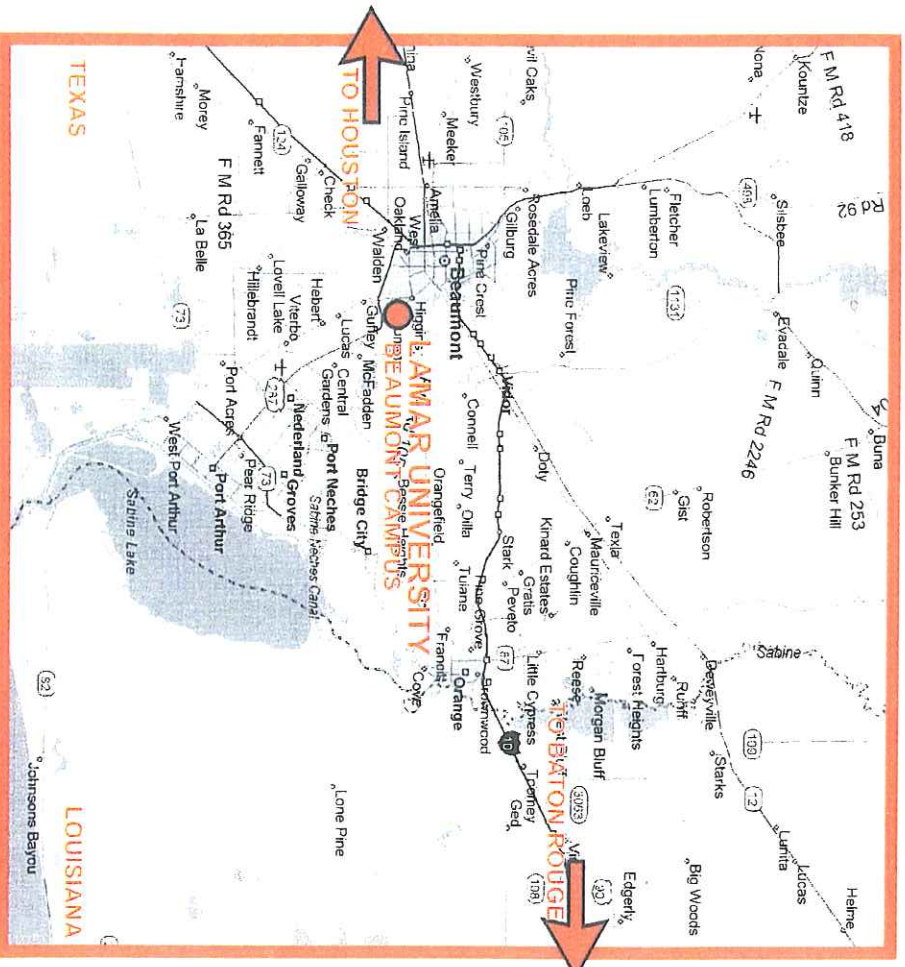
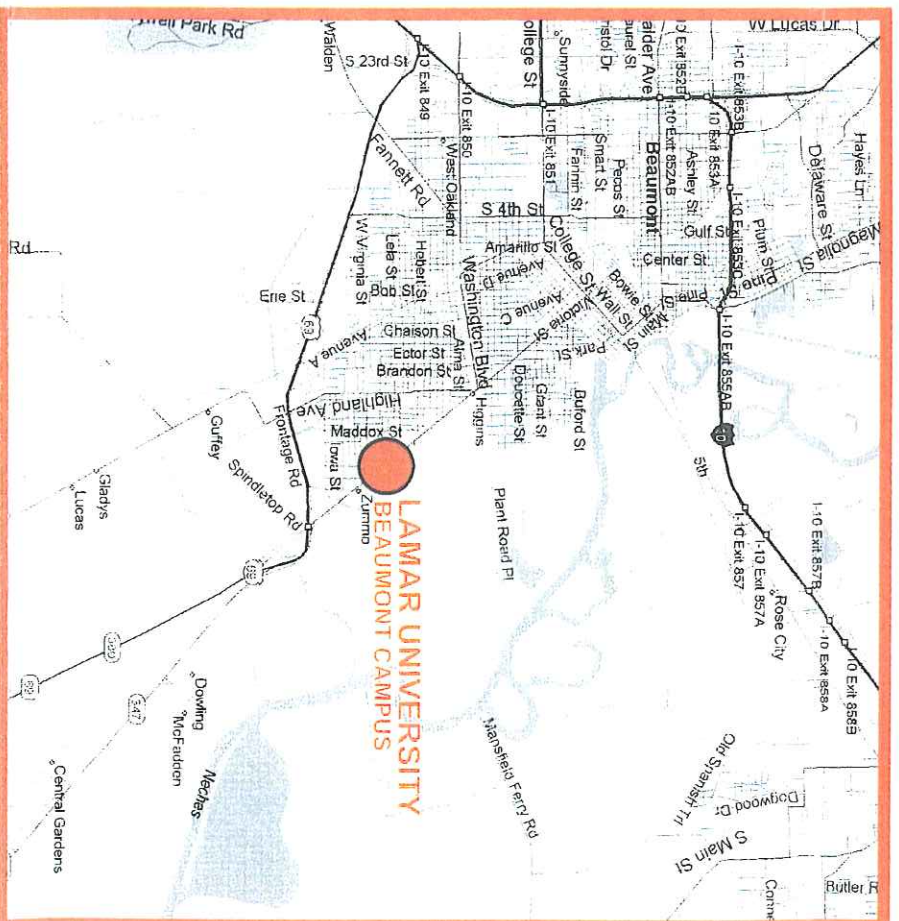


# REGIONAL MAP

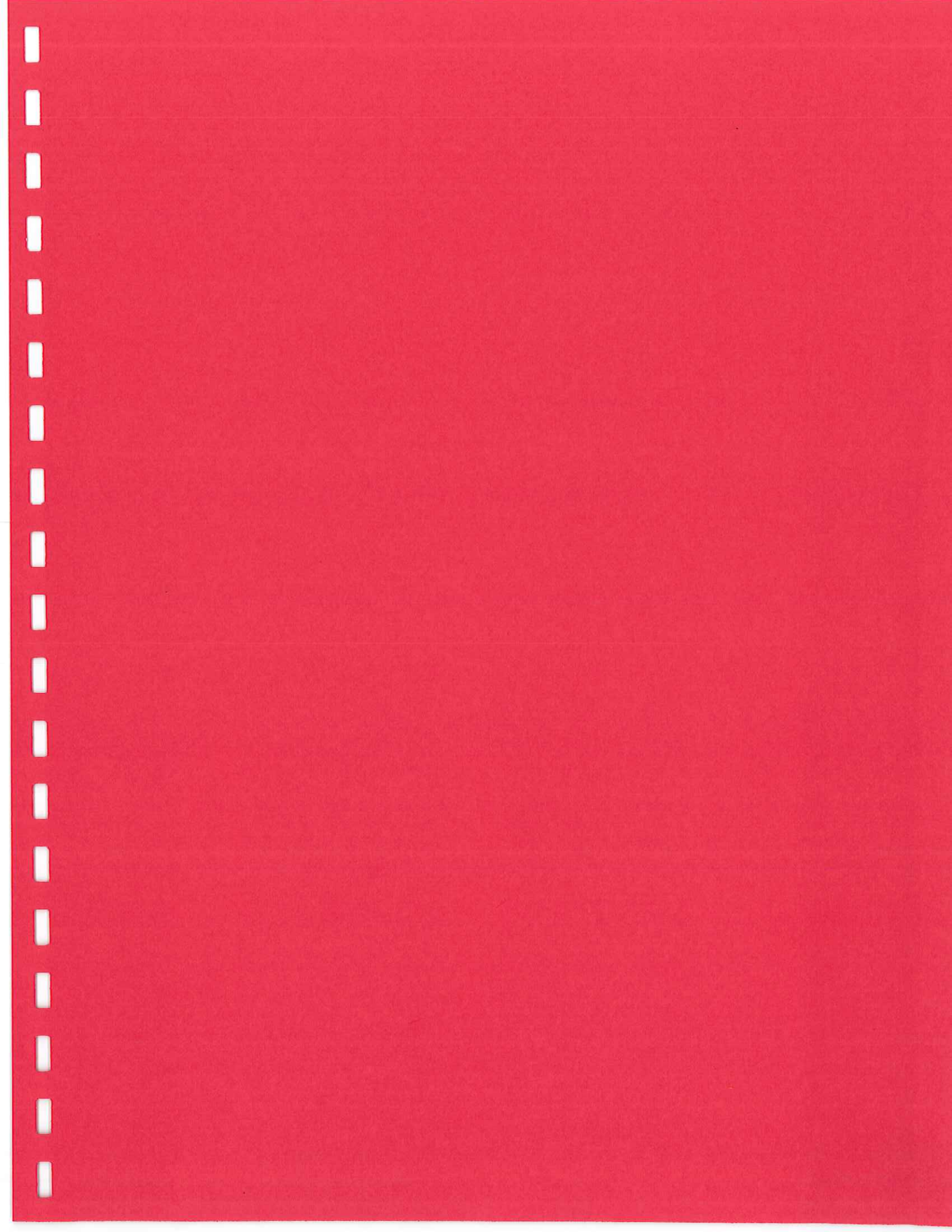


# CITY OF BEAUMONT



LAMAR UNIVERSITY  
BEAUMONT TEXAS

LOCATION



### CURRENT STATUS

With one of the lowest student-faculty ratios of any institution in Texas, Lamar University takes education to a higher level. Smaller classes allow faculty to take a personal interest in the success of their students. LU students receive an education that teaches them to think, to examine their values, and to develop new skills to shape their futures.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board ranks Lamar University first of 29 Texas institutions in terms of undergraduate courses taught by tenured and tenure-track professors. Exemplary programs have also earned LU's College of Engineering a worldwide reputation.

Lamar University offers academic excellence and diverse educational experiences in and out of the classroom. From NASA space shuttle missions to leading-edge research in the field of deaf education, computer science, engineering and beyond. Lamar's nationally certified deaf education program is the largest graduate program of its kind in Texas. The program also attracts master and doctoral students from outside the United States.

Campus:	255 acres
History:	Founded in 1923
Enrollment:	Approx. 10,500
Faculty:	489
Student to Faculty:	20:1
Athletic:	Southland Conference
Mascot:	Cardinal
Website:	<a href="http://www.lamar.edu">www.lamar.edu</a>

### LOCATION

Lamar University is located in Beaumont, Texas, one of the world's largest petrochemical centers. Beaumont is a progressive city in the Sunbelt, offering private and public schools, churches, museums, shopping districts and a wide range of leisure-time activities to serve the metropolis of 114,000. A civic center, convention center and coliseum draw professional entertainers and a wide variety of businesses, social and professional groups to the city. Beaumont is convenient to major recreational facilities of southwest Texas, including the Gulf of Mexico, large lakes and the Big Thicket National Preserve.

### MISSION STATEMENT

Lamar University is committed to the three-fold mission of teaching, research, and service. The University seeks to provide students with a broad education in the context of a global and multicultural environment, and seeks partnerships with business, governmental, industrial, and other educational organizations to accomplish its goals more efficiently.

### UNIVERSITY GOALS

Lamar University emphasizes quality teaching, student access to faculty, and careful student counseling. The University creates a liberating educational experience for each student, which expands knowledge, awakens new intellectual interests, examines values, develops talents, provides new skills, and prepares each student to assume an effective role as a citizen in a democracy.



The University's mission in graduate education is broad based at the master's level, and includes doctorates in engineering and deaf education. Other doctoral level education opportunities for the region are enhanced through cooperative arrangements between Lamar University and other institutions of higher education. The University's mission in graduate education is characterized by an emphasis on professional fields of study.

With historical commitments to quality educational programs in engineering, business, the arts and sciences, health sciences, education, and the visual and performing arts, the University focuses its unique strengths on significant problems of contemporary interest as evidenced by its recent initiatives in environmental science and engineering, gifted education, and deaf education. Lamar University is strongly committed to the continual enhancement of teaching/learning methodologies and their systematic assessment. As a comprehensive, regional university with extensive educational programs, Lamar University academic efforts are directed to both applied and basic research, scholarship, and creative activities. Through its emphasis on the teacher-scholar model, the University encourages faculty members to be active in their respective disciplines, to involve both undergraduate and graduate students in research and creative pursuits, and to support the principle that research is inseparable from teaching. The University's educational mission extends to all residents of the Southeast Texas area and, in special cases, beyond the region. In recognition of that mission, Lamar University-Beaumont provides a diverse outreach program including: credit and non-credit continuing

education offerings responsive to the personal, career, and professional development needs of individuals in our region; specialized skills training and human resource development for business and industry on the Gulf Coast; and public service activities that respond to unique regional educational needs and cultural interests.

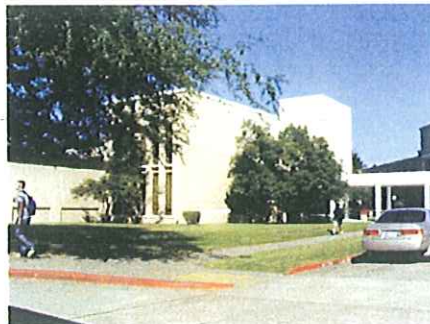
The University contributes to the cultural life of the region through cultural and artistic presentations and events utilizing the talents of faculty, students, and visiting lecturers, artists, and performers.

Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to be involved in civic, cultural, service, and professional activities. By such volunteer and consultative activities, members of University demonstrate their citizenship within the larger community.

#### HISTORY OF LAMAR UNIVERSITY

Lamar University was born Sept. 17, 1923, when South Park Junior College opened its doors to enroll its first class. Success was far from a certainty. Junior colleges were an educational experiment; junior colleges created and supported by a single school district were even more rare.

It must have been with a strong sense of pride that Louis R. Pietzsch, superintendent of the South Park school district and the first president of South Park Junior College, watched 100 students enroll that day. By the time registration ended, about 125 students were taking classes at the junior college. Pietzsch had become intensely interested in the junior college movement while enrolled in summer school at the University of Chicago in 1918, and by





1921, was convinced that South Park A junior college for South Park moved a step closer to reality when, in December 1921, the voters of the South Park District approved a bond issue large enough to construct a three-story high school building that could house twice as many students as were expected to enroll in South Park High School. No official statement concerning a junior college had been made prior to the bond election, but there had been hints that a junior college would be created if the bond issue passed.

On March 8, 1923, the South Park board of trustees instructed Pietzsch to proceed with plans for the opening "of a junior college of the first class . . ." On May 26, 1923, the board selected Pietzsch to be president of South Park Junior College as well as superintendent of South Park Schools. Carl W. Bingman was named dean of the college and principal of the high school. The third floor of the new South Park High School building was to house the new junior college.

The promise of success seen in the enrollment of 100 students on the first day was fulfilled; South Park Junior College grew and prospered. The continuing success of the junior college was, however, destined to be under different leadership. In April 1924 before the college had completed its first year, President Pietzsch resigned to become city manager of Beaumont. C. W. Bingman was named superintendent and president.

During its first nine years as South Park Junior College, Lamar University earned recognition as one of the finest junior colleges in Texas. In April 1924, South Park became the first college in Texas to be approved by the Texas State Department of Education during the first

year of operation. The Texas Association of Colleges granted full accreditation in 1925. In 1927, commencement speaker, Dr. Frederick Eby, dean of the School of Education at the University of Texas, described South Park College as first among the junior colleges of Texas.

To emphasize that the college had become more than South Park's college and was, in fact, a regional college, the South Park board of trustees decided in 1932 to change the school's name. At a meeting in August of that year, the board decided to let the public suggest the new name. A contest would be held with a scholarship valued at \$100 going to the person who suggested the chosen name.

Contestants were to submit the suggested name with a written explanation not exceeding 100 words telling why the particular name was chosen. On Aug. 20, 1932, the board voted to change the name of South Park College to Lamar College, honoring Mirabeau B. Lamar, second president of the Republic of Texas and the man regarded as the founder of public education in Texas.

Twenty-five persons suggested the name Lamar College, but on the basis of the 100-word essay, Otho Plummer, a graduate of South Park College, was named the winner of the scholarship. To emphasize the change, John Gray, head coach and athletic director, dropped the old athletic nickname "Brahmas" and chose a new name, "Cardinals."

Much had been done prior to the name change to separate the college from the rest of the South Park school system. Bingman continued both as president and superintendent, but the positions of college dean and high school principal were separated in 1925. The separation





of college faculty was complete by 1932; no faculty member was scheduled to teach in both the college and high school. A building program begun in 1933 created almost entirely separate facilities for the college. There was some overlap, especially in athletics, but, by 1935, the college was essentially a separate institution. These changes occurred during the troubled days of the Great Depression, a time when many institutions faltered but Lamar continued to grow. College authorities did what they could to help students during this difficult period. In 1938, about half of the students were employed by the college at wages that enabled them to earn all or part of their tuition, fees and textbooks.

By 1938, it was obvious that further expansion of Lamar College would impose an unsustainable financial burden on the South Park school district. Given a choice of finding a wider financial base for the college or of curtailing what appeared to be a bright future of growth and expansion, college and community leaders turned to the idea of an enlarged junior college district. A 1929 legislative act provided for the formation of such districts through the combination of contiguous public school districts. The only requirement was approval of the majority of qualified voters of the proposed district.

A committee of the Young Men's Business League, working closely with officials of Lamar College and the school board of South Park, spearheaded the task of creating a union junior college district. Early plans called for a district composed of the Beaumont, South Park, French, Nederland and Port Neches school districts, but opposition in the latter two districts caused them to be dropped. In an election Sept. 21, 1940, voters

approved the creation of a Lamar Union Junior College District, the issuance of bonds to construct an entirely new college facility, a new tax for support and maintenance and the election of trustees to govern the college.

The 21 months between the election of September 1940 and June 8, 1942, the day classes were first held on the new campus, was a period of significant transition. The newly elected board of trustees secured the agreement of the South Park Board to continue operation of the college until June 2, 1941. On that day, even though the college still occupied the old campus, the new board assumed operational control, and the cord that had tied the college to the South Park district was officially cut.

On June 1, 1942, as the college was moving to the new campus, John E. Gray assumed the presidency. The location of the new campus was predestined by an action of the South Park board of trustees several years prior to the creation of the junior college district. In 1938, the board purchased a 58-acre tract of land on Port Arthur Highway, just three blocks east of what was then the Lamar campus.

The tract was most unattractive, having been used as a tank farm for oil storage, but the Texaco Company was willing to sell it for \$18,000. One of the first actions of the Lamar Union Junior College District board of trustees was to purchase this land from the South Park board for cost and fees. By December 1941, the last major construction contract had been awarded; by the end of the spring sufficient buildings had been completed for the college to be moved to its new quarters.



Lamar University's third decade, coinciding closely with the period during which the Lamar Union Junior College District existed, saw the hardships of war, the boom of post-war, and the struggle to become a four-year state college. The war enrollment dropped drastically, and numerous administrators and faculty went into service, including President Gray who served in the Navy for a little more than a year.

The academic year 1945-46 saw the return of Gray, and a deluge of students as the post-war boom hit Lamar. This boom, which swamped all of the senior colleges and universities in Texas, gave new force to the idea that Lamar should become a senior college. Four-year status for Lamar had been discussed in past years, but no action had been taken. In December 1946, the Lamar board of trustees decided to ask the Texas Legislature to make Lamar a four-year state college. The board was under no illusion that securing state support would be an easy task; no junior college in Texas had ever changed to state-supported senior college status.

Gray, members of the board, attorney J. B. Morris, legislators and other Southeast Texas citizens helped formulate and execute a plan to secure legislative approval. Early in the legislative session of 1947, a bill to make Lamar a state-supported senior college was introduced in the Texas House by Rep. Jack Brooks, a former Lamar student. Most observers estimated the bill stood only a 50-50 chance of passing both houses of the Legislature. Critics questioned why Lamar instead of any one of other 13 other junior colleges in the state should be raised in status. Supporters emphasized that the Sabine area was the only area not served by a four-year college, that the

area was the home of a great industrial, petro-chemical concentration and that the four-year college would emphasize engineering and science.

Supporters of the Lamar bill had planned and executed well; the measure secured the approval of the Texas Legislature. But the victory proved short-lived. The bill contained an appropriation of \$1 million for new construction, but could go to the governor for signature only if the comptroller certified that sufficient revenue would be available.

The comptroller did not certify the availability of revenue, and the bill died. For those who had achieved the precedent-shattering victory, the setback was only temporary. Planners returned to the Legislature the following year, finding success in both house. The power of Lt. Gov. Allan Shivers proved sufficient to force approval in the Senate.

On June 14, 1949, Gov. Beauford Jester signed the bill that provided for the creation of Lamar State College of Technology; the transfer of all lands, buildings, and equipment of Lamar College to the new college; and an appropriation of \$1 million for new construction. The new college would emphasize engineering, technology, and science, but left to the board of regents the authority to establish other educational programs deemed proper.

The board approved President Gray's recommendations that the college continue to offer its two-year pre-professional, general education and technical-vocational programs and add four-year programs in engineering, science, home economics, health and physical education, and business administration. On Sept. 1, 1951, Lamar



State College of Technology opened its doors. In October, Gray announced his resignation to accept a position as executive vice president of First National Bank of Beaumont. G. A. Wimberly was successor could be selected.

In April 1952, the board announced that Dr. F. L. McDonald would assume the presidency of Lamar on June 1, a position he would fill for almost 15 years. During those years, the technical college of 2,500 students became an outstanding regional college of more than 10,000 students. A campus of 58 acres more than doubled, 25 new academic buildings were added to the five that existed in 1952. Lamar's rapid growth is partially explained by the college population explosion that swamped many universities and colleges during the late 1950s and the 1960s, but Lamar's growth exceeded the average. During much of the period, Lamar was the fastest-growing senior college in Texas. One explanation of Lamar's exceptional growth was in the broadening of its appeal to the relatively untapped reservoir of the Southeast Texas' college-age population. In 1954, the board approved an expansion in focus to a general-purpose, regional college offering baccalaureate degrees in most of the traditional disciplines.

Integration was a major event during President McDonald's tenure. In 1956, a federal court order opened the doors of Lamar to the black, college-age population of Texas. Other developments included the building of dormitories, expansion of the athletic program and the offering of graduate studies.

Dr. McDonald died in 1967, and the board of regents quickly promoted Dr. Richard W. Setzer, vice president of academic affairs, to the presidency.

When Richard Setzer assumed the presidency in March 1967, Lamar University was almost 44 years old. During the previous 43 years the school had only three presidents. The long administrations of presidents Bingman, Gray and McDonald had given time for the dreams of these men to become realities. Dr. Setzer would live only two years after he took office, and his successor, Dr. Frank A. Thomas, would resign after serving only three years.

The five years covering the brief administrations of these two presidents saw the continuation of the building program, the leveling of the enrollment boom, the start of the first doctoral program; the establishment of branch colleges and another name change. The late 1960s and early 1970s saw the end of the college-age population explosion that had caused Lamar and many other colleges and universities to grow rapidly. During the period, Lamar's enrollment plateaued between 10,000 and 11,000 students.

In September 1969, Lamar University opened its first extension center in Orange, with classes held in the old Tilley Elementary School.

In 1970, Lamar was authorized to offer its first doctoral degree program, the doctor of engineering. A dream shared by many became a reality on May 3, 1971, when Gov. Preston Smith signed a bill changing the name of Lamar State College of Technology to Lamar University.

In 1971, the Texas Legislature passed legislation authorizing Lamar University to operate a two-year educational center; enabling students to take two years of course work on the Orange campus. Later that year, the Tilley School building at





LU-Orange was destroyed and a spirited community wide fund-raising effort netted more than \$250,000 for the purchase and renovation of the former Sabine Supply Co. building on Front Street. Classes began at this site in the fall of 1971.

Dr. Joe Ben Welch was director of the Orange Center. He later became a dean and provost, before becoming the first president of LU-Orange.

Dr. Frank Thomas resigned from the presidency on May 30, 1972. The board for a second time. Dr. Gray, who had earlier served Lamar for nine years, led the university in its 50th Anniversary celebration the following year.

In 1975, Gov. Dolph Briscoe authorized appropriations to facilitate the merger of Port Arthur College with Lamar, and Lamar University-Port Arthur was established, with Dr. Sam Monroe as dean. Situated along the banks of the busy Intracoastal Canal that separates Port Arthur from the shores of Lake Sabine, the original Port Arthur College opened its doors in 1909.

In 1976, the family of the late businessman and philanthropist, Edgar W. Brown Jr., donated the family mansion and grounds to Lamar University. Named The Brown Center, LU-Orange operates the facility as a conference and special events center for the use of Lamar and the citizens of Southeast Texas.

Dr. John Gray retired as president of Lamar, and Dr. C. Robert Kemble was named as the eighth president on Feb. 1, 1977. In 1981, the John Gray Institute was founded.

In spring 1983, Senate Bill 620, sponsored by Port Arthur Sen. Carl

Parker, was passed, creating the Lamar University System and entitling the university to an additional \$2.4 million in state funds annually beginning in 1985. Lamar University Beaumont was the system's primary institution. Other components were LU-Port Arthur, LU-Orange, the College of Technical Arts and the John Gray Institute.

By 1983, when the Texas Legislature created the Lamar University System, LU-Orange owned nine buildings on a 28-acre campus, and LU-Port Arthur had grown from an enrollment of 151 students when it joined with Lamar University in 1975, to 1,367. The combined enrollment in the Lamar system exceeded 15,000, and regents selected Dr. C. Robert Kemble to serve as chancellor of the system. The Montagne Center, named for Regent A. W. (Bob) Montagne, opened in December. In January 1985, Dr. Bill Franklin became the ninth president of Lamar University.

The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 created Lamar University's Gulf Coast Hazardous Substance Research Center. Senate Bill 39, drafted by Senator Carl Parker, created a parallel state organization. Dr. George McLaughlin was named the system's second chancellor.

In 1987, Lamar University announced the establishment of its first endowed faculty chair, the Homer L. Walles Chair in Visual and Performing Arts. The following year, the second and third endowed chairs are established at Lamar by Dr. and Mrs. Jack M. Gill and Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Conn Jr.

In 1988, the Texas Hazardous Waste Research Center began operations in research, evaluation, testing,



development and demonstration of alternative or innovative technologies in the minimization, destruction and handling of hazardous wastes.

LU-Orange and LU-Port Arthur were granted separate accreditation in 1988 and 1989, respectively through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. That same year, the Legislature removed restrictions that kept both campuses from purchasing land and constructing new buildings. That year, the Minority Scholars Institute was established at Lamar University.

In 1990, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board recommended that all two-year programs at Lamar University be combined into the Lamar University Institute of Technology. The programs in the former College of Technical Arts, along with Allied Health programs, Office Technology and Restaurant/Institutional Food Management were placed in the new Institute. The Doctorate of Education in Deaf Education was established in 1993.

State Sen. Carl Parker saw Senate Bill 842 approved in 1991, allowing LU-Port Arthur and LU-Orange to begin granting its own degrees. That same year, the John Gray Institute received its first state appropriation.

John Idoux served as interim president of Lamar University from August 1991 to March 1992 when W. Brock Brentlinger became interim president. Chancellor McLaughlin stepped down. Dolph Norton became interim chancellor.

In 1993, a critical state management control audit of the Lamar University System pointed out problems and deficits in several University areas. Dr. Rex

Cottle became president of Lamar University on Feb. 26, 1993, and began working to address the issues. Discussion began to grow on the idea of merging Lamar University System with The Texas State University System.

Lamar's commitment to quality higher education has been steady and progressive, anticipating the evolving needs of its students. To facilitate this commitment, the Texas Legislature approved House Bill-2313 to merge the Lamar University System with the Texas State University System (TSUS). Effective September 1, 1995, Lamar University joined sister institutions Angelo State University, Sam Houston State University, Southwest Texas State University and Sul Ross University. The campuses in Orange and Port Arthur and the Institute of Technology became separate components of the TSUS.

The Jack Brooks chair in Government and Public Service, Lamar's fourth faculty chair, was established with a \$1.6 million in gifts on behalf of former U.S. Rep. Jack Brooks, a key figure in the history of the University. In 1997, Dr. James True became the first faculty member to occupy the chair.

In March 1998, Dr. Rex Cottle submitted his resignation from the presidency. Dr. William Johnson, president emeritus of Stephen F. Austin University, became interim president in May, launching the university into its 75th Anniversary year with a rededication ceremony at South Park Junior High School, the original site of South Park Junior College.

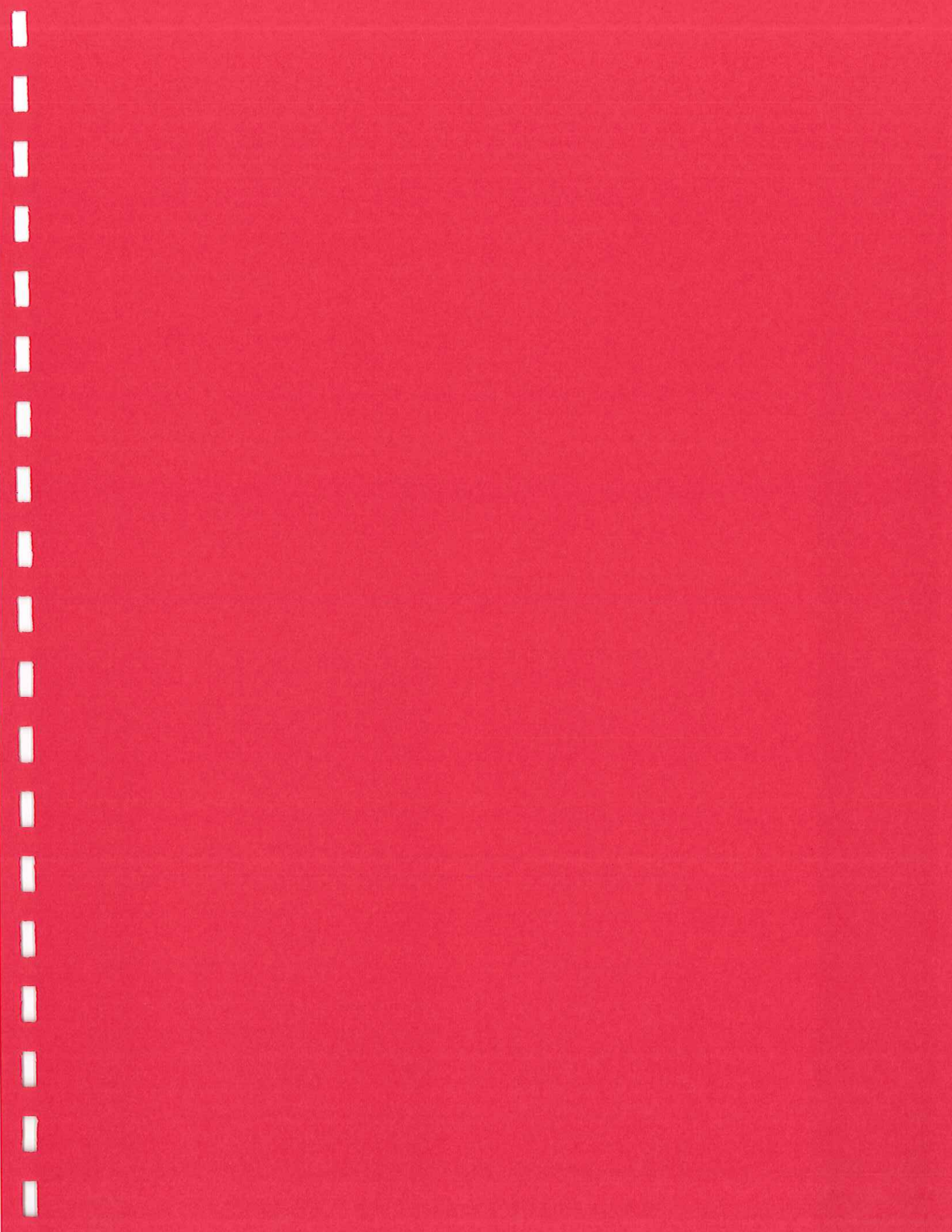
The Board of Regents of The Texas State University System named thirty-year Lamar faculty veteran, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication



and Interim Executive Director of University Advancement Dr. James M. 1999.

In the summer of 1999 former Lamar University campuses in Orange and Port Arthur and the Institute of Technology changed their names in response to concerns expressed by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools becoming Lamar State College-Orange, Lamar State College-Port Arthur and Lamar Institute of Technology.

Dr. James Simmons assumed the duties of the office of the president on Sept. 1 and a TSUS tradition of holding a formal investiture ceremony to instate the new president was held Nov. 4, 1999.





The following drawings document the relevant existing conditions on campus and the analysis that was completed.

Drawings:

- B-1 Existing Campus Plan and Building Legend
- B-2 Existing Parking Plan
- B-3 Existing Vehicular Traffic /Access
- B-4 Existing Facility Use
- B-5 Existing Facility Condition