

July 31, 2014

Historic Alamo Stadium rededication set for Aug. 16

Mark your calendars for the most anticipated occasion in more than 70 years!

Join us in celebrating the rededication of San Antonio's best-loved sporting and special-events venue - the historic Alamo Stadium, which made its debut at a Sept. 20, 1940 dedication.

Festivities for this first-class facility renovated through SAISD Bond 2010 will feature an Olympics-style parade of student athletes, band members and spirit groups.

Serving as emcee will be Greg Simmons, who, in addition to being KSAT-TV's sports anchor/director, is a Jefferson HS graduate.

The rededication will provide fans with a first public look at the 74-year-old stadium's amenities to include renovated restrooms, locker rooms, concessions, press box, play areas, seating, storage, sports lighting, sound systems and security systems, infrastructure (electrical, plumbing), storm

drainage system, sidewalks, parking, stone walls restoration, lighting, landscaping and irrigation and Americans with Disability Act access, including an elevator to accommodate wheelchair use.

Other highlights include new turf and a 44-foot-wide by 24-foot-tall Daktronics digital scoreboard, comparable to those at many Division 1 universities.

Designed for a more user-friendly experience, this turf offers a more natural grass-like feel and resilient "bounce" cushion which will deliver a much better marching and playing experience for students on the field. It also is striped to accommodate student soccer, a first for Alamo Stadium.

The new scoreboard exemplifies the latest 21st-century technology, allowing spectators to enjoy its video replay capabilities, as well as real-time "fans-in-the-stands" shots, close-ups of teams, spirit leaders and the bands. The camera work will be provided by roving SAISD media students.

Media will get an Aug. 12 sneak peek.

Alamo Stadium's rededication follows the January reopening of its neighbor, the Alamo Convocation Center. Both are among projects across the District funded through the \$515 million SAISD Bond 2010.



Fans and students soon will be enjoying events in the renovated Alamo Stadium.

Nominations accepted for new SAISD Athletic Hall of Fame

Have a favorite District student-athlete, coach, administrator or contributor you'd like to see recognized publicly? You may nominate him or her for the SAISD Athletic Hall of Fame class of 2014-15.

Those selected will be honored during an induction ceremony to be held in early 2015. They will receive a plaque to keep while another will be displayed in the Hall of Fame Wall to be located on the visitor's side of Alamo Stadium. Inductees also will be recognized with bricks inscribed with their induction date, which will be placed in the stadium's new Hall of Fame Walkway.

Founding of the new Athletic Hall of Fame is in conjunction with the rededication of the historic stadium.

The Hall of Fame's purpose is to recognize and

preserve the heritage of the District's high school athletics, keep alive their tradition and spirit, and honor those persons, who through distinguished achievement, have excelled in one or more of SAISD's high school athletic programs.

In addition to outstanding athleticism, inductees will be chosen for their distinction and excellence to SAISD by their conduct both on and off the field, or court, of competition.

This recognition also will help maintain and strengthen the District's spirit, pride and sense of community, as well as serve as a historical account of our great athletic traditions. Hall of Fame partner is the SAISD Foundation.

Nomination forms will be reviewed by a selection committee and those chosen for consideration

will be sent an application for the committee's consideration. Three to six nominees are expected to be chosen, by at least a two-thirds vote, each year.

How to nominate

Nomination forms may be picked up at the Athletics Department office (address below), or downloaded at: www.saisd.net.

Deadline to submit completed forms is Sept. 1. They must be hand-delivered by 4 p.m., or emailed or postmarked by that date. Faxed forms will not be accepted. Send to:

Office of the Executive Director of Athletics
110 Tuleta Drive, San Antonio, TX 78212-3197
Email: mreyes@saisd.net.



Frank Arnold welcomed back as interim athletic director



Courtesy photo
Frank Arnold, SAISD interim athletic director

An award- and championship-winning athletic director and coach has agreed to come out of retirement to return to where it all began.

Frank Arnold, whose illustrious career includes teaching and coaching in SAISD prior to leading the Judson (ISD) HS Rockets

to their first Class 5A state title in 1983, has been named the District's interim athletic director.

He officially assumed the post on July 28 after Gil Garza, SAISD's athletic director for about 12 years, was named athletic director for Dallas ISD.

Besides beginning his career here, Arnold is a 1959 Burbank HS graduate.

"Walking into facilities that you once played in is an awesome experience," Arnold said.

"I am extremely excited to be back in the SAISD. I began my teaching and coaching career here many years ago and look forward to working with the athletic staff to enhance the athletic experience of the

student-athletes of our school district.

"I wish Gil Garza the best of luck in his new endeavor and hope to carry on the work that he began," Arnold added.

The 41-year veteran retired in 2005 after 24 years at Judson, including 20 as athletic director. That District's athletic facility is named in his honor.

Among his many honors include:

- Induction into the San Antonio Sports Hall of

Fame in 2010.

- Induction into the San Antonio Football Coaches Foundation Hall of Fame in 2007.
- Induction into the Texas High School Coaches Association Hall of Honor in 2003.
- Induction into the Texas High School Athletic Directors Association Hall of Honor in 1998.
- The Athletic Director of the Year Award in 1995.

SAISD to 'GEAR UP' with 10th-graders & parents

SAVE THE DATE FOR A BACK-TO-SCHOOL TAILGATE

See **YOU** at the
Alamo Convocation
Center Aug. 9
between 9 a.m.
& noon

GEAR UP with
FREE Gear
for Sophomore
Year!



Food • Music • News • Freebies



Educators shine in graduation-readiness efforts and leadership

For the second straight year, an SAISD educator has earned national recognition for preparing students for success in high school and beyond.

And in another mark of distinction for the District, two principals were among 83 statewide selected from a pool of more than 500 to participate in the prestigious Harvard Leadership Institute.

Sheryl Lew of Rhodes MS was named Diplomas Now Literacy Instructional Coach of the Year. She was honored earlier this month at the national conference in Baltimore, where Rhodes also was recognized as one of six U.S. middle schools that met all their goals to keep students on track or get back on track in terms of attendance, behavior and course performance.

"This award recognizes our staff's dedication to improvement and belief that all students can succeed academically and stay on track to graduate from high school," Lew said.

Last year, educators from Burbank HS, the other SAISD campus to offer Diplomas Now, were honored at the national convention. Principal Yesenia Cordova was named 2013 Principal of the Year, while teachers Laura Barrera and Dr. Edd Schneider were selected instructional coaches of the year.

The research-based school transformation model Diplomas Now is offered to SAISD in partnership with the Johns Hopkins University School of Education's Talent Development Secondary, City Year and Communities in Schools.

Spending part of their summer at the National Institute for Urban School Leaders were Woodlawn's Dorene Benavidez and Mary Rodriguez of Hirsch ES, where they were beneficiaries of training and workshops led by national and international experts in the fields of education and leadership, and also had opportunities to network with other campus leaders.

Participants could select from one of three

sessions. Benavidez chose "Enhancing Teacher Effectiveness" and said she plans to use what she learned there "to refine, redesign and realign the mission and vision of Woodlawn," which will begin the transition from an elementary to a pre-K to grade 8 academy this fall.

"What a blessing this was to be selected for this institute. I highly encourage my colleagues to apply for this scholarship; they will grow as leaders."

Rodriguez, who attended "Improving Schools: The Art of Leadership," said the session "has empowered me to improve as a campus leader by providing me with strategies that will enable me to improve teacher effectiveness and student outcomes."

Funding for the training, offered through The Principals' Center at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, was provided by Raise Your Hand Texas, a non-profit advocacy organization working to support and strengthen public education.



Proud Rhodes MS assistant principal La Rhonda Nolan (left) commends Sheryl Lew on being named the national Diplomas Now Instructional Coach of the Year.



Woodlawn Academy principal Dorene Benavidez pauses in front of the Harvard Graduate School of Education sign while there to participate in a summer leadership program.



Mary Rodriguez, Hirsch ES principal, shows off her certificate of participation in "Improving Schools: The Art of Leadership" track at the Ivy League university.

Free workshop offers Team Up Challenge application tips and more

SAISD teachers and administrators are invited to learn about preparing and applying for grants to fund service-learning projects offered through Silver & Black Give Back.

A free Team Up Challenge workshop to be held Aug. 4 at the AT&T Center will provide tips on what constitutes a meaningful service learning project, with emphasis on what the review committee looks for in the application.

Participants may choose from a morning or afternoon session. Both will be led by Joan Lennon Liptrot of the Institute For Global Education & Service Learning.

As an added bonus, attendees will have the opportunity for a photo op with one of the 2014 NBA champion San Antonio Spurs' five Larry O'Brien Championship trophies.

In 2013-14, a project created by students

from the District's Wilson ES earned one of the five top \$20,000 prizes. This was the fourth straight year an SAISD school has been named a Team Up Challenge finalist.

Click image to register.



'Rising Stars' role models

First-year teachers for the new school year have a quartet of educators to look up to who, not too long ago, were in their same position. They are SAISD's Rising Stars for 2013-14 (l to r): Ana Alicia Valdez, Beacon Hill ES; Roberto Canizales, De Zavala ES; Rosario Esparza, Tafolla MS; and Vita Wu, Lanier HS. As recipients of this sixth-annual award, each received a \$250 voucher to Learning Zone for school supplies to help their students get off to a great start this fall. Nominees are recommended by their principals and then are rated by a committee. Meanwhile, orientation for SAISD's next class of Rising Stars will be Aug. 4-7, starting at Tafolla MS.



Health advocate

SAISD's Senior Coordinator for Health & PE Roger Rodriguez addresses attendees at the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin's 32nd-annual convention, where he was invited to speak on the District's participation in "Be Fit. Be Cool." The childhood obesity campaign was the theme of this year's convention held at Sunset Station. Among those joining him on stage (shown left) is Miss America, Nina Davuluri. "Be Fit. Be Cool" was offered at Briscoe, Cameron and Collins Garden elementaries in 2013-14 with plans to expand it to seven more schools this year.



Set the date for Convocation!

Aug. 20 (Wed) 9 to 10:30 a.m.

AT&T Center, 1 AT&T Parkway

Keynote speaker will be John Quiñones, esteemed journalist and Brackenridge HS graduate. Check your in-box for more details coming soon.

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