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The Texas State University System Board of Regents is committed to serving the people of Texas through its comprehensive system of public postsecondary institutions. The Board is responsible for ensuring that the system’s institutions are accountable to the people of Texas for their educational programs and services. The Board is also responsible for overseeing the system’s strategic planning, policy development, and implementation, and for ensuring the system’s financial health and sustainability.

About Lamar University:

Lamar University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action educational institution.

Lamar University is a Texas State of Mind.

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.
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 Stubberfield, 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 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.”

At his old school, Jacob Davis, 17, often found himself uninterested in the standard curriculum. “When I got to school and thought about what I was doing there and what I would have been doing if TALH was the only option,” Davis admitted. While traditional schools rarely leave room in the lessons 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 Cobon, 17, enjoys the freedom of the academy experience. “The fear of appearing too invested in her studies often influence 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. 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.
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 count 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 who have helped him 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, he has been able 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 now doors continue to open.”

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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.
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—as 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 get 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.”

by Maggie Kaspru
Building a better campus

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 Brian McCall, LU President Ken Evans, Texas State University System Chancellor administrative offices.

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 Reaud Charitable Foundation of America and director of the Reaud Charitable Foundation.

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.

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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

| STAFF PROFILE: KYLE SMITH |

by Stephanie DeMeyer, LU Ambassador and Campbell Hall resident

| BUILDING HOME AWAY FROM

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

Every fall, like clockwork, the Mechanical Engineering Department’s Kendrick Aung and Jenny Zhou assign and guide two groups of engineering students 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 compete.” 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.”

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 blink of an eye.

With just a few months to build, the team expertly welded the chassis of the vehicle to the design specifications in just the blink of an eye. “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.

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 full 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 high quality at LU so other teams at this competition will see that,” 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 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 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 opponent.

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.” - Michel. “Through 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.”

94.9 MPG

SENIOR GRAND PRIZE

“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.
students gain edge with 2+2 program

The first graduate through LU's College of Science in Industrial Engineering with the first two years of study at another university or online. Students gain an edge in the job market.

Tamey received the Distinguished Faculty Lecturer in 2013 and has received the University Merit Fellowship. Castillón named assistant director for Office of Undergraduate Research

Castillón is director of the Modern Languages Program, in which capacity she will continue to serve. She 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 Tribe." 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 Tribe."

women’s history. Winters has a post, feminist and anti-racist research and published on Japanese women’s history.

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The CICE helps students, faculty and other innovators “bring ideas to market through creative product development, fast-patents, start companies, create businesses and create jobs.”

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.

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.

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

—Jack Gill
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 Latilalai, director of the CICE. “Conditions like this enable our faculty to experiment new ideas and new methods to innovate in the classroom and laboratory where they often blend traditional didactic methods to discover new singletons.”

“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 long-time advocate and benefactor for entrepreneurship at LU, including an early $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.

“His gingham button-down and jeans, oblige computer backpack and trendy-butt-sensible sneakers, looking as though he’d just emerged from a Silicon Valley thinktank after a long day of coding,” George Saltsman said of the recent graduation Administration Building for an interview. The Apple Distinguished Educator and consultant researcher and faculty member 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 not picketing, protesting, lobbying or fundraising. They are teaching.

LU doctoral students, in coordination with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and Volunteer Service Overseas International, among other entities, work in countries including Malawi, Kenya, Mozambique, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Cambodia to provide educational environment, higher education and entrepreneurship for teachers, early literacy programs and technical vocational education for workers.

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 simple sentence. 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 say in the household 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 the world immediately! Let’s make it real.”

Saltsman’s passion and expertise in international 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 conundrum: “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.

O n h is g h m a y h i n g b u t t o n - d o w n a n d j e a n s, o b l i g e c o m p u t e r b a c k p a c k a n d t r e n d y - b u t - s e n s i b l e s n e a k e r s, l o o k i n g a s t h o u g h h e ’d j u s t e m e r g e d f r o m a S i l i c o n V a l l e y t h i n k t a n k a f t e r a l o n g d a y o f c o d i n g. G e o r g e S a l t s m a n s a i d o f t h e r e c e n t g r a d u a t i o n A d m i n i s t r a t i o n B u i l d i n g f o r a n i n t e r v i e w. T h e A p p l e D i s t i n g u i s h e d E d u c a t o r a n d c o n s u l t a n t r e s e a r c h e r a n d f a c u l t y m e m b e r h a d n o t, i n d e e d, b e e n s i t t i n g a l l d a y i n a d i g i t a l c a v e; h e ’ d j u s t l e f t a m e e t i n g i n t h e C o l l e g e o f E d u c a t i o n a n d H u m a n D e v e l o p m e n t f o r I n n o v a t i o n , C o m m e r c i a l i z a t i o n a n d E n t r e p r e n e u r s h i p. C I C E i s a c o n d u i t f o r i n d u s t r y a n d u n i v e r s i t y i n t e r a c t i o n , i n c l u d i n g p r o j e c t s , o n - g o i n g r e s e a r c h , s t u d e n t e x p e r i e n t i a l l e a r n i n g , s p e c i a l e v e n t s a n d t r a i n i n g . T h e s e p u r p o s e s a l i g n p e r f e c t l y w i t h S a l t s m a n ’ s v i s i o n f o r t h e g l o b a l , o n l i n e E d . D . p r o g r a m a t L U , w h e r e h e w a n t s t o s h i f t t h e m i n d s e t o f d o c t o r a l s t u d e n t s f r o m t h e t r a d i t i o n a l , d i s s e r t a t i o n - d r i v e n a c a d e m i c p r o g r a m t o p r o g r a m m i n g t h a t i m m e d i a t e l y e n g a g e s t h e m i n t h e i r p a t h s i o n s f o r e d u c a t i n g a l l p e o p l e a n d c h a n g i n g t h e w o r l d i n t a n g i b l e , c r i t i c a l w a y s . T h e e x t r a o r d i n a r y s t u d e n t s o f t h e C e n t e r f o r D o c t o r a l S t u d i e s a r e w o r k i n g i n t h e d e v e l o p i n g n a t i o n s o f t h e w o r l d t o f i g h t g e n d e r v i o l e n c e a n d d i s c r i m i n a t i o n , h u m a n t r a f f i c k i n g , e n v i r o n m e n t a l d e s t r u c t i o n a n d t h e d e s t r a c t i o n s o f e x t r e m e p o v e r t y . T h e y a r e n o t p i c k e t i n g , p r o t e s t i n g , l o b b y i n g o r f u n d r a i s i n g . T h e y a r e t e a c h i n g . L U d o c t o r a l s t u d e n t s , i n c o o r d i n a t i o n w i t h U n i t e d N a t i o n s E d u c a t i o n a l , S c i e n t i f i c a n d C u l t u r a l O r g a n i z a t i o n a n d V o l u n t a r y S e r v i c e O v e r s e a s I n t e r n a t i o n a l , a m o n g o t h e r e n t i t i e s, w o r k i n c o u n t r i e s i n c l u d i n g M a l a w i , K e n y a , M o z a m b i q u e , I n d i a , P a k i s t a n , B a n g l a d e s h , N e p a l , M y a n m a r a n d C a m b o d i a t o p r o v i d e
Dean Holtzhausen named 2016 Frank Scholar

Berlin Holtzhausen, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communications, was a deanship and invited speaker at the 2016 Frank Academic conference. Holtzhausen said he was the greatest motivator and person, who used his connections to drive social change. The Frank conference brings together top professionals from various academic disciplines to collaboratively cultivate research in fields that ignite lasting behavioral, institutional and social change. A communications scholar, Holtzhausen’s work explores the intersections of multimedia theory and public relations.

Manchess tagged Jquerque for Frank Scholar

The American Academy of Audiology established the Frank Scholarship to honor Dr. Richard A. Manchess, associate professor and director of audiology, to the 2016 class of Distinguished Leaders of Audiology. Manchess is one of only a few individuals selected nationally for the honor. In the past, Manchess traveled to South Africa and South Korea with his students, and to Costa Rica where the group hosted an international seminar. At the 2016 Frank Academic conference, Manchess was the conference chair at the Conference for the Advancement of Science in Undergraduate Audiology.

LU alumni collaborate on film project

Three graduates of the Department of Communication premiered their short film, The Example, at the 2016 Texas Business Hall of Fame awards gala. Students Thomas Gentry Jr., Ciara Jackson and Brian LeTraunik attended the event to gain experience and network with other alumni.

Cultural exchange

Students from the University of Texas at Austin visited Panama City this spring to attend the 2016 Frank Academic conference. Students from Lamar University traveled to Panama to attend the conference and visit a variety of cultural sites. The conference brought together nearly 1,000 students from across the state of Texas and beyond.

Global enrichment: academics to life lessons for group experiencing China

Last May, six students in Professor Kakoli Bandyopadhyay’s global enrichment class traveled to China to visit the headquarters of multinational companies, gaining new perspectives along the way. The Steinshagen family’s Global Fellowship Award gave students the opportunity to explore China and learn about the business culture. Students were able to experience Chinese culture,语言, and explore the country’s rich history and diverse landscapes. The experience was a valuable opportunity for students to gain an understanding of the business culture in China.
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 just went do it.”

—Kayla Fisher

CARDINAL CADENCE | Can-do Attitude | WINTER 2017

Cardinal Cadence | Can-do Attitude | Winter 2017

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.

*Figure 1. Became Reality (Inception to 2016)*

**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 in their families through three means: research (defining and delivering technology-based procedures), teaching (through short-term involvement in research and service) and product development that brings measurable positive health outcomes.

**Cybersecurity, infrastructure and situation management**

The project’s objective is to develop cost-effective, emergent and emergency reduction technologies and software with commercial applications. Researchers within emergent and emergency science and technology will also examine the integrity and security of regional infrastructure that can be compromised because of cybersecurity threats, the derivative effects of extreme environmental and weather hazards.

**Neus heads finance and operations**

Craig Nees has joined LU administration as vice president for finance and operations after a national and international search. Nees 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.

**Robles-Ogumo Sr. joins LU as VP**

Last August, John Robles-Ogumo 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 co-directed the communication graduate program.

**Handerson chair PFS**

Effective last August, Tommy 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.
A lumnus 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 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 strengthens 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 succeeded 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 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.

They have always encouraged me to live by that ‘you can do anything if you really try’ attitude.”

—Don Shaver

A 14-year faculty veteran, Monica Harn has served as a 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.

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.

“Volunteerism and giving back both time and energy was definitely modeled by both of our families,” said Diane. “We have always enjoyed giving back to LU and the community. 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 disabilities.”

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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.

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

—Brixey Blankenship-Cozad

by Morgan Collier
performs 34 numbers choreographed by professionals as well as teams from the other universities. The team Theatre and Dance and other community dance teams performance joining with the LU Department of Theatre and Dance and other community dance teams.

At the end of each year, the team gives a public performance to receive 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

Now 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 help educators at the forefront of transforming the learning landscape by training them to be leaders in their chosen fields.

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 exciting,” 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 as 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.

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“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. 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 exciting,” Hardy said.

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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 classmate, we want to hear from you.

SEND US YOUR NEWS: Cardinal Cadence P.O. Box 910 Beaumont, TX 77710 e-mail alumni@lamar.edu or call 409-880-8921

Joseph “Joe” Thomas ’73, B.S. mechanical engineering, competed in a triathlon at age 77, in the City of Santa Fe Spirit Triathlon. He lives with his wife, Mary Jane, in Santa Fe, N.M.

Linda (Tindall) Taylor ’75, B.B. electrical engineering, earned a master’s degree in education in 1991. She retired as principal for Georgetown ISD and lives in North Richland Hills.

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

Mary Jo (Grisham) Holloway ’66, B.A. mathematics, owns her own law firm. While a student at LU, Mary Jo participated in the Mathematics Club, Baptist Student Union and as Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. She is an Episcopalian.

Jerry Jones ’64, B.S. history, is senior purchasing specialist for Carter and Burgess Hall Galleries, located in Chapel Hill, Georgia, live in Fort Worth.

Richard Thompson ’71, B.A. accounting, is president/RD of KJ Thompson Consulting LLC. He lives in Boca Raton, Fla., with his wife, Barbara.

Cindy (Kemp) Pankey ’72, B.B. secondary education, is a senior purchasing specialist for Carter and Burgess Hall Galleries, located in Chapel Hill, Georgia, live in Fort Worth.

Joseph “Joe” Golds ’71, B.S. electrical engineering, 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 induced Fred Anholt ’74, B.S. oceanographic technology, into its Corps of Engineers Gallery of Distinguished Engineers. Fred is a senior engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers in Dickinson, Minn., with wife, Mary (Dominguez) ’89, B.S. special education.


Cynthia (Kallen) Sisson ’80, B.S. nursing, ’79, M.S.N. education, is a registered nurse for the JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing, in healthcare education for Julie Boggs Gift of Life, and is officer of the School of Nursing. She lives in Lubbock with her husband, Bob, who is a professor at LU in the College of Arts & Sciences, and in Lubbock with her daughter, Hailey.

Anita (Bond) ’56, B.B.A. general business, is an insurance supervisor process computer control engineer for ExxonMobil Chemical Corp. He lives in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Don Mosley ’56, B.S. mechanical engineering, competed in a triathlon at age 77, in the City of Santa Fe Spirit Triathlon. He lives with his wife, Patry.

Valerie Harper ’82, B.A. general biology, 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 54 years. The last 34 years were with Jasper school district as a special education teacher. After 26 years of those three years, he was a Cross Country Track Coach for the Dairy.

Douglas Novell ’68, B.S. biology, received a doctorate in agricultural economics from Texas A&M College Station. He specializes in commodity business development in Cuba. He lives in Nacogdoches, Texas.

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

David Wilson ’75, B.B.A. accounting, is a human resources coordinator for the Army Corps of Engineers. Fred 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.


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Jason (Blaise) Deeply ’74, B.S. criminal justice, is a Mass Specialist Counsel for Criminal Justice. His daughter, Madisen, attends Lamar University. He lives in Beaumont with his daughter, Jordan.

President UnPyung Law Firm Attorney named O’Jann Perkins ’76, B.S. secondary education, the city’s top lawyer for plaintiff and injury cases. She and her husband, Ben, live in Netherland.

Mary (Dwight) Adams ’77, B.S. elementary education, ’64, B.S. secondary education, is a children’s librarian at the library. She lives in Beaumont.

Don Moseley ’56, B.S. mechanical engineering, competed in a triathlon at age 77, in the City of Santa Fe Spirit Triathlon. He lives with his wife, Patry.

Martha (Paff) Smith ’66, B.A. accounting, is retired from the Dallas County Auditor’s Office. She lives in Dallas.

Pamela “Pam” (Temple) Thrasher ’56, B.B.A general business, 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.


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Weston Upshur Law Firm, Army Reserve recruitment officer. [Darren Brown ‘87], B.B.A. general business, for his work as a military personnel liaison and providing support during Operation Desert Shield. [McClain ‘87], B.B.A. public accounting, and earned a Ph.D. in public policy and public administration from Walden University. [Oubre] is president of the Lamar Institute of Technology Foundation and served as the President Board of Directors of the University. [Wanda] lives in Desoto with her husband, John, in Alimo.

Gary Fairchild ‘93, B.S. psychology, is an assistant professor in DeSoto with his wife, Roxanne.

Jennifer (Cogburn) Seago ‘95, B.A. business, earned a M.A. in music performance in 1997. She teaches piano, voice, guitar, and French. She is the director of the music department at the University of Houston. Jennifer (Cogburn) Seago ‘95, B.A. business, earned a M.A. in music performance in 1997. She teaches piano, voice, guitar, and French. She is the director of the music department at the University of Houston. Jennifer (Cogburn) Seago ‘95, B.A. business, earned a M.A. in music performance in 1997. She teaches piano, voice, guitar, and French. She is the director of the music department at the University of Houston. Jennifer (Cogburn) Seago ‘95, B.A. business, earned a M.A. in music performance in 1997. She teaches piano, voice, guitar, and French. She is the director of the music department at the University of Houston. Jennifer (Cogburn) Seago ‘95, B.A. business, earned a M.A. in music performance in 1997. She teaches piano, voice, guitar, and French. She is the director of the music department at the University of Houston.
process engineer for AkzoNobel, and lives in Lumberton with his wife, Sandra.

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 and lives in Beaumont with her husband, Patrick, in Port Neches.

Karol Nowotny '05, B.S. Psychology, is now supervisor for Guardian Industries. He lives in Evans with his wife, Christy '04, B.A. English, '05, B.S. Psychology.

Charisma (Walker) Popillion '05, B.S. Anthropology studies, '07, M.Ed. educational leadership, earned a doctorate of education from Texas A&M University-Commerce. She is currently an olefins engineer at bMX Inc., a medical device pharmaceutical company. She lives in Magnolia.

Bryon Peak '04, B.S. pharmacy, is executive director for Texas Senior Medical Patrol. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Lawrence Hsu, and their baby girl, Gabriella "GiGi" Russell. They live in Beaumont.

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

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

A.J. Rodriguez '07, B.B.A. general business-administering, '12, J.D., is an attorney for Kennedy Law. He and his wife, Charity (Lemat) Rodriguez '06, B.B.A. general business-administering, live in Corrales.

Ronnie Turner Jr. '17, B.A. psychology, '15, J.D., is an attorney at Provon Eulphey Law Firm. LEPB Romance was recognized for the second time, among the most 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, Brittany.

Amy Bryant '08, B.A. History, '04, L.L.M., is a staff counsel and a counselor at Austin Hall 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 AT&T and lives in Prosper with her husband, Brian.

Tanjeet Gill '08, B.S. biology, welcomed a new baby girl, Gabriella "GiGi" Russell. They live in Beaumont.


Diana (Irwin) Valdez '08, B.A. Audiology and president elect of the Southwest Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association, is a board member for Young Women Leaders. She lives in Port Lavaca.

Mark Montebello '08, B.B.A. Finance, is owner of Pearland Hearing Aids and owner of Protect America and owner of Red Rock and Townson LLC. He graduated magnum cum laude while working for Hilton and Radisson in Austin while he attended Lamar University. He and his wife, Corrine, live in Bellaire.

Aaron Bonvillian '09, B.B.A. Finance and economics, '10, M.B.A. Business administration, is in academic dean and online academic dean for Education Corp. of America – Gulf Coast. He graduated cum laude while working for Walmart and 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 Kresten Cole '09, B.S. civil engineering, 2016 Young Engineer of the Year. Kresten is vice president for Aecom Wilson & Comic LLC. He then also received the Honor Award at the Sabine Chapter for its Sabine-Yates Waterway Direct F PE Crossing project with.

Joe Wilson '09, B.S. civil engineering, and Ron Areanqua '77, B.S. civil engineering, received a new baby, an IT specialist for Jefferson County Criminal District Attorney’s Office. He lives in Beaumont.

Christina "Gigi" (Nance) Russell '09, B.A. Theatre, welcomed a new baby, a granddaughter. She and her husband, Cory, live in Burke and her sister, Beth, in Austin.

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

LU Ambassadors Etiquette Dinner | Sept. 20
Sydney Matthews, owner of Beaumont Junior Cotillion, and UL alumni 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.

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

The Arkansas Business Journal honored Scott Carver '06, B.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 (Parr) '05, M.Ed. teacher leadership.

Michelle Cate '06, B.B.A. studio art, is a volunteer at the McDaniel-House Museum. She lives with her wife, Lauren, and their 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.

LaShonda Cobb '06, M.Ed. School counseling, is a staff counselor and a counselor at Austin Hall School for Young Women Leaders. She lives in Austin.

Linda Minter '07, B.S. Biomedicine, 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, Andrew.

The University of Tennessee College of Engineering has honored Rashed Hashemian '07, Eng.D. electrical engineering, with the Nathan W. Dougwong Award acknowledging achievements. Hashemian is president, CTO and co-founder of the Global Xera Corporation, a startup with the Distinguished Staff Award of Lamar University's office of Business Advancement, located between the Health and Human Performance Complex and Andrew Chair, an IT specialist for Jefferson County Criminal District Attorney’s Office. He lives in Beaumont.

Robert "Bob" Bower '09, B.S. Criminal Justice, is an academic advisor for Lamar State College Port Arthur. Previously, he was supervisor at ExxonMobil. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Robert, live in Spring.

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

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The Association of Texas Professional Educators named Gary Schreff '09, M.Ed., administrator, with the Professional Educators Administration of the Year for 2016. Schreff is also the_current coordinator for the university's district where he lives.

10s

Teresa Pollard '10, B.A. English, is an assistant professor for Eastern New Mexico University. She and her husband, Marc, live in Carlsbad, NM.

Thomas Tanner '10, B.A. English, V.S.A., English, is an assistant professor for ExcelsiorHill Corporation. He graduated_Colin Steele '10, B.S. political science, received his MBA, public service and administration in 2007.

Kathy (Kraft) Edwards '11, B.C.S. general studies, teaches infants at Bright Horizons. She lives in Eden, OK.

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

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

Jason (Andy) Moore '11, B.B.A. management, information systems, is a district IT manager at NetScape in Austin, where he lives.

Manuel Razon 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 is pursuing medical degree last year in osteopathic medicine, or beginning residency in Pediatrics at Children's Hospital. He lives in Cypress, Texas.

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

Debra (Romero) Barajas '12, M.Ed. administration, teaches at Nathanial Hawthorne Elementary School. She lives in Frisco with her husband, Rolando.

Meredith (Fricke) Carbone '12, M.Ed. administration is career and technical education program access coordinator for Windbach school district. She and her husband, Marcus, live in Midland.

Dana (May) Cherry '12, B.S. mechanical engineering, earned a doctorate in physical therapy in 2016. She and her husband, Cliffon, live in Beaumont.

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

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

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

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

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

Caryn Sabonock '13, M.Ed. education technology leadership, is in science intelligence office for Arkansas Air National Guard. He and his wife, Jennifer, live in ballisloe, Okla.

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

Amen Nuckles '13, M.Ed administration, is head boys’ basketball, and as track coach for Llano Senior High School. He lives in Llano with his wife, Annika.
Red and White Party—Houston-area alums and friends gathered at the home of alumni Jerry Dearing —08 for a party —10. U before the Cardinals took the field against the University of Houston the next morning.

1. First Lady Nancy Evans and Jerry Dearing —08
2. Karen Walker, Jason Walker —92, Bryan Melvin —96 and Amanda Melvin
3. Michael and Kathy Bare —08 and Sam and Lydia Briscoe —08

Pairings—Patrons of 2016 Pairings enjoyed wine paired with several courses performed by the Harry James Medley, accompanied by the Lamar University Jazz Band, and in 2016 he played lead trumpet for the C.A. 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.

Alumni plays inaugural Master Sergeant Scott Gearhart, ’96

A graduate of Lamar University’s Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music took part in the 50th 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 current 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 1997 from Wootzbrook High School in Beaumont, he earned a bachelor’s degree in music in 1999 from the University of New Mexico, where he studied with the late Rud Orlando. He performed lead trumpet for the Marine Corps All Star Jazz Band.

In Memoriam

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


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

Gregory Rice —15, B.B.A. accounting, is a teacher in Arlington, Texas.

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


Sandy Sarkar —14, B.B.A. business administration, is a teacher in the University of Arkansas and lives in Fayetteville, AR.

Lindsey Sorrell —14, B.S. speech and hearing sciences, 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 Beaumont with his wife, Paige (Haag) —14, B.S. chemical engineering.

Brett Jackson —13, B.S. nursing, military studies, teaches first grade at Trinity Elementary. He lives in Port Arthur.

Deborah “Debbi” (Fraser) 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.

Karrie (Bowen) Jubert —16, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a high school counselor. She lives in Beaumont.

Sarah Henley —15, M.S. psychology, ’94, M.Ed. counseling leadership, is assistant coach for Boles Junior High. She teaches American Sign Language at Boles High School. She lives in Baytown.


Adelikiowo Shoansay —15, M.E. electrical engineering, is a software engineer for NREL Energy. He lives in Houston.

Lindsey Chin —15, B.B.A. in business administration, is a process engineer at Shell Oil Company. She lives in Pearland with her wife, Jennifer.

Malcolm Youngren —15, M.E. electrical engineering, is an engineer for Energy. She and her husband, Alexander —15, B.S. electrical engineering, live in Spring Branch.

Michelle Harby —16, B.S. family and consumer science family studies, is a food science instructor at the City of Beaumont. She lives in Groves.
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 areas of the group will be to inspire, encourage and advocate for women to make philanthropic gifts to LU.

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.

Study abroad expands program

During the past three years, under the leadership of Director of Study Abroad Jeff Pius, 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.

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 also perform in lots of Southeast Texas local venues. 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.

Vernice Monroe, Linda Domino and Georgine Guillory

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 the 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.

Alumna and friends sing in Austria

Richard and Caroly 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.

Madison Marino, Victoria LaFleur and Ryan Sherer

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2016-2017 Lamar University Ambassadors

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.
Milton 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.

Milton & Myrna ’67 Dunnam
Barbers Hill

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.

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