CARDINAL
CADENCE
THE MAGAZINE OF LAMAR UNIVERSITY
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We are also looking toward an exciting future with our recently formed Office of Sustainability, headed by faculty member Alicen Flosi, and the continued growth of the LU Community Garden on campus. Many groups on campus are making a difference in our immediate community and extended communities. From our study abroad program to LU’s rotary student organization to the Office of Student Engagement, we feature just a few of the ways our students are involved in the community.

We also highlight in this issue, a number of individuals in LU’s community. Kumer Das, associate director of mathematics and director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, was this year’s Julie and Ben Rogers Community Service Award recipient and created a successful tutoring program in Southeast Texas. Two alumni, John Alexander and Anthony Wingate are both greatly contributing to the development of students and their futures. Alexander through his recently dedicated painting studio for LU students and Wingate within his own community. LU’s director of the Disability Resource Center, Kyle Mutz, also is making an important impact in his contributions to the diversity of our campus.

Last summer, we welcomed a new provost and three deans to the administrative team. Here they share their reflections of the first year on campus. Additionally, I would like to direct your attention in this issue to one of our outstanding students - Lamar University football player and Purple Heart recipient, Marcus Abbott. His story is one of courage and determination and we are proud to have him as a member of our community.

Thank you for being part of the Lamar University family and I hope you enjoy this issue of Cardinal Cadence.

Sincerely,
Kenneth R. Evans, President
Community victories transform South Park
by Caitlin Duerler

Even as Lamar University prepares students to succeed across the nation and around the globe, LU also maintains a strong connection with its South Park neighbors. A sense of shared community led LU students, faculty, staff and administration to join with South Park residents and greater Beaumont community members to reimagine, rebuild and revitalize the area.

In March 2015, the Greater South Park Neighborhood Partnership was born.

Norman Bellard, special assistant to the president for community relations at Lamar University and chair of the partnership, said “the hopeful outlook keeps drawing enthusiastic supporters to the project.” Since its beginning, the committee has grown from 12 members to more than 40, representing a good cross-section of Beaumont including the South Park area. “At the inaugural meeting, we started talking about what would be some of our short-term and long-term goals,” he said. “We identified four areas that we want to target: community engagement, infrastructure, safety and security, and networking and communications. “It is our goal to help the people of South Park build a more prosperous future by working together to meet challenges and create opportunities,” said Bellard.

The South Park neighborhood encompasses MLK Parkway in the east, the railroad tracks bordering the Pear Orchard neighborhood to the west, Washington Boulevard to the north and Cardinal Dr. to the south, with Lamar University nestled in the middle. “If you look at the history of the university, we began as South Park Junior College and ultimately became Lamar University,” said Bellard. “We have grown with this neighborhood, and we have embraced this neighborhood. There are many challenges facing residents of South Park, but we believe that by working together we can address them.”

Residents, along with LU faculty, staff and students, celebrated with the inaugural ‘A Day in the Park.’ Students joined in the festive, family atmosphere.

Terry Mena, member of the partnership committee and associate vice president and dean of students for the Division of Student Engagement, finds that students are eager to help residents efforts to beautify the neighborhood. Besides ‘A Day in the Park,’ students participated in ‘A Day of Service in South Park.’ “South Park is our neighbor—they are a part of our community, and we are a part of theirs,” Mena said. “Students walked and picked up trash and enjoyed meeting some of the residents.”

Beyond LU students’ volunteerism, the City of Beaumont has played a major part in the committee in carrying out plans to improve the neighborhood’s infrastructure—starting with demolition of dilapidated buildings no longer in use. “Those structures, from a safety and cleanliness aspect, needed to go in order to revitalize,” Bellard said. Since the start, almost 40 structures have been taken out and many properties identified for future revitalization, both commercial and residential.

“To reimagine is both inspirational and aspirational,” Bellard said. “We believe that those who are part of the greater South Park neighborhoods can reimagine their neighborhoods as vibrant, growing and dynamic communities in which to live, work and play.” Working alongside chiefs of the Beaumont Police Department and the Lamar University Police Department, committee members are making safety a priority. “We are identifying and addressing concerns through proactive policing, appropriate lighting and greater involvement of the community. We have made some great strides.”

While the project aims to improve the South Park neighborhood, that effort is just its launching point. “We began in South Park, but it will not end in South Park,” Bellard said. “What we hope to do, ultimately, is to have an inviting and secure environment and make our community an attractive community, whether it’s for someone moving here with their family or expanding their business.”

Besides reaching out to the greater Beaumont community, the project hopes to serve as a foundation for future renovation projects throughout the region and stimulate involvement from other institutions. “We are going to blossom from these smaller projects,” Mena said, “to extend beyond just the two-mile radius of our campus, and hopefully we will be able to send a team to different areas throughout the Golden Triangle as an LU-driven example of how to engage with and strengthen community.”

For more information on the Greater South Park Neighborhood Partnership, visit Greater South Park Neighborhood Partnership on Facebook, or contact Norman Bellard at (409) 880-7721.
New leadership: Moving the LU community forward

by Beth Gallaspy

Preparing students to meet global needs in a rapidly changing world requires visionary leadership. Fortunately, Lamar University has the fresh perspectives of a quartet of new leaders ready to build on the university community’s past successes as they look to the future. It is a transformational time for Lamar University with the arrival a year ago of a new provost and three new academic deans all selected following exhaustive national searches to succeed retiring administrators. Coming just a few short years into the tenure of President Ken Evans, these academic leaders are working to strengthen bonds among faculty, students and alumni, equipping them to make a difference on campus, across Texas and around the world.

James Marquart, provost and vice president of academic affairs

As provost and vice president of academic affairs—the academic leader of Lamar University—James Marquart relies on the collaboration of deans who, like him, came aboard last year as well as the input of LU veterans. “The great thing about it is we’re all focused on the same areas, whether we’re on or off the ground or we’ve been here a while,” he said.

“Topping the priority list is attracting more students with the potential to succeed. Second is continuing to recruit top quality instructional faculty. Additionally, Marquart stresses the need to renovate facilities and bring new resources in to enhance the student experience. He cites ongoing planning for a new science and technology building as an example.

Marquart, who came to LU from his post as vice provost of academic affairs at University of Texas-Dallas, said he has been impressed by the quality of the Lamar University community—both on and off campus—since moving to Beaumont. Faculty and staff members are “hard working. They want to do what’s right for the campus community and the Beaumont community,” he said. Also, he has been “amazed” by alumni he has met locally and from across the state. “They’re very dedicated and committed to the future of this university,” he said. “That’s a huge intangible. It’s wonderful to be able to call on them. And call on them he will. Marquart intends to begin involving alumni in recruiting to bring the best and brightest students to LU as it continues its growth as a top teaching and research institution.

Derina Holtzhausen, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication

Although she leads a diverse college with academic disciplines ranging from deaf education and speech and hearing sciences to visual and performing arts, Derina Holtzhausen strives to build a common sense of community among faculty by focusing on the aspects they all share.

“We are student centered. Our students must have the best possible education, the most forward-looking education and that is something we all must do,” she said.

To support that, Holtzhausen, who came to LU after serving as director of the School of Media and Strategic Communication at Oklahoma State University, has been evaluating policies and procedures to ensure everyone is treated equitably and reviewing curriculum to prepare students to solve problems and to be prepared to succeed in jobs and fields that might not yet exist.

An important focal point for Holtzhausen is encouraging “thought leaders” in each department within the College of Fine Arts and Communication to create outstanding niche programs. She does not expect faculty to exert at everything, but she wants them to “be THE best at what they do, so that people come here to be educated in those areas,” she said.

Another common thread for Holtzhausen is promoting social justice, “and understanding that social justice doesn’t only pertain to people but also to the environment and nature.” In speech and hearing sciences, that might mean improving access to services for all populations, as where in communication, spreading awareness through media and strategic communication is an important contribution, she said. In the visual and performing arts, it could mean holding a mirror to society to encourage reflection on both the good and the bad. “For both faculty and students, you must constantly ask the question, ‘How do we as a college contribute to the well being of people in our surrounding communities,’” she said.

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Robert Spina

As a new dean coming in from the outside, Robert Spina has spent time studying the culture and community of Lamar University as well as the College of Education and Human Development—and he likes what he sees. Most impressive to him are the strong and continually growing online educator preparation programs. Spina, who previously served as associate dean of undergraduate education and college assessment at Old Dominion University, said he hopes to create additional infrastructure to support those programs and perhaps develop a center to provide forward-looking leadership in the management of large-scale digital learning efforts.

Along with varied educator preparation programs, the college encompasses family and consumer sciences and kinesiology. Although the offerings are diverse, Spina strives to build community among the departments by focusing on commonalities—efforts to recruit top faculty and students. Additionally, “we want to use best practices in terms of curriculum development and how we design the curriculum in the year 2016 for what students need in this global world,” he said.

Along with creating connection among faculty and students, Spina recognizes the importance of the alumni community. Earlier this year, the college for the first time hosted a reception for anyone with an LU connection—alumni, faculty, current students—at the Texas Association of School Administrators Conference in Austin. With the success of that event, Spina plans to continue such receptions each year and perhaps host similar events at other educational and professional conferences.

“I’m a firm believer that connecting alumni and current students is so critical,” Spina said. “We establish connections and relationships between alumni and current students that could potentially help people in their careers.”

Srinivas Palanki

Building on Lamar University’s national reputation for excellence in engineering, Srinivas Palanki let faculty know early on that innovative research matters and needs to be shared and celebrated, starting with the campus community.

Research posters explaining inquiries and discoveries have become standard outside faculty offices, starting with Palanki’s, giving students a better idea of what their professors do and helping colleagues find collaborators. Another way Palanki tries to foster collegiality is by taking a daily 10 a.m. coffee break and inviting anyone to drop by for a cup. “I was trying to break down some departmental silos. Usually, the topic moves quickly to research,” he said. On one occasion, a faculty member looking for someone with expertise in a particular topic found the perfect partner sitting next to him. “They don’t have to talk to me. They just have to talk to each other.” Students benefit as well. Palanki has instituted a series of monthly faculty workshops to share experiences, challenges and best practices in teaching. “Teaching and research are linked. My experience is the best teachers are also the best researchers in general.”

Along with building community within the college, Palanki, who was chair of the Department of Chemical Engineering and Biomolecular Engineering at University of South Alabama before his move to LU, encourages connection across the university and beyond. For example, he plans to use a gift from a donor for a competition in which teams of engineering and fine arts students will create kinetic sculptures on campus. “Art students will do all the aesthetics, and engineering students will work on how to make the thing move,” he said. “Those are the kinds of intangibles that can make LU an interesting place for students.”

“I think there is a real opportunity for our college to be a leader in the management of digital learning. Given the history of the College of Education and Human Development with online learning, we have expertise because we have done this on a very large scale.”

—Robert Spina, dean of the College of Education and Human Development

“We should have strong programs at all levels. The undergraduate program focuses on innovative teaching. The doctoral program targets innovative research. The master’s program combines aspects of both. All three should be integrated seamlessly.”

—Srinivas Palanki, dean of the College of Engineering

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Percussion wins world championships
LU Drumline and Percussion Ensemble both took first place at the annual Percussive Arts Society’s International Competition last November in San Antonio. Winning first place at the Percussive Arts Society is among the highest honors a collegiate percussion ensemble can receive. The awards establish LU’s percussion program as one of the finest in the world.

Davis named head coach
Will Davis, who has served on staff at LU, is one of the nation’s most prestigious programs, for eight seasons, took the reins of the Lamar University baseball program after the conclusion of the 2016 season, following the retirement of legendary Head Coach Lil Gilipid. Davis has seen tremendous success with his alma mater (including a 2009 College World Series Championship). He is a part of four cellar College World Series teams, three Southeastern Conference Championship and five SEC Tournament Championship teams. “I will lead a program that the fans, community and Lamar University will be excited to follow and support,” Davis said.
Considering his military background, Marcus Abbott’s teammates made it a habit of calling him “Sarge.” It’s a nickname that developed organically, a nod to his status as a former Army veteran. The 27-year-old Lamar University defensive lineman traveled a path to college football unlike most college freshmen. Recently, his teammates became more aware of Abbott’s past. How he survived an IED (improvised explosive device) attack. How he’s lucky to be alive. The Purple Heart he earned. What he had to deal with in the aftermath. Suddenly, they realized the gravity of Abbott’s life experience.

“They don’t call him Sarge anymore,” defensive line coach Carey Bailey said. “That’s kind of sacred ground.”

Growing up in nearby Port Arthur, Texas, Abbott fell in love with football at 10 years old. As an adolescent, it was a way to keep himself busy. As an adolescent, it was a way to keep himself busy. He would spend a year deployed to Kandahar province in Afghanistan, but it was Sept. 21, 2010, when Abbott’s life changed forever. Abbott and about a dozen other soldiers were on their way to an Army stronghold from a forward operating base. They were walking on a busy main road, took a left turn and “all of a sudden it was just dead,” Abbott recalled. It starts getting real eerie. Things start getting real quiet. Everybody had a gut feeling that something wasn’t right.

They pressed on. Their mine detector spotted what Abbott called a ‘dund’ on the left side of the road. They kept moving and the minute they moved to the right side of the road an explosion went off. The force threw Abbott and knocked him unconscious, resulting in a traumatic brain injury. He doesn’t remember much beyond the explosion. He was knocked out for about three to five minutes but wasn’t coherent for at least two hours. Miraculously, nobody else was injured.

“We were very fortunate,” Abbott said. “My whole squad should be gone right now. Only a part of that bomb went off.”

What’s going to stop me?

Abbott was definitely modest. Teammates and coaches were aware of his veteran status but not of the details of his military past. “He didn’t tell me his whole story,” Lamar head coach Ray Woodard said. “He didn’t talk about it a lot.”

Most people on the team didn’t become aware of his Purple Heart until it was mentioned in a recent story published by the Beaumont Enterprise. Abbott confided in only a couple teammates, but primarily Bailey, the defensive line coach. He had weekly, sometimes twice-weekly, sit-down meetings with Bailey where Abbott would open up about everything that came with transitioning back to civilian life. When Abbott struggled to find a counselor he could confide in, Bailey filled that role. “Honestly, the man should be a counselor,” Abbott said. “He pulled me out of some tough times.” Football provided a smoother transition for Abbott to civilian life.

The structure that accompanies a football team has been invaluable. His passion for the game is what drives him.

“This has been my therapy,” Abbott said. “This has been counseling. It gave me a purpose again.” What the future holds is unknown, but Abbott has goals. He wants to obtain his degree and pursue a career in the NFL. He knows that between being a 6-foot-1 and being out of football for eight years, the odds are against him. Bailey said Abbott is around 245 pounds now and is still developing his skills. It’s too early to tell how much of an on-field impact he can have at Lamar, but Abbott “is headed in the right direction,” Bailey said. He provides leadership and sets an example for his teammates.

“There’s not one kid in this program that doesn’t respect him because they know his journey,” Bailey said. “He’s taken a path that none of us would ever see.”

Once his playing days are over, Abbott wants to coach Texas high school football and eventually become an athletic director. He’s convinced he’ll accomplish all of his stated goals. Why? “After everything I’ve been through, I’m [still] alive,” he said. “What’s going to stop me?”

Abbott has used his experience to reach out to at-risk youth. In February, he spoke to students at Clear View High School delivering a message of “Not Why Me, but Try Me.”

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Empathy and connection: the soul of community service
by Cheryl P. Rose

On a Thursday evening at the R.C. Miller Library in Beaumont, pairs of adults and children have their heads together and pencils out. One pair is quietly laughing. “It was this young girl’s first day attending our free math clinic, and she was very shy at first,” said Kumer Das, associate professor of mathematics and director of the Office of Undergraduate Research. “By the end of our tutoring session, she was so playful with me. It was enjoyable for both sides. I learn from these sessions, too. I can see human beings from a different perspective.”

The Free LU Math Clinic for K-12 students provides math homework assistance for children throughout Southeast Texas. In its second year, about 10 to 40 students attend each week. The clinic is the inspiration of Das, a frequent community volunteer who saw a need within his area of expertise and rallied others to create the clinic. Local citizens and LU students serve as the volunteer tutors. “My wife is one of the tutors; my students come and even my fifth-grade son helps the younger students;” Das said. “Last year, every Thursday I would get scared about how many tutors would show up. But they came and now they bring their friends, which means they think highly of what they are doing.”

The clinic is at the top of a long volunteer resume for Das, which includes organizations within LU, such as forming the Bangladesh Student Association, and in the greater community. In 2011, Lamar University celebrated Das’s volunteerism with the Julie and Ben Rogers Community Service Award. The Rogers family established the award in 1979 to encourage Lamar University faculty and staff to volunteer their service and talents to the community. For Das, his call to community service stems from a deep empathy for others. He credits his father as his model for civic responsibility “It is important to connect with people,” Das said. “I don’t think of community service as a favor for someone, but for my own pleasure. I consider it a responsibility to be a good citizen and to do as much as you can.”

Connection is valuable to Das, whether he is working with a graduate student, a kindergartener or even a prisoner. When leading a math clinic in a juvenile detention facility, one of the incarcerated youth told Das that his teaching had encouraged the young man to attend college after his release. “I started to think if you can motivate other people, even people we think of as already lost, then even they can think of life in a different way,” Das said.

Das leads by example, but he also is a persuasive and positive cheerleader, encouraging others to experience the satisfaction of volunteer service. Two Lamar University students serving as tutors for the K-12 math clinic are grateful Das recruited them to serve, an activity they might not have deliberately sought on their own. Freshman Maria Arpiliucuta began tutoring at the clinic last fall. “I continue tutoring because I truly enjoy the hour a week I put into the experience,” she said. “I enjoy teaching math concepts to kids and explaining to them what math is all about. Every time I see they understand the concepts and are able to do their homework on their own, I get a very rewarding feeling. I will remember this experience as a very valuable lesson and apply the same concept of reaching out and giving back to the community in other areas of society that might be in need.”

For senior Timothy Gonzales, his respect for Das as a professor is what enticed him to work as a volunteer. “Dr. Das is someone that I look up to not only academically, but also for his attitude and helpfulness,” he said.

Participating in community service activities expands students’ ideas and perceptions, Das believes, and it can be beneficial to their future job prospects. “I feel excited about students who have done community service because it tells you something about them other than their GPAs or SAT scores,” he said. “Not everyone can do service, but if given the opportunities, it will help them in life. I have no doubt about that.”

Das also sets an example in his professional field. In 2015, he received the University Scholar Award, the most prestigious research honor bestowed upon a Lamar University faculty member. In 2016, Das received the Robert V. Hogg Award for Excellence in Teaching Introductory Statistics from the Special Interest Group of the Mathematical Association of America on Statistics Education. Das said receiving these awards only motivates him to do more. “I’m so proud to set an example for my kids and for my community of students that if you work hard, you can do anything you want to do in this country,” he said.
Artist John Alexander (B.S. commercial art, 1968) has accumulated a great many accolades during his career: shows in London, Paris and New York, even a retrospective at the Smithsonian. His work hangs in some of the most prestigious museums and private collections in the world. But it was an honor much closer to home that Alexander described as overwhelming: The October 2015 christening of the John Alexander Painting Studio on the LU campus. “Nothing has moved me the way that did,” Alexander said. “That really just did something to me that I can’t describe. It was overwhelming, actually. Very, very touching.”

The christening of the painting studio inspired the entertainment at the President’s Circle dinner featuring Alexander and honoring many longtime university donors. Faculty and students collaborated to bring some of Alexander’s works to life through costume design, dance, music and on screen visuals of his paintings in a remarkable cross-disciplinary production.

“Lamar University has a very active and important group of people called “Friends of the Arts,” President Ken Evans said. “Where John plays such an important role is that here you have an extremely prestigious artist with an amazing career. He breathes life into that community in a way that you rarely see. When we named the art studio in John’s name, the energy in the room was palpable. He brings that energy to LU, and he brings it to that community of people that are excited about what we are doing. People around John just feel warmed by his presence.”

Despite his international profile and New York studio, Alexander has maintained close ties to LU. In part, it’s because he draws inspiration from the places of his childhood. “I always loved that landscape and everything about it, all up in deep East Texas,” the Beaumont native said. “That was just ingrained in me. It was a source of inspiration to me to come back to it. I love to be up in the woods and down on the bayous, and even though I was living in lower Manhattan, that source—the natural environment around East Texas—was something to which I always stayed connected.”

The other draw has been his love for Lamar University and its professors, in particular the way they helped shape and encourage him as a young art student. “That was where my source of inspiration and strength came from—from within the university itself,” he said. The late Jerry Newman, a former professor, especially was a role model—as an artist and a man. “He taught me so much about being a painter and about life,” Alexander said. “Jerry really did sacrifice his career for the business of teaching. He could have left Beaumont and left his teaching job and made a lot of money as a professional artist. But he loved being a teacher, and he was very good at it—and his students picked up on it. Witnessing that generosity of spirit prompted Alexander to do the same for new generations of students.”

“...It’s not where you’re from; it’s where your heart takes you.”

—John Alexander, ’68

LU students are thrilled to spend time with Alexander, said Donna Meeks, chairman of the Department of Art. “On his last visit, John walked out and pointed to where he stood on the balcony thinking about his future,” she said. He showed the students where his studio was and told them about how he stood there one afternoon and thought about what he wanted to do with his life. ‘Just knowing that this is where he was, and now I am here as a student...” Meeks said. “It means it’s possible...”
inspiration is that it’s possible, when maybe before you thought it wasn’t.” Throughout his career, Alexander has returned to campus to spend time with art students, talking about the business, their work and that journey from student to someone making a living with their art. “I hope that my paintings inspire them in that. Here’s a person from Beaumont, from a very working class family, who can go out and have a long career as an artist,” Alexander said. “I hope that inspires them that they can do it too.”

Those who know Alexander aren’t surprised by his urge to give back. “John wants to help others achieve success,” said Regina Rogers, an art patron and longtime friend of the university. “He believes deeply in lending that help. Most promising people go about their lives, but John has never lost his connection to his roots. He’s never forgotten those who helped him achieve, and he’s always willing to give back to those coming up the ranks behind him.”

Rogers said Alexander is unique in that he’s an artist who is free with his praise of other artists’ works. “He’s very secure in himself, and he’s someone who wants others to be successful,” she said. That trait—all along with a gift for gab—makes him an excellent teacher for today’s students, who hang on his every word, according to Rogers. “John has that tremendous ability to capture your attention,” she said. “It makes it even more meaningful for his students when he’s teaching, because they have this brilliant artist and this extraordinary communicator.”

The self-deprecating Alexander said any words of encouragement can mean so much to a young artist, so he’s more than willing to pass on deserved compliments. In fact, he’ll be back at LU in the fall, hanging out with the art students, critiquing their work and perhaps even donating one or two more of his own works to the ever-growing collection at the Dishman Art Museum.

“I’m trying to get stuff from various periods of my life so you can make a comparison,” Alexander said. “I think it’s important so that a young person, or anybody, can see where I was.” Alexander said his goal for donating his time and work to the university are simple. “There are some extremely generous and very, very dedicated alumni doing wonderful stuff for the university,” he said. “I hope that I inspire others to give.”

Secondly, he wants to share his experiences and opinions, gathered over five decades as a professional artist, with the young artists on campus. “I hope they’re inspired—and maybe they can learn something, too.”

**College Profile: Business**

**Rogers Chair named Career businessmen, scientists and entrepreneurs**

**Price has become the first Ben J. Rogers Chair in Entrepreneurial Studies in the College of Business. Price will work with the colleges, institutes and centers—primarily the College of Business and the Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship—at LU to teach business planning, aid in starting up innovative enterprises, engage in outreach to area businesses and entrepreneurs, and connect the university to business and academic communities throughout North America, Latin America and Europe.

Price, who holds a Ph.D. in biophysics, is actively engaged in entrepreneurial start-ups, including Nascent Biotech, a Florida-based clinical-stage company developing a treatment for brain cancer, and OculScience, a Michigan-based company developing a retinal metabolic imaging device. In addition to the course work, students play a marketplace game, operating a virtual business for a year-and-a-half, during which time, they make quarterly decisions.

**Latiolais earns InBIA Business**

**Paul Latiolais, director of the Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship at Lamar University, joins a select group of grad- uates who have demonstrated outstanding commitment and support for the entrepreneurial ecosystem by earning the Business Incubation Management Certificate from the International Business Innovation Association. Through the program’s curriculum, globally recognized as the gold-standard, Latiolais garnered knowledge of best practices connect- ed to managing successful entrepre- neurial support programs.**

**Alumnus shares knowledge**

**The Michael G. Weiner Entrepreneurial Lecture Series welcomed Anthony George ’88 to Lamar Auditorium this past fall. George, an entrepreneur and inventor for 25 years in the fields of automation and control systems and marine fuel management, is the CEO of Neotape Control Solutions and president of Control Dynamics International. He is a member of The World’s 500 most accomplished entrepreneur, and was a member of the Board of The Entrepreneurs’ Organization. George is a global network for entrepreneurs providing peer-to-peer learning experiences and expert advice to experts, with more than 11,000 members in 153 chapters in 48 countries.**

**Alumni inducted into Business Hall of Fame**

**An accomplished academic and distinguished career accountant, J. Donald Warren Jr. 76 became the newest member of the College of Business Hall of Fame this past fall, recognizing him as an outstanding alum in entrepreneurial and future students, Warren is professor of accounting and Schlobach Distinguished Chair in Accounting in the School of Management at Marist College. He began his education careers which includes posts at the University of Hartford and Rutgers University is northwestern France. LU is its sole business study abroad partner.**

**Business course gains recognition for innovation**

An new business course for sophomores at Lamar University is gaining attention. The Southwest Business Dean’s Association named BUSI 3000 “Introduction to Critical Thinking for Business Decision Making” as the 2016 Bobby G. Bizzell, Innovative Achievement Award winner. The association seeks businesses for programs that demonstrate innovative excellence. The idea for the course originated after student assessments showed room for improvement in critical thinking. LU’s business faculty came together as a team of seven from the departments of management, accounting, business law, marketing, entrepreneurship, and information systems and analysis to start what would become a year-and-a-half course development project.

“Bringing together different disciplines into a single course adds a certain richness,” said committee chair Todd McRae, professor of business law and director of accreditation and professor. The course builds from a foundation on induction, deduction and logical thinking. New concepts and methods that build decision-making skills are introduced each week of the course that is provided online and taken by students pursuing their degrees both on campus and entirely online. A section on business writing introduces how to effectively present a logical argument.

As the team began course development, “what we found were executive education courses, but we didn’t find a lot of resources,” said Craig Enns, director in management and marketing. “Most of the materials we found are not from business literature, but from the vein of critical thinking and decision making.” He said, “In our assignments, we set it to be a business.”

In addition to the course work, students play a marketplace game, operating a virtual business for a year-and-a-half, during which time, they make quarterly decisions.

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John Alexander, Lost Souls, 2011

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From classrooms to offices to every residence hall, green bins for recyclables have become ubiquitous on campus. Between the tennis courts and the Communication Building, kitchen scraps from Brooks Shivers Dining Hall break down into nutrient-rich compost for the LU’s Community Garden. In the quadrangle, the LU Green Squad student organization celebrates Earth Day artistically by upcycling discarded plastic bottles into an original sculpture. These are just a few of the ways sustainability is taking root in the community and culture of Lamar University.

“Students are excited. Employees are excited. The timing is right. People are realizing that we have to start taking care of the environment,” said Alicen Flosi, instructor of information systems and analysis, who was named LU’s director of sustainability in spring 2015. When she stepped into her role leading the Office of Sustainability, Flosi said, her first priority was to increase student involvement with the creation of the LU Green Squad, which now numbers about 30 active members among a larger group of occasional helpers. These students and Flosi then focused on improving recycling efforts across campus. In the past year, the Office of Sustainability and LU Green Squad have obtained more than 3,000 green bins made from recycled milk cartons, tagged with informational stickers and distributed them across campus. With recycling made easier through ample, identifiable collection points, attention has now turned to educating the campus community to make recycling a habit. “Tossing a water bottle or used battery into the appropriate container should become as routine as putting on a seatbelt when getting into a car,” Flosi said.

Kurt Fischer, LU Green Squad president, said his understanding of the importance of sustainability has increased through both his work with the Office of Sustainability and the business courses he has taken as a management information systems major. “For businesses to survive, including colleges, we need to be able to sustain our habits,” Fischer said. “We like doing certain things. We want to be able to sustain what we’re doing. I think a lot of people mix it up and think being green means we need to stop doing things. We want to be able to sustain what we’re doing. That’s not what we’re talking about. We want to be able to sustain life and the way we like to live.”

As the Environmental Protection Agency puts it, “To pursue sustainability is to create and maintain the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony to support present and future generations.” Examples of creating a more sustainable environment in LU’s campus community might include steps such as installing additional motion sensor lighting so that electricity is not used to illuminate empty classrooms or incorporating a water retention feature on the new Reaud Administration Building to capture and reuse rainwater. A rainwater collection tub outside the Communication Building has already proven to be a helpful feature for the LU Community Garden. The rainwater tub feeds into an irrigation system that runs through multiple beds of fruits, vegetables, herbs and ornamental plants nearby. “The garden, which is also featured on page 11 of this issue, is now affiliated with the Office of Sustainability. Along with the garden’s student group, which has about 20 active members, other groups from the Lamar University community and outside organizations have contributed countless volunteer hours to keep things growing. Fraternities, sororities, the softball and rugby teams, and the Reaud Honors College Student Association all have given time to the LU Community Garden, learning more about sustainable food production and fostering a greater sense of community. Freshmen Interest Groups often visit the garden, sparking humorous responses from urban natives reluctant to leave the sidewalk or unable to tell a papaya from a cucumber.

The connection to the university’s larger sustainability efforts through the Office of Sustainability has been helpful for the LU Community Garden with access to supplies and additional resources. For example, Flosi worked with the Construction Management Program in the College of Business to have students build a supply shed and two new raised planters for the garden. "Making connections to build a culture of sustainability among the LU community is a large part of the Office of Sustainability’s focus,” Flosi said. “I hope is that everyone on campus will be involved in some way.” She said. So far, some of these ways have included communication students making a video to promote recycling and the tennis team saving empty ball canisters to collect used batteries. The Office of Sustainability also has worked with the South East Texas Regional Planning Commission to promote carpooling among students and employees. "We have a long way to go, but I think a lot has happened so far,” Flosi said. "Lamar could be a starting point to spread throughout Southeast Texas. There’s so much more we could all be doing for the environment.”
LU Rotaract improves community
by Enoma Agbonjase

Students make things happen in the community—whether on campus of beyond. President of LU Rotaract and the Honors Student Association Ryan Nunez makes sure that the Reaud Honors College group plans service projects within the community, participating in efforts such as the Beaumont Cops and Kids Bike Rodeo, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and planting saplings at Big Thicket National Preserve in Kountze at the centennial celebration with more than 50 volunteers.

‘It’s a great way to meet new people and get to meet students with a wide scope of interests. It really expands your outlook,’” Nunez said.

Within Rotaract, past LU chapter members who are now working for local non-profits return to campus to give presentations to current members and talk with Reaud Honors College students about volunteering with them on a community project.

‘It opens students’ eyes to what’s available in the community and the organization needs that they didn’t even realize. It also builds skills that they can add to a resume that can round out what they can offer an employer,’” said Rebekah Maxwell, Reaud Honors College coordinator.

The hours LU Rotaract students volunteer becomes a force multiplier for any project, helping those close to home as well as people of communities further afield as part of Rotary International.

For one project, students helped assemble diaper bags to send to new moms at a women’s shelter in Nicaragua. LU Rotaract is one of only two Rotaract clubs in its district to receive international multiplier for any project, helping those close to home as well as people of communities further afield as part of Rotary International.

Students win design challenge
Mechanical engineering students—Clay Robinson, Matthew Paroe, Megan Campbell, Allen Gihorne and Colin Workman, with faculty mentor and Professor Kendrick Aung, were awarded first place as the top design team at the 2015 NASA Texas Space Grant Consortium Design Challenge. They were among nine first-semester teams competing in the fall 2015 Challenge. The team modified a portion of the Mars drill design currently operating on the Mars Curiosity Rover to improve its operational efficiency. Scientists are using the drill to locate perchlorates, which could result in creating water on Mars, a vital element for further space exploration.

Robotics to combat lionfish
The popular aquarium species, native to the Pacific, has grown from an intentional or inadvertent release as few as eight females off the Florida coast in the 1980s to a scourge along the eastern seaboard of the U.S., throughout the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico. Today, Lionfish populations threaten to collapse entire reef ecosystems and cause incalculable losses for sport and commercial fisheries.

Harley Myler, the William S. and Mary C. Mitchell Endowed Chair in Engineering and chair of the Philip M. Donor Department of Electrical Engineering, recently began research to create a semi-autonomous robotic submersible system capable of working discretely or in concert with others in a warm-to-locate, positively identify and remediate the Lionfish outbreak in shallow waters. ‘This project will be to develop the robot, recognize the Lionfish, work cooperatively with humans and do this in the marine environment,’’ Myler said.

Using existing technology, Myler’s proposal to the National Science Foundation describes the plan to test and refine the submersible system through three levels—on campus using models, at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s 3,200 gallon saltwater tank in Corpus Christi using live Lionfish in a captive environment, and, finally, with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration supervision, on Lionfish in varied habitats of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.
Education and access stand as touchstones for Kyle Mutz, director of the LU Disability Resource Center, as he works to build a more integrated and welcoming community at LU. Mutz comes to Lamar University from a service-oriented career in Tucson where he worked as a transitional counselor for students with disabilities who were graduating from high school. This experience give him a lesson on the importance of education and access for students from different socioeconomic backgrounds and ability levels.

“I really learned about how life can affect a person’s ability to get an education and how disability can affect that because everybody comes from a different background and has different challenges,” Mutz said. Understanding of those challenges has allowed him to train faculty and staff to become better allies for disabled students and to provide those students with the opportunities they need to be fully integrated members of the community.

Mutz believes that LU’s greatest strength is its diversity, which comprises all categories including disability. Additionally, Mutz prides himself and LU on big strides in ensuring that all students, including the deaf or hard of hearing have equal access to campus events, which includes providing captioning and interpreters at important events like graduation.

“Before now there had been no public health program between Houston and New Orleans,” Joshi said. “It’s a great asset, so you have a lot of need for public health programs, but no skilled workforce to fill that need.” More information is available by contacting Praphul Joshi, (409) 880-8944.

online audience. The lecture on how the brain works, homes, work, home and school for striving and thriving at any age, was streamed live to an online audience Feb. 23, for the spring Academic Lecture Series. The lecture also streamed live to an entire audience.
When talking to college students, J. Anthony Wingate keeps it straight up. Visiting a classroom of freshmen, I’ll recognize that many of them probably couldn’t wait to get away from mom, dad and curfews, but that I’m here to tell them if they compromise their GPAs during their freshman and sophomore years, they cannot overcome it by the time they’re seniors, " he said. "Corporations like mine are looking for the best and brightest, and one of the first flybys is GPA. At my company, that is a 3.2 or better. I’m not telling them not to have fun, but to manage their fun and manage their class work."

In the last eight years, Wingate (B.S. mechanical engineering, 1985) has invested a lot of time interacting with young people, actively encouraging them to dream big and showing by his example that professional success is possible. Wingate grew up in Beaumont, influenced by the careers of two uncles, W. Preston Shaw, a high school principal who rose to become superintendent of schools, and Don Sinegal, an engineer. When he entered Lamar University, Wingate appreciated the mentorship of Richard Price, who was then a faculty member in the mathematics department. After college, he worked for several companies, including GE and Lockheed Martin, working in numerous roles such as a quality, product, production engineer and project manager. In 1994, he joined Sandia National Laboratories, a corporation that employs nearly 11,000 people.

Wingate traveled to colleges across the country to recruit minority students to Sandia and to STEM paths in general. "The percentage of people of color in STEM careers is very low," he said. "I got involved in recruiting to identify talent that I know is out there among minorities and to create opportunities for those individuals.

As a manager and a leader in diversity efforts, Wingate is utilizing connections made during a 32-year career to help promising minority students get hired. For corporations or recruiters who claim they can’t recruit and identify qualified minority candidates, Wingate points to developing relationships with schools and spending time discussing opportunities with students as the solution.

When he spends hours manning a table at a college career fair, Wingate knows that his small part in encouraging minority students’ professional paths contributes to larger goal. "Diversity is extremely important," he said. "You can’t play a piano with just the white keys or just the black keys. You have to use both to make beautiful music. History has proven that diversity is key to the success of this country and this world. The more we work to improve diversity in workplaces, schools and communities, the better we are as a human race."

Sandia National Laboratories leaders nominated Wingate in 2013 as the Professional Engineer of the Year for Diversity Leadership sponsored by the Black Engineer of the Year awards. Wingate was chosen and enjoyed an "Academy Award-style" moment at the national gala. "I was humbled to be nominated," he said. "But for me, I don’t need thank-yous and attaboys, because I reach out to youth from compassion, love and a desire to serve. I like to serve—whether as a foster parent or at national recruiting events. The satisfaction is beyond monetary; it’s about being able to change or influence a life." Wingate said.

Wingate and his wife of 22 years, Kim, have served as foster parents for eight years. "We’ve had over 100 kids come through our home," he said. "While we have them, we try to influence their minds and assure them that there is a better way of life than that from which they came.

Serving and working with young people, that’s what I get excited about," he said.

Wingate’s desire to serve has also led him to participate in five international missions, taking him to South America, Africa and, most recently, the Philippines. On the last trip, Wingate got to meet a child that he and his wife sponsor. "Prior to the trip, I learned the boy, Kim, had an interest in science," Wingate said. "I brought him several science projects, a soccer ball, books, pens and paper and several other items. His response was, ’It’s too much.’ To be able to influence a child’s life with hope is the greatest blessing one can experience."

Looking ahead to his retirement years, Wingate anticipates becoming more deeply involved in his church, perhaps even entering the ministry. "My priorities in life are God, my family and my job," he said. "That’s the order, and I don’t compromise it. A deacon at a church I attended used to say, ’I can’t hear what you’re saying for watching what you’re doing.’ You can talk the talk, but if you don’t back it up with your actions, young people, especially foster kids, will see that.

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By sharing time with both college students and foster children, Wingate hopes to pass on insights about the challenges ahead for them, but also the opportunities. "Serving and working with young people, that’s what I get excited about," he said.

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Nursing students help mend memory with music

Students from the LU Texas Nursing Student Association are helping implement the innovative Music and Memory project to enhance the quality of life of resident dementia patients through music. The work is part of Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services grant to College Street Health Center in Beaumont. Music and Memory is based on the belief that a link exists between dementia sufferers’ favorite songs and forgotten autobiographical memories. The grant provides each of the 52 nursing homes in the state 15 iPods, some ‘music money’ to load the iPods with songs, and training of staff. The 13 nursing students in the association participating in the project helped residents diagnosed with dementia build their personal playlists and turned in weekly journals detailing their experiences and the reactions of the residents.

First physics conference

Faculty coordinators brought together a large number of renowned physicists from across the country to present their work at the Joint Spring 2016 Meeting of the Texas Sections of the American Physical Society, the American Association of Physics Teachers and Zone 13 of the Society of Physics Students. More than 200 faculty in the physics community attended top universities in Texas, Kansas and Florida, as well as from leading national laboratories. More than 60 science teachers and students from across the country learned from paper talks, lectures, panel discussions, poster presentations and workshops. Associate Professor of Physics Cristian Bahrim considered the conference a major success. “We grew from a small program a few years ago to the top 11 percent in graduation rates nationwide in 2014-15, and now we have successfully organized a complex, far-reaching conference. At the support we’ve received has paid off,” Bahrim said.

Nursing Students Educate

By collaborating with the Julie Rogers Gift of Life Tobacco Control Program, nursing faculty and students are helping the community promote tobacco cessation by visiting local high schools to present information on the health risks of tobacco use, accomplishing a three-fold goal: informing students statistically at-risk-high to use tobacco of its damaging effects, educating future medical professionals, and recruiting students by showing LU’s commitment to health and the community.

Hello Muot Court

Four undergraduate students broke ground for the university last February when they represented LU as its first participants in a Muot Court invitation held by the Texas Undergraduate Muot Court Association at Southern Methodist University. Participantss were Megan Collins, a senior from Nederland; Sierra Dede, a sophomore from Beaumont; Hanna Garbee, a senior from Lumberton; and Methanol Henry, a senior from Winnie.

Walking in other’s shoes

Rising to meet the challenge of a rapidly aging population, social work major and student leader Monique Koonce through activities aimed at helping them understand the unique set of challenges the elderly face daily, listening with impaired hearing and cognitive ability, sorting medication with poor vision and coordination, using transportation while reliant on equipment and writing an advanced directive for end of life.

Stipend to help complete the work on the history of the domestic slave trade.

First for first

Two students from the Lamar University Department of Computer Science, Janessa Jaramillo, and Phoebe Bajawska, won first prize at the university’s Student Research and Creativity Conference for their presentation at the 2015 conference. LU will host the 2016 conference this fall.

Dean’s Scholar

University News

Daniel Chen became the 2016 University Professor and Ann Dax-Hasseltine Faculty Scholar during a ceremony April 14 in the University Reception Center. Chen is a professor in the Dan F. Smith Department of Chemical Engineering. The title University Professor is awarded for life and is the most prestigious faculty award conferred by academic community. It is given to select faculty chosen for their academic achievements and contributions as an embodiment of highest merit.

LU community comes together to help

Faculty, staff and student volunteers in the past March have cleaned up Sabine Bayou at Heritage Center as it served as an American Red Cross Shelter for more than 250 people in response to its impact from Hurricane Harvey. Dr. Sue Forret also prepared the facility for service, and the student organization Caring Cardinals—food and supplies to help pet owners displaced by the flood and gave stuffed animals to children making the Heritage Center their temporary home.

Enrollment tops last spring

Enrollment and semester credit hours both set new records. LU has 14,056 enrolled students, which sets an all-time record for spring enrollment at the university,” said Kevin Smith, senior associate provost. “Most of our growth was at the undergraduate levels.” Semester credit hours gained two percent over last year, reaching 152,256 hours.

LU students have received a $15,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s P3 Program (People, Prosperity, and the Planet) with their proposal to design and synthesize sustainable, environmentally-friendly coating systems with self-healing and feedback properties using linalool oil monomers. Chemistry majors Chuanxing Zhan and Lauren Ware, and Yang Lu, a chemical engineering major, started developing this solution to metal corrosion problems in 2014 under the supervision of Assistant Professor Evan Wujick in the Dan F. Smith Department of Chemical Engineering and Suey Wei, associate professor of analytical chemistry.

LU boosts research data transfer speed 20-fold

Lamar University’s research community will soon benefit from a 20-fold increase in data transfer speed thanks to a major project funded by a National Science Foundation grant. Through the NSF grant, the LRU research community will realize up to 10 Gbps per second (Gbps) speed; according to Priscilla Parsons, vice president for information technology at LU.

Students net EPA grant

School Notes

Faculty Notes

Syllabus Notes

First days of school

At the start of the semester, the W. T.wbm’s Academic Yearbook is in the hands of students, with a new feature this year. The book, designed to be an annual edition, will feature prominent business leaders who have contributed to the state’s economy. The business leaders will be featured alongside the names of students and their class ranks. The book will be available for purchase through the student store.

ACCOLADES

ACCOLADES

Accolades

First days of school

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Each semester, Lamar University welcomes thousands of new students, as it experiences record-breaking enrollment each year along with new faculty and staff members. While welcoming new individuals to the Cardinal community is an important task, so is making sure they have opportunities to grow during their time at LU.

LU’s Division of Student Engagement works with incoming students to familiarize them with opportunities beyond their classes and the Support and Mentoring to Advance Research and Teaching program (SMART) helps orient faculty, Tony Mena, associate vice president and dean of students for student engagement, says his office works with new students to help them identify groups or organizations that relate to their interests and connect them so they can start off on the right foot during the first weeks of the semester.

“We start from day one—the first day a student is accepted into Lamar University, our goal is to contact them and share how they can become involved on campus,” Mena said. “Our orientation program is the key vehicle for forming those connections.”

At the beginning of the semester, Student Engagement also plans “Week of Welcome,” a period that allows students and their fellow classmates to learn about civic engagement activities, fraternity and sorority organizations, and attending athletic events, as well as movie and game nights.

“We create circles of opportunities where students can be involved and find a niche for themselves. It is about their personalized college experience,” Mena says. “Involvement is more than just showing up to an event. It’s taking the time to learn about who you are as a potential leader moving forward.”

Study Abroad: Connecting students beyond campus

T he Office of Study Abroad provides students a sense of belonging and gives them a chance to develop relationships with students and universities around the world. Jeff Palis, study abroad director, says it is important to offer students opportunities to represent LU on the international level and engage in a global university exchange.

“Our mission is to globalize the academic experiences for students at all levels in all majors,” he said. “We have developed a process to implement bilateral exchange programs; we are not only sending our students to other campuses, but bringing in students from outside the United States to our campus.”

Even in preparing for the trip, students develop friendships among their cohort while fundraisers to offset costs for activities during their trip. Amy Smith, associate professor of English, alongside Yusuke Sato, assistant professor in history, planned a trip to Japan offering students history and literature courses while visiting sites in Hiroshima, Kyoto and Tokyo.

“You have all these students who didn’t know each other before, and when they start working together for a common goal they become friends,” Smith said. “We held a tea sale in the fall, and for Valentine’s Day we had a candy and fruit sushi sale—they spent hours getting together to make and sell those things. It helped them to come out of their shells. Getting together and forming that sense of community before the trip is really valuable.”

Kay-Alana Turner, senior in business management, went to Spain in summer 2015 and on the spring break 2016 trip to Panama and Costa Rica. She intends to study in France for a semester-long program in spring 2017 and says the experiences have helped her network with both classmates locally and contacts abroad.

“With you go abroad with a group of students you have shared experiences in another country, you develop these long-lasting friendships,” she said. “It is also great to study in other parts of the world because of the network you develop there. I have my Spain family who I stayed with for a month, and they tell me I can stay with them if I come back. I went to Costa Rica, and I have a family there.”

“It really is spectacular to be developing a sense of community with people around the world,” Turner said.

LU students visit London.

LU students at Poas Volcano National Park, Lake Botos in Costa Rica.
Planting carrots with her dad hooked Bette Paredez on gardening as a child, but the whiff of green fragrance from a tomato plant fast became her favorite. “I like that you can take a little seed and then get to eat a delicious food from it,” said Paredez, a Beaumont nursing major.

A plan of construction that started in fall 2012 has now bloomed into a lush garden. Bette and her fellow students work to tend, producing clean, nutritious food using sustainable methods to share with those in the community who may have limited access to fresh food. “My first summer here, we donated 250 pounds of produce to the Southeast Texas Food Bank,” Paredez said. “The 20 to 30 pounds per month helps people in need get good quality food. We don’t use any fertilizer or pesticides but compost from the dining hall to mix in with the mulch, and that’s what makes the garden flourish.”

LU’s Office of Sustainability helps with funding, and sometimes community garden volunteers accept plant donations. “There is vibrant community here when students gather and work together. We really can’t keep them away,” said Tom Matthews, director of assessment and founder of the community garden. David Devers, an environmental science major from Killeen, said, “There’s a direct proportion with how much work you put into the garden to the results that you see. Besides that, I also see the garden as a little oasis on campus.”

Volunteers’ latest efforts have focused on creating a food forest of produce-bearing trees and shrubs, such as apple, peach, fig, pineapple guava, papaya and sugar cane.

The student-run garden located between the tennis courts and the communication building welcomes green thumbs from around Beaumont and campus. Word of mouth keeps students and volunteers coming back to help. Matthews believes that students feel a sense of community at the garden with their peers and other volunteers. “The joy they find in creating something from the beginning is what has students telling their friends to help volunteer,” he said.

With students putting in the work to tend the garden, the naturally wholesome harvest is distributed to the Southeast Texas Food Bank, Some Other Place and local soup kitchens around Beaumont to serve those in need around the community.

A legacy planting is one of the most lasting ways the garden instills community in those that nurture it. “Students really enjoy putting a plant in at the beginning of the semester, then at the end, coming back to see how it’s grown,” Paredez said. “We just started with trees too. You can plant a tree, come back years later, and it’s still here. Seeing that makes you feel connected to campus.”

A garden sustains
by Enoma Agbongiasede

“Students really enjoy putting a plant in at the beginning of the semester, then at the end, coming back to see how its grown.”
—Bette Paredez

Bette Paredez and Gerard Taylor harvest produce for the community.
We hope you enjoy reading about former classmates. If you have news to share—a position announcement, milestone, achievement, wedding, baby—or know the whereabouts of a lost alumna, we want to hear from you.

Send us your news:
Cardinal Cadence
P.O. Box 10011
Beaumont, TX 77710
e-mail: alumnii@lamar.edu
or call (409) 880-8921

50s
Vernon Klassner ’55, B.B.A.
management, retired after 35 years as director of marketing with Fisher Controls. He lives in McHenry, Ill.

Don Down Jr. ’78, B.S. geology,
earned a master’s degree in 1959 and his Ph.D. in 1963. He has been named Professor Emeritus of Earth and Space Sciences after thirty years of faculty service at LU. He is a member of the Lamar University Legacy Society and lives in Slidell.

Betty (Welch) McLean ’58, B.B.A.
business administration, retired from Entergy and lives in Slidell.

J.O. Bedsole ’59, B.S. mechanical engineering, retired from Texaco as an engineering and maintenance supervisor. He currently lives in Phenix with his wife, Nancy.

Dr. Terry Singljathy ’79, B.B.A., biology, is a dentist. He lives in Richmond with his wife, Raybil, ’18, certificate special education.

Charles Swann ’59, B.B.A.
management, retired as a golf coach for a private high school and currently works in real estate in metro Atlanta, where he lives with his wife, Martha.

The Texas Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates recognized Donald D. ’60, B.B.A. government, 72, LL. honorary doctorate, as Trial Lawyer of the Year. He co-founded Beck Redden LLP and has received the TACTAS Lifetime of Excellence in Advocacy Award. The firm is a finalist for Texas Lawyer’s Litigation Departments of the Year. He lives in Houston with his wife, Judy.

Jesse Whitaker ’63, B.S., chemistry, retired as senior staff research chemist for Shell Research. He lives in Rock Hill with his wife, Janine.

Morris Edelson ’64, B.A., English, ’65, M.A., English, earned a Ph.D. in 1974 and is a writer, editor and English professor at Houston Community College. He lives in Houston with his wife, Melissa.

Bill Noye ’65, B.A., history earned a master’s degree in 1967 and worked as a teacher at Warren High School, where he and his wife, Melinda, live.

Dr. Jerye Red ’65, B.S., biology, earned his medical degree from University of Texas Medical Branch in 1969 and works at Children’s Physicians Service of South Texas, affiliated with Christus Hospital. He lives in Corpus Christi with his wife, Ruth.

Dr. Larry Ross ’65, B.B.A. history, is a retired orthodontist in Houston, where he lives with his wife, Helan.

Sandra (Cockerill) Sherman, ’65, B.S., elementary education, earned a master’s degree in education in 1980. She retired as a coordinator for Education Service Center Region 6. She lives in Huntsville with her husband, ’65, B.S., secondary education.

Linda (Toxen) Taylor ’65, B.B.A., elementary education, was an elementary school teacher.

Ken Clark ’65, B.S., secondary education, retired from Lockhead Martin in Houston. He and his wife, Patrice (Jones) ’65.

Jim Davis ’65, B.S. government, and ’67, M.B.A. business administration, is retired and lives in Houston.

Gene Feigelson ’65, B.S., government, is a broker for Re/Max United in Houston; where he lives.

Pauline (Hopkins) Mouser ’65, B.A. English, ’74, M.Ed. elementary education, retired from Beaumont school district as an educator and guidance counselor who made history as the first African American to head of the English Department at South Park High School. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Nelson.

Jim French ’71, B.S., geology, is an environmental scientist with the Department of Defense Air Force Civil Engineer Center. He lives with his wife, Helen, in Shirvane, Utah.

Linda (Toxen) Taylor ’72, B.S., English, is now retired from the management of Luminant Energy. She lives in Cube Lake, NY, with her wife, Sue.

Bill Colburn ’73, B.B.A. accounting, earned after 16 years with Hines Interests in Houston Colburn remains active in the Houston Grand Opera and is a trustee and member of the HGO Endowment Board.


Ron Conner ’74, B.B.A. marketing, retired from Chevron and Rocky Mountain Oil Co., where he worked as a lubrication engineer. He lives with his wife, Nancy, in Rockland, Maine.

Charles George ’93, B.A. English, earned a Ph.D. in English in 1980. He retired from Lamar State College Port Arthur after 38 years of service. He has served as dean of academic programs and has been named professor emeritus. He lives in Nederland with his wife, Lisa.

Marvin Donovan ’79, B.A., secondary education, earned a doctorate in educational leadership in 2005 and a second doctorate in educational administration and leadership in 2015. After retiring, he is now an adjunct instructor in the Psychology Department at LaTourne University in Longview. He lives in Diana with his wife, Melanie.

Dianne (Dagis) Pleyer ’65, B.S., elementary education, is an interior designer with Ken Pledger and Associates LLC. She lives with her husband and business partner, Ken, in Golden, Colo.

70s
Patricia (Perry) dies 70s, B.S. education, ’70, M.Ed. in special education, earned a master’s degree in education in 1992. She retired as principal for WillisIon County Academy. She lives in North Carolina.

Ron Odell ’71, B.S. education, is an attorney and formal officer patrol attorney. Detective. He was one of the founders of the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas and has authored five books, two focusing on police labor and three on Texas History. His latest is Diversity at the End of a Rope, published by Sunshine Press. He and his wife, Brenda (Robbett) ’70, B.S. elementary education, live in Georgetown.

Joe French ’71, B.S., geology, is an environmental scientist with the Department of Defense Air Force Civil Engineer Center. He lives with his wife, Helen, in Shirvane, Utah.

Cindy (Knapp) Pursley ’72, B.S. business administration, retired as a purchasing agent for Jacobs Engineering and lives in Worth.

After 13 years of flying and five years at the Pentagon, Col. Charles South ’72, B.S. (industrial engineering), is now retired from civil management of guidance and navigation systems testing for the Air Force. He lives in Cube Lake, NY, with his wife, Sue.

Bill Colburn ’73, B.B.A. accounting, earned after 16 years with Hines Interests in Houston Colburn remains active in the Houston Grand Opera and is a trustee and member of the HGO Endowment Board.


Neal Heiner ’74, M.Ed. administration, is the director of athletics for Fannin school district. He lives in Canton with his wife, Amanda.

Jaye Blazek ’76, B.S. graphic design, owns Blazek Design and has created print and online marketing and research. He is a regular painter and client for clients in Beaumont, Houston and Louisiana. Inspired by local landscapes, he enjoys painting and lives in Beaumont.

Sylvia McMillan ’76, B.S. education, communicated her M.Ed. in 1983 and doctorate in 2006, and works as the executive director of resource and grant development at Blinn College. She lives in College Station with her husband, Ulman.

1. LU Alumni Football Tailgate Party
Alumni and friends gathered at the Texas State Bust of Homer Mules to watch the pre-game reception before the Cardinals took on the Diplomats Sept. 1.

2. Houston Alumni Student-Alumni Affair
Ambassadors gathered for etiquette training conducted by Joan Colby, director of the Lamar University Event Center. Sept. 29.

3. Alumni Fall Community Service
Alumni, friends and ambassadors gathered to help paint suitable wall study nooks for in-city services served by Nutrition and Services for Seniors Oct. 1.

4. Golden Circle Luncheon
Hundreds attended the Luncheon to honor alumni from the Classes of 1924-1944 and honored the Class of 1964 who celebrated their 50th anniversary of their graduation from Lamar College.

5. Alumni Fall Community Service
Alumni, friends and ambassadors gathered to help paint suitable wall study nooks for in-city services served by Nutrition and Services for Seniors Oct. 1.

6. Houston Alumni Student-Alumni Affair
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Larry D. Smith ’76, A.A.S., ’91, B.S., political science, has retired after teaching in Port Neches Groves school district. He lives in Groves with his wife, Robin Childress, ’81, B.B.A., elementary education.

Jale Torbica ’76, B.B.A., marketing, owns Rock Bakery, which has five locations throughout Southeast Texas and Houston. USA Today listed Rock cakes among the best Mud Pie cakes in 2016, calling the Voodoo King Cake a standout. He and his wife, Mary, live in South Padre Island.

George Bonden ’77, B.M. music, communications, won the top prize at the 2015 University of North Texas Masquerade Literary Nonfiction Conference. The prize includes a provisioned book contract with University of North Texas Press for That I May Touch Alpyn: a memoir about his father-in-law’s Korean War experience. He lives in Fort Worth.

Tom Harvey ’77, B.B.A. music education, is a new graduate faculty member in the Educational Instruction and Leadership Department at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. He teaches 18 years of service to public schools in Texas. He lives in Woodruff with his wife, Rita.

Gon Greg Abbitoff appointed Michael Trascau ’77 B.B.A. economics, to the Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board for a term set to expire Feb. 1, 2021. The board oversees the Texas Tuition Promise Fund and the Texas College Savings Plan. Trascau is a senior partner at Orgals, Bell & Tucker LLP. He is a past member of the Texas State University System Board of Regents. He and his wife, Denise, live in Beaumont.

David Bass ’78, B.S. secondary education, 79, M.S. history earned his Ph.D. in education in 1983. He is professor of Strategy and curator of his institute at the University of Central Oklahoma. He lives in Edmond, Okla.

Jerry Fleming ’78, B.V.M. veterinary performance, retired after 45 years in music ministry in Texas Baptist churches. He lives in Fort Worth.

Gary Garrish ’78, B.S. speech, is executive administrator at the Texas School of the Arts, where he develops and operates a professional training program for playwrights and screenwriters. He lives in New York, N.Y.

Steve Moore ’78, B.S. communication, received the Dr. Paul Otis Oemela Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015. Moore is a former CEO of the Country Music Association and the creator of the CMA Foundation, which has given more than $31 million to organizations enhancing the lives of students through music. He is the owner and director of Moore Development LLC. He lives in Arlington, Texas, with his wife, Charmione, ’79, B.M. music education.

Bart Standley ’78, B.S. civil engineering, has joined the firm 895 Kiotta Associates as vice president and public works project manager. He lives in Walker with his wife, Mary.

Robert Bruch ’79, B.M. music, 91, B.B.A. finance, earned a law degree from the University of Houston in 1993 and works as an environmental attorney with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in Austin, where he lives.

Skip Hildebrand ’79, B.S. health and society, 82, M.S. law, is a trial lawyer for Grant Enterprises. He lives in San Antonio with his wife, Terry.

Joye (Tatham) Johnson ’79, B.S. sociology, works as the principal and senior racial equity consultant with Joyce James Consulting and serves on the board of directors for Texas Act appointed Special Advocates. She lives in Round Rock with her husband, John.

Denise Alman ’79, B.S. history, and her husband, Conley Ferguson, ’75, B.A. music education, are a married couple preparing for Grant Enterprises. He lives in San Antonio with his wife, Terry.

Carolyn (Schartan) Doolittle ’81, B.B.A., accounting, is the financial director for Shoreline Church. She lives in Cedar Park.

Michael Maggin ’81, B.S. chemical engineering, was promoted to process technology manager at Chevron Phillips Chemical Co. L.P. in June 2015. He lives in League with his wife, Cindy.

David E. Moore ’81, B.S. law enforcement, 91, M.B.A. public administration, ’00, B.S. criminal justice, retired from Pine Forest Elementary. He lives in Vidor with his wife, Susan, live in College Station.

Bob Ahman ’81, B.B.A. finance, is chief financial officer of Vortech Contracting Inc., in Wimberly, where he and his wife, Julie, live.

James W. Derrell ’81, B.S. electrical engineering, is the vice president of technology and product innovation for alco waste at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics. He lives in Palmdale, Calif., with his wife, Pamala.

Andrea Brooks ’81, B.S. mechanical engineering, is the chief of operations and product innovation for Alco Waste at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics. She lives in Palmdale, Calif., with her husband, Eric.

Tracy Glander Sr. ’81, B.S. electrical engineering, is chief executive officer of Vancouver Surface Technologies, lives in Spring with his wife, Janet.

Mike Carrioke ’82, B.S. physical education, 83, M.S. kinesiology, is a teacher and basketball coach at Cy-Fair High School in Houston. He lives in Sugar Land with his wife, Ginger, ’82, B.B.A. criminal justice.

Michael D. Moore ’82, B.S. electrical engineering, received a degree from South Texas College of Law in 1993 and is now a partner of Law Offices of Galvan & Moore. He lives with his wife, Sandy (Sommers) ’82, B.A. English.

Donna Gunter ’82, B.S. deaf studies, opened BizSmart Media, a company that helps Southeast Texas business leaders and professionals promote themselves as authorities in their fields. She lives in Orange.

Carolyn (Schartan) Doolittle ’81, B.B.A., accounting, is the financial director for Shoreline Church. She lives in Cedar Park.

Donna Gunter ’85, B.S. deaf studies, opened BizSmart Media, a company that helps Southeast Texas business leaders and professionals promote themselves as authorities in their fields. She lives in Orange.

1. Spirit Station

2. Alumni and Friends Tailgate gathering to celebrate before the Football game at the Montagne Center deck. Alumni and friends gathered together to celebrate before the football game at a Montagne Center student gathering.

3. Homecoming Parade

4. Spirit Team

5. Alumni and Friends Tailgate gathering to celebrate before the Football game at the Montagne Center deck. Alumni and friends gathered together to celebrate before the football game at a Montagne Center student gathering.

6. Homecoming Parade

7. Alumni and Friends Tailgate gathering to celebrate before the Football game at the Montagne Center deck. Alumni and friends gathered together to celebrate before the football game at a Montagne Center student gathering.

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11. Alumni and Friends Tailgate gathering to celebrate before the Football game at the Montagne Center deck. Alumni and friends gathered together to celebrate before the football game at a Montagne Center student gathering.
Cardinal Cadence

Dr. Chad Davis ’90, B.S. chemistry, earned his medical degree in 1994 and is the medical director of the pediatric intensive care unit at University of Texas Medical Branch Galveston. He lives in Port Neches.

Julie (Byers) Theobald ’90, B.B.A. office administration, is a program manager at Partners Resource Network TEAM Project. She lives in Missouri City.

Ahmeem Ramee Tuck ’05, B.S. communication, is the virtual marketing and coordination manager for St. John’s School District. She lives in Houston.

Worthington Goodwin ’91, B.S. criminal justice, is counselor at Stewart and Associates after serving as an intern coordinator in teacher education and an instructor in professional pedagogy at Lamar University. She and her husband, Darin, live in Groves.

Chet Dower ’92, B.S. sociology, ’93, M.Ed. administration, ’94, Ed.D. educational leadership, is principal of Kountze High School. He lives in Kountze with his wife, Shelley (Williams) ’91, B.S. computer information systems.

Mary Dykes ’92, B.A. general business, is an attorney with Howard L. Nations, PC. She lives in Houston with his wife, Keri (Brooks) ’93, B.A. a.s.s. radiology technology.

Alfonso Pena ’92, A.A.S. business management, has a contracts administrator at Air Energy. He lives in Houston.

Wayne Thomson ’92, A.A.S. instrumentation technology, ’91, B.S. industrial technology, is coordinator of inside sales for Conecta Co. He and his wife live in Houston.

Anita Riddle ’93, M.E. engineering management, ’96, B.S. chemical engineering, is global procurement manager for ExxonMobil’s Surfacting Process Center of Excellence. She has a 2016 distinguished alumni, and she and her husband, Steven Schmidt, live in Spring.

Lisa Kethey ’94, B.S. dance, is president of Dance Attitudes Company. She lives in Beaumont.

Christina (Barad) Latiala ’91, A.A.S. -radiologic technology, ’91, A.A.S. nursing, is a nurse working for Folsom Medical Group. She and her husband, Todd, live in Beaumont.

James Molina ’94, B.S. political science, has worked for 15 years in the U.H.S. House of Representatives as a legislative correspondent for Congressman Mike Turner. He lives in Alexandria, Va.

Diyaruksha Sora ’96, M.E. industrial engineering, works at MSA Worldwide LLC as a business analyst and lives in Cranberry Township, Penn.

Holly (Gronfeld) Boudreaux ’96, B.S. biology, is a senior district supervisor for the Houston ISD. She and her husband, Jeff, have daughters, 14, and live in Port Neches.

Cardinale (Melody) Cole ’96, B.S. general studies, ’96, M.Ed. administration, is fine arts supervisor for Port Arthur school district. She lives in Port Arthur.

Kelly (Kirkpatrick) Melchi ’96, B.S. psychology, owns an online contemporary art gallery, edumash.com. She lives in Toronto, Canada.

Dr. Carol (Borowec) Williams ’91, B.A.S. psychology, earned her doctorate in psychology in 1994. She is a psychologist with Texas EMP Services and lives in Missouri City with her husband, Frank, and their daughter, 12, who is a regional manager for an HCA Group. She lives in Beaumont.

James Molina ’94, B.S. psychology, has worked for 15 years in the U.H.S. House of Representatives as a legislative correspondent for Congressman Mike Turner. He lives in Alexandria, Va.

Dr. Jason Flores ’01, B.S. biology, ’04, B.S. civil engineering, is a direct service provider in dental anesthesia at University of New Mexico-Medical Grant Assistance Group Anesthesia Surgical Center and assistant professor for the advanced education in general dentistry residency. He and his wife, Amy (Buttingham) ’01, B.A. psychology, who is a director of Commercial Real Estate Management, live in Rio Rancho, N.M.

Sojourners Stephens-McClemore ’96, B.S. health education, ’08, M.S. family and consumer sciences, is a student success specialist. She and her husband, Brian, ’06, B.A.S. ’14, M.Ed. education administration, live in Alcoa, Tenn.

Joseph Powel ’97, B.S. political science, ’98, B.S. sociology, ’04, M.P.A. public administration, is city manager for the City of Hearne, and he and his wife, Lacey, live in Hearne.

Tanya (Andris) Whitaker ’97, B.S. sociology, earned an M.A. in English in 1998 and an M.A. in creative writing in 2002 at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She lives in Irving where she lives in Plano.

Word Wilson ’97, B.S. health education, is a commander in the U.S. Air Force and lives in Del Rio.

Keith Tennison ’98, B.S. biology, is director of business operations for Genworth Financial Assurance. He is an associate professor in nursing at the University of North Texas College of Health Science in Denton where she lives in Plano.

Robin (Slott) McCutcheon ’91, B.S. elementary education, is an associate professor of nursing at Mount Vernon College in Southeast Texas.

Spencer Acuda ’02, B.A. psychology, earned his doctoral degree in 2015 and is an associate librarian for Stephen F. Austin State University. He lives in Nacogdoches.

Dana Grooms ’02, B.S. chemical engineering, is a Ph.D. in chemical engineering in 2006 and is a senior process engineer for Alkoloh. He lives in Bastrop.

Kely (Martin) Williams ’02, B.S. psychology, earned her doctoral degree in psychology in 2002 and is director of training and Workforce Testing at Krist Samaritan Center in Houston. She and her husband, Greg, live in El LaPaso.

Paige Blandmicheal ’03, B.S. computer information systems, teaches at Saline Curtis Elementary School. She and her husband, Frank, and their daughter, 12, who is a regional manager for an HCA Group, live in Beaumont.

Nichole Lewis ’02, B.S. information systems, works at University of Texas-Pan American. She and her husband, Robert, live in Brownsville.

Nicole (Hansen) FeldKamp ’03, B.S. accounting, ’06, M.B.A. business administration, is an intern analyst and lives in Cranberry Township, Penn.

Nicole (Patrick) FeldKamp ’05, B.S. psychology, earned her doctoral degree in psychology in 2005, and is a senior director for Keltner Solutions. She and her husband, Jason, ’03, B.S. Psychology, ’12, M.Ed. education administration, who is a science teacher and department chair in Galveston school district, live in Mark.

Lindsey Matlock ’05, B.S. business management, ’05, M.Ed. educational leadership, is an instructional technology specialist in Lamar school district. She and her husband, Thomas, live in Beaumont.

Dr. Stephanie (Cyril) Glaze ’06, B.S. psychology, earned her medical degree in 2009 and is a pediatric neurologist at Southwest Children’s Hospital. She and her husband, Jordan, live in San Antonio, Mark.

Dr. Jerry (Joy) (Gazley) Gorley ’06, B.S. civil engineering, earned a master’s degree in civil engineering in 2012 and is a junior project engineer at Construx Consultants Engineering. He and his wife, Jennifer (Derik), live in Katy.

Varco in Fort Worth. She and her husband, Billy, live in Bedford.

Crystal Batiste ’06, B.A. family and consumer sciences-family studies, teaches at Kemper High School. She lives in Houston.

Scott Carner ’06, B.B.A. business administration, is director of sales for AT&T Workplaces. He lives in Humble, Ar. with his wife, Paige (Flutts) ’10, M.Ed. teacher leadership.

Lori Clark ’06, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches fourth grade at Little Cypress-Mauriceville school district. She lives in Beaumont.

East 06, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches fourth grade in Nederland school district. She lives in Orange.

Nikki (Breed) Jackson ’06, B.S. nursing, is a registered nurse at North Cypress Medical Center. She and her husband, Billy Jackson III ’04, B.G.S. general studies, were married June 24, 2014, and have four kids, Benjamin, J. Aubrey, Kai, and Nikoles, 3. They live in Katy.

Melanie Lamers ’06, B.A. Visual Communication, ’08, B.S. graphic design, was honored with the Ben and Alexie Rogers Community Service award while she worked at Lamar University where she is a graphic designer for the marketing and communications department. She is a new graphic designer for the marketing department for the Mall of America, the Northfield Source, in Beaumont, where she lives.

Stevan Sanders ’06, B.A. general business, is secretary/treasurer of I.J.A. Local, 24 Credit Unions. He and his wife, Kamron (Broussard) ’04, B.S. administration, who is a track coach for Pasadena Memorial High School, live in League City.

Jack Williams Jr. ’06, B.M.A. business administration, is an international consultant and benefits analyst for Anaconda Petroleum Corp. and lives in Spring.

Jackalyn Voel ‘08, B.S. sociology, earned a master’s degree in social work in 2012 and works at Houston Methodist Willowbrook where she has lived since her socialist mother. She lives in Houston.
Cardinal Cadence

Class Notes

Malory (Marshall) Barnes '17, B.B.A. student, is senior branch associate at BBVA Compass. She and her husband, Jason, live in St. Simons.

Brian Halligan '07, B.S. computer science, is a senior computer programmer at American National Insurance. He and his wife, Samantha, live in Dickson.

Whitney (Denny) Henson '17, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a mixer for Silver Bay Property Corp. in Arlington, where she lives.

Vernantagia Kolluru '17, M.E. mechanical engineering, is a programming analyst for Verizon Wireless. He lives in Queens Village, N.Y.

Dr. Lindsey Miller '17, B.S. biology, '17, B.A. music, earned a Ph.D. in biological sciences and is a faculty lecturer at Rice University.

John Morris '17, M.B.A. business administration, is senior vice president of commercial banking at BBVA Compass Bank. He and his wife, Brianna (Mirabella) '04, B.S. nursing, work as a registered nurse at Christ St. Mary's Hospital, live in Beaumont.

April Rich '17, B.B.A. accounting, '15, M.B.A. business administration, is an auditor for Deloitte Services LP. She lives in Pearland.

Nick Vilos '17, B.F.A. graphic design, was a production artist for Jaxxer Dot Corp. and is now a freelance graphic designer pursuing a career as a character animator. He lives in Beaumont.

Penny (Howard) Weston '07, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, earned a master's degree in public administration in 2013 and is an adjunct instructor at College of the Mainland. She and her husband, Claude, live in Beaumont.

C.A. Dickey '08, B.B.A. human resource management, is a training coordinator for Dupont, E.I. Du Nementous Corp. He and his wife, Bonnie, live in Orange.

Dakota J. Domas '08, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, '11, M.B.A. business administration, is assistant vice president of student life and engagement at West Virginia State University. He lives in Charleston, W.Va., with his wife Ashly (Hernandez) '08, B.S. psychology, who earned a master's degree in forensic psychology in 2012.

The American Nuclear Society has honored Hash Hashemian '08, Eng., electrical engineering, the group selected him for the Robert L. Long Teaching Excellence award in 2015. He holds two Ph.D.s, one in electrical and computer engineering and one in nuclear engineering and applied physics. Hashemian is president, CEO and co-founder of the Global Analytics and Measurement Services Corp. He and his wife, Nazan, live in Knoxville, Tenn.

Dawn Katz '08, B.B.S. communication, '10, M.B.A., is an operations manager for the USDA NASS, a national public relations in 2010, and is program manager for the General Social and communication science in the General Education and Development Studies Department at Lamar Institute of Technology. She lives in Nederland.

Kirk Lewis '08, Ed.D. educational leadership, has released a book, The Chaser: Our Passionate Pursuit of Life Worth Living. He is the superintendent of Pasadena school district and lives in Pasadena.

Alfred C. Robinson '08, B.S. kinesiology, '12, M.E. school administration, teaches in Beaumont school district. He lives in Beaumont.

Catherine Warnack '08, B.M. violin performance, performed with the Beaumont Community Orchestra. She now teaches violin in Phoenix, Ariz., where she lives.

Joyce Blain '09, B.A. English and history, '14, M.A. English teaches in Hamshire-Fannett school district and is IB coordinator. She and her husband live in Beaumont.

Tecia Gibbs '09, B.S. corporate communication, '14, M.B.A. service management and marketing, is a marketing Susan for Neighbors Emergency Center. She and her husband live in Beaumont.

Diane (Davis) Miles '09, B.S. nursing, is regional director of quality and infection control for Christian St. Elizabeth Hospital. She and her husband, Rodney, live in Beaumont.

Sahul Panda '09, M.S. environmental engineering, is a research and development engineer for Dura Nova communication and social science in the General Education and Development Studies Department at Lamar Institute of Technology. She lives in Nederland.

Natalie Peterson '09, B.S. criminal justice, is the assistant state attorney for the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office in Miami, Fla., where she lives.

Darnisha Rigby '09, M.Ed. educational administration, is the assistant principal of Stephens Elementary School in Alsbury school district. She lives in Humble.

Brian Robinson '09, B.S. education, '10, M.E. education leadership, is assistant principal of Edgewood North Sixth Grade School in Alsbury school district, where he and his wife, Briana, live. On Sept. 14, 2015, they welcomed their first child, Brian Keith Robinson III.

Raeini (Frey) Thompson '09, M.E. education, was named the 2014-2015 Texas Classroom Teachers Association-Administrator of the Year for her work as principal of South Elementary in Lelandville school district. She and her husband, Ben, live in Lelandville.

Kathy (White) Topper '09, A.A.S. nursing, is a registered nurse at Memorial Hermann LBJ Hospital. She and her husband, James, live in Groves.

Marti Turner '09, M.Ed teacher leadership, is the executive director of career and assessment special programs for Martin school district. She lives in Naco.

Paul Van Fleet '09, M.Ed. administration, owns The Teacher Creation Store and is coordinator of secondary science content at Klein school district's instructional centers. He lives in Spring.

Jennifer (Erickson) Robinson '09, M.Ed. administration, teaches in Lewis Palmer school district. She and her husband, William, live in Monument, Colo.

Vita (Zaimon) Rodriguez '09, M.Ed. administration, is district coordinator of special education in Huntsville school district. She and her husband, Gregory, live in Huntsville.

10s

Kendal Clayton '10, B.B.A. marketing, is a marketing student at North-Houston Baptist Church. He and his wife, Rebekah, live in Lufkin, Texas.

Cey Gamali '10, industrial engineering, is a waste water operations engineer for Valero. She and her husband, Steve, live in Groves.

Joshua Leverentz '10, B.S. chemical engineering, is a process control engineer for ExxonMobil Corp. He lives in Conroe with his wife, Kristin (Leverentz) '08, B.S. engineering, and consumer sciences-family studies.

Jessica Roberts '10, B.S. family and consumer sciences-family studies, is a transaction coordinator for AncAp Capital. She lives in Houston.

Kyle Seipp '10, M.Ed. administration, is director of college and career readiness for Northwood school district. She lives in Pasadena.

Ashley Goedder '10, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is the founder and executive director of the Baby Stewart Foundation in Lufkin where she lives with her husband, Darnell.

Jennifer (Brecht) Theriot '10, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches kindergarten in Hamshire-Fannett school district. She married her husband, Cody, July 10, 2013. They live in Groves.

Benny (Furtado) Burdine '11, B.S. family and consumer sciences, '13, M.S. family and consumer sciences, is a Peace Corps volunteer in Malawi. She is a registered dietitian and worked in Dallas after graduation before joining the Peace Corps as a health volunteer in Africa. Her story, “Girl’s Journey from Southeast Texas to the Warm Heart of Africa” may be found at becrumilson.wordpress.com.


Amber (Alexander) Clark '11, B.S. general studies, is a youth care supervisor for Downtown District Special Advocates at Teleos Academy. She and her husband, Gregory, live in Beaumont.

Meagan (Nelson) Clayton '11, B.S. general studies, teaches at IDEA Public Schools–Rundberg. She
MMvbkg

Kourtney Bolser; Kristin (Bradford) Bolser ’05, ’15; Lupe Rodriguez; Kay Rodriguez

presentation on how to improve their LinkedIn profiles for business networking.

MBA/MSA alumni and students gathered Feb. 2 for a networking reception and

1. Alumni Basketball Between the Games Reception

1. Alumni Basketball Between the Games Reception

CARDINAL CADE间隔 | cell of community | SPRING/SUMMER 2016
HOMECOMING PARADE
Lamar University Campus • 1-2 PM
Area high school bands • LU Band and spirit groups • Floats by student organizations • Alumni and community entries

CARDINAL FAN FEST
Wimberly Parking lot E-2 • 2-4:30 PM
Music by Katie Whitney and The Draw • 2-Row Distributing free craft beer tasting • Food trucks • Alumni spirit station

LAMAR UNIVERSITY VS. HOUSTON BAPTIST
Provost Umphrey Stadium • Kick-off 6 PM

Visit lamar.edu/homecoming for parade entry information and more!