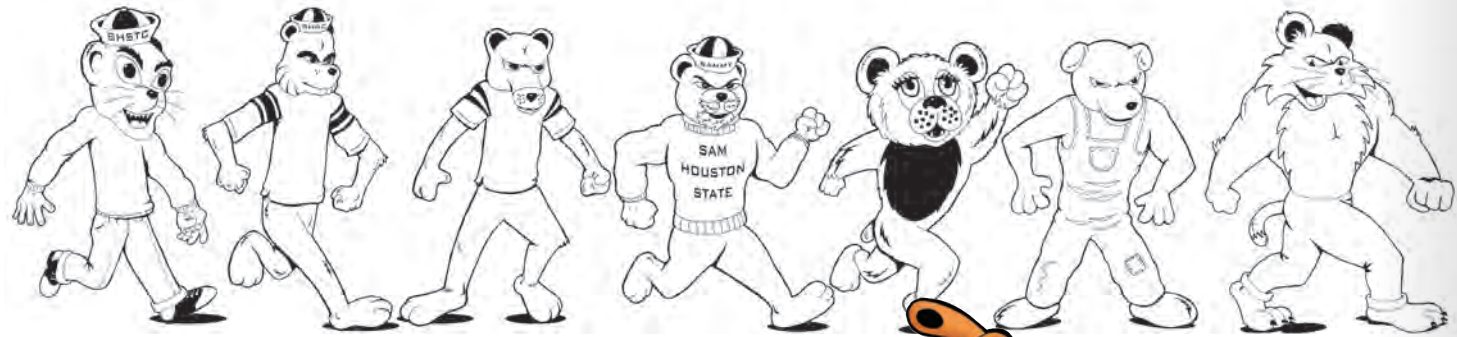


Photo by Alison Schmidt



Photo by Miguel Parra





## SHSU Baseball Earns National Recognition

For a program that had seen its share of success over the last decade, Sam Houston State baseball rose to new heights during the 2017 season. After winning the Southland Tournament Championship, the team was selected to compete in the NCAA Lubbock Regional. In the final game of the tournament Sam stunned Texas Tech and earned the squad's first NCAA Regional championship.

dropping a pair to Florida State in Tallahassee, Fla., the team captured the attention of the nation.

Sam Houston finished the season nationally ranked in all six polls including as high as No. 14. The Kats finished two wins from reaching the College World Series but in the process, turned in one of the most impressive team performances in athletic department history. ★



The win vaulted the team into the NCAA Super Regionals as one of 16 teams left in the country. Despite



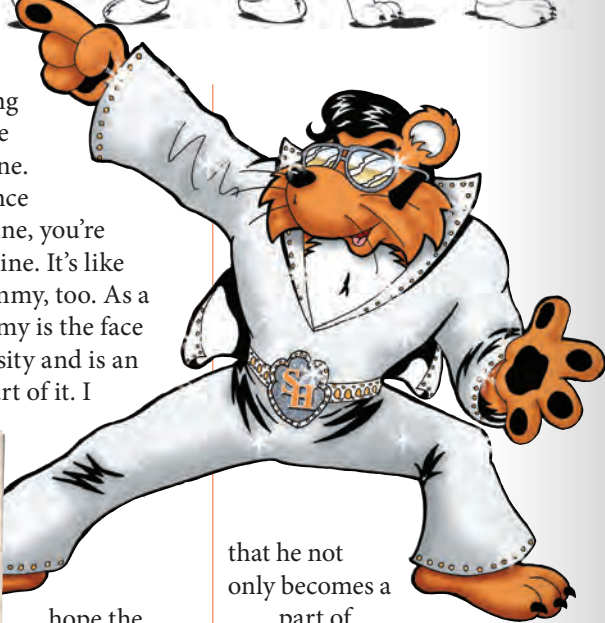
cartooning. "I went into creative services instead," he said. Pharaon continues to design different Sammys

with this glittery, cheesy leisure suit kind of thing. It's really cool. "Since I graduated, I've done a lot of design work for the university, when campus organizations or departments need a Sammy image. I love it. It's kind of how I stay connected to the university."

Pharaon said the arts are the soul of our society.

"To me, artists have always been painters and sculptors," he said. "I've come to realize that's a very narrow definition. Artists and the art

he said. "Being Sammy is like being a Marine. You know, once you're a Marine, you're always a Marine. It's like that with Sammy, too. As a mascot, Sammy is the face of the university and is an important part of it. I



hope the university continues to understand and cherish.

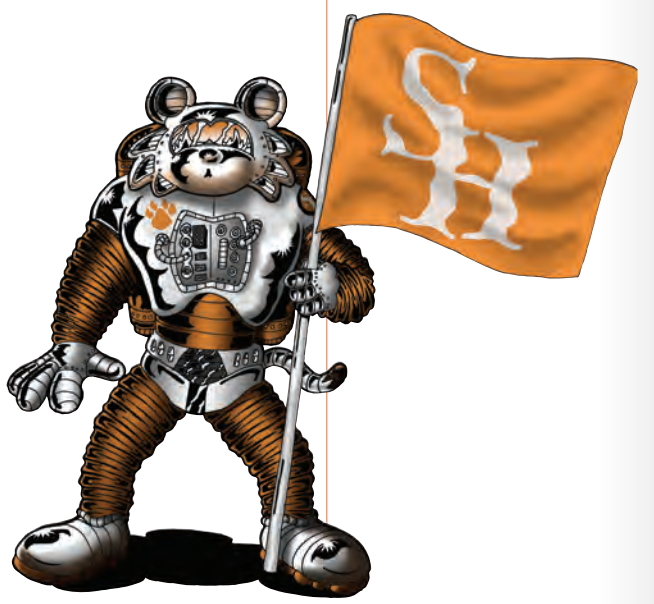
"Sammy is kind of like my child, partially because you spend so much time as Sammy

that he not only becomes a part of you, but you become a part of him," he said. "Also, because I helped shape the image of Sammy. I'm very proud when I come to Huntsville. I love being so much a part of the university and leaving my mark in such a positive way. I hope that continues for years to come."★



community help to define the culture of a school or of a nation, or really of an era. It's important to have that or otherwise there's not that voice or conscience. It's creating both beauty and awareness."

So where do the Sammys go after graduation? There's a Facebook community where all the former Sammy mascots keep up with each other. The older Sammys try to encourage and sometimes give some tough love to the newer ones, according to Pharaon. "I absolutely love Sammy,"



for Homecoming and other projects for the university. "It's been a lot of fun. The first homecoming Sammy I did was in 2005 with the theme 'Viva Huntsvegas.' It's still one of my favorite drawings. It's Sammy in this Elvis jumpsuit

# 2017 SHSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TAILGATES



The 2017 SHSU football season is fast approaching! The Alumni Association is proud to be a part of this honored tradition and look forward to you joining us in the excitement for both home and away games.

The Alumni Association provides food and beverages to alumni, students, and friends before each game to encourage a great Bearkat tailgate atmosphere.

For more information visit [alumni.shsu.edu](http://alumni.shsu.edu).  
**GO BEARKATS!**

### 2017 Bearkat Football Schedule

(Orange denotes home game)

* TBD	RICHMOND - ORANGE OUT
Sat., Sep. 9	@ Prairie View (Prairie View, TX)
* Sat., Sep. 23	NICHOLLS STATE - YOUNG ALUMNI & FAMILY WEEKEND
Sat., Sep. 30	@ Central Arkansas (Conway, AR)
* Sat., Oct. 7	@ SFA - Battle of the Piney Woods (NRG Stadium)
* Sat., Oct. 14	NORTHWESTERN STATE - PINK OUT
* Sat., Oct. 21	LAMAR - HOMECOMING
Sat., Oct. 28	@ Southeast Louisiana (Hammond, LA)
* Sat., Nov. 4	INCARNATE WORD
Sat., Nov. 11	@ Abilene Christian (Abilene, TX)
* Sat., Nov. 18	HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

\*Indicates Alumni Association pre-game tailgates





# ART

# BENEFACTORS



Mark and Nghi Kroll

**N**ghi Kroll worked her way through graduate school at Sam Houston State University in the Newton Gresham Library typing information on cards to be filed in the card catalog. That was before the digital age with computer access and electronic searching.

As an art major, she also spent time in the art department's painting studio, refining her talent and enhancing her skills. In fact, both she and her husband, Mark, who earned his BBA and MBA at SHSU and is a Distinguished Alumnus of the university, say that some of their

fondest memories as students are from the time they shared in the art studio while Nghi was painting.

The Krolls continued their lives in the academic world following their graduation. After completing his doctorate, Mark taught and served as an administrator at several universities, including a time at SHSU as an assistant professor of management and director of graduate studies. He is currently the dean of the Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship and the V.F. and Gertrude M. Neuhaus Chair in

Entrepreneurship at the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley.

Nghi's art works have been exhibited in a number of galleries across the South, and she has been an adjunct art instructor.

When the couple got ready to explore options for the future distribution of funds from their estate, they had several organizations in mind. Sam Houston State University was one of them.

They have set up a planned gift with the university to bequeath several of their properties to establish an endowment

fund for the Master of Fine Arts degree program in the School of Art. The endowment will provide funding for assistantships in graduate teaching, art gallery and studio.

"We are both SHSU alumni, and I know from my own experience as an academic administrator that it's hard to raise money for fine arts through endowments," Mark said. "And because Nghi financed her way through college, we thought it would be nice to provide some opportunities for students who are

pursuing a fine arts degree to be able to work and pay their way with graduate assistantships."

According to CollegeScholarships.org, financial assistance is more abundant for students pursuing studies in science, technology, engineering and mathematics because of a current national push to develop careers in those field. This trend has reduced funding for students seeking a professional degree in the arts.

In addition, while undergraduate students may be eligible to receive

financial aid through grants and work-study, there are no such programs for graduate students.

"It is essential for a successful MFA program to offer graduate students assistantships," said Michael Henderson, chair of the SHSU art department.

"This generous gift from the Krolls will provide us with the ability to offer teaching and studio assistantships so that we can attract qualified students and provide them with experiences that produce marketable skills." ★

## HE·RO

(hē'rō)

noun

1. An ordinary individual making a difference in the life of a student:

"a Hero made my scholarship possible"

synonyms: Alumni, Friends, Parents, Faculty, Staff

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SH  
*Distinguished Alumni*

**SHSU Alumni To Be Honored For Accomplishments, Service**

Six Sam Houston State University alumni who have made significant contributions to their professions, communities and alma mater will be recognized during this year's homecoming festivities with the SHSU Distinguished Alumni awards, Outstanding Young Alumnus award, and Alumni Service awards.

Those who will be honored during the Distinguished Alumni Gala on Oct. 20 include Distinguished Alumni Richard Mills, John Simmons and the late John Phelps; Outstanding Young Alumnus Justin Burnett; and Service Award recipients Susan Lenamon and Albert McCaig Jr.

The gala will begin at 6 p.m. in the Lowman Student Center Ballroom with a cocktail reception followed at 7 p.m. with a dinner and program. To sponsor a table or purchase individual tickets, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 936.294.1841 or visit alumni.shsu.edu.

**Distinguished Alumni**  
**RICHARD W. MILLS**

Following his 32 year-career in the U.S. Army, Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Richard Mills is continuing to serve his country as an instructor with Special Operations military forces on the art and science of planning at the strategic level for future operational requirements.

A 1974 SHSU criminal justice graduate who earned his Bachelor of Science degree in law enforcement and police



science, Mills later attended the Naval War College, where he received a Master of Arts degree in national security and strategic studies.

For 27 years, he served as a U.S. Army Special Forces (Green Beret) officer and attained the rank of Brigadier General—possibly the first to have attended all four years of SHSU ROTC—while serving in and commanding U.S. Special Operations Forces.

Since his retirement from the army, Mills has been actively involved in supporting scholarship programs that benefit members of the Bearkat Battalion and was instrumental in the establishment of the Military Science Alumni Club of the SHSU Alumni Association and serves as president of the club.

**JOHN SIMMONS**

A 1968 finance graduate and member of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity, John Simmons began a career in real estate selling resort properties for the Belin Corporation at Hilltop Lakes. He quickly rose to be the leading sales associate and was recruited by Horseshoe Bay Resort, where he soon became one of their leading salesmen.



Following a move to Austin in 1973, Simmons transitioned from resort real estate to commercial real estate sales and brokerage and soon became partner in Paragon Properties. He then co-founded First Austin Properties, recognized as one of the major commercial brokerage companies in Austin in the early 1980s.

At the same time, he launched The Simmons Group, a real estate and development company, which developed the first Austin Executive Airport and Georgetown Aviation. In 1988, he co-founded Captex Development Company, one of the largest developers of mixed-use and residential subdivisions in the Austin area. He also invests in ranch properties, mostly in Texas and New Mexico.

**JOHN PHELPS**

Following his graduation from SHSU with a degree in agriculture in 1956, John Phelps served his country in the U.S. Navy before coming home and teaching school in Channelview and Pasadena.

In 1962, he joined State Farm Insurance as an agent and opened his office in the one-car garage of his Pasadena home and went on to grow his business into one of the largest agencies in the country. Through the years, he was a mentor to up-and-coming professionals in the insurance industry and local aspiring business men and women.

Always working for the betterment of his community, Phelps was a Pasadena city councilman and mayor pro-tem, as well as president of the Pasadena



Chamber of Commerce, president of the YMCA and chairman of the Southeast Economic Development Association. His service to his hometown earned him numerous honors, and, in 2007, Harris County commissioners honored Phelps by naming a courthouse annex in his honor.

John Phelps passed away on May 27, 2017.

**Outstanding Young Alumnus**  
**JUSTIN BURNETT**

After graduating in 2002 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, Justin Burnett was recruited into the oil and gas industry, working for Chevron in the supply chain department. Within a short time, he was relocated to Maracaibo Venezuela as the supply chain manager where he worked before transferring to Indonesia.

When his mentor left Chevron to work for BP in Baku Azerbaijan, he recruited Burnett to the company to manage strategic procurement. In 2010, he was relocated back to Houston.

He currently serves as vice president of materials warehouse management and warehousing for BP's global inbound logistics, warehousing and materials management across the globe, and has been recognized as one of the youngest vice presidents in BP's history.

In addition to his work with BP, Burnett has a ranch just outside of Bastrop, and owns a high-end men's barbershop franchise with his wife, Ann, with locations in Katy and Houston.

He also donates time to his fraternity, Sigma Phi Epsilon, and was recently recognized as a Top 40 Under 40 by



the national organization. A devoted supporter of Greek Life on campuses, Justin and Ann have established a scholarship at SHSU for students from smaller high schools who are interested in belonging to a fraternity or sorority.

**Distinguished Service Award**  
**SUSAN LENAMON**

One of Sam Houston State University's most passionate ambassadors is a person who also lives by the university's motto, "A Life is its Service."

A former educator who spent 25 years with Pearland ISD as a teacher, principal and director of communications, Lenamon passed the Texas real estate sales exam after her retirement and now owns and operates David L. Smith Realty, the family business founded by her parents.

Lenamon graduated from SHSU in 1973 with a BBA in business education. In addition to her service in her community on boards with the YMCA, the Pearland Neighborhood Center, the Pearland College Center Board of Governors, the Pearland ISD Board of Trustees, among others, she is a founding member and former president of the Women in Leadership Society.

As an active member of the SHSU Alumni Association, Lenamon has contributed to the university in many ways, such as serving as a President's Circle member, Alumni Association board member and president, "Let's Talk!" and Houston area Bearkats in Business sponsor, and contributor to endowments for scholarships for criminal justice and education students. She also provided



furnishings for the historic Peabody Library building on campus, including the restoration of a 113-year-old pipe organ.

**ALBERT McCAIG, JR.**

The Honorable Albert "Buddy" McCaig has dedicated his life to service since his days as a student at SHSU. He was commissioned through the SHSU Reserve Officers Training Program as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army 1972, serving on active duty, and an additional 13 years in the Reserves and National Guard for 16 years. He retired as a major in 1995.

After his distinguished military service, he pursued a career in the legal field, serving as assistant district attorney and in private practice until 2007, when he was appointed by Gov. Rick Perry to his current position as District Judge of Waller County. Since his appointment, he has been re-elected three times.

McCaig has been an active leader in the Waller Area Chamber of Commerce, Waller Lions Club, Rotary Club, Waller County Fair Association, Waller High School FFA, and Waller ISD School Board.

He was one of the original group of ROTC alumni from SHSU who met and pooled resources to provide scholarships for Bearkat military science cadets, and he was instrumental in establishing the SHSU Military Science Alumni Club.

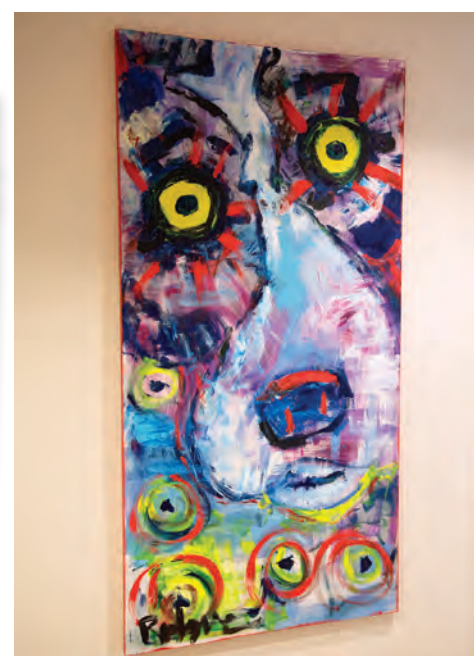
He continues to support the military science department at SHSU as a mentor to ROTC seniors majoring in criminal justice who will be in the U.S. Army Reserves upon graduation. ★







PHOTOGRAPH  
by  
Don Sanders



By Julia May

# AN EYE FOR ART

Upon entering the offices of Sanders Morris Harris, a privately held financial services firm located in downtown Houston, guests are greeted by a large sculpture of George Rodrigue's "Blue Dog."

It sends a welcoming and lighthearted message to those who are coming to the offices to discuss serious financial business, and it's a tribute to the close friendship of SHSU Distinguished Alumnus Don Sanders and Rodrigue, who died three-and-a-half years ago.

The halls and offices are filled with many of Rodrigue's colorful works, as well as art from other artists—some of whom are well-known, such as Tom Wesselman, Mel Ramos, Albert Paley, and Robert Rauschenberg, and some lesser known artists whose works Sanders found appealing.

"I've always enjoyed art with a lot of

color," Sanders said. "And if I see a work of art that I like, I buy it."

Sanders—businessman, sports enthusiast, community leader, and philanthropist—began seriously acquiring art 20 years ago, and through the years he has built a unique collection, from paintings to sculptures to photographs.

He, himself, started out as a photographer, winning awards while



in high school in Mexia. He came to Sam Houston State on a photography scholarship and graduated with degrees in photography and business. He recognized that shooting weddings and special events consumed a lot of time on weekends, so he decided to focus his career on business.

He still picks up the camera, occasionally, to take pictures of his family and of animals. The walls of one of the rooms in his home are covered by stunning portraits and photos that he has taken of his cats.

The other rooms are filled with various mediums of art including tapestries, sketches, abstracts, pop art, an electric wall sculpture that features perpetually-changing colors, and, of course, the Blue Dog paintings.

"Whenever I see art that I like, I really don't care who the artist is; it really doesn't matter," Sanders said. "I don't buy a piece of art because I think I'm getting a great

value, or I'm thinking I will buy this now to re-sell later. I buy art because I like it."

Although Sanders still keeps a lookout for engaging pieces, he doesn't buy as much art as he did when he was building his collection. He has his current pieces beautifully displayed in both his office and his home, as if each work was created specifically to be placed in a certain area.

At the Sanders home, not only does art adorn the walls and surfaces, Sanders built an art gallery over the garage that features colorful and dramatic pop art, sculptures and paintings—and speaking of the garage, those walls feature art, too.

"The real key to collecting art is in purchasing pieces that are fun, affordable and give you great joy when you look at them," he said. "That's why I enjoy George's work so much. I never get tired of looking at it. It's uncomplicated, incredibly bright in color, and delightful." ☆



ALUMNI  
LOOK



# HOME IS WHERE

By Lane Fortenberry



## David Adickes

David Adickes studied art at the Kansas City Art Institute, followed by two years at the Atelier Fernand Léger in Paris.

He moved to Houston in 1951 and by the end of his first decade as an artist, Adickes had more than a dozen solo shows all across the world and received top honors in several competitions.

In 1982, Adickes switched his art interests to monumental concrete sculpture. Among his portfolio of famous statues is "A Tribute to Courage," a 67-foot statue of Sam Houston in Huntsville along Interstate 45.

He has also sculpted 20-foot heads of every U.S. president, along with 30-foot cubic figures of the Beatles. He continues to work on other giant sculptures today.

Adickes purchased the old Huntsville High School building in 2007, which was meant to be a storage facility for his work, but quickly turned into a gallery of over 300 of his paintings. The Adickes Foundation runs the gallery.

He remains active in the arts today, opening a Houston gallery of his own, the Dubose Gallery, honoring his former art dealer and friend, Ben Dubose.

"I am of the old school where 'beauty' is not a four-letter word," Adickes said. "My goal is to make works of art which will contain aesthetic value, which will be appreciated generations

from now. Let others spend their time chasing today's latest trend."

## Daryl Howard

From the time Daryl Howard was old enough to hold an object in her hand, she was creating art.

"In middle school, I conned the history teacher to let me spend the whole semester doing an art project," Howard said. "My typing teacher in high school let me do the bulletin boards instead of taking tests. I just loved it."

When she graduated, Daryl landed a



teaching job in Bryan-College Station. After a year, her life took a unique turn.

"My first husband was drafted toward the end of the Vietnam War and assigned to Air Base Japan," she said. "I ended up teaching art for the Department of Defense school system. There was this man who had been in Japan since 1949, and instead of saving money, he collected antique Japanese woodblock prints. After seeing his collection, I was hooked."

Howard was invited to train with master woodblock printmaker, Hodaka Yoshida, in Tokyo. After studying with Yoshida, she found out his father, Hiroshi, was the founder of the modern woodcut and critical in the shin-hanga movement.

After moving back to the United States, Howard received her master's degree specializing in Japanese woodblock printing from the University of Texas. She has been a full-time artist since 1981.

At one point, Howard was showing in 43 galleries and traveling all over the United States. Now, she hosts a one-woman show and private event on her

ranch in Austin twice a year. She also shows in Ronin Gallery in New York and Flatbed Press in Austin.

Howard would tell art students to always walk through the open doors of opportunity.

"That's exactly what I've done my entire life," she said. "I had this great background from Sam Houston State that gave me the guts and art knowledge needed when I was totally afraid to study with this guy in Japan."

## Charles Jones

Charles Jones was initially indecisive when choosing a major at SHSU, but ultimately chose art and minored in English in 1963.

"I had drawn and made things from stone and wood for as long as I remember," Jones said. "I found a group of dedicated artists and teachers in the art department and their influence on my career choices was strong."

"Images from books were a principal source of visual inspiration, along with nature," he said. "When I returned from Vietnam, where I served as a marine infantry lieutenant, I wanted to create works with a humanist content."

After serving, Jones attended New Mexico Highlands University to acquire his master's in printmaking and painting.

"I sought solace and content in the rugged landscape of the Sangre de



# THE ART IS



Christo Mountains where I spent many days painting and working in the print studio," he said. "After that, I went to the University of the Americas in Mexico City to learn as much as I could from the masters who had been using the human figure in their art so effectively."

After earning his master's in printmaking in 1969, he purchased a VW beetle and traveled across Europe to see the art he had studied in college.

He joined the faculty of Stephen F. Austin State University in 1971 and created a printmaking area in the art department.

Jones is now professor of art emeritus and director and master printer of the LaNana Creek Press. There he designs, prints and binds books that combine original art and type, printed and bound-by-hand in the fine press tradition.

"It was at Sam Houston that I first encountered working artists and teachers and saw it was possible, and actually provided a freedom to become an artist without worrying about market forces," he said.

## Emily Peacock

Emily Peacock received her bachelor's degree in photography from Sam Houston State and master's degree with an emphasis in photograph/digital media from the University of Houston.

As a photographer, Peacock often casts herself and members of her family as subjects, offering an intimate glimpse into her personal life and influences.

"The photographs that others find significant are intriguing to me," Peacock said. "I enjoy looking at the images that people have stuck to their refrigerators, mirrors and dashboards. Their emotional ties to these photographs are fascinating."

Peacock grew up in a large family where photographs were constantly taken. The walls of her grandmother's house are covered with tiny photos of birthdays and holidays, being updated with every new occasion.

"These ever-changing walls of photographs have always inspired me,"



she said. "I represent my family in a distinctively different way than my grandmother did, focusing mainly on their flaws and misfortunes, and on circumstances where cameras aren't normally present."

Peacock's grandmother napping after her knee surgery, her cousin's baby surrounded by clutter, and her niece's deformed toes are a few examples of the circumstances she photographs.

"I am interested in using my family's peculiar, private moments to speak to a broader human experience," she said. "By using these uncomfortable moments, I want to remind the viewer of our shared vulnerabilities."

Peacock's photographs have been exhibited throughout Texas, as well as New York City, Vienna, Austria, and the United Kingdom. Her work is also in the collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Her short film, "August," premiered at Diverseworks in Houston and was shown by Houston PBS.

## James Surls

James Surls was raised in a rural community in east Texas during the '40s, where he grew up a free soul.

"What influences me the most is breathing deep the air of nature," Surls said. "I'm a naturalist by choice. I like green grass, trees, rivers, rocks, sky, sand. I like what you would call the science of nature."

When he was told he had to declare a major when registering for classes at Sam Houston State, he went with a feeling and chose art.

"I had gone to a community college for two years and actually went to Sam Houston to sell life insurance," he said. "I signed up for art classes. I had always liked art, I just had never practiced it or followed any kind of thought processes in that direction. Once I started taking classes, I absolutely loved it."

Surls describes his time at SHSU as wonderful and commends his teachers for the dedication to the job and craft.

"Gaddis Gleeson was the chair of the department and really set the pace," he said. "I kind of fell into the right place at



the right time to fulfill something in my life. It paid off huge. I get psychologically rewarded by my profession now. I grew like a weed in the ditch. In a lot of ways, I was kind of naive to the world, but I was with the right group of people. It was great."

Surls is influenced by surreal, outsider, prison, folk and Mexican art.

"If you were at Sam Houston State and went on a summer program somewhere, chances were you went to Mexico," he said. "You can't separate the Mexican world, heritage and culture from Texas. It is as much a part of Texas as anything."

In terms of art education, Surls said, "Colleges, high schools, junior highs, elementary—they all should teach art, science and philosophy. I would compare it to having the primary colors. With those colors, you can make every color there is." ★



# CLASS NOTES



Former Bearkat baseball player **Kenneth Welch '60** was a coach, teacher and administrator at Katy I.S.D. for 34 years, retiring in 1994. For the last 14 years in Katy, he was director of the Outdoor Learning Center. A few years after retirement, the school named the center in his honor. Kenneth also formed a group named Cane Island Volunteers, presenting themselves as "pioneer soldiers" who might have been with Sam Houston at the Battle of San Jacinto. They have participated in the Sam Houston Folk Festival every year since it began in 1987. Kenneth's son, David Welch '95, is a rice farmer and rancher near Katy, and his



grandson, Matthew Barnes, is currently a Bearkat student studying agriculture engineering.

**Leroy Dreyer '61** was selected to join the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame as part of the class of 2017. The induction ceremony was held at the Hall of Fame Banquet during the 2017 ABCA Annual Convention in Anaheim, California in early January.

**Beverly Clute Freeman '72** recently

published a new book, "The Book of Whispers: A Father and Son's Battle with Bipolar Disorder."

**John E. Peltier '72** recently won several awards for his book, "The Thundering Herd." The book took first place in history/science and was named the South Regional Winner in the Readers View-Reviewers Choice Awards. The book also won the Richard Boes Award for Best Debut Book by a Veteran and the Conversations Award for the Best Regional Book of the Year.

**William Drake '75** has released a new book, "Large Families Living In Small Unpainted Houses: The culture of small Texas towns from 1952-1964." The book provides some perspective on Southern culture, combined with the nature, history and the evolution of race relations in small Texas towns.

**James Morrow '76** retired last year after 38 years in the criminal justice field with 26 years of service with the State of Texas.

**James Brown '78** recently released his new book, "A Panther's Father-Book Two."

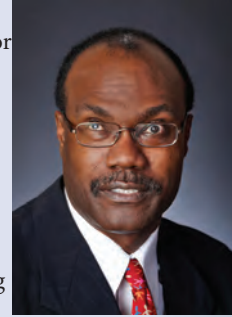
**Clyde E. Johnstone, Jr. '81** married Mark A. Sykes in February 2006 in Huddersfield, England. A second nuptial was held in Houston, Texas in August 2015. The couple lives in Houston.



**Carla Alsandor '82** successfully defended her dissertation in November 2016 after four years of course work, research, study, and preparation at Our Lady of the Lake University and is now a Doctor of Philosophy in leadership studies.

**Reginald Randolph '82**, Houston First Corporation's general manager of Theater District Parking, has been recognized as a leader in the industry after chalking up a major national award. The National Parking

Association named Randolph the Innovator of the Year at the organization's 65th Annual Convention & Expo recently in Atlanta. Earlier this year, he received an Award of Excellence from the Texas Parking and Transportation Association.



**Gregory Austin '83** recently retired from the American Cancer Society after 33 years. Gregory enjoyed his time at Sam, where he was a cheerleader and Outstanding RA of the Year.

**Randy Beaty '83** graduated from the South Texas College of Law-Houston in December 2016 and passed the Texas Bar. He is now practicing in Texas.

**Gregory Townsend '85** is a health services administrator at the Jefferson County Department of Health in Birmingham, Alabama. Gregory has been employed with the agency more than 22 years working on special projects in the Quality Improvement Decision Support division. In 2016, Gregory was selected to participate in the Culture of Health Leaders program. Working individually and in teams, these leaders addressed top-of-mind issues in health and equity, including food systems, racial stress in urban communities, and immigrant trauma.

**David Brady '89** recently became the CEO of the Gulf Coast Region of the American Red Cross.

**Ronny Snow '90** was one of nine Texas principals recently selected as Texas National Distinguished Principal finalists by the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association. Ronny is the principal at Malakoff Elementary School in northeast Texas.

**Robert Bunch '94** has been an assistant librarian at the McNay Art Museum in San

Antonio since 2011, after 20 years as a school librarian in Coldspring and Houston. His book, "The Art of Found Objects: Interviews with Texas Artists," was published by Texas A&M University Press in 2016.

**Katelyn Stafford Bruno '10, '11**

recently completed her Ph.D. in environmental health sciences at Johns Hopkins University and has continued her research in myocarditis at Mayo Clinic. She is married with a one-year-old son, Jacob.



**Ryan Bridges '11, '13** has been director of recruiting at The Fitzpatrick Group, a Houston-based financial services firm.

**Andres Valdez '12** serves as a Global Shop Solutions service consultant and has recently been named one of "Manufacturing Engineering's 2016 30 Under 30" award recipients.

**Olivia Westerman '12** is returning for her second season as a Houston Texans cheerleader. When not cheering for the Texans, Olivia is a teacher in Houston.

After graduating, **Julia Cudd '15** began her career as a SNAP-Ed coordinator for Montgomery County Food Bank. She has plans to become a registered dietitian.

Following her December 2016 graduation, **Chestin Auzenne-Curl '03** became the first African American to hold a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from the University of Houston. The degree program was established to study the complexities of education in urban contexts. Having previously taught and held administrative positions in public education, Chestin decided to return to higher education to focus on the preparation and retention of teachers and teacher educators in secondary education.

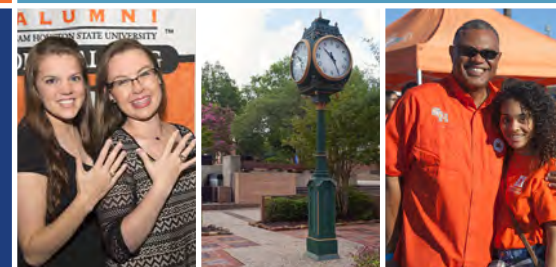
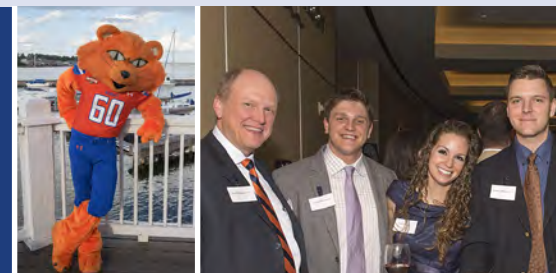
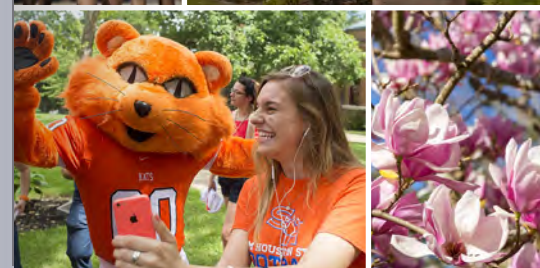
**Emily Jo Taylor '17** graduated this year and continued the Bearkat legacy following in the footsteps of her father, **Clint Dale Taylor '91**, and her grandfather, **Robert Howard Taylor '66**.



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## IN MEMORIAM

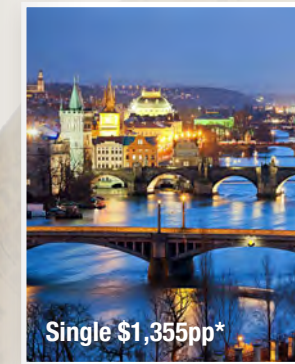
Eva (Wade) McKnight '37  
 Ruby (Hogue) Buckner '38  
 Jane Evelyn (Stowbridge) Fraser '40  
 Bettie Royce (West) Close '41  
 Corinne (Court) Whitted '41  
 Mary Alice (Murph) Debney '42  
 Mary Katherine (Ferguson) Fails '43  
 Mary Martha (Bowden) Griffin '43  
 Odis Alexander Lowe '43  
 Billie Virginia (Hazel) Quinn '43  
 Georgie Jeanette (Kearse) Rawson '44  
 Lillian (Barron) Boemer '45  
 Velma Lee (Parker) Petty '45  
 Mary Lee (Marshall) McMurrey '47  
 Roxie Ann (Colkin) Brumlow '48  
 Mary Winifred (Corley) Grivich '48  
 John William Herrington '48  
 Adrian J. Huckabee '48  
 Melvin Boyce Montgomery '48, '55  
 Vernalea (Miller) Pickering '48  
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 Doris Jean (Snider) Crutchfield '49  
 Christine Eugenia (Handley) Dugger '49  
 Jerrell James Fromme '49  
 James Lanier Gibson '49, '50  
 Prentice Dell Hamilton '49, '54  
 Willie Lyndon Johnson '49  
 Mary Neil (Poole) Linnenberg '49  
 James Douglas Sowell '49, '52  
 Rosemary Ruth (Dietz) Tittle '49  
 Grace Elizabeth (Caffall) Turner '49  
 Hollis Leon Walters '49  
 George Coleman Walton '49  
 Betty Grace (Selman) Watts '49  
 Harold Lee Wise '49  
 Nelwyn Marie (Dodson) Collum '50  
 David Heath Donnan '50  
 Don Raymond Knox '50  
 Joseph Thornton McKay '50  
 William Jessie Pollard '50, '50  
 Leslie Joan Roper '50  
 Esther Maass (Cobern) Schaefer '50  
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 John Frank Ferguson '51  
 Clayton Gene Hester '51  
 Jim Iverson Hunt '51  
 Joe Ray Johnson '51  
 Allan Edward Koerth '51  
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 Larry Bruce Jackson '52  
 John Phillip Lesser '52  
 Ronald Wyatt Liles '52  
 Frankie M. (Beathard) Rathbun '52  
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 Plummer Gene Sollock '52 '61  
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 Gene Parker Buford '53  
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 Jo (Hall) Church '53  
 William Albert Lum '53  
 Clyde Weldon Thomas '53 '59  
 Jewell Dean (Bone) Thomas '53  
 Hamp S. Atkinson '54  
 John Eugene Burge '54  
 Luther Joseph Chachere '54 '55  
 Harold George '54  
 Olivia June (Burkett) Mattson '54  
 Marie Elizabeth (Claes) Moore '54  
 Joyce Nell (Orsag) Floeck '55  
 Emilie Claire Gardner '55  
 Charles Marvin McGilvray '55  
 Egbert Louis Petrussek '55  
 Horace Schaffer '55  
 Benedict F. Urbish '55  
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 Joseph Daniel Mendoza '56  
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 Hilton Larry Lewis '58  
 Donald Malcolm Rose '58  
 Sandra Lee (Green) Standley '58  
 Samuel Everett Curl '59  
 Roger Clinton Devore '59  
 Stanley Randall Hall '59, '59  
 Charles Thomas Mallery '59  
 Ezem Gillian Scarborough '59  
 Ned Eugene Beall '60  
 Joanne (Garner) Bisbey '60  
 Sharon Leanne (Honea) Butler '60  
 Robert Roy Hazelwood '60  
 Arland Eugene Phelps '60  
 John E. Simek '60  
 Arthur Jene Tuggle '60  
 James Morris Wells '60  
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 Michael David Chennault '61  
 William Carroll Daniels '61  
 William Eugene Dowden '61  
 Charles Hinze '61  
 Nickolas Edgar Jackson '61  
 David Raymond Kosler '61  
 Wilmer Edward Morgan '61  
 Bobbie Darrell Weber '61  
 Sue Jane (Matthews) Burrows '62  
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 Lucelle Anne (Hovesepian) Kerr '62  
 Pauline Ruth (Winston) Kilsdonk '62  
 James Martin Kowis '62  
 Michael Conrad Larson '62  
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 Charlie Acebo '63  
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 Robert McLean Wickersham '64  
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 Walter Gerhard Oncken '65, '71  
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 Marian Jayne (McDonald) Pope '65, '78  
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 Marylin Delores Davis '66  
 Hollis Hobson Gainey '66  
 Owen Riley Marshall '66  
 Marian J. (Simpson) Pearce '66  
 Marjorie Carolyn (Ball) Pierce '66  
 Dolores LaNelle Sales '66, '75  
 John A. Stevens '66  
 Jerry Hudson Wilson '66, '68  
 Elizabeth Lou (Rheinlander) Lay '67, '67  
 Judy (Daniel) Powell '67

Marjorie Jean (Brodrick) Rex '67  
 Barney Frederick Slayton '67  
 Peter Van Yurgensen '67  
 James Eddie Bowie '68  
 Margaret Ellen Broussard '68  
 Brenda Dean (Seay) Fleming '68, '75  
 Pamela Kaye (Lindley) Isom '68  
 Bobby Joe Love '68  
 Wendell Henry Rudloff '68  
 Patricia Ann (Dzierzowski) Ashorn '69  
 Donald Wayne Brock '69, '70  
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 Bobby Lee Davis '69  
 Charles Edwin Grabein '69  
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 Billie (Scaggs) Jones '69  
 Haleta Kay (Hartrick) Killough '69  
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 Norman Ray Payne '72  
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 Vicki Jo (Acker) Flanery '74  
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 David Clyde Richardson '74  
 Daniel Sanchez '74  
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 Dale Courtenay (Freyer) Dugat '75  
 Henry Herman Gerecke '75  
 C. B. Isbell '75  
 Ronald Burl Livingston '75  
 Shelia Ruth (Pierson) Smith '75  
 Barbara Ann (Moore) Stewart '75  
 Russell Maurice Brhlik '76  
 William Robert Cullum '76  
 Charles Randall Freeman '76  
 Paul Wright Pace '76  
 Steven Michael Reagan '76  
 Tommy Cromwell Cardiff '77  
 Joyce Lynn (Goeke) Dean '77  
 Michael Dean Horner '77

Joel R. Irwin '77  
 Daniel Alton Matthews '77  
 James R. Phelps '77  
 Cynthia Kaye (White) Sinatra '77  
 Marcus Lee Stevens '77  
 Katie Bell (Vick) Thompson '77  
 James Robert Welsh '77  
 Melba Ray Barger '78  
 Norman David Freeman '78  
 Juan Daniel Gutierrez '78  
 Judith Ann Hogan '78  
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 Edward John Panuska '80  
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 Pepper Darnell De Roulac '83  
 Lysbeth Kaye Stone '83  
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 Craig Thomas Hutchinson '84  
 Mark Gregory Knodel '84  
 Glenn Arthur Wharton '84  
 Nancy E. (Akin) Bailey '85  
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 Vernessa Deret (Spencer) Tracy '85  
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 Francisco Barrientez '87  
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 Shannon Lee (West) Zureich '98  
 Kristina Lynn (Miller) Eckman '01  
 Joseph Robert Faehnle '01  
 Laura Ellen (Thresher) Johnston '01 '05  
 Cathy Inglis (Foy) Green '02,  
 Larry Gene Bottoms '03  
 Travis Wayne Bushman '04, '06  
 Jonathan Paul Ellis '04  
 Roger Dail Jones '04, '10  
 Jill Christine Hord '05  
 Susan Kathleen (Benham) Vetrano '06  
 Joy Lisette (Plummer) Llorens '08  
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**Travel By:** Contiki Young Alumni Travel (18 – 35yo)



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### NEW YORK ALUMNI & FRIENDS TRIP

4 Days – 3 Nights  
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**Highlights:** Experience NYC during the holiday season. Includes round trip air and ground transportation, lodging at the Sheraton NY Times Square, Bearkat welcome reception on December 12 and reception and dinner at The Harvard Club of NY on December 13.

**Travel By:** SHSU Alumni Association



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**Travel By:** Premier World Discovery



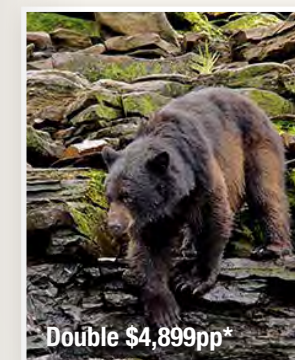
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April 5 – 14, 2018

**Highlights:** London, Virgin Trains East Coast, York, Edinburgh Castle, Lake District, North Wales, Stratford-upon-Avon, Stonehenge, Cotswolds.

**Travel By:** Collette Vacations



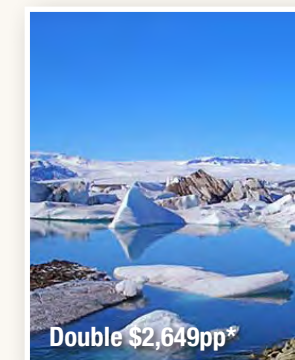
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**Highlights:** Land & Cruise package, 7 day cruise through the Inside Passage and Glacier Bay. Rail from Denali to Anchorage viewing incredible landscapes from glass-ceiling railcars. Denali National Park, Juneau, Ketchikan and Vancouver.

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**Travel By:** Collette Vacations

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