

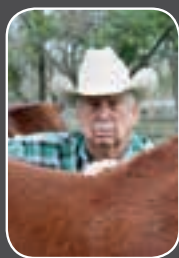


"BOWLEGGED H" MAGAZINE

SPRING 2018 • VOLUME XXVI • NO. 1 • HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO™



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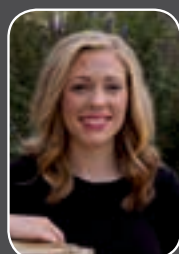
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SPRING 2018

Volume XXVI • No. 1

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EDUCATION

ENTERTAINMENT

WESTERN HERITAGE



FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

In the last 15 years, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ has seen substantial growth, thanks in large part to our dedicated volunteers who have shared their time, talents and resources with our organization throughout the years. Since 2003, the Show's volunteer count has grown from 14,000 to more than 33,000 individuals, serving on 108 committees. During the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's 86th year, we will celebrate the backbone of our organization — you, the volunteer.

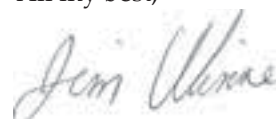
Visitors to the 2018 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will be introduced to the Spirit of the Volunteer through signage across the grounds, digital and social media mentions, and nightly presentations before the concerts in NRG Stadium. Daily during RODEOHOUSTON®, volunteers will be featured in the Grand Entry, interviewed on the arena floor, and recognized in the audience. As an ongoing part of the Spirit of the Volunteer campaign, I encourage you to visit volunteers.rodeohouston.com to share your volunteer story. I have enjoyed reading the incredible stories of our volunteers that have shaped, supported and grown the Show to the success that it is today, and I look forward to learning your story.

The time we have all been waiting for is

finally here — the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is just around the corner. You've worked hard all year to get to this point, and when the crowds begin to arrive on opening day, you are sure to feel a rush of adrenaline and excitement. As the days go by, you may begin to feel a little stress or fatigue. In this moment, it is important to remember what you do matters. Without your support, we would not be able to successfully run the world's largest livestock show and rodeo, and award more than \$26 million in educational funding to Texas youth each year. Time is a finite resource and I appreciate you choosing to dedicate your valuable time to support the Show's mission and prepare a better future for the youth of Texas.

In these final moments leading up to the Show, let us take this time to put aside what makes us different, and celebrate what brings us together. I am proud to serve as your chairman of the board and I am looking forward to another great year. 🤠

All my best,



Jim Winne

SMOKEY DAVIS:

COWBOY, LEGEND

BY KEN SCOTT

Some are called “Cowboy” because they live a cowboy lifestyle. A rare few have earned the title because they have spent their lifetime actually being a cowboy. At 84 years old, Joe F. “Smokey” Davis is a Texas cowboy legend.

Joe Davis, Sr., a former Barbers Hill, Texas, rice farmer and livestock manager, took his 5-year-old son, Smokey, to work with him every day to help move cattle for inspection. On the boy’s first day of school at age 6, he escaped Mrs. Luttz’s first grade class during recess to rejoin his father on the range. And, although that decision did end his participation in recess for quite some time, it did not end his true love of being a cowboy.

By the time Smokey was 8 years old, he had not only competed against, but also bested grown men in a breakaway roping competition while riding a horse named Jitterbug, for which he won \$188. An old hand at driving cattle by this time, he had already met anyone’s definition of a “real cowboy.” But, he did not realize that was just the beginning.

Davis’ first connection to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ was in 1943 when he showed cattle during the Houston Fat Stock Show. That introduction led to a decades-long relationship. Davis went through high school, first as a successful steer wrestler and bareback rider. Later, he began calf roping, team roping, bull riding and later became a pick-up man. He started at the University of Houston on a rodeo/agriculture scholarship, but was forced to leave school after three semesters to support his wife, Betty, and their soon-to-be five children. He worked side-by-side with his father as a pick-up man at the Texas Prison Rodeo for 12 years.

Like so many great cowboys, Davis has a terrific nickname. “People always want to know, why ‘Smokey?’” Davis said. He explained that as a young child in Barbers Hill he

crawled up a heater pipe inside their home that collapsed. A young neighbor friend was called Smokey and when his grandfather saw young Joe covered in soot he said, “It looks like we have two little ‘Smokeys’ now.”

“That nickname stuck and everybody calls me that because they know I won’t answer to anything else — my kids, grandkids, everybody,” Davis said, although he did admit that those closest to him often shorten it to just “Smoke” and said his great grandkids often get away with



PHOTO BY KEN SCOTT

Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame Inductee



calling him “Gramps.”

In addition to competing in most rodeo events, Davis and his father founded the Rafter D Rodeo Company in 1978. This name represented all the Davises under one roof. He and his family produced full-scale rodeos in dozens of cities in Texas and neighboring states from 1971 through 2001. Davis has worn the hat of a rodeo producer, promoter, stock supplier, equipment manager, arena director, sales manager, sometime medic and even diplomat. Rafter D staged rodeos for dignitaries including Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and the Emperor of China.

The many awards and honors Davis has earned cover a wall in the Fulshear, Texas, home he shared with his wife Betty, whom he lost in 2016 after 64 years of marriage. Davis said Betty was with him every step of his career. One award on that wall that stands out is his 2011 induction into the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame, whose primary mission is to preserve rodeo history and honor rodeo achievement.

It is not clear if “rodeoing” is in the Davis family genes or simply wildly contagious. Smokey’s grandfather, father, his five children, nine grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren, at least those old enough to walk, have all “rodeoed” and have all won.

Throughout his career, Davis has met and worked with practically everyone in Southeast Texas rodeos. On that list are a few famous cowboys, including Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, James Arness, Dickie West, Clayton Moore (The Lone Ranger), Duncan Renaldo (The Cisco Kid) and even Elvis Presley. He also supplied hundreds of head of livestock for movies and television shows, including “Gone to Texas,” “Lonesome Dove,” “Locust,” “Texas Outlaws,” “The Red Duke Story,” and more recently, “The Son.”

Since 1971, Davis has supplied horses for participants in

the various trail rides that make their way to Houston each year just before the Show. He still finds joy in telling riders the names and personality quirks of their horses, including tricks to make them easy to handle.

Joe Calvert, a member of the Quarter Horse Committee and Lifetime Committeeman, has known Davis for more than 25 years. “Everything that I know about that man depicts that he is the most genuine, ultimate, authentic cowboy who ever walked our planet,” Calvert said. “Smokey Davis is the real deal.”

Today, Davis enjoys sharing his love of rodeo, whether staying active in its promotion or sharing his millions of memories. “The best part of my life has been family and friends,” he said. “The people are what have made this whole ride worth doing.”

Even though few have earned the title of cowboy more than Davis, that word somehow does not seem to be enough. After almost 80 years of living that life, Smokey Davis has become a Texas cowboy legend. 🤠



Smokey and his son, Donnie Davis, serving as pick-up men in the 1992 American Junior Rodeo Association Finals.

50 YEAR VOLUNTEERS

BY TODD ZUCKER

Many Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ volunteers have been involved with the Show since childhood in some form or fashion, whether it was watching the Downtown Rodeo Parade, participating in the trail rides, supporting Go Texan events or attending rodeo performances. A select few have dedicated 50 or more years of continuous service to the Show as active committee members. Among this elite group are four individuals, who during the past half century, have committed their time, talent and generosity to the Show.



Top: Ed McMahon (far left) pictured with the McMahon/Dozier cook team, circa 1970s. To this day, McMahon is an active supporter of the World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest.

Bottom: Jim Bloodworth (right) presenting a \$50,000 check to former Houston Symphony Board Member and Show Vice President, Dr. Daniel E. Lehane for the Houston Symphony Discovery Concert Series in 1998.



Left: Executive Committee members Ed McMahon, Mike Wells and Jim Bloodworth catching up before a nightly RODEOHOUSTON® performance in 2016.



Right: Don Jordan has served on the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Executive Committee since 1986, and served as Show president from 1994 – 1996.

JIM BLOODWORTH

James O. “Jim” Bloodworth always had a love for horses, and joined the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in 1967 as a member of the Horse Show Quarter Horse Committee. Bloodworth was promoted to General Horse Show chair in 1981, and served as vice president and officer in charge of the Horse Show Committees from 1984 to 1986. He had the honor of filling the initial first vice president position created in 1995 when the Show experienced unprecedented growth in all areas, and the leadership felt he had the acumen to develop a long-range planning committee. Bloodworth served as the Show’s 18th president from 1997 to 1999, after which he served as chairman of the board from 2000 to 2002. During his tenure, he had the honor of signing the agreement to move RODEOHOUSTON® from the Astrodome to NRG Stadium. To this day, Bloodworth is an active member on the Show’s Executive Committee.

DON JORDAN

Don Jordan first attended the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo as a child when he traveled from his native Ingleside, Texas, to visit his uncle in Houston. Together, they attended the formerly named Houston Fat Stock Show. During his visit to the Show, the Calf Scramble event made a lasting impression on him, so much so that he later joined his high school 4-H club and went on to participate in the event in 1948. After graduating from The University of Texas at Austin in 1956, he returned to Houston to work for the Houston Lighting & Power Company, and shortly thereafter, joined the Show as a lifetime member in 1960. Working his way up through the ranks, Jordan became a Show director in 1974, was promoted to vice president two years later and has served on the Executive Committee since 1986. He was Show president from 1994 to 1996, at which point he was named chairman of the board, serving in that capacity until 1999. During his tenure as president, the Show reached the attendance milestone of 1 million spectators.

ED MCMAHON

A member of the Executive Committee, Ed McMahon’s involvement with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo began at the Sam Houston Coliseum where he rode in the Houston Fat Stock Show Grand Entry with his father a number of times and shook hands with such stars as Roy

Rogers and James Arness. The Show’s agricultural mission has been near to his heart from an early age. Growing up, McMahon participated in the Lamar High School FFA chapter and the Rodeo Club. He also helped raise chickens, steers and a pig named “Arnold” on an acre of land owned by his grandmother.

In 1967, McMahon joined the Show as a life member. During that same year, he became one of the 12 inaugural members of the Poultry Auction Committee. Throughout the years, he has continued his commitment to the Show, supporting a broad range of committees, including Sky Box, Corporate Development, Western Art and Swine Auction. He has held many leadership positions, including chair and officer in charge of the Poultry Auction Committee and chair of the Corporate Development Committee. He was inducted into the Poultry Hall of Fame in 1987 and received the Swine Auction Committee’s Head Hog award in 2003. McMahon was elected to the Show’s board of directors in 1977, became a vice president in 1986 and was appointed to the Executive Committee in 2010, where he has served on subcommittees such as the Long Range Planning Committee.

P. MICHAEL WELLS

P. Michael “Mike” Wells began attending the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo during the Sam Houston Coliseum days and joined as a member in 1965 — just before the move to the Astrodome. With a love of horses, Wells began active volunteer work on the Quarter Horse Committee in 1968, where he ultimately served as chair of the Quarter Horse, Cutting Horse, Palomino and Horspitality committees. Wells served as a first vice president during Jim Bloodworth’s tenure as president, and he later served as president from 2000 to 2003, during which he faced the daunting task of overseeing the Show’s operations during the construction of NRG Stadium. After his term ended, the Show restructured its management to address the growth and increasing complexity of its operations, and Wells became the Show’s first full-time president and chief executive officer in 2004. As a lifetime member of the Executive Committee, he continues to remain active in Show leadership.

The continued efforts of more than 33,000 dedicated volunteers like Bloodworth, Jordan, McMahon and Wells are the reason for the success of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, and why the Show has remained Houston’s greatest tradition for more than 85 years. 🤠

BY THE NUMBERS: VOLUNTEERS



SEE THE
FACES
OF OUR

VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERS.RODEOHOUSTON.COM



MORE THAN
33,000
VOLUNTEERS

SERVING ON
108 COMMITTEES

FOR A TOTAL OF
2.1 MILLION
HOURS OF SERVICE PER YEAR

TO HELP RAISE MORE THAN
\$450 MILLION
FOR TEXAS YOUTH SINCE 1932

BEHIND THE

BADGE

BY SARAH TUCKER



One of the most eagerly anticipated events of the year for Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ volunteers is the distribution of the Show's gold badge. Although many volunteers will not receive their badges until right before the Show starts, the badge design process actually begins well before the previous year's Show has even begun. By the time the 2018 Show season ends, the badge design for 2019 will have already been decided.

Each year the badge design changes, which not only helps prevent duplication but also highlights significant events of that year. "We try to make them a reminder of something important," said Johnnie Westerhaus, Show managing director of production and presentations.

For example, in 2002, the badge



featured the Astrodome because it was the last year in that space. The subsequent 2003 badge featured what is now NRG Stadium. This year's badge includes a star as a tribute to the new star-shaped stage which will debut during the 2018 Show.

Westerhaus' personal favorite is the 2001 badge that featured a construction hard hat and girders (steel beams). "We were trying to remind people the grounds were under construction and to ride the bus — that parking was limited," Westerhaus said. "It's my favorite because it's different, and we were trying to educate people with the design."

Ideas for badge designs come from all over including Show artwork, events, general Western themes and elements of Show history. "In the last few years, the executive office has provided the concept," said Melissa Hernlund, Show managing director of membership, who oversees the badge design process.

Former Chairman of the Board Jack Lyons requested

the chuck wagon design for the 2016 Show. "The American Flag, Texas Flag, Bowlegged "H" and chuckwagon on the 2016 gold badge illustrate our love for our great country, our state, our Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo volunteers and our Western heritage," Lyons said.

Once the design is approved by the Executive Committee and Chairman of the Board, Hernlund will order more than 45,000 badges for all the volunteers, board members, auction contributors, donors, judges, champion buyers and others approved to receive a badge. Each badge will be customized by number and title and then distributed to the appropriate groups.

Despite a new design each year, the badge remains a point of pride for volunteers and a sign of the hard work done to earn it.

"The badge not only signifies that our volunteers have fulfilled their volunteer commitment, but it exemplifies that each volunteer is an important and integral part of our Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo family," Lyons said. 🐾

THE BADGE NOT ONLY SIGNIFIES THAT OUR VOLUNTEERS HAVE FULFILLED THEIR VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT, BUT IT EXEMPLIFIES THAT EACH VOLUNTEER IS AN IMPORTANT AND INTEGRAL PART OF OUR HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO FAMILY, JACK LYONS, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



2018 RODEOHOUSTON[®]

**STAR ENTERTAINER
LINEUP**

HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO[™]

Feb. 27 - March 18, 2018 • rodeohouston.com

Weekday Performances 6:45 p.m. • Weekend Performances 3:45 p.m.





Tuesday, Feb. 27
GARTH BROOKS



Wednesday, Feb. 28
LITTLE BIG TOWN
Armed Forces Appreciation Day
presented by BHP



Thursday, March 1
BLAKE SHELTON



Friday, March 2
LEON BRIDGES
Black Heritage Day
sponsored by Kroger



Saturday, March 3
KELSEA BALLERINI



Sunday, March 4
ALESSIA CARA



Monday, March 5
RASCAL FLATTS
First Responders Day
presented by BP



Tuesday, March 6
JASON ALDEAN



Wednesday, March 7
THOMAS RHETT



Thursday, March 8
LUKE BRYAN



Friday, March 9
CHRIS YOUNG



Saturday, March 10
CODY JOHNSON



Sunday, March 11
CALIBRE 50
Go Tejano Day



Monday, March 12
ZAC BROWN BAND



Tuesday, March 13
J BALVIN



Wednesday, March 14
ONEREPUBLIC



Thursday, March 15
KEITH URBAN



Friday, March 16
CHRIS STAPLETON



Saturday, March 17
BRAD PAISLEY



Sunday, March 18
GARTH BROOKS

HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO™

THE HIDEOUT

Feb. 27 - March 18, 2018 • open 6 p.m. to midnight

Weekday performers begin at 10:15 p.m. • Weekend performers begin at 8:30 p.m.

Free admission with NRG Park admission or RODEOHOUSTON® ticket (21 and up)



Tuesday, Feb. 27
JUNIOR GORDON



Wednesday, Feb. 28
CLAY HOLLIS



Thursday, March 1
RANDALL KING



Friday, March 2
**J PAUL JR &
THE ZYDECO NUBREEDS**



Saturday, March 3
KIMBERLY DUNN



Sunday, March 4
DJ RED RITCH



Monday, March 5
JARROD BIRMINGHAM



Tuesday, March 6
JOSH GRIDER



Wednesday, March 7
THE POWELL BROTHERS



Thursday, March 8
DARRIN MORRIS BAND



Friday, March 9
NATALIE ROSE



Saturday, March 10
JASON CASSIDY



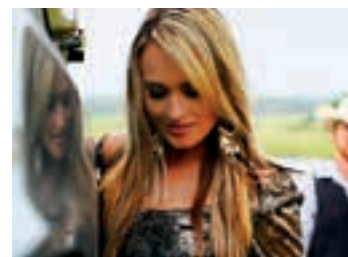
Sunday, March 11
GO TEJANO DAY



Monday, March 12
THE STATESBORO REVUE



Tuesday, March 13
NO DRY COUNTY



Wednesday, March 14
BRI BAGWELL



Thursday, March 15
GLEN TEMPLETON



Friday, March 16
KODY WEST



Saturday, March 17
BRET MULLINS



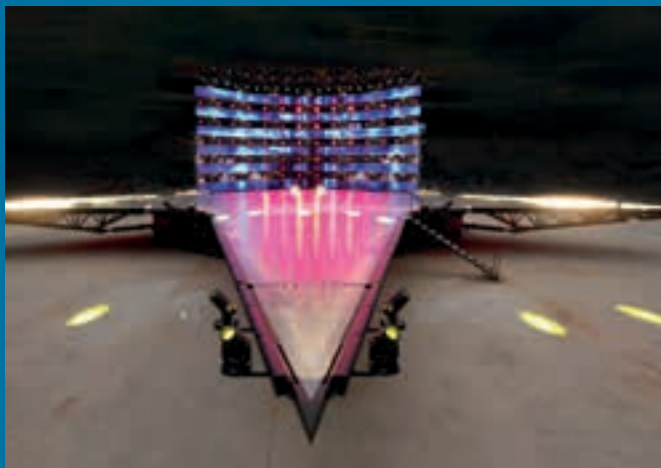
Sunday, March 18
THE STRAYHEARTS

SEE THE NEW STAGE LIVE IN 2018!



STAGE FACTS:

- ★ arrived on 16 semi-trailers
- ★ weighs 360,000 pounds
- ★ 20 solid rubber tires, 4' tall by 2' wide
- ★ 48' center rotating performance area
- ★ five 36' star points that articulate up and down
- ★ 126' wide from star tip to star tip
- ★ 28' video wall with rotating panels
- ★ laser-guided positioning system



Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ **MERCHANDISE**

Show your **Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo** pride, and load up on official merchandise from the world's largest livestock show and rodeo!

Onsite booths in NRG Center: Hall E lobby at booth 97,
Hall B adjacent to AGVENTURE and Hall D at booth 1078



**DON'T
MISS
OUT**

on collecting top merchandise from all of your favorite **RODEOHOUSTON®** entertainers, sold at the Star Zone at the entrance of Hall D in NRG Center, and at several booth locations inside NRG Stadium.



ANNUAL JACKET:

The limited edition annual jacket is the perfect addition to your Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo collection. With the annual volunteer badge artwork on the back, this jacket is a practical souvenir that you can wear throughout the year to remember your 2018 Show experience. The Show's iconic "Bowlegged H" is embroidered on the front left chest of the jacket.



ANNUAL PIN:

A favorite among collectors, the annual pin traces its roots back to 1982, the year of the Show's 50th anniversary. This year, the pin is a tribute to the new RODEOHOUSTON stage, debuting in 2018.



ANNUAL PIN SET:

Whether you keep them or trade them, the annual pin set is the perfect way to commemorate the many elements of the 2018 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.



ANNUAL BELL PIN:

In 2005, the Rodeo Merchandise Committee created the annual bell pin as a tribute to the committee. The pin was such a hit that the committee decided to make it a tradition, designing a new pin each year with the annual volunteer badge artwork.



GUITAR PIN:

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is known for its superstar concerts in NRG Stadium during RODEOHOUSTON. Take a piece of your entertainment experience home with this commemorative guitar pin.

HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO™

SCHOLARSHIPS	\$14,271,000
JUNIOR SHOW EXHIBITORS/CALF SCRAMBLE PARTICIPANTS	\$8,125,250
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM GRANTS	\$3,726,820
GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS	\$586,040
TOTAL	\$26,709,110

SCHOLARSHIPS

METROPOLITAN \$4,760,000	238, \$20,000 scholarships
OPPORTUNITY \$2,280,000	114, \$20,000 scholarships
AREA GO TEXAN \$1,580,000	79, \$20,000 scholarships
TEXAS 4-H \$1,400,000	70, \$20,000 scholarships
TEXAS FFA \$1,400,000	70, \$20,000 scholarships
ACHIEVEMENT \$1,200,000	approximately 100, current junior & senior Show scholars
EXHIBITORS \$600,000	30, \$20,000 scholarships
HILDEBRAND \$300,000	approximately 15, \$20,000 scholarships
SCHOOL ART \$300,000	15, \$20,000 scholarships
TECHNICAL SCHOLARSHIPS \$45,000	five, \$9,000 scholarships
VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING \$200,000	funds awarded to colleges/institutions for disbursement
MILITARY \$100,000	five, \$20,000 scholarships
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE \$96,000	six, \$16,000 scholarships
TCU RANCH MANAGEMENT PROGRAM \$10,000	four, \$2,500 scholarships

2018 EDUCATIONAL COMMITMENT

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM GRANTS

AFA
Alley Theatre
Archway Academy
BakerRipley
Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation
Baylor Research Advocates for Student Scientists – BRASS
Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star
Books Between Kids
Borderlands Research Institute – Sul Ross State University
Breakthrough Houston
Brookwood Community
Camp for All
The Center for Hearing and Speech
Children's Museum of Houston
Chinquapin Preparatory School
Crime Stoppers of Houston
Cristo Rey Jesuit College Preparatory School of Houston
ESCAPE Family Resource Center
Girl Scouts of San Jacinto
Glassell School of Art
Greater Houston Partnership – Opportunity Houston 2.0
H.E.A.R.T – Housing, Entrepreneurship and Readiness Training
Harris County Hospital District Foundation
The Hobby Center Foundation
Houston Area Women's Center
Houston Ballet Foundation
Houston Community College
Houston Grand Opera
Houston Health Foundation
Houston Hispanic Forum
Houston Police Foundation
Houston SPCA
Houston Symphony
iWrite
KIPP Houston
Lone Star Flight Museum
The Longhorn Project
Medilife of Houston
Memorial Park Conservancy
Miracle Farm
NASA – Texas Aerospace Scholars
Neuhaus Education Center
Prairie View A&M University
Project GRAD Houston
Reasoning Mind
The Rise School of Houston
Sam Houston State University – Department of Agriculture Sciences and Engineering Technology
Schreiner University – Western Art Academy Workshop
SIRE Therapeutic Horsemanship
Small Steps Nurturing Center
Teach For America – Houston
Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation
Texas A&M University: Beef Cattle Short Course
Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans
Texas A&M University – Kingsville: King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management
Texas FFA Association
Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation
Texas Ranger Association Foundation
Texas Southern University
Texas Tech Foundation
Texas Wildlife Association Foundation
Theatre Under The Stars
The University of Texas at Austin – UTeach
To Educate All Children – TEACH
United Way
University of Houston Clear Lake – Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities
UTHealth
Writers in the Schools
Yellowstone Academy
YMCA of Greater Houston

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

Angelo State University
Sam Houston State University
Stephen F. Austin State University
Sul Ross State University
Tarleton State University
Texas A&M University
Texas A&M University – Commerce
Texas A&M University – Kingsville
Texas State University
Texas Tech University
West Texas A&M University



Left: Students perform a pre-flight aircraft check of the Mooney M20 Ovation in the Mooney Hangar of the Aviation Learning Center at the Lone Star Flight Museum.

Right: Students experience a hands-on learning lesson on flight dynamics in the Aviation Learning Center Learning Laboratory.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SERIES:

Sometimes it's not easy to motivate students in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). But, with the support of an educational program grant, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ is helping the Lone Star Flight Museum soar in this

LONE STAR FLIGHT MUSEUM

BY SUSAN EMFINGER SCOTT

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE LONE STAR FLIGHT MUSEUM

endeavor.

The Lone Star Flight Museum is an aviation museum and STEM learning center with a mission to preserve, educate and inspire.

In September 2017, after 27 years in Galveston, the museum opened its new \$38 million, state-of-the-art facility at Houston's Ellington Airport. In addition to the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame, the 130,000 square-foot space houses the museum's renowned flying collection of historic aircrafts, a \$1 million,

high-tech Aviation Learning Center and dynamic hands-on exhibits. Their vision is to be a world-class educational museum linking an understanding of the past with inspiration for the future.

"The Lone Star Flight Museum has always been dedicated to preserving and honoring the rich heritage of Texas aviation," said retired Lt. Gen. Doug Owens, Lone Star Flight Museum CEO. "With our new facility, we add the additional goal to inspire and educate our youth toward futures of promise and purpose."

The Aviation Learning Center offers a simulator-based STEM curriculum for students in grades five through 12, educating them about principles of flight; aircraft aerodynamics and design; climate science, as it affects aviation; air traffic control system; aircraft maintenance; dispatch and more. The backbone of the Aviation Learning Center is a professionally developed, age-appropriate program that is presented through an integrated array of proprietary computer technologies, innovative hands-on devices and simulators.

Students start in the Learning Laboratory, where they acquire aviation concepts in a real world environment. The lab includes 10 interactive, computer-based workstations dedicated to different aviation topics, each including hands-on investigations and data collection.

Next, students enter the Mooney Hangar, which replicates a general aviation hangar, complete with an actual Mooney M20 light aircraft. An instructor guides them through planning and navigating, as well as the process to file a flight plan with the Federal Aviation Administration to let them know which route the plane will take. After completing their plan, students make

sure the aircraft is ready to fly.

Action goes into high gear in the Simulator Bay where students settle into their own M20 simulators. Each is equipped with state-of-the-art displays, operational rudder pedals, control yokes and other flight controls. Once cleared for takeoff, their flight begins.

"The Aviation Learning Center is an experiential learning experience. It allows students to interact with the physical world outside of the classroom, away from the computer, and gain an understanding how the world works," said Dr. Bonnie J. Dunbar, retired NASA astronaut, professor of aerospace engineering at Texas A&M University and board member of the Lone Star Flight Museum.

The Show's grant provides the opportunity for schools to offer field trips for students to the Aviation Learning Center. By visiting the museum, students can begin to recognize the elements of STEM and the impact these elements of study have on their daily lives.

"Funding from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo ensures that we will be able to bring kids into our museum who potentially have never seen an airplane up close, let alone thought about flying one," Owens said. "We have the ability to expose children to science, technology, engineering and math in a way that is so engaging and fun that they don't even know that they are learning." 🛩️



Students fly from Houston's Ellington Airport to Scholes Airport in Galveston in one of the Aviation Learning Center's 10 Red Bird Flight Simulators.

MY #RHSCHOLAR STORY:

COLLEGE DREAMS BECOME REALITY

BY MARINA OLSON

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MAGGIE PIPKIN

One of the primary missions of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ is helping local students afford to go to college through the awarding of scholarships. Being selected as a Show scholarship recipient means something fantastic to those who receive one of these coveted awards and often go on to do wonderful things with their lives and careers, as well as within their community.

Maggie Pipkin is one of these dedicated scholars. A junior at Texas Tech University, Pipkin is currently majoring in agricultural communications with a minor in agricultural economics, and she plans to attend law school at Texas Tech in the near future. Honored to receive a Show scholarship in 2016, Pipkin said that she feels privileged to be a part of something bigger than herself. "Being a Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo scholarship recipient has given me the opportunity to attend the university of my dreams and pursue my passions," she said.

JOIN THE COMMUNITY AND SHARE
YOUR SCHOLARSHIP STORY AT
MYSTORY.RODEOHOUSTON.COM

#RHSCHOLAR



Maggie's Story

“Unlike most, I believe my scholarship story actually began almost six months after receiving it. The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo scholarship that I received has made it possible for me to attend Texas Tech University. When I received this scholarship, I had no idea how much it was going to help me. In December 2016 at the conclusion of my first semester, my mom was diagnosed with cancer, and she underwent surgeries and treatment until she was in remission. Fast forward to the end of my first summer out of college, and we found out that my mom had unknowingly developed a spinal infection that was likely to cause paralysis and be fatal. She underwent an emergency surgery and was able to come out alive with no paralysis. Because of the recent events this past year, my family has faced enormous medical bills and expenses. Having this scholarship has been one of the greatest blessings I have received, and it is because of this scholarship that I am still able to attend Texas Tech after all that has happened.” 🙏





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