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# RESEARCH NEWS

Fall 1992

Volume II Number 1

## From the Director's Desk

Since we published our last newsletter, many exciting events have occurred at Sam Houston State. The amount of research and scholarly activity passing through the Office of Faculty Research continues to increase at a brisk pace.

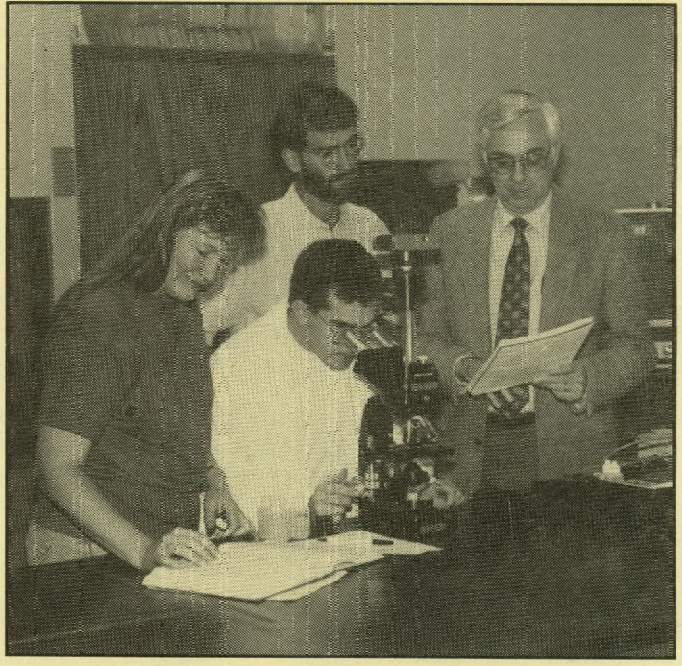
Fifty-eight faculty members submitted proposals for the university's research enhancement program, the largest number ever. Eleven proposals were from new faculty; this too is a record high.

The Office of Faculty Research is eager to work with you in developing funding opportunities for your project. Please stop by for a visit (AB-1, Room 319) and give us the opportunity to provide as much assistance as we can. The office has a sizable library of material from various funding agencies that might be useful to you. The Sam Houston community will soon have rapid access to a tremendous amount of information from federal agencies on CD ROM in the Research Office

In this Newsletter, we will share with you a few of the success stories that have been created by SHSU faculty. We regret that it is not possible to share every project with you because of the large number of activities, but we have chosen a group of projects and activities that we believe are representative of the entire campus.

—Bill Covington

**Victor Sower**, Management and Marketing, is at the midpoint of a five-year study of statistical process control in the plastics molding industry in Texas. Tracking sixty firms over five years, the study measures such variables as production, competitiveness, stability of the work force, and worker satisfaction in equal numbers of firms that use statistical process control and those that do not. The initial year of the project was funded by a University Research Enhancement grant, subsequent years by an SHSU College of Business Grant.



*Paddle Fish Project: Professor Andy Dewees and students Alex Moldenhauer (at microscope), Mary Beth Webb, and Bobby Brown.*

The Department of Biological Sciences has entered into a research contract with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to participate in that agency's Paddle Fish Recovery Project. Department Chair **Andrew Dewees** is directing the two year project; other faculty members involved are **James DeShaw** and **Monte Thies**. Approximately \$70,000 has been funded for the project in which Biology majors will conduct monthly surveys of water quality and of populations of zooplankton, the major food of the species. The project represents an effort to expand the department's participation with Texas Parks and Wildlife in significant research projects in east Texas.

The Collaborative Center for Professional Development and Technology at Sam Houston State University has received an extension of \$ 30,000 from TEA for a second year of operation. **Ken Craycraft**, the project director, describes the program as designed to integrate technology and

innovative teaching methods into the experiences of preservice teachers, through both university training and field-based public school and community activities.

Researchers from the College of Criminal Justice have been awarded a \$226,059 grant from the Department of Justice's National Institute of Justice for a study which could improve the way prison inmates are classified and treated. Professors **James W. Marquart**, **Steven J. Cuvelier**, and **Velmer Burton** of Sam Houston State University and **Barbara Belbot** of the University of Houston-Downtown, a doctoral student at Sam Houston, will conduct the research.

The group will study current classification policies and procedures, legal developments and future trends, and the role of technology in making decisions about inmate classification.

Professor **I. Robert Adams** of the Sam Houston State University English Program has been invited to deliver addresses at two conferences in England in the spring and summer of 1993. In early April he will speak at the Second G. L. Brook Symposium at the University of Manchester, and in August at the First International *Piers Plowman* Conference at Queen's College, Cambridge. His two presentations are "Exegetical Anti-Semitism and Chaucer's 'New Rachel'" and "The *Piers Plowman* Rubrics: Are They Reliable?"

Professors **Donald Coers** and **Paul Ruffin** are joint editors of a collection of essays on John Steinbeck's later works. The volume, to be published in 1993 under the sponsorship of The Texas Review, will honor Professor Tetsumaro Hayashi, Professor of English, Ball State University, founder and Editor-in-Chief of The Steinbeck Quarterly.

Coers' book, John Steinbeck As Propagandist: The Moon Is Down Goes to War, won the Elizabeth Agee Prize for publications in American Literature in 1990.

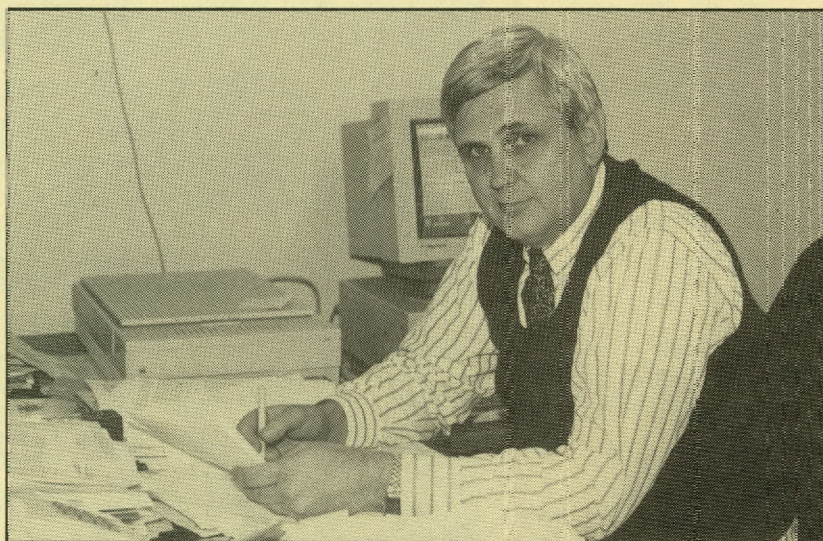
## Rep. Charlie Wilson Announces Rural Mobility Institute

Representative Charlie Wilson, 2nd Congressional District of Texas, has announced funding of an institute to study transportation in rural areas. The establishment of the Rural Mobility Institute, a cooperative effort between Brazos Transit System and Sam Houston State University, will allow for the orderly, controlled planning necessary to bring about comprehensive mobility in rural districts. The institute will be headquartered at Sam Houston State, with a cooperative program at Angelina Junior College. It will provide grants to faculty and students at these institutions to study, design, and implement mobility programs in the Brazos Transit System area of operation. The Departments of Political Science and Sociology and the Texas Regional Institute for Environmental Studies at Sam Houston are among groups initially participating in the program. The program has received funding of \$1,000,000 from the Department of Transportation.

## NEH Workshop Held on Campus

Forty Sam Houston faculty members met with Michelle Bertrand from the Office of Outreach of the National Endowment for the Humanities on September 21, 1992. Bertrand described programs sponsored by the Endowment in a morning meeting and met with faculty member to discuss individual projects in the afternoon.

Dean Richard Cording and Associate Dean Mary Lynn DeShazo represented the Office of the College of Arts and Sciences; Twila Kirkpatrick and Beth Miles attended from the Office of University Relations and Development; and Bill Covington and John Schwetman from the Office of Faculty Research. Faculty members from fifteen departments on campus were the main participants in the day's meetings. Four guests from Southwest Texas State were also in attendance.



*Gordon Plishker,  
Director of the Institute  
for Innovative  
Collaborative Programs.*

## Institute for Innovative Collaborative Programs

In September 1992, Dr. Gordon Plishker assumed duties as the Director of the newly formed Institute for Innovative Collaborative Programs at Sam Houston State University. The Institute seeks novel ways for the University to collaborate with school districts, businesses, government bodies, community colleges, and other universities to develop relationships and to implement projects designed to improve all levels of education and research. Plishker hopes to facilitate collaboration which will help faculty to better understand problems in public education and gain additional assistance from entities external to the university. Plishker says that faculty must want to be involved if such relationships are to work. One form that such "facilitating" can take is to help locate funding to allow faculty to work in nontraditional ways. Also the Institute hopes to foster more interdisciplinary collaboration at SHSU.

An example of the type of on-going collaboration that Plishker envisions is the Texas Enhancement of Science Teaching Project, through which faculty from the Math Department, the various science departments, and the College of Education at SHSU, public school teachers, the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the Region Six Education Service Center, and the Education for Tomorrow Alliance work together to prepare for the new integrated science educa-

tion reforms in the secondary schools. Business representatives, university faculty, teacher educators, education researchers, school supervisors, and classroom teachers will all work together to assure the success of the new approach to science teaching in Texas schools. The project involves planning workshops, a summer leadership institute with academic year follow-ups, two summer teacher institutes with follow-up sessions during the academic year, and resource-sharing networks at both the local and regional level. The project is currently funded by a \$19,800 grant from TEA; a \$700,000 grant proposal for this project is pending with the National Science Foundation. The goal of the collaboration is to provide long-term support for classroom teachers.

Plishker holds a BS in biology from Bucknell and a Ph.D. from Rutgers. He comes to Sam Houston from the Department of Neurology, Baylor College of Medicine, where he was an Assistant Professor and Director of Research Planning and Development. He is founder and president of the Education for Tomorrow Alliance, a business and education partnership, which received start-up funding from the Department of Education. He is also the founder of both the Science and Engineering Network to Support Education classroom program and the *Science and Technology 2000* science fair and exposition. He has been active in both community and research organizations in Southeast Texas

## Environmental Institute Funded for Second Year

The Texas Regional Institute for Environmental Studies was included in the appropriations bill which recently passed through the legislature as part of the budget for the Department of Defense. Funding for fiscal year 1993 is \$5,000,000. The institute is a joint project at Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin State Universities, headquartered at Sam Houston under the directorship of Michael Warnock, Associate Professor of Biology.

## Seven Journals Edited at SHSU

Journal of Addiction and Offender Counseling,  
edited by **Bob Shearer**, Criminal Justice

The Journal of Business Strategies,  
edited by **Roger Abshire**, Management  
and Marketing

Journal of Criminal Justice Education,  
edited by **Tim Flanagan**, Criminal Justice

Journal of Educational Studies,  
edited by **T. C. Sim and Tom Kordinak**,  
Psychology

Kodaly Envoy,  
edited by **Alan Strong**, Music

Texas Journal of Political Studies,  
edited by **Jim Carter**, Political Science

The Texas Review,  
edited by **Paul Ruffin**, English

*A Member of the Texas State University System.*



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