

CARDINAL

CADENCE

THE MAGAZINE OF LAMAR UNIVERSITY

VOL. 45, NO. 1 | WINTER 2017



| FROM THE **PRESIDENT** |



As we head into spring and look towards graduation for thousands of our students, we highlight Lamar University's can-do attitude in this second issue of our Texas State of Mind themed *Cadence* magazine series. From our students learning in hands-on environments to faculty, staff and alumni doing outstanding work on campus and in the community, their enthusiasm and resourcefulness reflects the can-do attitude our university embraces.

One of our most unique student communities at LU that stems from opportunity and passion for learning is the junior and senior high school students at the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities. These high-achieving students earn 60 college credit hours while living on campus as they also finish high school. Additionally, this issue features two outstanding students doing notable research through the Beck Fellows program and LU College of Engineering students who built race cars this year. Team EcoCARDinals competed in Shell Eco Marathon-Americas and Team Cardinal Racing participated in the Baja SAE California Challenge.

LU faculty and staff are constantly participating in student-centric activities to promote learning inside and outside the classroom. Kyle Smith, director of residence life, brings his wealth of experience in higher education and student living to LU. George Saltsman, associate research professor and director of educational innovation, leads the university's Center for Doctoral Studies while sharing his passion for educational technology. Brixey Blakenship-Cozad, dance team coordinator and adjunct instructor of dance, also is profiled in this *Cadence*, highlighting her instruction and mentoring of the award-winning LU Dance Team.

Alumni who display a can-do attitude every day, include Scott and Kayla Fisher, who manage a large family, a catering company and a restaurant with another on the way while staying true to their beliefs. Diane and Don Shaver are very accomplished in their professional and personal lives and are now concentrating on giving back to the university that gave them so much. Two other alumni featured in this issue are Jefferson County Sheriff Zena Stephens and Beaumont Fire Chief Anne Huff. Both of these amazing, ground-breaking women are truly making a difference in our community.

These members of our community embody a can-do attitude as do our newest buildings on campus, the Wayne A. Reaud Building, which houses the Reaud Honors College, and the Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship. Both of these are featured here in *Cadence* with the Reaud Building dedication and how the CICE is already enhancing opportunity for so many students as well as others in Southeast Texas.

We hope this issue inspires you with a can-do attitude.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Evans, President



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| ON THE **COVER** |

Students in red and white from across campus gathered to cheer LU.

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Can-do attitude—combined with knowledge and skill—are necessary characteristics to excel in a career. LU students develop can-do attitude through practical, experiential learning opportunities and collaboration with faculty inside and outside the classroom. Lamar University provides a high-quality academic environment that encourages a strong sense of community, a vibrant independent spirit and unmistakable can-do attitude—all of which exemplify a uniquely Texas ethos. Faculty instill these characteristics in our students, and our alumni demonstrate them daily.

Lamar University is A Texas State of Mind.

CAN-DO ATTITUDE

ACADEMY STUDENTS *can-do* COLLEGE SUCCESS

by Grayson Meek

TED STUBERFIELD

Director of the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities



Students of the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities are remarkable because they actively shape their learning environment to meet their own needs and expectations, exhibiting an intrinsic can-do attitude early in their high school careers that is nurtured further at LU.

At the academy, high school-age scholars live on campus and attend classes with Lamar University students. Established at LU in 1993 as part of state legislation directed at educating gifted and talented students, the program lasts two years and allows the students to earn college credits that transfer to any public college or university in the state of Texas.

Ted Stuberfield, in his fifth year as director of TALH, knows that the program is nothing short of transformative. “It takes students who were in a traditional high school environment and gives them the opportunity to participate in undergraduate research. They’re very bright individuals, and they can earn up to 60 or more college credits before even graduating high school. They engage in rigorous instruction with faculty and form a learning community with like-minded students who relish educational opportunities,” Stuberfield said.

While the academy does recruit and market, TALH students love the program and often self-promote, making recruitment of other highly motivated students that much easier. Almost all students attend the high school indicated by their district or chosen by their parents, but TALH students often direct their own academic futures. “Our students sought a more rigorous challenge, they wanted to be here, and they wanted the opportunity to push themselves further,” explained Stuberfield.

At his old school, Jacob Davis, 17, often found himself uninspired by the standard curriculum. “When I got to school and thought about what I was doing [there] and what I could have been doing, TALH was the only option,” Davis admitted. While traditional schools rarely leave room in the lesson plan for adaptation, the TALH program is

designed to foster critical thinking, and students thrive in an energetic learning environment that welcomes inquiry and enthusiasm.

Noting that traditional high school classrooms felt creatively and intellectually stifling, Alex Colson, 17, enjoys the freedom of the academy experience. The fear of appearing too invested in her studies often influenced her behavior in the classroom,” she said. At the academy, however, her peers are just as passionate about learning as she is. “We’re all very motivated. We don’t get teased for overachieving because we’re all overachieving,” she explained with a laugh.

The academy also prepares its students for their roles as citizens. Students are required to perform two hours of community service a week, and all students attend various club meetings and seminars on the humanities. Seniors conduct collaborative research projects and debate ethical issues such as the new State of Texas legislation permitting Campus Carry. Research is presented at the end of every semester at the academy’s signature event, the Futurism Symposium.

Dani Moses, 18, credits the TALH program with engendering a sense of

self-confidence and civic duty in her. “If you want something to happen, you have to make it happen within the program. It compels you to be a lot more active and forces you to take on leadership positions,” she said. With only 50-60 students per semester, academy students are much more likely than their counterparts in traditional schools to attain positions within clubs and organizations. The academy boasts a yearbook committee, a social justice club, a student-run blog and Junior State of America club, in addition to the prom committee and frequent field trips.

Govin Kaggal, 17, appreciates the mental preparation for the future that TALH provides. “We know what a hassle it is to change one class or another; or ask about moving a lab to another time. We already know about the six-drop rule. That’s a lot of technicalities. It’s a lot to take in,” Moses said.

Govin and his classmates already know how to navigate the serpentine world of higher education. “Technically, we are in high school, but being in a college environment helps us adapt. We won’t be as stressed as other kids who are just coming from high school. We’ll be more prepared socially and academically,” he added.

“ If you want something to happen, you have to make it happen within the program. It compels you to be a lot more active and forces you to take on leadership positions. ”

—Dani Moses



From left, Govin Kaggal, Beaumont; Jacob Davis, Beaumont; and Dani Moses, Port Arthur

AVENUES *for* OPPORTUNITY

by Tara Hoch

When they began their summer fellowships studying cancer treatments and experimental procedures in nanomedicine, 2016 David J. Beck Fellows Cade Johnson and Nicolas Nikoloutsos, could not have imagined how the experience would continue to open doors of opportunity and reinforce their own can-do attitude.

“Being a Beck Fellow is most certainly a life-changing experience,” Johnson, a junior double majoring in biology and exercise science, said. “In giving you the opportunity to travel and study under leading professionals in your field of choice, not only do you grow academically, but you also gain a broadened scope of the world and of yourself. Your worldview is completely changed as you mature throughout the experience, and you are responsible for yourself in ways you may have never been before.”

Johnson spent last summer at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia,

testing inhibitor drugs on cells, then examining the cell contents to see if the drugs could be deemed effective. It was work he took personally. As a survivor of acute lymphoblastic leukemia, he is extremely grateful for the people and influences



Cade Johnson



Nicolas Nikoloutsos

at LU that have propelled him on the path to his dream: becoming a pediatric hematology oncologist.

“I think LU is very unique in that the vast majority of its faculty are willing to go out of their way and put in many extra unpaid hours to help students,” Johnson

the help of instructors like them, and several others not mentioned, I would not be where I am today. Those close connections aren’t something you find at every university.”

A Mirabeau Scholar, Johnson said Lamar University has acted as

said. “Dr. Kelli White, Dr. Ashwini Kucknoor and Dr. Shannon Jordan have been extremely helpful in my endeavors, providing extra assistance when I needed it and always being willing to give me career or professional advice. Without

a springboard, not only to research and other academic merits but also to professional and personal development. He is a founding father of LU’s Alpha Tau Omega chapter and an LU Ambassador, as well as a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Order of Omega. “Through these organizations I have had the opportunity to attend national and local conferences that have helped me develop into a better person and leader,” he said.

To Nikoloutsos, LU’s many avenues for involvement, including the Reaud Honors College and the Office of Undergraduate Research, have launched him into a variety of research

opportunities he describes as “unparalleled.” An electrical engineering and physics dual-degree senior with a double major in mathematics, he spent the summer assisting renowned researcher Che-Ming Jack Hu on experimental procedures in nanomedicine and other

projects at Academia Sinica in Taipei, Taiwan.

“If I could, I would absolutely do my fellowship all over again,” he said. “It further solidified my love for research and the field of bioengineering. I am now sure that I want to do this kind of work for the rest of my life.”

Nikoloutsos, like Johnson, has had a rich history of involvement as an undergraduate. Outside of his Beck Fellowship, he has presented cancer research at Posters on the Hill in Washington, D.C., conducted independent mathematics research and participated in the National Institute of Standards and Technology Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program. All of these opportunities, he said, have allowed him to use his summers productively.

One of the greatest keys to his success, Nikoloutsos said, has been his ability to form great relationships with faculty mentors who have connected him with exceptional opportunities early in his undergraduate career.

“I have been incredibly lucky to have Dr. Ian Lian as my Beck mentor. I have conducted research under Dr. Lian since my freshman

year of college—he has been a fantastic mentor who has taught me many skills and offered excellent advice,” he said. “I also received further support and enhancement to my academic foundation thanks to the Reaud Honors College and Dr. Kevin Dodson.”

Since completing his project, which will result in an authored publication for Nikoloutsos, he has returned to working with Lian in the biology department, investigating the effects of microenvironment stiffness on cancer cell growth. He plans to pursue a Ph.D. in bioengineering and become a research scientist.

“The support and grants provided by the Office of Undergraduate Research and other organizations on campus are excellent,” he said. “At most medium to large institutions, I would just now, as a senior, be receiving the opportunities and building the relationships I had as a freshman at LU. And new doors continue to open.”

Nikoloutsos and Johnson represent just two in a long and successful lineage of LU students who have used the university’s various resources as stepping stones to a lifetime of success.

LU PROGRAMS SUPPORT CAN-DO SPIRIT

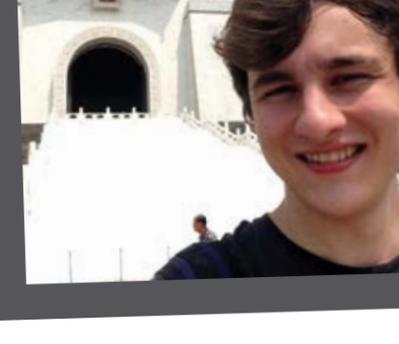
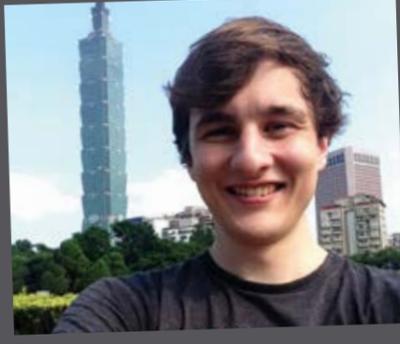
Highly motivated students and researchers have long found their niche in the university’s many other avenues for opportunity, including the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, Office of Undergraduate Research grants, various departmental honors societies and the Reaud Honors College, among others.

The highly motivated students of LU expect more of their college experience and their faculty, which has translated into ambitious programs and new ways for students to not just get involved, but to expand their activities via conferences, publications and graduate education.

As for the David J. Beck Fellowship, which covers all school expenses such as tuition, fees, books and on-campus housing for one year and includes up to \$10,000 to pursue a summer project, the level of candidates and their proposals have been so exceptional in recent years that President Evans has established a Presidential Summer Fellowship, awarding up to \$10,000 to each of the top two Beck runners up, giving them the ability to pursue a summer project.

The 2017 recipients of the Beck Fellowship are Natalie Sfeir, a sophomore speech and hearing sciences major from Beaumont, and Dillon Nicholson, a senior from Groves double majoring in sociology and French and minoring in philosophy. Sfeir will study novel approaches to the treatment of dementia in communities in the U.S. and England, while Nicholson will travel to Europe to study French language and culture and act as an assistant to philosopher Giovanni Tusa.

The 2017 Presidential Summer Fellows are Beaumont sophomore Rebekah Gonzales and Bridge City junior John Ellis. Gonzales will study creative learning at Brila Youth Projects in Montreal, while Ellis will assess the information and communications technology of Youth Education in the Arts in Allentown, Penn.



CURIOSITY + COMPETITIVENESS = CAN-DO

by Maggie Kaspura

As children, neither Jefferson County Sheriff Zena Stephens nor Beaumont Fire Chief Anne Huff dreamed of growing up to make history. In fact, it was almost by accident that the women started the jobs for which they'd eventually become famous. Stephens '89 was saving for law school and Huff '83, '85, '93 was a high school math teacher when they each decided to take a chance on an entirely new profession. The rest is actual Texas history: Stephens is the first female African-American sheriff elected in the state, and Huff is Beaumont's first female fire chief.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the two Lamar University graduates share traits that set them up to be successful, no matter what direction they took. Both claim a flexibility that allows them to change course quickly when they see a new opening. They are insatiably curious, athletic, competitive and unapologetically ambitious. And, both admit to liking a little excitement in their lives.

Huff stopped by the fire department between classes one day simply to pick up an application for her brother-in-law. When

the human resources representative handed her two applications, she took one just to be polite. But then she started thinking. "I wasn't really happy teaching school," Huff remembered. "I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. I thought I could try this, and, if I didn't like it, I could always go back to teaching."

Huff took to the job immediately. She liked the physical and mental challenges, the athleticism it demanded and the schedule that allowed for multiple days off at a time. But she wasn't convinced firefighting would be a lifelong calling. As one of the first female fire recruits, she faced some harassment from the older firefighters. "There's always been a segment of the population—and it gets smaller and smaller the longer I'm around—that doesn't want women here," she said. "So, they do their best to do ugly things to get you to go."

It turned out that in addition to being flexible enough not to take it personally, Huff also is really stubborn. "If you're trying to push me out, I'm not going to leave," she said. "I'll leave when I get good and ready. You're not going to make me go. You can be ugly all you want. You're not going to impact my decision."

After earning her MBA from LU in 1993, Huff had a decision to make. She could move on to the business world or try to improve the fire service from inside. "I love the fire service," she said. "There are elements about my journey through it that have been difficult, very difficult in some cases. But it has gotten better, and it continues to get better. I'm hoping I played a part in that."

Making life better for the community—both in and out of uniform—is something that also drives Sheriff Stephens. "I didn't become sheriff to be the first black female sheriff," Stephens said. "I want to make Jefferson County the best sheriff's department in the nation. I am serious about that. I want our department to be recognized nationally."

Don't bet against her. Stephens has started outreach to minority and LGBTQ communities to find qualified deputies. "It's not OK with me that people don't trust law enforcement," she said. "But until people start seeing people who look like [them], it won't change."

Stephens said her love of a good challenge led her to law enforcement. "People really hadn't seen a lot of black females in a police uniform," she said. "It never crossed my mind as a child because I'd never seen one either."

The goal had been to pay for law school, but after a few years on the job, Stephens knew she'd found her place. "As I went around the community, people were excited to see me," she said. "I always got this sense of pride from people that it was important that I had the job, and it was important for me to do a good job."

Her legacy in one sense will be that she was the first, but Stephens is hoping for a little something extra. "I just want to be a good cop," she said. "It won't matter that I was the first anything if I'm not good at my job. I never started a job to be the first. I always wanted to be the best."

Building a *better* campus



Wayne A. Reaud

Lamar University formally dedicated the Wayne A. Reaud Building on Dec. 2 before an appreciative crowd of university faculty, staff and students as well as many from the Southeast Texas community.

The three-story building houses the Reaud Honors College, reception areas, information technology, institutional research and reporting, marketing and administrative offices.

Participants heard greetings from Texas State University System Chancellor Brian McCall, LU President Ken Evans, honors graduate Kristeen Reynolds, Jon Huntsman Sr., and Wayne Reaud.

“I want to thank Wayne Reaud, Jon Huntsman and the Beaumont Foundation for their incredible support of Lamar

University and the formation of the Wayne A. Reaud Building,” Evans said. “Mr. Wayne Reaud is one of Lamar University’s most ardent and generous supporters. His philanthropy is legendary, with his impact extending across educational and public service organizations throughout the State

of Texas, most specifically in our community.”

“I want you all to know that you don’t need magic to change the world,” Reaud said, addressing the students of the crowd. “All of the power we need we can find within ourselves. But we do need education. When we combine this inner strength with quality education, we truly can change the world.”

Across the street is the recently completed Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship.

Together the Reaud Building and the CICE help create a stunning new entrance to the campus. Soon, construction will be underway for new on and off ramps from the highway directly to Rolfe Christopher Drive. This is now the gateway to Lamar University, and that happened because of this building,” Evans said.

The building is named in honor of nationally known attorney and Distinguished Alumnus of Lamar University Wayne Reaud. A generous benefactor to the university, he served as an LU Regent from 1985 to 1995 and established the Albert E. and Gena Reaud Scholarship as well as, through the Beaumont Foundation of America, 16 endowed Texas Legends Scholarships, while supporting KVLU Public Radio, the Judge Joe J. Fisher Distinguished Lecture Series and Cardinal Athletics. He is the founder of Reaud, Morgan & Quinn, chairman of the board of the Beaumont Foundation of America and director of the Reaud Charitable Foundation.



| STAFF PROFILE: **KYLE SMITH** |

BUILDING *home* AWAY FROM *home*

by Stephanie DeMeyer, LU Ambassador and Campbell Hall resident



Director of Residence Life Kyle Smith believes that bringing an optimistic, can-do attitude to everything you do is vital to the success of Lamar University.

“A can-do attitude is definitely vital to any operation, especially higher education. When positivity is pervasive in a workplace,” he said, “challenges are seen as obstacles to overcome, rather than something negative or detrimental. That’s the mentality I come to work with every day, and hopefully, I instill that in my staff.”

Smith feels a special affinity for students here at LU. As a first-generation college student, he knows how difficult the transition can be for all students, including those at-risk students from a low socioeconomic background. Many times, these students are at a systemic disadvantage upon entering college, and providing a positive and holistic educational experience can help these students grow not only academically, but also socially and emotionally.

Residence life is an important part of the educational experience, but it is only successful if all departments communicate and work together effectively. “Not collaborating is highly detrimental to an organization. It’s like a stagnant body of water—no new water coming in and the water cannot support life and growth,” he said. “We want to remember the big picture—students are coming to Lamar University to get a holistic education, not only in the classroom, but the residence halls, recreational center, student union and everything else. Collaboration allows us to best serve our students.”

Passion for his work fuels Smith’s positivity. His background in student affairs at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette led him to LU in May of 2015, when he assumed the role of director of residence life. As a doctoral student who has previously taught academic success courses, Smith is uniquely situated to bring both the perspective of a student, faculty and administrator to the current activity and future of residence life on campus.

Building a constructive work environment is a fluid task. Smith identifies a growth mindset versus a fixed mindset as key to maintaining your can-do attitude. “It’s easy to get lost in the day-to-day tasks,” he said. “If you give yourself an opportunity to reflect on how much you’ve grown over the last year or so, it helps to bring everything back into perspective.”

“If you understand that you are making a difference in a student’s life and helping him or her to grow as a person, that larger perspective really helps you to see the bigger picture.”

“Success is seeing not roadblocks to success, but challenges that bring the best out of you.”

—Kyle Smith

DESIGNING to WIN

by Ryan Litchfield

Imagine being given the extraordinary challenge of building a vehicle capable of traveling several hundred miles on a single tank of gas or a vehicle that could handle the unforgiving terrain of the California desert.

Now, suppose you are given only eight months to fund, design and build said vehicles. Could you do it? Believe it or not, these two challenges are given to two groups of LU mechanical engineering students each fall semester as part of their senior design capstone projects, and a can-do attitude is a must-have attribute for success.

Every fall, like clockwork, the Mechanical Engineering Department's Kendrick Aung and Jenny Zhou assign and guide two groups of engineering seniors to design and build a pair of cars from the ground up. "Not only must the students build each vehicle," explains Aung, "they also have to raise funds for each project and competition." Senior design projects are designed to enhance the engineering skills of students as well as encourage teamwork and communication along with planning, technical skills and budgeting.



“ I can speak for the entire team when I say that this project has made me feel like I can accomplish anything. ”

—Matt Butler

Team EcoCARDinals

The designing process started the first week of the fall semester. Faced with many decisions, the 12-student team chose to build an UrbanConcept vehicle with a diesel engine, with the goal of competing in the 2016 Shell Eco Marathon–Americas in April. The decision to build around a diesel engine came from project manager Matt Butler who wanted to improve the previous year model and cut costs by reusing the old engine. “We were able to focus on optimizing the design and minimizing the weight of the car to achieve maximum fuel efficiency,” said Butler. The team planned to drop nearly 20 percent of the weight from the old model to decrease the weight to a modest 350 pounds for the new model.

To cut weight, the project required strategic planning. UrbanConcept vehicles adhere to strict safety standards for vehicles, packing on extra weight, including a safety harness, windshield, properly positioned driver's seat, horn, headlights, blinkers and an emergency shutdown system. Another obstacle the team had to overcome was the 90-decibel limit placed on the vehicle, meaning it could not be louder than an average lawn mower.

After months of preparation and pushing budgetary constraints, the team began construction in the spring semester. With just a few months to build, the team expertly welded the chassis of the vehicle to the design specifications in just the

Team Cardinal Racing

While Team EcoCARDinals was focused on designing a fuel-efficient vehicle, Team Cardinal Racing spent its final two semesters designing a rugged Baja-style dune buggy. Consisting of 16 mechanical engineering majors, the ultimate goal of the team was to compete in the 2016 Baja SAE California Challenge—a competition pitting other top universities against one another in categories, including hill climb, acceleration, cost reporting and a four-hour endurance race to see who built the most durable vehicle. “We wanted to start a legacy of quality at LU so other teams at this competition will see that although we are a smaller school, we're a school that produces a competitive vehicle every year,” said Team Captain Thomas Michel.

Brainstorming began in the early fall semester to improve upon the previous team's design. Society of Automotive Engineers requires specific standards be met by all Baja vehicles, so the team produced two goals: to lighten the structure by 20 percent and to test the old vehicle for flaws to avoid. “There were several long nights along the way, and by several, I mean several dozen for me and the other team members,” said Michel. “We quickly learned about team dynamics and management, communication, scheduling and technical knowledge of vehicle design.”

As per SAE guidelines, the only part provided to every team is a 10-horsepower engine. The rest is up to the team to

94.9 MPG

first three weeks. Next, the team spent weeks maximizing efficiency by meticulously reviewing each component to ensure the best possible output. The motor was mounted with rubber buffers to absorb shock, and the drive train system was installed using the precise number of teeth on each sprocket to achieve the perfect gear ratio. Each and every component became the subject of stringent testing to ensure the project fit the goals of cutting weight while increasing vehicle efficiency.

The 2016 Shell Eco Marathon–Americas was held in Detroit, Mich., April 22-24. A total of 127 cars competed across several Prototype and UrbanConcept categories and subcategories. “We were the only team from Texas to pass all technical specifications, and we completed three runs,” said Butler. “I can speak for the entire team when I say that this project has made me feel like I can accomplish anything.” The team finished third in the UrbanConcept–Diesel category, and their official mileage result was an astonishing 94.9 miles per gallon.



SENIOR GRAND PRIZE

plan and build. Cardinal Racing spent months making crucial decisions and dealing with rigid deadlines. Because of cost and design, deciding on a frame became the principal concern. The team ran tests and determined that 1020 steel was the best option for the budget and design. The team then focused on collision safety analysis, transmission selection, turning ability and weight—each playing a pivotal role in the final product.

The 2016 Baja SAE event was held May 19-22 in Gorman, Calif. “I was filled with anticipation at the opportunity to prove our Baja buggy would fare well against other universities, but I was also slightly nervous,” says Michel. For team members, it was their first real-world experience coordinating such a large project. Cardinal Racing aced all inspections and was able to compete in every category, ultimately outperforming their highest expectations. In addition, the team scored the grand prize during the Inaugural Senior Design Symposium, chosen best senior project in the College of Engineering.

Senior design is not meant to be an easy challenge; it is designed to test students in ways classrooms and textbooks cannot. “I have come to see the senior design course as an important part in the professional and technical development of engineering students,” says Michel. “Even though the project was highly demanding, it was the most fulfilling thing I was able to do during my time at Lamar University, and I think the others would agree.”

Students gain edge with 2+2

The first graduate through LU's Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering 2+2 online program, **Tyler Currie** of Orlando, Fla., completed his senior design project exploring large-scale human resource scheduling and graduated in spring 2016. Soon to follow was **Maria Tamsen**, a Houston native, who developed a voice-based interface for a home health system as her capstone project and graduated last August. LU has the only online 2+2 industrial engineering program in Texas and is one of the few online programs in any engineering discipline nationwide. The 2+2 format allows students to complete their first two years of school at a community college. The program offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering with the first two years of study at another college or university and the final two years via LU's BSIE online program.

The program is ideal for individuals who wish to complete their degree but are far from the university or find that scheduling or their job prevents them from taking traditional on-campus courses. On-campus students often enroll in the same online courses as 2+2 students in order to co-op or work during the day at local companies. Currie completed the online courses while participating in professional internships at Disney. "One of the best benefits of program is that you can take real world situations from work and see how they apply in your courses, and vice versa. It is a good feeling knowing how much I accomplished these last two years because of the online program," said Currie.

Tamsen had the opportunity to do research; work with advanced software including Creo, SAS and SAP; learn programming skills; design experiments and analyze data through the program. "Without the preparation that this program has given me, I would not have been selected to complete an internship at NASA Johnson Space Center," she said.



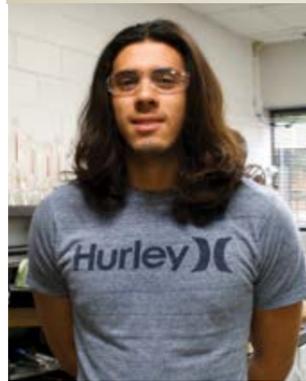
and traveling. In a few years, I see myself residing in some other part of the world, bringing technology to other areas and helping them develop the industry," she said.

Lamar University has received students from Seoul Tech since 2012, but it wasn't until 2015 under the efforts of **Tae Hoon Kim**, adjunct professor in the Department of Industrial Engineering and the Study Abroad Office, that the program became reciprocal. This year, two engineering students from Seoul Tech are studying at LU, and Clayton, abroad for the spring 2016 semester, was the second LU student to study at the South Korean university.

The Office of Study Abroad has a mission to offer students from a variety of majors study abroad options in as many different countries as possible. It currently has 3 bilateral exchange partners, 17 faculty-led programs, and various partner universities that collaborate with LU towards international projects, such as the Universidad Veracruzana in Mexico and Chungnam National University in Korea. More than 180 Lamar students will study abroad during this academic year.

New exchange program takes engineering student to South Korea

"Studying abroad is such an amazing opportunity, and Lamar makes it so easy. There are no excuses not to go," said **Kirby Clayton**, a sophomore mechanical engineering major with a mathematics minor. When the Orange native heard about the Study Abroad Office's recently established bilateral exchange program allowing engineering students to study at Seoul Tech, she saw it as an adventure that aligned perfectly with her future plans. "I have always dreamed of working internationally



Aguilar analyzes harmful fake hormones

Omar Aguilar, a sophomore civil engineering major from Port Arthur and recipient of an Office of Undergraduate Research grant, recently completed a project that analyzed phthalates, or fake hormones, in plastic children's items using liquid chromatography mass spectrometry. Phthalates are used to increase flexibility of plastics, and are popularly used in teething products, baby milk powder, pacifiers and the packaging and wrapping of children's lunch food products. "There are many ways phthalates affect children before birth and after birth. For example, birth defects can happen while in the womb and after birth exposure can affect the quality of sperm in boys and induce early puberty in girls," Aguilar said. "Also, they are known to be carcinogenic and have been linked with breast cancer."

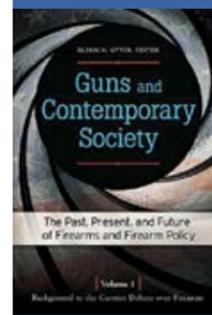
The most rewarding aspects of his research, Aguilar said, were acquiring many new skills and "new perspectives of the world pertaining to scientific progress." He presented his findings at the National Conference of Undergraduate Research in Asheville, N.C. last spring. He plans to continue his research throughout his college career.

▶ **Mallik receives fellowship**
The American Association of University Women awarded graduate environmental engineering student **Synthia Parveen Mallik** their International Fellowship. Mallik is exploring low-cost technological solutions for water treatment and waste management.

▶ **DOE projects focuses on friction**
Dr. Ali Behehsti in the Department of Mechanical Engineering is collaborating with Texas A&M University for a project funded by the Department of Energy to study tribology (friction/wear) and contact mechanics of high temperature alloys for nuclear reactors applications.

▶ **Wu combats traffic snarl**
Xing Wu, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering, received a \$60,000 grant from Texas Department of Transportation to develop a proactive signal control system to optimize signal phasing and timing plans for mitigating traffic congestion as well as delays caused by traffic lights.

Utter authors three-volume work



Professor Emeritus **Glenn Utter** authored *Guns and Contemporary Society: The Past, Present, and Future of Firearms and Firearm Policy*. The work examines

various approaches to firearms, including constitutional and legal issues, public health and criminal justice concerns, and perspectives on personal safety and self-defense.

In this 861-page hard-hitting compilation, experts delve into firearms in America—from gun control and gun rights to militia movements, to school-related shootings, and to the recent trends in gun ownership by women. Authors from varied backgrounds and viewpoints share their perspectives on the pros and cons of firearm ownership, including all of the following: a constitutional right, a key instrument of self-defense, a guarantee of political freedoms, and as a major factor in crime and personal injury. The book is available in hardcover or eBook, ISBN 978-1-4408-3217-8.

The reference work is divided into three volumes. The first covers firearm history, legislation and policy; the second explores public opinion, gun ownership trends, international laws and self-defense; and the third considers popular debates about firearm policy, including concealed carry of firearms, terrorism and the ownership of firearms, background checks for purchasing guns, and stand-your-ground laws. The work concludes with an informed debate on gun policy between Richard Feldman, president of the Independent Firearm Owners, and Paul Helmke, former president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.



Historian, author Forret wins Frederick Douglass Book Prize

Jeff Forret, professor of history has been selected as the winner of the 2016 Frederick Douglass Book Prize for his book *Slave Against Slave: Plantation Violence in the Old South*.

The Douglass Prize was created jointly by the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale University's MacMillan Center and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in New York City. It is awarded annually by the Gilder Lehrman Center for the best book written in English on slavery or abolition. The \$25,000 prize was presented to Forret at a reception sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute in New York on Jan. 31.

Slave Against Slave provides a new look into antebellum slave communities. The idea for the publication came about when, while conducting research for a previous book, he found much documentation of southern white violence but little about violence between slaves. He set out to write the book himself.

Slave Against Slave challenges prevailing ideas of pre-Civil War slave communities in the U.S. South as uniformly harmonious. Personal and work disputes, marital disputes, affairs, damaged honor, debt and status differences within slave communities all contributed to violence between and among slaves. Using

primary sources such as court records, church records, slave narratives and travelers' accounts, Forret hopes not to dismiss the ideas of slave resilience and solidarity, but rather to "strike a better balance" by giving a more complete understanding of slave life and culture.

Forret is a Distinguished Faculty Research Fellow and the 2016 University Scholar Award winner. He received a William Nelson Cromwell Fellowship and a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend to research his next book, a legal history of the domestic slave trade titled *Williams' Gang: A Slave Trader, His Cargo, and Justice in the Old South*.

The Frederick Douglass Book Prize is named for Frederick Douglass (1818-1895), the former slave who escaped servitude to become one of the great American abolitionists, authors and orators of the 19th century. The Frederick Douglass Book Prize was established in 1999 to encourage scholarship in the field by honoring outstanding accomplishments.

Castillón named assistant director for Office of Undergraduate Research

Catalina Castillón, associate professor of English and modern languages, has been appointed assistant director for the Office of Undergraduate Research. The office creates, facilitates and enhances opportunities for students interested in conducting undergraduate research.

Castillón is director of the Modern Languages Program, in which capacity she will continue to serve. She was honored as the university's Distinguished Faculty Lecturer in 2013 and has received the University Merit Award, College of Arts and Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award and two Distinguished Teaching Awards. Her research interests focus on baroque and neobaroque artistic expressions, Hispanic literature in the U.S., globalization and cultural studies, Spanish Golden Age literary translations and folkloric manifestations in Galicia, Spain.

With a 25-year tenure at LU, she brings to the job considerable experience relevant to undergraduate research and creative activity, having been an active mentor and adviser of multiple projects, including the Beck Fellowships and McNair scholarships.

▶ **Teaching the teachers**
The 10-day Teaching Environmental Science summer field institute, organized by the Earth and Space Sciences Department, introduced Southeast Texas EC-12 teachers to local environmental issues through first-hand experiences, studying environmental habitats.

▶ **Smith named Shaver Fellow**
Amy Smith, assistant professor of English and modern languages, was named the Don Shaver Distinguished Faculty Fellow, a three-year appointment in recognition of leadership in research and teaching. She is associate director of Support and Mentoring to Advance Research and Teaching.

▶ **Sato authors book**
Assistant professor of history **Yasuko Sato** is the recipient of a publishing contract with Columbia University Press for her book, *A Woman from the Land of Fire: Takamure Itsue and Japanese Antiquity*. Itsue was a poet, feminist and anarchist who researched and published on Japanese women's history.

CAN-DO CATALYST

by Brian Sattler

Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship signals new era, new opportunities

On the south end of the Lamar University campus, across from the Wayne A. Reaud Administration Building, is the entrepreneurial and innovation epicenter of Southeast Texas, where bright ideas and can-do attitudes come together.

Researchers and students dive into a current of change—ideas form, alliances are fashioned and potential is explored. The purpose, programs and passions of LU's Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship are multifaceted but all aim at a culture of innovation.

"For me, the CICE is the most refreshing, hottest thing to show up in a long time," said Distinguished Alumnus Jack Gill '58, successful technology entrepreneur, venture capitalist, educator and philanthropist. He sees the CICE as the place where "hotshot aspiring professors create technology, get patents, start companies, create businesses and create jobs."

The CICE helps students, faculty and other innovators "bring ideas to market through creative product development, fast-paced technology, business assessment and validation, and collaboration across disciplines," said CICE director Paul Latiolais.

"The programs of the CICE can invigorate the can-do spirit of our students while it gives them the tools, experience and connections they need to become the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs," Latiolais said.

A partnership between the College of Business and College of Engineering, the CICE is a key player in the university's continuing collaboration with regional leaders, industry and the business community. "The CICE promotes a culture of



"I don't think people recognize just how significant this facility will be to LU's future and to the region."

—Jack Gill

innovation," Gill said. "It's not a subset of one college; it is spread across them all."

Creating new businesses can support the region's petro-chem backbone and has the potential to greatly expand the economic base of Southeast Texas with high-growth industries. The center focuses on markets in energy, advanced materials, life science, air/water quality, digital learning, port management and software—all core competencies at the university. Early stage companies currently in the CICE include those in early market refinery advancement, software and life sciences, explained Latiolais.

In addition to providing office space for emerging companies, the CICE provides critical support for future clients and overall industry development in collaboration with LU's High Performance Computing team, Advances in Port Management and the Digital Learning Center.

These CICE benefits help faculty and students initiate innovative ideas by giving them a timely boost, and funding, to the next level of development. Last fall, the CICE funded several projects promoting advances in 3D Printing and Virtual/Augmented Reality, thanks to generous support of three LU alumni (see sidebar). Their contributions helped support projects across multiple disciplines including biology, electrical engineering, robotics, audiology and industrial art design.

Projects in development

Under the leadership of Reza Barzegaran, assistant professor of electrical engineering, and with CICE funding, students built a non-intrusive condition monitoring and fault diagnosis system using new technology in augmented reality and 3D printing. "We designed sensors and a flexible 3D-printed coil antenna," Barzegaran said. The results were recently published in the IEEE's Magnetics Society's *Transactions on Magnetics*. "We are moving forward, making the design more specific and perfecting the system for a micro grid or whole smart grid," he said.

Art Department Chair Donna Meeks and Kurt Dyrhaug, professor of sculpture, revised courses to include a focus on 3D printing using enhanced software. Two students from the courses then enrolled in a study abroad course in Germany and presented their final works in a student exhibition at the Molzberger Academy in Hilmsen, Germany. The technology has been applied to additional courses and Dyrhaug has made a site visit to MakerBot Corp. and UT-Dallas to apply best practices to future courses.

CICE funds helped LU biology professor Ian Lian with reagents, materials and supplies as he worked to develop a smart-phone based device for pathogen detection in real-time.



The 3D printed device combines a smartphone and an off-the-shelf microfluidic chip to test water quality for pathogens such as E. coli through a microfluid channel.

"We can 3D print a device for any model of smartphone," Lian said. Work is now focusing on the applications for the smartphone, and Lian plans to test the device alongside traditional methods used by the LU Biology Department to monitor water quality along public beaches under the Texas General Land Office's Beach Watch program.

“Getting support like this from the CICE during the early phases of a project was crucial,” Lian said. “It helped us move an idea to a level where we could publish and seek external grant support.”

The CICE also funded a project in speech and hearing sciences led by department Chair Monica Harn that focused on creating a virtual reality process for helping adults with hearing loss. The team has investigated aural rehabilitation service needs and materials and is developing content for therapy with the goal of field testing the program this summer.

CICE contributions supported a study of virtual reality for biological studies under the direction of Tao Wei in the Dan F. Smith Department of Chemical Engineering. The increasing availability of VR systems and the rich programmability of game engines creates the opportunity to explore biological electron-transfer processes and to create a unique experiential tool for broader scientific studies.

Also supported was the development of an interactive LU map for Android, iPhone and iPad under the direction of computer science Chair Stefan Andrei and graduate student Kishor Gupta. The two incorporated Google Maps and represented all the buildings, applying 360-degree views to each building exterior.

CICE funds enabled Weihang Zhu and students in engineering to develop a robotic prosthetic hand using 3D printing. Having learned from the first model, the team is now working on an improved follow-up that can be directly controlled using inputs from a person’s forearm muscles. The long-term objective is to



develop a brain-computer interface-based rehabilitation system of which the prosthetic hand is a key component, Zhu said.

Outside the lab

The CICE’s programs serve to inspire and educate. Gill has invited ten LU graduate students to participate as Gill Scholars in Ignite!. Traveling to California’s Silicon Valley, they joined with 55 graduate and Ph.D./M.D. students from Rice University, UC-Davis and Texas Medical Center to visit emerging start-ups, legendary tech companies and venture capital firms while gaining motivation, advice and exposure to innovation cultures from several key technology guest speakers in the most advanced high tech hub in the world. Ignite! is the brainchild of Gill.

The CICE also brings entrepreneurs, innovators and venture capitalists to campus to share their experiences with students, faculty members and the public in the Entrepreneurial Studies Lecture Series and the Michael G. Weinert Entrepreneurship Lecture Series.

Recently, the university hosted the *Fundamentals of Entrepreneurship* bootcamp for LU students and community members. The fast-paced short course, developed and led by Gill with other guest lecturers, focuses on the dynamics of high-tech entrepreneurship that has been popular at Harvard, MIT, Indiana University, Rice University, Purdue, Stanford, the University of Texas and University College, London.

“It’s extraordinary Lamar University has a CICE on campus,” Gill said. “I don’t think people recognize just how significant this facility will be to LU’s future and to the region.”



Alumni support summer intern projects

Three LU alumni joined in supporting several summer intern projects through the CICE. Alumnus Jack Gill ’58, Larry Lawson ’12, honorary doctorate, and Anthony George ’88 each contributed \$10,000 toward the short-term projects.

“Support from engaged donors makes a difference,” said Paul Latiolais, director of the CICE. “Contributions like this enable our faculty to explore new ideas and new methods to innovate in the classroom and laboratory where they often blend traditional disciplines to discover new outcomes.”

“These funds enable faculty members to develop projects over the summer through materials and hiring students. The fast-paced projects get faculty and students engaged and excited,” Gill said.

Gill is a longtime advocate and benefactor for entrepreneurship at LU, including a recent \$1 million gift. Half of the gift supports the operations of the Jack M. Gill Chair in Chemical Engineering, held by David Cocke, who serves as the associate director of the CICE, while the remainder supports CICE operations and student internships within the CICE.

Lawson, another university benefactor who has supported LU’s electrical engineering program, attended LU in the 1960s, and, after switching careers from music to health care, founded eCardio Diagnostics in 2004, which became one of the Top 500 fastest-growing companies in America from 2009 to 2012. Ernst & Young tapped Lawson as its Health Science Entrepreneur of the Year in 2009.

George was the founder and president of Control Dynamics, a company he sold in 2010. He is now CEO of Nautical Control Solutions, a provider of integrated marine fuel management and vessel monitoring in real-time worldwide. George also is a founding member of The Woodlands chapter of The Entrepreneurs’ Organization, a global network of entrepreneurs with more than 11,000 members worldwide.

“These three donors have each built incredible careers on innovation and are outstanding role models of entrepreneurship and can-do attitude,” Latiolais said.

STAFF PROFILE: GEORGE SALTSMAN |

Let's make it real: The Ed.D. as global practicum

by Casey Ford

In his gingham button-down and jeans, slouchy computer backpack and trendy-but-sensible sneakers, looking as though he’d just emerged from a Silicon Valley thinktank after a long day of coding, George Saltsman arrived at the new Reaud Administration Building for an interview. The Apple Distinguished Educator and internationally known researcher and lecturer had not, indeed, been sitting all day in a digital cave; he’d just left a meeting in the College of Education and Human Development

for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship. CICE is a conduit for industry and university interaction, including projects, on-going research, student experiential learning, special events and training. These purposes align perfectly with Saltsman’s vision for the global, online Ed.D. program at LU, where he wants to shift the mindset of doctoral students from the traditional, dissertation-driven academic program to programming that immediately engages them in their passions for educating

all people and changing the world in tangible, critical ways.

The extraordinary students of the Center for Doctoral Studies are working in the developing nations of the world to fight gender violence and discrimination, human trafficking, environmental destruction and the devastations of extreme poverty. They are

environmental education, higher education and specialized training for teachers, early literacy programs and technical vocational education for women.

Saltsman said, “In Malawi, like many developing countries, basic literacy is a considerable challenge. Of those who are in school, 83 percent of Malawian Standard 1 students cannot read a single syllable, and 92 percent cannot read a single word. As another example, we’ve had one student focused on vocational education in Pakistan. There is a correlation between radicalization and a mother’s education. Typically, women in many of these places have no status or self-worth and are unable to speak to their sons with authority, but an educated, empowered woman can correct her son when he makes bad choices. Our students participate in that sort of education and it has been demonstrated to save people’s lives. That’s changing the world. That’s what our students are helping to do.”

These international innovators benefit from Saltsman’s experiences on the higher education advisory teams of Apple, Google and Microsoft and from his nearly 20 years as executive director of the Adams Center for Teaching and Learning at Abilene Christian University. Saltsman asked, “Why should these professionals have to wait until the ink is dry on their dissertations to begin the most important work of their lives? Let’s get them out of the classroom and into their fields immediately. Let’s make it real.”

Saltsman’s passion and expertise in educational technology, and his distinguished, award-winning career in digital learning, translate to opportunities for LU doctoral students to change the world, not after they have completed a degree, but at the moment their studies begin. Saltsman’s can-do, “let’s make it real” attitude exemplifies the mission of Lamar University and is most apparent in his students’ global impact on teacher education and student literacy.



George Saltsman, center, pictured at the Angkor Wat Temple in Siem Reap, Cambodia with LU candidates Jessica Hale, Kuala Lumpur, left; and Kelly Grogan, Hong Kong, right.

where he serves as associate research professor in the Lamar University Center for Doctoral Studies in Global Educational Leadership.

Recently, Saltsman’s role at LU broadened to include a position in the Office of the President as director of educational innovation to integrate the goals of the Center for Doctoral Studies with those of the new Center

not picketing, protesting, lobbying or fundraising. They are teaching.

LU doctoral students, in coordination with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and Voluntary Service Overseas International, among other entities, work in countries including Malawi, Kenya, Mozambique, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Cambodia to provide



Dean Holtzhausen named 2016 Frank Scholar
Derina Holtzhausen, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication, was a chair and invited speaker at the 2016 Frank Academic conference focused on public interest communications. Frank is considered the foremost gathering of people who use strategic communications to drive social change. The Frank conference brings together top researchers from various academic disciplines to collaboratively cultivate research that ignites lasting behavioral, institutional and social change. A communications scholar, Holtzhausen's work explores the intersections of postmodern theory and public relations.



Manchaiah tapped Jerger Future Leader of Audiology
 The American Academy of Audiology named **Vinaya Manchaiah**, associate professor and director of audiology, to the 2016 class of Jerger Future Leaders of Audiology. Manchaiah is one of only a dozen individuals selected nationally for the honor. He is the Jo Mayo Endowed Professor and is co-founder and director for strategic planning at the non-profit, non-governmental organization Audiology India, for which he served as president from 2011 to 2015. The organization seeks to foster ear and hearing health care in India.



LU alumni collaborate on film project

Three graduates of the Department of Communication premiered their short film, *The Example*, a fictional account of the historic race riots in Beaumont, at the Jefferson Theatre in March. Helming the project were writer **Gordon Williams**, who is also the studio operations manager for LUTV; director **Wyatt Cagle**; and producer **Kenneth Dupuis**.

The *Example* tells the fictional story of two families caught up in the 1943 race riots in Beaumont that occurred after two black men were accused of attacking white women. The allegations led to an angry mob of dock workers burning the city's predominantly black neighborhood to the ground and the governor of Texas declaring martial law in Beaumont.

Another acclaimed LU alumnus, **Joel Love**, wrote the score for the film. Love earned a Bachelor of Music in Composition from LU in 2007 and recently completed a Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition from the University of Texas at Austin.

Deaf Studies department members create ASL video tours for local museums



LU students and faculty, working in conjunction with community partners, are creating videos that explain museum exhibits in American Sign Language as well as in spoken and written English. In the project, Quick Response matrix-style barcodes, called "QR

codes," are printed on museum exhibits and are used to link patrons to videotaped content via a smartphone or tablet. **Cain Chiasson**, an instructor in the Department of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education founded Virtual QR Tours with **Kim Hunt**, a nationally certified interpreter of American Sign Language. Their team has created tours for the Fire Museum of Texas in Beaumont and Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum on the campus of LU. The mission of this research project is to establish ASL tours in museums throughout the state of Texas and beyond.



Art students study sculpture in Germany

Prof. Kurt Dyrhaug taught a study abroad course on sculpture, 3D printing and cast iron, July 24-Aug. 15, in Hilmsen, Germany, with students participating from Lamar University and Baylor University. In addition to living and working at the artists' residency Atelierhaus Hilmsen, students also visited Hamburg, Berlin and Dessau, and performed an iron pour for residents of Hilmsen and surrounding communities.

Communication students film in South Africa
 Students from the Department of Communication participated in the first LU Study Abroad South Africa program in July. The students spent four weeks in Johannesburg and used skills they acquired at LU to produce stories about South Africa. In October, LUTV on Fox aired a half-hour news segment featuring their stories.

Inaugural Brass Festival
 The Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music hosted its first Brass Festival, last spring. The festival offered performances from guest artists, faculty and students, as well as master classes, clinics and exhibits. The event concluded with a gala concert featuring world-renowned trumpeter **Allen Vizzutti** performing with LU's Brass Choir and Cardinal Jazz Orchestra.

A Year with Frog and Toad delights young audiences
 LU Theatre performed the musical *A Year with Frog and Toad*, children's books by Arnold Lobel, last spring in the University Theatre. **Lou Arrington** and **Brian LeTraunik** directed this exuberant story of friendship and adventure. **Ciara Jackson** of Bridge City starred as Frog and **Thomas Gentry Jr.**, Friendswood, played Toad.



Deaf Studies and Deaf Education awarded \$1.25 million grant

The U.S. Department of Education awarded a \$1.25 million grant to the Department of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education to help prepare teachers for deaf and hard of hearing K-12 students who have additional disabilities. During the five-year project, students will receive full funding to complete their master's degrees in deaf studies and deaf education. The first cohort of six students began this fall. **Millicent Musyoka**, assistant professor of deaf studies and the program's director, is excited about travelling with the group to New York City this spring to attend the American Sign Language Early Childhood Summit.



Texas Business Hall of Fame awards Carr

Keyana Carr '16 is one of a select group of exceptional students from across Texas to receive scholarships from the Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation. The foundation recognized Carr formally at its annual induction dinner Oct. 27 in San Antonio. She received the \$15,000 Texas Business Hall of Fame Ben J. Rogers Scholarship. Carr, of the North Shore community in Houston, earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from LU last May and currently is pursuing an M.B.A. at Lamar University. "Receiving the Texas Business Hall of Fame Ben J. Rogers Scholarship is a huge blessing for me," Carr said. "Not only will it cover my tuition, but also it has given me the motivation to succeed. I'm so honored and thankful for this award and opportunity. I could not have accomplished this without Dean Henry Venta and my College of Business professors."

Business ethics speaker shares experiences

The ExxonMobil Executive in Residence Program welcomed **Helen Sharkey**, a professional ethics speaker, as guest lecturer Sept. 21 in Landes Auditorium. During a lecture titled "How I Became a White Collar Criminal," she spoke about how she neglected to trust her gut instincts on a project that produced major legal red flags. Sharkey worked in the 1990s as an accountant with Dynegy, a Houston-based energy trading company where she became involved in white-collar crime. Her participation led to her conviction and 28 days in a maximum-security federal prison. Today, Sharkey shares her experience with crime and her perspective on ethics.



Travel opens window on trade, finance

Eight College of Business students joined **Frank Badua**, associate professor of accounting and business law, for a business seminar in Costa Rica and Panama during spring break 2016.

In designing the course, Badua said he was guided by a quote from the writer Jose Rizal who wrote, "Los que conocen la tierra solo por mapas y libros son como los que disfrutan la sinfonia solo por las partituras [those who know the earth from maps and books are like those who enjoy a symphony by reading the musical score]."

"Not only did I intend for my students to be exposed to all aspects of the countries we visited, and all the facets of the business world as represented in those countries, I wanted them to really interact with their new environment," Badua said. "That's why, for example, I required them to haggle with street vendors, in Spanish, and graded them according to how much of a discount they could get. That's active learning, and it includes knowledge of accounting, marketing, finance and international business all in one very personal experience."

Highlights of the trip included a lecture on the commodities trade at a family-owned coffee estate in Costa Rica and a behind-the-scenes tour of the Panama Canal arranged by alumnus **Jorge Quijano '73, '74**, the CEO of the Panama Canal Authority.

"Visiting the Panama Canal was one of the highlights of my college career," said **Kay-Alana Turner**. "Through a special presentation arranged by LU alumnus and Panama Canal Authority CEO Jorge Quijano, I got a detailed inside understanding of the future of the canal and international maritime trade. The best part though, occurred when our group took the VIP canal tour. There is nothing more exciting than standing on the deck of one of the world's key trade centers and watching enormous cargo ships cross between two oceans in real time."

Other activities immersed students in the culture. They enjoyed an authentic homestay with Costa Rican families, visited Poas Volcano National Park and explored Casco Viejo, the historic colonial center of Panama City.



Global enrichment: academics to life lessons for group experiencing China

Last May, six students in **Prof. Kakoli Bandyopadhyay's** global enrichment class traveled to China to visit the headquarters of multi-national companies, gaining new perspectives along the way. The Steinhagen family's Global Fellowship Award gave **Jeremy Allen** and **Mark Murrill** experiences they will never forget. Allen said, "It was such a tremendous honor and blessing to receive financial assistance through the Steinhagen Global Fellowship Award," he said.

The Janie Nelson Steinhagen and Mark Steinhagen Global Fellows were established through the generosity of Janie and Mark Steinhagen to foster study abroad among graduate students in the College of Business. Through these incredible expeditions, scholars gain understanding and respect for other

cultures. Bandyopadhyay, department chair of Information Systems and Analysis, said, "We always make our own judgements or opinions based on what we are exposed to. Going to China, meeting the people and visiting the factories were eye openers for us."

Yolanda Conyers '89, chief diversity officer at Lenovo and LU alumna, set up a tour of Lenovo Co. for the students, one of several companies the students visited, including Hyundai, Speedo, Invest Hong Kong and Crocs.

Allen and Murrill, along with students **Thomas Lalauni**, **Rebekah Drummond**, **Lauren Frazier** and **Emma Lanier**, visited Victoria's Peak, Kowloon Peninsula, Tiananmen Square and the Great Wall and toured Old Beijing.

Kizer details success after LU
 As ExxonMobil Executive in Residence, LU alumna **Susan Kizer '09** returned to campus last spring to speak on monetary policy and demystify central banking. Kizer has been with the Federal Reserve for seven years, leading efforts to develop educational outreach materials and public programs.

Bounds addresses LNG growth
 The college welcomed senior vice president of Macquarie Energy and alumnus **Allan Bounds '80** to campus as ExxonMobil Executive in Residence to share his more than 33 years of experience in the energy industry. He spoke in Landes Auditorium last spring about the enormous growth of the global LNG market.

Students Visit Silicon Valley
 Four MBA students along with **Paul Latiolais**, director of the Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship, enjoyed a three-day immersive experience in Silicon Valley. **Kristeen Reynolds**, **Crystal Embury**, **Brittini Thibodeaux** and **Abby McManus** visited some of the world's largest companies, such as Lyft, Square and Dropbox.

GREEN LIGHT FOR SUCCESS

by Beth Gallaspy



With four kids ranging in age from toddler to teen, three growing businesses and another on the way—business, that is, not child—Scott '08 and Kayla (Pipkins) Fisher '08 '12, stay busy to say the least. The pair continues their successful trajectory by relying on the complementary strengths each brings to their partnership.

The Fishers, who married in August 2008, just after Scott graduated from LU and just before Kayla completed her bachelor's degree, opened Green Light Kitchen in Edison Plaza in downtown Beaumont in 2014. Soon after, they also acquired Edison Cafe next door and moved their catering and events planning business, launched as Cater to You in 2011, but now known as Green Light Catering, into corporate offices on the 14th floor. Their next restaurant, Green Light Americana in Beaumont's West End, was in the planning and preparation stages in early 2017.

“Scott's very much a visionary, and I'm a detail-oriented person. It's very hard for me to see the big picture at first,” Kayla said. “He has to run it past me a few times before I really grasp it. Scott always says, ‘I knew it would be successful’ or ‘I could see the future of it,’ but I never in my wildest dreams thought it would be as successful as it is. It's a great tribute to his leadership in the kitchen and our incredible staff.”

While Scott handles the kitchen and associated staff, Kayla, who completed her LU M.B.A. in 2012, brings her business knowledge to the partnership with the help of her two assistants, one for payroll and accounting and another for sales.

Scott, who grew up in Crosby, pursued his culinary training in the Houston area, completing his associate's degree in the culinary program at San Jacinto Community College and gaining experience working with chefs at Houston-area country clubs and yacht clubs.

“The reason I left was to finish up my bachelor's here at LU. I just never thought that I would meet my wife here and end up setting down roots and loving it,” he said.

Scott and Kayla first met on the steps of the Family and Consumer Sciences building on campus when they—quite literally—bumped into each other. They made their apologies and went on their way, then later found themselves in a nutrition class together one summer. Scott, the hands-on learner, and Kayla, the self-described “total nerd,” joined other

classmates in a study group. They coincidentally had another class together that fall and before long started making coffee dates at Mirabeau's. He took her back to the steps where they met to propose.

Although Kayla had restaurant jobs in college, she had never considered pursuing a career in the industry until she met Scott and wanted to support his talent in the kitchen. In starting a business together, it helped not to think too hard and risk overanalyzing things, she said.



“ I think we've set out just to be a bit different and to do what we felt was true to our core. ”

—Scott Fisher



“It was never a question of why or how...we were just going to do it.”

—Kayla Fisher

“We really just knew what we wanted to do. We knew that it was possible and knew that we were never going to quit on each other. So, we just did it. I don’t think we thought about why we wanted to go into business together. It was never a question of why or how. It was just that we did, and we were going to do it. It just rolled out for us, and we worked really hard at every endeavor or problem,” Kayla said.

Perhaps the toughest part of managing thriving businesses and a busy household with four children together is accepting the lack of downtime or off hours.

“It’s not a normal life. There’s nothing normal about it,” Scott said. Many people grow up with an expectation of working certain hours in a certain industry and having vacation time, he explained, but the restaurant and catering business does not work that way. “There’s no road map. You make the best of it. Make it good if it was bad, or fix it if it needs to be solved.” Once he and Kayla both realized “I do not have a normal life or schedule,” he said, “I think we really saw huge growth in both of us.”

“Embracing the crazy,” as Kayla put it, also comes with the flexibility of business ownership that allows them to step away when they need to, such as for a child’s school activity or a weekend couple’s getaway to dive into the culinary scene of another city. “When we’re with our kids, we try to be with our kids, and when we’re at work, we try to be at work, really living in the moment as opposed to looking backward or forward,” she said.

As to goals for the future, Scott cites his main one is happiness in their marriage and their family. “Everything else is fun to me. It’s fun to see things grow. It’s fun to see your staff grow. It’s fun to produce a product that every day you get to walk away from and say, ‘That was awesome; we did great.’ Or ‘what can we learn from this to get better the next day?’ I go with the flow of the market and our industry. Where there’s a need and niche, and you can create something that would be successful, create it.”

Filling a demand in the market is what inspired the couple to pursue their new restaurant Americana, which takes over the former home of Crazy Jose’s in the Westmont Shopping Center. Clients kept asking the Fishers for a nighttime dining option, so they decided the time and place was right to provide one. While Green Light Kitchen strives to provide a fast, casual, limited menu of fresh delicious food for weekday breakfast and lunch, Americana will offer a more robust menu including an array of small plates and a full cocktail menu.

“We’re doing plays on Americana foods, dishes that we all know, but much more elevated in the quality of food,” Scott said. “We’ll be producing scratch pastas and smoked meats and fresh seafoods, but still staying true to this elevated diner cuisine. Our focus is on good delicious food that everybody recognizes, but cooked and delivered in a much more forward-thinking fashion.”

It’s just one more ingredient in this couple’s recipe for business success.

‘VISIONARY PROJECTS’ BECOME REALITY

In September 2015, LU administrators asked faculty and staff to suggest opportunities to advance the university’s teaching and research initiatives. After reviewing a number of proposals, the university administration selected five “Visionary Projects” to receive a total of \$1,080,000 in funding over three years.

Center for Applications of Digital Technologies in Health and Disability

The center is developing digital products and applications for healthcare providers, caregivers and those with health conditions and disabilities and their families through three means: research (developing new evidence-based procedures), teaching (through student involvement in research) and service (product development that brings measurable positive health outcomes).

Cybersecurity, infrastructure and situation management

The objective of this project is to develop cost-effective flaring minimization and emission reduction technologies and software with commercial applications. Researchers within engineering, computer science and chemistry will also examine the integrity and security of regional infrastructure that can be compromised because of cybersecurity threats, the destructive effects of extreme environmental changes and weather hazards.

The Center for History and Culture of Southeast Texas and the Upper Gulf Coast

The interdisciplinary center promotes the creation, preservation and transmission of knowledge of Southeast Texas and the upper Gulf Coast, particularly the role of energy and its impact on the area. Monthly events began with its inaugural event Jan. 30.

Lamar University Center for Digital Learning

As a result of the success of the College of Education and Human Development’s online programs, the college has created a new Center for Digital Learning that provides necessary management and administrative skills to implement and maintain an effective digital learning environment.

Interdisciplinary Freshman Experience at Lamar University

The all-university Interdisciplinary Freshman Experience brings together students of diverse backgrounds and interests—from disciplines that do not typically interact in the undergraduate curriculum—to work as groups toward a common goal.

Lei receives Faculty Mentor Award

The Office of Undergraduate Research named **Xiangyang (Sunny) Lei**, associate professor of organic chemistry and interim chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, as the recipient of LU’s 2016 Faculty Mentor Award.

Lei has mentored 16 undergraduate students since she set up her lab in 2010 and has also supported nine students financially with her research grants. “Since I started my position here as an assistant professor, I have had undergraduate students involved in my research each year,” Lei said. “After research, my students might be able to say, ‘Oh, this is what I do/don’t want to be doing’ about a particular aspect of chemistry, so from there they can determine what to focus on, which skills to hone, and whether they’d like to continue their studies with a master’s degree or Ph.D. or enter a career. They will also be more competitive in their future jobs with research experience.” Four of her undergraduate students have co-authored three published peer-reviewed articles, and one placed in the top two posters in organic chemistry at the 2011 American Chemical Society Southwest regional meeting in Austin. “These are the ‘ah-ha’ moments when we, as research mentors, see a student succeed, it’s proof that we did something, and that what we did was worth it.”



Robots, clones and aliens teach ethics

Monsters, robots, clones and aliens—not the first things that come to mind when one thinks of ethics. Yet, those are subjects LU’s English 2300 course uses to spark critical thinking in a new approach that explores ethics through literature. “It’s unique to be able to take an English course that breaks away from what you’ve been doing ever since you were in elementary school,” said Marleen Swerdlow, director of general business and the online BBA. “You’re not covering the same materials in the same way.”

When the Texas Core Curriculum changed in the fall 2014 semester, the revisions required engineering and business students to vie for limited spots in ethics courses. Because the update enabled the development of more courses within the colleges, faculty members found the opportunity to make a new class that could accommodate the needs of students in both majors.

The result is a blended study: English 2300 Special Topics: Ethics and Literature. Rather than taking a traditional philosophy class on ethics, students can consider various ethical approaches through examination of texts, film and works of art. Topics include “The Death Penalty and Literature,” “Victims, Criminals, and Punishment” and “Gaming and Ethics.”

► Ness heads finance and operations

Craig Ness has joined LU administration as vice president for finance and operations after a national search. Ness, who has more than 40 years of experience in higher education administration, most recently served as vice president for administration and finance and chief financial officer for Texas Southern University.

► Bello-Ogunu Sr. joins LU as VP

Last August, **John Bello-Ogunu Sr.** became vice president for diversity and inclusion for LU. Most recently, he was chief diversity officer and associate vice president at The College of Charleston, where he created the institution’s first Office of Institutional Diversity, providing leadership for the college’s overall institutional diversity and inclusion efforts.

► Tindall named chair

LU welcomes **Natalie Tindall** as chair of the Department of Communication. Tindall was most recently a faculty member of Georgia State University, where she was co-director of the communication graduate program.

► Henderson chairs FCS

Effective last August, **Tammy Henderson** is chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. She comes to LU from Oklahoma State University, where she taught and conducted research for 10 years and also managed more than \$1.5 million in grants.



Inspired by *faith*

by Caitlin Duerler

Alumni Diane '76 and Don Shaver '76 have contributed to the spirit of giving at Lamar University for more than 40 years. From volunteering time and energy through their Greek organizations to establishing scholarships and fellowships for current students and faculty, the Shavers have embodied the can-do attitude unique to LU. They attribute their drive for giving back as an important quality instilled in them early in life.

"Volunteerism and giving back both time and energy was definitely modeled by both of our families," said Diane.

"I know that my parents, even though they didn't have a lot of money to give, were very giving people to their church and causes, and I think that is where my spirit comes from," said Don. Don said his parents also taught him the value of working hard to achieve success.

"When I was growing up, my parents continued to encourage me to challenge myself whether it was in sports or academics," he said. "They have always encouraged me to live by that 'you can do anything if you really try' attitude."

At the beginning of their careers following their respective graduations, Diane with her Bachelor of Science degree in speech and Don with his Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting, the Shavers focused on volunteering with campus organizations in addition to providing support across campus—from the Dishman Art Museum to the LU theater and even functions in the athletics department. Their financial contributions during the past 20 years have earned them membership in the Spindletop and Mirabeau Societies, which recognizes LU's most loyal donors for the number of years they have given to LU. One such contribution, the Diane and Don Shaver Presidential Innovation Fund, enables LU's president to further the mission of the university through support for critical strategic initiatives.

While giving of their time, talent and financial support helps the university as

a whole, the Shavers also have developed initiatives to help LU students as well as faculty at the individual level. "Once I got out of college and began my life as a CPA, I became more aware the impact that charitable contributions were having on a lot of different organizations, universities, schools and charities in our region," said Don. In 2015, the couple established eight student scholarships, four in Don's field of accounting and four in Diane's field of speech and hearing.

With the help that same year of President Evans, they also established six distinguished faculty fellowships, naming two of them—the Diane and Don Shaver Distinguished Faculty Fellowship, held by Amy Smith, and the Dr. James M. Simmons Distinguished Faculty Fellowship, held by Rafael Tadmor. The three-year fellowships are awarded to exceptional faculty members to recognize their performance and leadership in their

"They have always encouraged me to live by that 'you can do anything if you really try' attitude."

—Don Shaver

fields as well as to fund research, creative activity and teaching innovation.

These fellowships benefit faculty from across all disciplines, Don said. The fellowships

support and strengthen current academic programs as well as help to recruit and maintain outstanding faculty members and their research pursuits, consequently attracting high-achieving students to LU.

"We have always enjoyed giving back in different capacities and being a part of a giving community," said Diane. "Giving is all about people, being able to give somebody a leg up to improve their lives and the lives of their family and for the children who come after them. None of us succeed alone."

The Shavers find inspiration from their faith and the example of their families, driving them to encourage others today to give back to LU and the community.

"In our lives, people have certainly lent us a hand and given us opportunities," Diane said. "We have the opportunity

Diane H. Shaver PROFESSORSHIP IN SPEECH AND HEARING SCIENCES

In 2016, Monica Harn, chair of Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences was named the inaugural recipient of the Diane H. Shaver Professorship in Speech and Hearing Sciences. The generous contribution of faculty fellowships from Diane and Don Shaver made the five-year appointment possible.

"The Shavers are really inspiring and to be associated with the work they do is such an honor," Harn said. "The fellowship has helped to push projects forward more quickly than we otherwise would have. These funds have enabled our department to support students and train them in the research process for web-based speech therapy practices. Funding is going towards students to understand research processes for developing the best therapies that we can for people with speech and hearing disorders."

A 14-year faculty veteran, Monica Harn has served as department chair since July 2013. She earned a Ph.D. in speech language pathology from Louisiana State University in 1995, and a B.S. in mass communication, media studies, from McNeese State University in 1989.



to be generous only because of God's grace. We endeavor to be good stewards of God's gifts in response to His love and generosity. We want to help somebody out if we can and I think that is an important attitude." Through word and deed, Diane and Don Shaver exemplify can-do attitude.

ANYTHING BUT ROUTINE

by Morgan Collier



“ I’m not just trying to make them amazing dancers, I am trying to make them hunger for excellence at everything they do in life. ”

—Brixey Blankenship-Cozad

From the bright lights of a Saturday night on an AstroTurf field to vibrant colors hitting a stage in a dimly lit theatre, dancers move to the rhythm of music. For Lamar University Dance Team coordinator, Brixey Blankenship-Cozad, dance is more than just a routine; it is passion poured into movement, creating a career that exemplifies a can-do attitude. For the LU Dance Team, it is more than a hobby; it is a place to learn life lessons while expressing their talent through art.

Blankenship-Cozad said she has been dancing since she was 2 and finds it therapeutic to create and perform. “There are no boundaries or expectations to be met for yourself,” she said. “Every routine or piece I set for a show is a challenge, and I want to constantly challenge and push myself with the routines and other creative channels in order to grow.”

One of Blankenship-Cozad’s team members, senior education major Callie Macon, believes that through the dance program, she has experienced more than just dance routines. “We are learning a lot about social interactions through working all kinds of events in the community and feeling confident about talking to people in the real world to promote our school,” Macon said.

Senior education major Nicole Hardy, said being a team member has taught her valuable career skills. “In a way, this is our job,” she said. “You have to get things done by a deadline, you have to listen to an authority figure to accomplish a goal and through this you learn how to be a professional.”

According to Hardy, during her four years in the program, she has grown as a dancer and person. “Dance-wise, there are so many technical skills and ways of dancing that I never thought I could accomplish,” she said. “It isn’t easy to balance everything when you have work, practice and you have to study for finals. It is just like being an adult; you have to figure it out as you go along and prioritize everything.”

The LU Dance Team also values diversity, offering hip-hop routines, pop, jazz and more.

“I never experienced dance routines such as Bollywood or salsa in high school,” Hardy said. “It is really cool to

come here and be able to do different types of [dance] styles.”

Blankenship-Cozad said she pushes her students to become great. “If you are great at what you do, there is no reason you should have to talk about it. Your actions should show it,” she said. “That is what I teach in this program. I’m not just trying to make them amazing dancers, I am trying to make them hunger for excellence at everything they do in life.”

Three-year team veteran and senior mechanical engineering major Hannah Ross said each year is different from the last, but the unifying factor between every year is the coach, the program and the officers. “Brixey is the most amazing coach I have ever had,” Ross said. “She has the ability to pull greatness out of anybody. She sees potential in people and she won’t give up until she gets what she sees out of you. She will never give up on you or the program.”

Blankenship-Cozad teaches her students to drive themselves as individuals toward the reward. “Don’t shoot for the minimum required to get by,” she said, “shoot for the best. Everything you do counts. Our mind is stronger than we think, and so is our body.”

A support system for the program is the LU Dance Team alumni who come back to help with dances. “I am thankful that I have that group,” Blankenship-Cozad said. “If it weren’t for my alumni, the program wouldn’t be built to the level it is today.”

Dance team alumna and assistant coordinator Jaleeca Morris, from Orange, inspires and encourages the students that come through the program. “I have been in their shoes before, so I understand and can relate to the girls on the team,” she said.



LU Dance Team coordinator and adjunct instructor of dance Brixey Blankenship-Cozad, foreground, stands with her 24-member award-winning team and the 13 dance team alumni, in black on left, who provide invaluable help throughout the year.

“When the girls get down on themselves, I tell them that they are here for a reason so dance with a purpose.”

Each summer, the LU Dance Team competes at a camp of Blankenship-Cozad’s choosing to grow the talent in the program. It started with nine veteran dancers and has grown each year since the start, said Blankenship-Cozad.

“We won first the first year, so the next year my goal was to bring more people. We did and won again,” Blankenship-Cozad said. “We wanted to try something new, so we went to Alabama, where all of the huge schools go to compete and our team won first in its division there as well.”

According to Macon, the dance team has been able to prove their talents by competing successfully with big-name universities. “We are growing so much that we are able to do more challenging things, and that is how we keep the program excelling,” Hardy said.

Blankenship-Cozad said she instills into her team that they are blessed, beautiful and talented so to never settle nor give up. “I don’t believe in being lazy. Even when I go out there to dance with them, I give it my all and show

them that they can do this for as long as they want,” she said.

Macon, Hardy and Ross are proud to have made a name for the Lamar University Dance Team and be ambassadors for the school. They, as well as Blankenship-Cozad, hope the program gets bigger and better each year.

“We are beginning to slowly change things. We are starting our own traditions,” Macon said. “We are growing, and seeing that happen is what I enjoy the most.”



At the end of each year, the team gives a public performance joining with the LU Department of Theatre and Dance and other community dance teams as well as teams from the other universities. The team performs 34 numbers choreographed by professionals from LA, Houston, Dallas and New York.

LU faculty and staff are eligible to receive one free ticket to the annual show scheduled for May 5 & 6.

Counseling program receives accreditation
The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs has granted accreditation to the Clinical Mental Health Counseling (M.Ed. degree) on-campus and on-line programs for the period of two years through October 31, 2018. “The work of all faculty and staff in the Department of Counseling and Special Populations,” **Dean Robert Spina** said, “reflects the commitment in the college and university to serve our students, stakeholders and the community by exceeding the highest standards.”

Innovative online program focuses on tech
New to the college, the Master of Education in Digital Learning and Leading is an innovative online program that combines technology training with advanced leadership skills. It prepares students to transform different educational environments by using advanced methods and technologies to support various learning styles. The program aims to keep educators at the forefront of today’s evolving digital learning landscape by training them to be leaders in their chosen fields.

Titus invited to summit
Through his interest in and contributions to STEM education research, **Freddie Titus**, assistant professor of teacher education, was invited to exchange ideas about improving science and mathematics teacher education at the Summit on Stimulating Research and Innovation for Preservice Education of STEM Teachers in High-Need Schools. The National Science Foundation Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program supports the initiative to help retain teachers in high-need schools.

Carlisle named site visitor
Robert Carlisle, distance clinical professor, was invited to join the editorial boards of a regional and national journal in the field of counseling and recently became an approved site visitor for the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs.



From left, students Timberlyn Cook, Kiersten Lamb, Kaitlyn Ezell, Sarah Henderson, Teresa Marble

Students study in Italy and Mexico
The growth of LU’s study abroad program has allowed undergraduate teacher education students the opportunity to study in Bologna, Italy, through a program sponsored by Salisbury University under the direction of **Patty Dean**, an associate professor at Salisbury and a professional colleague of **Andrea Karlin**, professor of teacher education. The students spent three weeks with counterparts from Salisbury studying creative arts in the elementary school. “It was astounding to see our LU students blossom from this experience,” Karlin said.

For the second year, **Rick Carter**, professor of health and kinesiology, led an undergraduate study abroad team to Xalapa, Mexico, to investigate health attributes of the Mexican people and to interact with students from the Universidad of Veracruzana, Xalapa, Mexico. The students visited many medical and community delivery sites, focusing on obesity interventions used in Mexico.



College named Grand Champion of Homecoming 2016
Homecoming is one of Lamar University’s biggest traditions on campus. Last fall, led by **Tammy Comeaux** and **Tilisa Thibodeaux**, the college created the Mirabeau B. Lamar steamboat for the “Rollin’ Out the Red” homecoming parade, complete with smoke stacks, oars and an operable paddle wheel. More than 20 students, faculty and staff across various departments within the college participated in the event, and **Dean Robert Spina** served as the ship’s captain with **Associate Dean William Holmes** as first mate. Their efforts, enlivened by releasing red balloons and powder poppers, earned them the judges vote for Grand Champion.

► **Singh awarded fellowship**
Mamta Singh, assistant professor of teacher education, received the 2016 Presidential Faculty Fellowship in Support of Undergraduate Research/Creative Activity. The award, which confers the title of presidential faculty fellow and has a \$15,000 stipend, encourages faculty-led collaboration with Lamar University undergraduates in scholarly activities.

► **Leadership earns Villate recognition**
The Lamar University Sigma Beta Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, the international honor society in education, awarded **Vanessa Villate**, assistant professor of teacher education, the 2016 Regional Chapter Counselor Award for the west region, which comprises over 100 chapters. She has been counselor of the chapter for eight years.

► **Flamez leads association**
The International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors has named **Brande Flamez**, distance clinical professor, president of the organization. She recently completed a book to be published by ACA this year titled *The Counselor’s Guide to the Dissertation Process: Where to Start and How to Finish*.



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 alumnus, we want to hear from you.

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50s

Jerry Jones '56, B.B.A. general business, celebrated his 60th anniversary in February 2016 with his wife, **Anita (Bond)** '57, B.S. speech. They are both retired and live in Houston.

Greater Houston Business Ethics Roundtable honored **Bette (Carlton) Stead** '57, B.B.A. general business, as founder of the annual "Bette Stead Leadership Award" last May, and Leadership of Houston awarded Stead with the "Lifetime Achievement Award." She is a retired professor for Lamar University and University of Houston System. She lives in Houston with her husband, Gene.

60s

Don Moseley '61, B.S. mechanical engineering, competed in a triathlon at age 77, in the City of Santa Fe Sprint Triathlon. He lives with his wife, Mary Jane, in Santa Fe, N.M.

Charles "Chuck" Royston '61, B.S. electrical engineering, authored the book, "Down by the Old Mill Stream." He lives in Woodville with his wife, Patsy.



Joseph "Joe" Thames Jr. '61, B.S. mechanical engineering, is retired CEO, president and owner of Digital Calculus Corp. He lives in Coupeville, Wash.

Valorien Harper II '64, B.B.A. general business, is an insurance agent for Wardlaw Claims Service. He lives in Port Neches with his wife, Cheryl.

Kenneth Hodges '64, B.S. elementary education, retired from teaching after 51 years. The last 34 years were with Jasper school district as a special education teacher and, six of those years, he was a Cross Country Track Coach. He lives in Jasper.

Douglass Norvell '64, B.S. history, received a doctorate in agricultural economics from Texas A&M College Station. He specializes in consulting about business development in Cuba. He lives in Nauvoo, Ill.

Martha (Pfaff) Smith '64, B.B.A. accounting, is retired from the Dallas County Auditor's Office. She lives in Dallas.

Linda (Tomlin) Taylor '65, B.B.A. secretarial science, earned a master's degree in education in 1995. She retired as principal for Georgetown ISD and lives in North Richard Hills.

Don Brand '66, B.S. elementary education, is a retired commercial pilot. He lives in Eldridge, Mo., with his wife, Sonya.

Mary Jo (Graham) Holloway '66, B.A. mathematics, owns her own law firm. While a student at LU, Mary Jo participated in the Mathematics Club, Baptist Student Ministry, as well as Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, Pi Mu Epsilon Mathematics Honor Society and Gamma Phi Beta Sorority. She lives in Chappell Hill with her husband, William.

Michael "Mick" Vance '66, B.S. chemistry, '66, B.S. secondary education, earned a master's degree in middle-level science education. He is a retired science teacher from St. Vrain Public Schools in Longmont, Colorado where he lives with his wife, **Priscilla (Owens)** '67, B.S. elementary education.

Robert Vaughan '66, B.A. mathematics, retired as engineering supervisor process computer control for ExxonMobil Corporation. He and his wife, Alice, live in Beaumont.

Ron Comeau '67, B.B.A. marketing, is a retired engineer from Chevron. He lives in Rockland, Maine with his wife, Philancy.

Richard Hughes '67, B.A. psychology, earned master's degrees in 1968 and 1979. He is an instructor of psychology at Laredo Community College and lives in Laredo with his wife, Rebecca.

Robert Duty '69, B.S. industrial engineering, is senior risk advisor for Charles Taylor Risk Services. He and his wife, Sue, live in Dallas.

70s

Mary Welborn '70, B.S. graphic design, is a self-employed artist known for her lyrical watercolor series, "New Botanicals." Her work has recently been selected for the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's spring promotion, "Wildflower Days" poster for 2017. She lives in Silsbee.



Joseph "Joe" Gallio '71, B.S. electrical engineering, '79, M.S. project management, is a seminar director and consultant and Texas Woodcarvers Guild. He and his wife, Lanie (Klein) '70, B.A. sociology, live in Austin.

Richard Thompson '71, B.B.A. accounting, is president and CEO of RJ Thompson Consulting LLC. He lives in Boca Raton, Fla., with his wife, Barbara.

Cindy (Koepp) Pursley '72, B.B.A. secretarial science, is senior purchasing specialist for Carter and Burgess Inc. She and her husband, Gregory, live in Fort Worth.

Chester Welch '72, B.S. civil engineering, is a retired maintenance engineer for Occidental Chemical Corp. He and his wife, Marcella, live in Baton Rouge, La.

Roy Cavarretta '73, B.S. art, is a gourd artist for Grave Road Arts and won Best of Show and Best in Class at the Ruidoso Art Festival in 2014. His work has been featured in magazines and newspapers, including Western Art and Architecture in 2015. Galleries in Texas and Santa Fe, N.M., show his art. He lives in Hallettsville with his wife, Blanche (Svetlik).



Gerald (Jerry) DeSpain '73, B.B.A. marketing, retired after a 41-year career as a sales and marketing manager with several electrical manufacturers based in New York, England, Germany and Norway. He lives in Pearl River La., with his wife, Iris.

John Hasson '73, B.B.A. accounting, '79, M.B.A. business administration, is the business school's associate dean at Stevens-Henager College. He and his wife, Rondee, live in Pleasant Grove, Utah.

Sandra (Foshee) Suire '73, B.S. elementary education, is a children's programmer at Beauregard Parish Library. She lives in Deridder, La.

Pamela "Pam" (Temple) Thrasher '74, B.S. elementary education, teaches fourth grade at Buna Elementary School. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Charles.

Provost Umphrey Law Firm Attorneys named **David Wilson** '75, B.S. criminal justice, the country's best in their respective practice areas. He and his wife, Teri, live in Port Neches.

Michael Anders '76, B.S. music-vocals, '79, M.M. music, earned a doctorate in music history from Ohio State University. He is a retired professor of music and chair of the Visual & Performing Arts Department at The University of Findlay. In June 2016, he was awarded emeritus faculty status. He lives in Findlay, Ohio, with his wife, Denise.

The Army inducted **Fred Anthamatten** '76, B.S. oceanographic technology, into its Corps of Engineers Gallery of Distinguished Employees. Fred is a retired engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers. He lives in Dickinson with his wife, **Mary (Dominguez)** '80, B.S. special education.



Janet (Rice) Droptini '78, B.S. criminal justice, is a Masc Specialist Contract for ExxonMobil Chemical Co. Her daughter, Madison, attends Lamar University. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, John.

Provost Umphrey Law Firm Attorneys named **D'Juana Parks** '76, B.S. secondary education, the city's top lawyer for plaintiff's personal injury cases. She and her husband, Ben, live in Nederland.



Mary (Dwight) Adams '77, B.S. elementary education, '84, M.Ed. counseling and development, is a retired counselor for Vidor Elementary School. She lives in Nederland.

Leslie Williams '77, B.S. criminal justice, works for Orange County Probation Office and lives in Orange.

Robin (Childress) Smith '78, B.S. elementary education, teaches third grade at Bullard Elementary School. Bullard Elementary named her Teacher of the Year in 2016. She and her husband, **Larry** '76, A.A. industrial electricity and electronics, '93, B.S. political science, live in Bullard.

Bart Standley '78, B.S. civil engineering, has recently been promoted to vice president of RPS Klotz Associates one year after joining the firm. He lives in Waller, with his wife, Mary.

Thomas "Tom" Grant '79, B.B.A. accounting, is senior vice president and director of retail banking for Peoples Bank. He lives in Colorado

Springs, Colo. with his wife, **Penny (Miller)** '74, B.S. elementary education.

Jesse Rambo Jr. '79, B.B.A. management, retired as director of mail and document services for Rutgers University. He lives in Stroudsburg, Penn. with his wife, Brenda.

80s

Cathy (Powell) Hegwood '80, certificate of completion, '10, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is human resources coordinator for Brazos County Emergency Communications District. She lives in Bryan with her husband, **Joe** '79, B.B.A. accounting, who is chief financial officer for Bryan Texas Utilities.

Cynthia (Kellam) Stinson '80, B.S. nursing, '94, M.S.N. nursing, '06, Ph.D. nursing, has published a study, "Moral Distress: A Qualitative Study of Emergent Nurses," with **Ruthie (Wall) Robinson** '80, B.S. nursing. Stinson is associate professor and interim department chair for the JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing, is healthcare educator for Julie Rogers Gift of Life, and is owner of Health Education Resources. She lives in Lumberton with her husband, Fred. Robinson is an associate professor in LU's College of Arts & Sciences and lives in Beaumont with her husband, Paul.

Wanis (Esughi) Elruemi '80, B.S. geology, is deputy general manager for Eni North African B.V., Libyan Branch. He lives with his wife, Naima Brugi, in Libya.

Belinda (Vincent) Breaux '81, B.S. chemical engineering, is senior director and integrity manager for Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. in Anchorage, Alaska, where she and her husband, Randy '82, B.S. geology, live.

Julie (Tallman) Lindsey '81, A.A.S. nursing, is a registered nurse for Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Timothy.

Dale Menefee '81, B.S. chemical engineering, is senior manager in the delivery partner program for Infor Global Solutions. He and his wife, Kimberly, in Lakewood, live in Ohio.

Coldwell Banker Commercial inducted **Debra (Morrison) Cowart** '82, B.S. home economics, into the its Platinum Level Circle of Distinction. Debra works for



Distinguished Alumni Award—LU recognized 2016 Distinguished Alumni as stellar standouts.

1. Pat Parsons '71, left, Anita Riddle '93, '96, Yolanda Lee Conyers '89 and Glen Morgan '75

Jazz Night—Houston-area alumni jazz aficionados enjoyed great music, desserts and coffee at Rao's in Spring during Jazz Night last spring.

2. LU Ambassador Eric Hernandez '16 and Shandale Eaglin '98

3. Kristin (Lemond) Leventry '08 and Josh Leventry '10



Coldwell Banker Commercial Arnold and Associates as a real estate and sales agent.

Clarence Ross '83, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a division chief at NASA Johnson Space Center. He lives in Pearland with his wife, **Debra (Bonton)** '81, B.B.A. marketing.

William 'Bill' Dixon '84, B.S. electrical engineering, retired from Lockheed Martin as a systems engineering manager. He lives in Camden, Delaware with his wife, Wanda.

Terri (Labout) Bercich '85, B.S. chemical engineering, is project development lead for BP. She and her husband, Douglas, live in Crown Point, Ill.

Anita Holloway '85, B.S. psychology, earned a master of business administration in 2004 from the University of Phoenix. Holloway is senior compliance analyst for University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. She lives in Houston.

Edythe Kirk '85, B.S. nursing, '91, B.S. psychology, earned a master's degree in psychology in 1993, a master's degree in biology in 1998 and a doctorate in physiological psychology (neuroscience). She is associate professor and chair of psychology for Lamar University. She lives in Port Arthur.

Hossein Aghazeynali '86, B.S. chemical engineering, is a water resource control engineer for Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. He and his wife, Tomasita, live in Fresno, Calif.

Joseph Malbrough '86, B.S. communication, owns The UPS Store in Smyrna, Ga., where he and his wife, Cara, live.

Provost Umphrey Law Firm Attorneys recognized **Darren Brown** '87, B.B.A. general business, for his work as plaintiffs in personal injury and product liability litigation. He and his wife, Genia, live in Port Neches.

Mike McCown '87, B.S. criminal justice, is the President of Houston Restaurant Group LLC. He and his wife, Janet, live in Tomball.

Tanya (Pattio) Phillips '87, B.B.A. accounting, is global payroll director for Nabors Corporate Services Inc. She lives with her husband, Jimmy, in Houston.

Todd Johnson '88, B.S. criminal justice, '92, earned a M.S.W. social work in 1992, is a senior health insurance specialist for U.S. Public Health Service. He is a commander in the U.S. Public Health Service assigned to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in Dallas Texas, working in the Division of Quality Improvement. He lives in Little Elm.

Patrick Merritt '88, B.B.A. general business, received a M.A. computer and information resources management in 1989 and an A.A.S. criminal justice in 1999. He retired as a criminal investigator for the Department of Justice and lives in Cibolo.

Mary (Binagia) Heslep '89, B.S. elementary education, teaches in Bridge City school district. She lives in Orange, with her husband, **Chip** '04, B.S. industrial technology.

Reed Meriwether '89, B.S. civil engineering, is managing director for Greenley and Hansen. He lives in Wesley Chapel, Fla.

Jennifer "Jenny" (Higgins) Penland '89, B.S. elementary education, '01, M.Ed. secondary

education and '07, Ed.D. educational leadership, is vice chair of the Board of Directors for Intercontinental Cry Magazine, a tribal scholar and education consultant for Appalachian American Indians of West Virginia, and director of experiential learning for Sul Ross State University. She lives with her husband, John, in Alpine.

Kathy Portie '89, B.S. communication, '94, M.A. visual arts, is senior editor for Big Bear Grizzly newspaper in California and an award-winning photographer for Portie's Sports Photos. She lives in Big Bear Lake, Calif.

Cheri (Griffith) Visser '89, B.S.

biology, is the first woman to be hired as a police officer at the Port Neches Police Department. She lives in Port Neches with her husband, Stephen.



Rebecca Woodland '89, M.A. history, is convention sales manager at the Beaumont Convention and Visitors Bureau. She teaches group fitness and ballroom dance classes for the Wellness Center, as well as private ballroom lessons. She lives in Beaumont.

90s

Sheikh Ali '90, B.S. industrial engineering, is the assistant vice president of POS Malaysia Berhad. He and his wife, Dumilah, live in Shah Alam, Selangor.

Lydia Bahnsen '90, B.S. elementary education, M.Ed. school administration, Ed.D. educational

leadership, is principal of Vincent Middle School in Beaumont school district. She lives in Lumberton.

Gary Fairchild '90, B.S. kinesiology, is superintendent for Evadale school district. He and his wife, Staci, live in Kirbyville.

Roxanne (Balsamo) Ferguson '91, B.S. elementary education, M.Ed. administration, is elementary curriculum coordinator for Port Neches-Groves school district. She lives in Port Neches with her husband, Kenneth.

Tammy (Lutz) Griffin '91, A.S. law enforcement, '97, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, received a M.Ed. administration in 2013. She teaches at Silsbee Middle School and lives in Silsbee with her husband, **Paul** '90, A.S. law enforcement.

Clark Boudreaux '92, B.S. chemical engineering, '97, B.S. biology, is an engineer for Tesoro Foundation Inc. in San Antonio, where he and his wife, **Heather (Clark)** '97, B.A.A.S., live.

Gregory Foster '92, B.B.A. accounting, is an audit partner for Deloitte Services LP. He is a member of the LU Accounting Advisory Board. He lives in Cypress with his wife, Elizabeth.

Kristi (Deloney) Fuselier '92, B.A. English, M.Ed. school administration, is principal of Beaumont school district's Early College High School. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Euric.

Eric Hoeny '92, B.F.A. graphic design, is procurement systems manager for Kellogg, Brown & Root. He lives in Aldie, Va., with his wife, Shqipe.

Shawn Oubre '92, A.S. law enforcement, '93, B.A.A.S. applied

arts and sciences, '02, M.P.A. public administration, and earned a Ph.D. in public policy and public administration from Walden University. Oubre is the president of the Lamar Institute of Technology Foundation and was awarded the President Award of Excellence. He is city manager of Orange where he lives with his wife, Roxanne.

Chip Bunch '93, B.B.A. accounting, is a controller at Helena Laboratories. He and his wife, Wendy, live in Lumberton.

Matt Pyle '93, B.S. kinesiology, is senior energy consultant for Choice Energy Services. He and his wife, Susie, live in Houston.

Tammy (Simmons) Stansbury '93, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, works for The Stansbury Group Inc. She lives in Dallas with her husband, Alec.

Nancy (Cunningham) Young '93, B.S. civil engineering, is a civil engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers. She and her husband, Earl, live in Santa Fe.

Abeer (Beck) Patel '94, B.B.A. marketing, is an immunotherapy sales specialist for Dendreon. She and her husband, Xerxes have girl/boy twins, 7, and live in Houston.

Kyle Green '95, B.S. kinesiology, is pitching coach for Lamar University baseball. He lives with his wife, Jodi, in Nederland.

Vicki (O'Dell) Kelley '95, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is senior vice-president for FivePoint Federal Credit Union. She lives in Beaumont.

April (Hill) Pickney '95, B.S. fashion merchandising, is an educator at Cedar Hill school district. She lives in Desoto with her husband, Ryan.

Jennifer (Cogburn) Seago '95, B.A. music, earned a M.A. in music performance in 1997. She teaches French Horn music lessons and freelances for various music groups in the north Houston area. She and her husband, Warren, live in Spring.

Stephanie Dominique '96, B.S. criminal justice, M.Ed. administration, earned a master's degree in counseling in 2001 from Prairie View A&M University and a doctorate in education administration in 2015 from Capella University. She lives in Trinity.

Jennifer (Dobbs) Manriquez '96, B.B.A. management, is firm administrator for Wathen, Deshong, & Juncker, LLP and is a sustaining member of the Junior League of Beaumont. Her husband, **Patrick** '99, B.S. communication, is a financial consultant with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. They live in Beaumont.

Liz (Sterling) Simmons '95, B.B.A. general business, '97, M.B.A. business administration, is the systems, applications and products (SAP) software coordinator for Lamar University's College of Business. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Gary.

Nakia Franklin '97, B.S. criminal justice, is CEO and founder of At The Appointed Time Inc. She lives in Fresno.

Joseph Pace '97, B.S. political science, '98, B.S. sociology, and '04, master of public administration. Joseph is city manager for City of Lorena, where he and his wife, Lori, live.

Stacy (Lane) Palmer '98, B.S. communication, is a regional human resources manager for OHL Industrial. She lives in Keller.

Alaric Harrell '99, B.B.A. accounting, is director of corporate accounting for American Midstream Partners, LP. He lives in Richmond.

00s

Colin Moore '00, B.A. history, '03, J.D., is an attorney at Provost Umphrey Law Firm LLP. Colin was recognized, for the tenth time, as one of the best young lawyers in the state in the 2016 edition of Texas Rising Stars. He has served in various positions in the Jefferson County Young Lawyers Association, and he currently serves as a director of the Jefferson County Bar Association. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Molly, and son.

Alex Wells '01, B.M. music, is the director of bands for Port Neches-Groves school district. He was recently inducted into the National Honorary Band Director Fraternity Phi Beta Mu Alpha Chapter. He resides in Port Neches.

Federico Balestrazzi '02, M.E. civil engineering, is vice president of Façade Engineering for Thornton Tomasetti. He lives in Miami, Fla.



Stephanie Chesson '02, B.S. criminal justice, is a community manager of development for the non-profit American Cancer Society in Bryan. She lives in College Station.

Daniel Grooms '02, B.S. chemical engineering, earned a doctorate in chemical engineering in 2006 from Texas A&M University. He is senior

LU Alumni Community Service Project at Habitat for Humanity ReStore—LU alumni, family and friends joined together at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Beaumont to clean, rearrange, stack, shelve and organize the ReStore, which generates revenue for Habitat projects.

1. LU Ambassador Oxy Benites; Marco Villasana '02; LU Alumni Affairs Assistant Antoinette (Espritt) Mays '07, '12; Ayah Hamza '16; Holly (Killingsworth) Guidry '05; Cassie Jones '10; Tina (Gamble) Johnson '05; LU Ambassador Kinney (Mitchell) VanDevender; Vickie (Bonnette) Dionne '77, '78; LU Director of Alumni Affairs Shannon Copeland '02, '03, '07; Tyler Sumrall '16; and Cathy (Enderle) Favre '86

Painting With a Twist—Alumni enjoyed a relaxed evening of painting, margaritas and Mexican Food catered by Fuzzy's Tacos at Painting with a Twist in Beaumont last May marking Cinco de Mayo.

2. From left: Felicia McAdams '09, '11; Tina (Gamble) Johnson '05; Diann (Palmer) Brodnax '99, '14; Lalauni Thomas '13

3. From left: Danielle (Wagner) Smith '14; Janet (Cloteaux) Hollier '71; Jennifer Pellegrin; Tina (Gamble) Johnson '05; Judy Maull (behind Tina); Kathleen Andrews '08; Diann (Palmer) Brodnax '99, '14; Tonya Chapman '03

LU Student Ambassadors Welcome Dinner—President and Mrs. Evans hosted a dinner to welcome students to the LU Ambassadors team and to recognize graduating seniors.

4. LU Ambassadors Katie Deaton, Proggia Chirontoni, Shelby Whitehead, Estibi Azpilicueta



LU Ambassadors Etiquette Dinner | Sept. 20

Sydney Matthews, owner of Beaumont Junior Cotillion, and LU alumna Jamie (Johnson) Hogge '90, '95, taught social dinner etiquette to LU Student Ambassadors, brushing up their etiquette skills for the many campus events they attend as representatives of LU.

process engineer for AkzoNobel, and lives in Pasadena with his wife, Linda.

Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas awarded **April (Sterling) Keith** '02, B.B.A. human resource management, with the 2015 local Employer of Excellence Award. She is a human resources manager for Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas. April lives with her husband, Payton, in Port Neches.

Karl Nowotny '03, B.S. physics, is coater supervisor for Guardian Industries. He lives in Ennis with his wife, **Christy** '02, B.A. English, '03, B.S. physics.

Charisma (Walker) Popillion '03, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '07, M.Ed. educational leadership, earned a doctorate of education in 2014. Charisma is principal of Charlton-Pollard Elementary School. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Bryon.

James Collier '04, B.B.A. finance, '07, M.B.A. business administration, is manager of finance and business intelligence for ipDatatel in Sugar Land. He lives in Houston.

Christopher Garza '04, B.S. political science, '08, M.B.A. business administration, is an olefins procurement director for Flint Hills Resources L.P. He and his wife, Lana, live in Beaumont.

Ripal Parikh '04, M.E. chemical engineering, is senior process engineer at bMX Inc., a medical device pharmaceutical company. He lives in Raleigh, N.C. with his wife and two children.

Michael Perez '04, B.B.A. marketing, is executive director for Peak Campus in College Station. He lives with his wife, Melissa, in Magnolia.

Jennifer (Parker) Salazar '04, B.S. sociology, is program director for Texas Senior Medical Patrol. She and her husband, Robert, live in Spring.

Kimberly (Janeaux) Screen '04, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '08, M.Ed. school administration, is principal of Regina-Howell Elementary School in Beaumont school district. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, **Mark** '08, B.S. biology.

Brad Boyette '06, B.G.S. general studies, is a teacher and coach for Azle Junior High. He lives in Weatherford.

The Arkansas Business Journal honored **Scott Carver** '06, M.B.A. business administration, as one of the Arkansas Business 40 under 40 last June. Scott is director of sales for AT&T and lives in Prosper with his wife, **Paige (Furlow)** '10, M.Ed. teacher leadership.

Michelle Cate '06, B.F.A. studio art, is a registrar at the McFaddin-Ward House Museum. She and her husband, Lawrence Hsu, had a baby girl in 2016. They live in Beaumont.

Brandon Chappell '06, B.B.A. marketing, is assistant coach of men's basketball for University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. He lives in Savannah, Ga.

Tanjeet Gill '06, M.E. mechanical engineering, is a mechanical engineer for Technip USA Inc. He lives in Houston.

Stephanie Tanguma '06, B.A. English, is currently pursuing a Spanish degree at LU. She lives with her husband, Brian, in Austin.

Diana (Irwin) Valdez '06, M.Ed. school administration, '12, D.Ed. educational leadership, is principal of West Brook High School. She and her husband, Johnny, live in Beaumont.

Chris Araj '07, B.S. communication disorders, earned an Au.D. in 2011 from Townson University. She is the owner of Pearland Hearing Aids and Audiology and president elect of the Texas Academy of Audiology. She lives in Houston with her husband, Andrew.

Lindsey Minter '07, B.S. biology, earned a doctorate in biomedical sciences, is assistant director for graduate education at the University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. She lives in League City with her husband, Andy.

Workforce Development board honored **Mark Montebello** '07, B.B.A. management, with the 2015 S.T.A.R. Employer of the Year Award. Montebello is owner of At Home Senior Care. He lives in Lumberton with his wife, **Meghann (Peters)** '07, B.B.A. general business.

Michael "Ashton" Moreau '07, B.M. music, is assistant band director for Memorial Middle School in Spring Branch school district. He lives in Houston.

Sarah (Talakoub) Perez '07, B.S. psychology, '12, B.S. human biology, is owner and manager of Heights AC and Heating. She and her husband, Thomas, live in Houston.

A.J. Rodriguez '07, B.B.A. general business-advertising, '12, J.D., is an attorney for Kennard Law. He and his wife, **Charity (Lemaire)** '05, B.B.A. general business-advertising, live in Converse.

Ronnie Turner Jr. '07, B.A. psychology, '10, J.D., is an attorney at Provost Umphrey Law Firm LLP. Ronnie was recognized, for the second time, among the best young lawyers in the state in the 2016 edition of Texas Rising Stars. He is a board director for the Foundation for Southeast Texas and the Jefferson County Young Lawyers Association. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Britanni.

Amy Bryant '08, B.A. history, '13, M.Ed. school counseling, is a counselor at Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders. She lives in Austin.

LaChandra Cobb '08, M.Ed. school administration, has been appointed principal of Smith Middle School in Beaumont school district. She lives in Beaumont.

Jennifer (Deaton) Gregory '08, B.B.A. marketing, is controller for JAMA Group, LLC. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Sam, and their son, Samuel.

The University of Tennessee College of Engineering has honored **Hash Hashemian** '08, Eng.D. electrical engineering, with the Nathan W. Dougherty Award acknowledging his achievements. Hashemian is president, CEO and co-founder of the Global Analysis and Measurement Services Corp. He and his wife, Nazy, live in Knoxville, Tenn.



The Texas Association College Admission Counseling awarded **Tony Sarda** '08, B.B.A. finance and economics, with the Rising Star Award. Award honors individuals who have given outstanding service to the organization. While Tony was at LU, he was a Lamar Ambassador and received the Aaron Rose Award and the Kemble Award. He is

coordinator of regional recruitment for Lamar University Admissions and Records. He lives in Pearland with his wife, **Sophie (Wilmore)** '10, B.B.A. marketing.

Edgar Thompson '08, B.B.A. management information systems, is an IT specialist for Jefferson County Criminal District Attorney's Office. He lives in Beaumont.

Catherine "Cathy" Warmack '08, B.M. music, is a violin teacher. She lives in Phoenix, Ariz.

Aaron Wells '08, B.S. family and consumer science, hospitality administration, is a controller for Protect America and owner of Red Duck and Town, LLC. He graduated magna cum laude while working for Hilton and Radisson in Austin while he attended Lamar University. He and his wife, Corinne, live in Buda.

Aaron Bonvillion '09, B.B.A. finance and economics, '10, M.B.A. business administration, is academic dean and online academic dean for Education Corp. of America – Golf Academy of America. He graduated magna cum laude as an honors program graduate and was a part of the Student Finance Association. He lives in Dallas.

The Sabine Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers named **Keestan Cole** '09, B.S. civil engineering, 2016 Young Engineer of the Year. Keestan is vice president for Arceneaux Wilson & Cole LLC. His firm also received the first-ever Project Award from the Sabine Chapter for its "Sabine-Neches Waterway Direct Pipe Crossing" project with **Joe Wilson** '98, B.S. civil engineering, and **Ron Arceneaux** '77, B.S. civil engineering.

Felicia McAdams '09, B.S. psychology, M.Ed. counseling and development, is director of academic advising for Lamar State College Port Arthur. Previously she worked as residence director for Lamar University's office of Residence Life and was a recipient of the Distinguished Staff Award. She lives in Port Arthur.

Tulasiram Meruga '09, M.E. electrical engineering, is a software engineer for Amdocs. He lives in Herndon, Va.

Christina "CiCi" (Nance) Russell '09, B.S. dietetics, welcomed a new baby girl, Gabriella "GiGi" Russell. CiCi and her husband, Cory, live with GiGi and her sister, Isabella, in Austin.

Erica Sanchez '09, B.B.A. management, is a console shift supervisor at ExxonMobil. She lives in Nederland.

HOME COMING '17



NOVEMBER 4



Tiny House BBQ—Visit campus and check out LU's newest dining location, located between the Health and Human Performance Complex and Hayes Biology Building on the north end of campus, open Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Alumni Baseball Tailgate Party—Alumni and friends celebrated before the LU vs. McNeese baseball game last April at a reception in the picnic area of Vincent-Beck Stadium.

1. Sandra Juarez '10 and Douglas McRoberts '11
2. Peyton Thibodeaux, Maxwell Thibodeaux and Phyllis (McAfee) Thibodeaux '00, '06

Le Grand Bal—Last April the College of Fine Arts and Communication held their annual fundraiser, Le Grand Bal: "Lamar Deco."

3. Honorees were Marsha and Lewis Hoffer, pictured with Pres. Kenneth Evans and chosen for their leadership in promoting the arts at LU.

Legacy Society Dinner—The Legacy Society dinner, held last July, honored planned giving donors and featured speech and bearing student projects.

4. Audiology doctoral student Taylor Lyons, of Nashville, Tenn., explains his project to Legacy Society members Linda Elissalde '63 and Dr. Marcel Elissalde '63.

Scholarship Dinner—The Office of University Advancement hosted the spring 2016 Scholarship Dinner to thank donors and provide them an opportunity to meet their recipients.

5. Mimi Gammill, Kristi Leonard, Karol Gammill and Kasi Verschoyle



The Association of Texas Professional Educators named **Gary Schepf** '09, M.Ed. administration, with the Professional Educators' Administrator of the Year for 2016. He is information technology SITE coordinator for Irving school district where he lives.

10s

Terese Pollard '10, M.Ed. administration, is principal of Milne Elementary School in Houston, where she lives.

Thomas Tanner '10, B.A. English, '13 M.A. English, is rental optimizer for ExxonMobil Corporation. He graduated Cum Laude in 2010. Thomas lives in Nederland with his wife, **Shannon (Tait)** '05, B.S. political science, received her M.B.A. public service and administration in 2007.

Kathy (Kraft) Edwards '11, B.G.S. general studies, teaches infants at Bright Horizon. She lives in Edmond, Okla.

Surya Garimella '11, M.E. electrical engineering, is a software systems specialist III for University Texas Medical Branch. He and with his wife, Pranusha, live in Webster.

Robert Godinez '11, B.S. civil engineering, is a geotechnical engineer for AECOM. He lives in Littleton, Colorado with his wife Jessica.

Jason "Andy" Morris '11, B.B.A. management information systems, is technical account manager at NetSuite in Austin, where he lives.

Manuel Ramon III '11, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, is health and wellness director for YMCA of Port Arthur. He lives in Orange.

Dr. Wesley Smith '11, B.S. chemistry, earned his medical degree last year in osteopathic medicine, is beginning his residency in pediatrics at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. He lives in Memphis, Tenn.

LaSondra (Carroll) Stewart '11, M.Ed. administration, is a teacher specialist for Houston school district. She lives in Houston.

Delia (Romero) Barajas '12, M.Ed. administration, teaches at Nathaniel Hawthorne Elementary School. She lives in Forney with her husband, Ruben.

Meredith (Fricke) Canonico '12, M.Ed. administration, is career and

technical education program access coordinator for Waxahachie school district. She and her husband, Marcus, live in Midlothian.

Dana (Guy) Cherry '12, B.S. mechanical engineering, earned a doctorate in physical therapy in 2016. She and her husband, **Clifton** '13, B.S. mechanical engineering, live in Houston.

Daren Childs '12, M.Ed. administration, is a track coach and history teacher for Glenn High School. He and his wife, Carrie, live in Leander.

Amy (Dickerson) Clark '12, M.E. administration-AP, is a dyslexia evaluator for Garland school district. She has recently been appointed to the board of directors for the Dallas Branch of the International Dyslexia Association. She lives in Rowlett, with her husband, Jason. **Michele (Davis) Ray** '12, M.Ed. school counseling, is school counselor for Branch Elementary School. She lives in Bryan with her husband, Michael.

Virginia (Walton) Roberts '12, M.Ed. school counseling, is campus director for Bob Hope Elementary School. She and her husband, John, live in Beaumont.

Corey Troxell '12, M.B.A. business administration, is the directory of development at Sam Houston State University. He lives in Houston.

Kathryn Vincent '12, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is a librarian for Kuehnle Elementary School. She lives in Houston.

Ryan Barnett '13, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a reliability engineer for GCC Rio Grande. He lives in Pueblo West, Colo., with his wife, Traci.

Brett Bertles '13, B.S. chemical engineering, is an automation and process control engineer for DuPont Co. He lives in Sulphur, La.

Casey Eubanks '13, M.Ed. education technology leadership, is senior intelligence officer for Arkansas Air National Guard. He and his wife, Jennifer, live in Sallisaw, Okla.

Nathan Minshew '13, B.S. chemical engineering, is a chemical process engineer for DuPont Co. Nathan lives in Zachary, La., with his wife, Michelle.

Aaron Nuckles '13, M.Ed. administration, is head boys' basketball coach and teacher for Llano Senior High School. He lives in Llano with his wife, Amanda.

EVENTS at LU

MARCH

- 23 Alumni Jazz Night**
6–8 p.m. | Rao's Bakery
3504 FM 365, Nederland, TX
lamar.edu/jazznight
- 25 Le Grand Bal Silent Art Auction & Celebration**
6 p.m.–midnight
Dishman Art Museum & Montagne Center
lamar.edu/fineartscomm

APRIL

- 01 Alumni Community Service at Beaumont Children's Museum**
10 a.m.–4 p.m.
701 Main St., Beaumont, TX
lamar.edu/communityservice
- 04 Academic Lecture Series Presents Charlotte Jones Anderson, Executive VP & Chief Brand Officer of the Dallas Cowboys**
7:00 p.m. | Richard L. Price Auditorium
lamar.edu/business
- 06 LU Theatre Presents Still Life With Iris**
April 6–8 • 7:30 p.m. & April 9 • 2 p.m.
Lamar University Theatre
lamar.edu/theatre
- 24 Ghostland: Myth, Mojo, and Magic lecture by Keith Carter**
5:30–7:30 p.m. | Dishman Art Museum
lamar.edu/historyandculture
- 29 Alumni Baseball Pre-Game Party**
12–2 p.m. | Vincent-Beck Stadium
lamar.edu/alumnigame

MAY

- 05 LU Dance Team Annual Spring Show**
May 5 & 6 • 7:00 p.m. | Jefferson Theatre
345 Fannin, Beaumont, TX
lamar.edu/danceteam

JUNE

- 02 Bringing It All Back Home: Works of Art by Lamar University Alumni**
On display June 2–July 31
Reception June 9 • 6:30–8:30 p.m.
Dishman Art Museum
lamar.edu/dishman

Alumni plays inaugural
Master Sergeant Scott Gearhart, '96

A graduate of Lamar University's Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music took part in the 58th Inauguration of the President of the United States on Jan. 20, 2017, as a member of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band.

Trumpeter and cornetist Master Sergeant Scott Gearhart of Beaumont, joined "The President's Own" United States Marine Band in June 1996. Master Sgt. Gearhart began his musical training at age 11. After graduating in 1987 from Westbrook High School in Beaumont, he earned a bachelor's degree in music in 1994 from Lamar University, where he studied with the late Raul Ornelas. He performed lead trumpet for the Marine



Jazz Orchestra's inaugural performance at the Kennedy Center and frequently performs concerts for the Marine Chamber Series. In 2004, Master Sgt. Gearhart conducted clinics and performed the Harry James

Medley, accompanied by the Lamar University Jazz Band, and in 2014 he played lead trumpet for the U.S. Marine Corps All Star Jazz Band.

The Marine Band provided music for the Inauguration swearing-in ceremony at the U.S. Capitol, led the second division of the parade down Pennsylvania Avenue and performed at the Salute to the Armed Forces Inaugural ball. "The President's Own" is the only musical unit to participate in all three events.

Red and White Party—Houston-area alumni and friends gathered at the home of alumnus Jerry Dearing '88 for a party Sept. 9 before the Cardinals took the field against the University of Houston the next morning.

1. First Lady Nancy Evans and Jerry Dearing '88
2. Karen Walker, Jason Walker '92, Bryan Melvin '96 and Amanda Melvin
3. Darlene Hirasaki and George Hirasaki '63

Pairings—Patrons of 2016 Pairings enjoyed wine paired with several courses while supporting the endowment for the Dishman Art Museum to ensure continuation of the museum's collections and educational programs.

4. Speaker Rodney Willis, Dean Derina Holtzhausen and co-chairs Nicole and Jeremy Saba
5. Roy and Kim Steinhagen, Pres. Kenneth Evans and First Lady Nancy Evans and chairs Ashley and Tab Bryan

Steven Whitworth '13, B.A. American Sign Language, '13, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, teaches American Sign Language at Boles High School. He lives in Quinlan.

Mordecai Brownlee '14, Ed.D. educational leadership, is the vice president for student success at St. Philip's College. He and his wife, Daphne, live in Austin.

Stephane Dubois '14, B.G.S. general studies, is competing in the Professional Golfer Association Tour Canada. He is also a part of the Circuit Canada Pro Tour with hopes of qualifying for the European Tour. He lives in Brantford, Ontario.



Sarah Henley '14, M.Ed. administration, is a teacher and coach for Boles Junior High. She lives in Arlington.

Kim (Parker) Keller '14, B.A. school counseling, is special education department chair for Alief school district. She lives in Houston.

Atley (Oldenburg) Navanale '14, B.A. American Sign Language, married Laxman Navanale in February 2016. They live in Baytown.

Sandip Sarkar '14, M.B.A. business administration, works for the University of Arkansas and lives in Fayetteville, Ark.

Lindsey Sorrell '14, B.S. speech and hearing sciences, '16, M.S. speech-language pathology, is a speech-language pathologist for Memorial City Health and Rehabilitation Center. She lives in Houston.

Aubrey Walker '14, B.S. criminal justice, is a police officer for Hardin County Sheriff's Office. He lives in Kountze with his wife, **Paige (Hoyt)** '14, B.S. chemical engineering.

Britni Jackson '15, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teachers first grade at Travis Elementary. She lives in Port Arthur.

John Kirk '15, B.S. civil engineering, is a transportation engineer for AECOM. He and his wife, Carly, live in Houston.

Shelly Lee '15, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, authored the book, "God Spoke and I Listened." She lives in Beaumont.

Regan Mayfield '15, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a teacher and coach for Little Cypress-Mauriceville school district. He lives in Port Neches.

Gregory Rice '15, B.B.A. accounting, '16, M.B.A. business administration, is accounting manager for Diocese of Beaumont. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, **Desiree (Cooley)** '92, B.S. psychology, '94, M.Ed. counseling and development.

Joshua Robinson '15, B.B.A. management information systems, is a developer engineer for Hewlett Packard Enterprise. He lives in Plano.

Adetokunbo Shosanya '15, M.E. electrical engineering, is a substation design engineer for Xcel Energy. He lives in Houston.

Jaskaran Singh Sandhu '15, M.S. computer science, is a junior developer for QS Quarterhouse Software Inc. He lives in Austin.

Mahnoush Yousefian '15, M.E. electrical engineering, is an engineer for Entergy. She and her husband, Alexander '11, B.S. electrical engineering, live in Spring.

Michelle Hardy '16, B.S. family and consumer science family studies, is recreation assistant for the City of Beaumont. She lives in Groves.

Deborah "Debbi" (Frazier) Hooks '16, B.B.A. accounting, was hired by American National Insurance Co. in finance right after graduation. She lives in Galveston while her daughter, Raylin, attends LU.

Barrie (Bowen) Jubert '16, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, received associates of arts in 2013. She is director of radiologists at IRIS Radiology. She and her husband, Ryan, live in Houston.

Liliana Montana '16, M.Ed. school counseling, is a counselor for Dallas school district. She lives in Coppell.

Ebubekir Orsun '16, Ed.D. education leadership, is assistant principal for Albuquerque School of Excellence. Orsun received his B.S. industrial engineering in 2004, master of industrial engineering in 2008, and master of educational administration in 2011. He lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Keith Payton '16, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a process operator for Shell Oil Company Foundation. He lives in Deer Park with his wife, Jennifer.

Hassan Qassem '16, B.S. chemical engineering, is an engineer for Kuwait National Petroleum Co. He lives in Beaumont.

In Memoriam

GEORGE DISHMAN, JR.
1929-2016

Lamar University was and will always be honored to count George Dishman as a true supporter of the institution in addition to the Southeast Texas community. He passed away Nov. 17, 2016 after having lived a full life with his wife of 64 years, Judy "JoAnne" Gay Dishman and their four children, Austin, Phoebe, Melanie and Claire.

He was born in the Amelia neighborhood of Beaumont on December 3, 1929 to George A. and Stella Curtis Dishman. The oldest of three boys, he worked the rice farm with his family and graduated from Beaumont High School before attending Lamar and eventually Texas A&M University, graduating with his bachelor's in business administration in 1952. From there he served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, living in California and Germany before returning home to Beaumont.

George began working with family as an independent oil operator and later assumed the role of president at Prudential Drilling Co. He continued applying his business acumen

to banking and real estate, flourishing in each endeavor. Over the course of his successful career, he served as director of First Security National Bank, InterFirst Bank and Mid-County Bank, among others.

Always civic-minded, he and Judy generously reinvested in the community by supporting many charitable causes,



including donating land for schools, creating scholarships, and most proudly, endowing Lamar University's first named department, the JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing.

George served on the original board of Conn Appliances, as a councilman for the City of Beaumont and in 1981, he was named a regent at Lamar University.

George and Judy's considerable involvement with LU has been greatly appreciated and benefited many over the last four decades. They established the Edna Horn Gray Faculty Development Fund in Nursing, served as members of the Friends of the Arts, Legacy Society, Mirabeau Society, President's Circle and Spindletop Society while also supporting KVLU and the LU Cardinals Football team. In 2005, they were the Le Grand Bal honorees and in 2014, George was named a Lamar University Distinguished Alumnus. In 2015, George and Judy also served as the grand marshals of the LU Homecoming parade. "George was a tremendous supporter of LU," remembers President Ken Evans. "I will miss the opportunities we had to visit. He was a walking compendium of Beaumont history."



Red & White

Big Red Takeoff

During Big Red Takeoff at LU Aug. 19-Sept. 3, students launched themselves into the fall semester, diving into a week full of activities, including getting, tailgating before the opening game of football season and getting dusted during the Color Run.



Taiwanese dancers on campus

Dance students from Taiwan's Tainan University of Technology were on campus in May to take classes with the Department of Theatre and Dance and soak in lots of Southeast Texas local flavor. The 16 exchange students performed with LU dancers in the department's spring dance concert, Dance Unleashed, April 29-May 1, in the University Theatre.



Women and Philanthropy

Nancy Evans hosted the inaugural Women and Philanthropy luncheon Oct. 21 in the University Reception Center of the Mary and John Gray Library. The presentation by Angela Throne focused on the integral role women play in philanthropy at LU, and future aims of the group will be to inspire, encourage and advocate for women to make philanthropic gifts to LU.



Vernice Monroe, Linda Domino and Georgine Guillory



Alumna and friends sing in Austria

Richard and Cathy Price, left, Eduardo Garcia Novelli, and Hillary '12, and Cole Howerton celebrate after singing in a concert at the Minoriten Church in Vienna, Austria, June 25.

Red and white party

Houston-area alumni and friends gathered at the home of alumnus Jerry Dearing '88 for a red and white party Sept. 9 before cheering for the Cardinals they next morning as they took the field against the University of Houston.



Tara Hoch

Madison Marino

Victoria LaFleur and Ryan Sherer

Reaud Honors College students visit Republican and Democratic conventions

Reaud Honors College students Victoria LaFleur, junior accounting and finance major; Ryan Sherer, junior, business management; Tara Hoch, junior, political science; and Madison Marino, junior, economics, attended in the Republican (LaFleur and Sherer) and Democratic (Hoch and Marino) nominating conventions in Cleveland and Philadelphia this past July. All four participated in week-long activities organized through the Washington Center. Marino and LaFleur interned at CNN and Fox News, respectively. Sherer worked with the Texas State Delegation, while Hoch worked with Voice of America.



Study abroad expands program

During the past three years, under the leadership of Director of Study Abroad Jeff Palis, the university's study abroad experiences have grown from 40 students in 2013 to more than 180 students last year learning in locations like the United Kingdom, Italy, St. Lucia, Japan, Iceland, Costa Rica, Mexico, South Korea and Spain.



2016-2017 Lamar University Ambassadors



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Where it *really* can count

*M*ilton and I love our alma mater and the diversity and number of first-generation college students at LU today. I, too, was the first from my family to earn a college degree. We know our planned gift will support students who will go on to great careers and more fulfilled lives because we've helped them with the opportunity to earn a degree.

Lamar University's faculty provided not only an outstanding education, but also went the extra mile for me. I received excellent advice and landed a great job right after graduation thanks to one of my professors. Five years later, when I decided to apply to law school, two of my former professors gave me the recommendations I needed.

Their support led to my rewarding 35-year career in family law.

Milton's career as an engineer for NASA contractors at the Johnson Space Center spanned several Apollo moon missions, including the memorable Apollo 13 mission. He often remarked how his employer sought out LU graduates for their quality and work ethic.

Between the two of us, we have degrees from four institutions, but it is Lamar University that we choose to support. With our planned gift and my service on the College of Business Advisory Council, we're passionate about Lamar University and want to encourage others to consider a planned gift that can make a difference where it really counts and benefit generations to come.



To learn more about making a difference in the lives of Lamar University students like Milton and Myrna Dunnam have, please contact Lamar University Advancement.

Milton & Myrna '67 Dunnam
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