

CARDINAL Cadence

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A MEMBER OF THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

MARCH - MAY 2004

Cardinals
come home

pgs. 12-15

New doctorate
draws educators

pg. 11





From the President

It is another fast-paced, exciting semester at Lamar University where momentum continues and spring enrollment is the highest since 1990 when Lamar separated from the two-year institutions.

Homecoming and reunion added to the excitement with a week of student activities and the return of an exuberant crowd of alumni. The alumni basketball game – with many of Lamar’s

favorite all-stars from days gone by taking it to the boards – and the cheers of former cheerleaders and Spirit Team members at the men’s basketball game, each added to the excitement in the Montagne.

Across campus, construction continues on the third phase of Cardinal Village. When the state-of-the-art facility opens this fall, it will bring Lamar’s residence hall capacity to 1,500 students. Construction of a new 25,000-square-foot dining facility will begin later this spring.

In academics, we’re making new strides as the new doctorate in audiology is gearing up and the College of Education and Human Development is recruiting the first cohort of students for the new Ed.D. in educational leadership, set to begin this fall.

We continue toward our goal of hiring 100 new faculty in the next four years. These positions will contribute significantly toward the quality of our academic programs as we work to fulfill the vision detailed in the university’s academic master plan.

Great things are happening at Lamar – in the classrooms and across the campus. With help from alumni and friends, we are able to offer quality programs and unique opportunities for our students. We greatly appreciate your support.

With Cardinal pride,

James M. Simmons
James M. Simmons

President

Lamar University



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Cardinal Events 2003

March 29
Alumni Golf Tournament. Tee time 12:30 p.m. Idylwild Golf Course. Reservations (409) 880-8921

April 7-25
High School Scholarship Exhibition. Reception 2-4 p.m. April 25. Dishman Art Museum

April 20
Lamarissimo! Cardinal Singers and Dance Company. 7:30 p.m. Julie Rogers Theatre. Tickets (409) 880-8144

April 22-27
Art, presented by Lamar Theatre. Nightly 8 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m. Studio Theatre. Tickets (409) 880-2250

April 28-May 6
Senior Thesis Exhibition. Reception 7-9 p.m. April 30. Dishman Art Museum

April 30
Band Concert. 7:30 p.m. University Theatre

May 12
Cardinal Jazz Festival. University Theatre

May 12-25
Summer Mini-Session.

May 14
Distinguished Alumni Awards reception and dinner. The LUAA's most prestigious award to alumni. 7 p.m. University Reception Center. Reservations (409) 880-8921

May 15
Commencement. 9:30 a.m. Montagne Center. (409) 880-8419

May 10-14
Master's Thesis Exhibition. Reception 7-9 p.m. May 14. Dishman Art Museum

May 25
Summer I registration

May 26
Summer I classes begin

June 22-23
Orientation. (409) 880-8085

June 8
LU-laby of Broadway. Showtune extravaganza performed by area celebrities benefits Lamar University theatre scholarships. Reception 7 p.m. Performance 8 p.m. University Theatre. Tickets (409) 880-8037

June 20-24
Band Camp (tentative)

Events open to the public without charge unless otherwise indicated.

www.lamar.edu
Events (409) 880-8419 • Admissions (409) 880-8888

Third hall and dining facility join Cardinal Village

While Lamar students enjoyed spring break, American Campus Communities' general contractor, Davis Brothers Construction, was busy building the third phase of Cardinal Village. The new facility will have the same floor plan as Phases I and II, but the ceiling will be raised to 9 feet.

Construction for Cardinal Village III will be completed by fall 2004, adding 500 beds to campus. When completed, the entire Cardinal Village complex will include about 1,500 beds.



The new dining hall, which will match the Southern architectural design selected for Cardinal Village, will also begin construction. The 25,000-square-foot facility will seat 600 and have the capacity to feed 1,200. The hall will be accessible from all sides, allowing service through a food court that offers several different types of food and ample room for students. The building's exterior landscaping will enhance campus surroundings.

The dinning hall project should open by spring 2005, with construction completed in December 2004 to allow three weeks training in the new facility before the spring semester begins.

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Design by Mike Rhodes • Cover photo by Brian Sattler



Jim JORDAN

Jordan appointed chair of geology

Jim Jordan, professor of geology, has accepted the position of chair of the department. The Beaumont native earned a bachelor's degree from Lamar in 1971 and returned to his alma mater in 1982 to teach and share his love of space science with students. Jordan earned his Ph.D. in geochemistry and cosmochemistry from Rice and worked at the Max Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics in Germany.

He has supervised several student projects in cooperation with NASA and served as director of Lamar's Earth and Space Resources Laboratory. Jordan looks forward to several changes within the department, which now has a new name approved by the board of regents: Department of Earth and Space Sciences. Also, geology and earth science minors have been approved, as well as a space science minor.



From left, Jim Thomas, Dean Jack Hopper, Bob Telage, David Smith

ENGlocal creates scholarship

The international company ENGlocal Engineering Inc. has established a new scholarship to benefit Lamar University students from funds raised at the Driving Force Classic Golf Tournament, hosted by ENGlocal.

The scholarship will be awarded to undergraduate students majoring in degree programs within the College of Engineering.

David Smith '69, a Lamar engineering graduate, is president of ENGlocal.

The numbers are in ... and up

Enrollment reflects continued growth, administration officials said, reporting a spring 2004 enrollment of 9,643 students. The

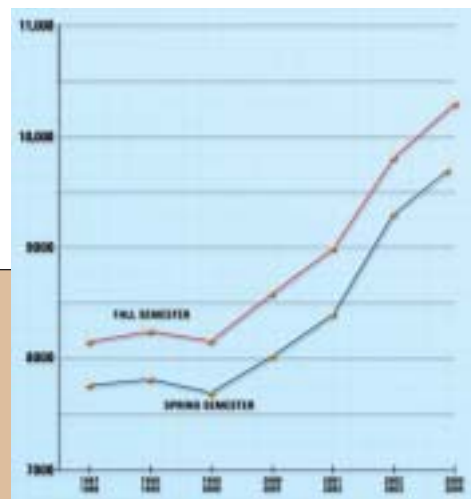


figure represents a 3.81 percent increase from spring 2003, a 15.02 percent increase from spring 2002 and a 20.37 increase from spring 2001. This spring's enrollment is the highest since 1990, when Lamar University separated from the two-year institutions.

Camp Empowerment reaches out

The Texas Association for Community Service and Continuing Education recently gave a 2003 Award of Excellence to Camp Empowerment, a program of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Beaumont Independent School District and the Lamar University Community Outreach Program. The association encourages and recognizes meaningful community involvement and continuing education programs of higher education institutions across Texas. Camp Empowerment helps first- through sixth-graders succeed on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test.

Commencement honors many

Lamar University gained 610 new alumni at the completion of graduation ceremonies in December. Six students earned the title of Honors Program Graduate; three claimed the Plummer Award for their status as top academic graduates; and 64 were recognized as graduating with honors. U.S. Rep. Jim Turner, D-Crockett, delivered the keynote address. Plummer Award winners were Jenny Achilles, Catalina Paz and Luke Ray. Achilles and Paz were also honors program graduates, along with Karen Hackney, Carrie Cavaliere, Christina Cook and Karen Cook.



Jim TURNER



Ash HUZENLAUB

CEO shares entrepreneurial tips

The Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies hosted Ash Huzenlaub Feb. 10 in the Landes Auditorium as guest lecturer for the spring offering of the Entrepreneurship Executive Lecture Series.

Huzenlaub is chairman, president and CEO of Emergisoft Corp., the leading provider of emergency department information systems to U.S. hospital emergency rooms. Huzenlaub also serves on the board of advisors for Austin-based Sweet Leaf Tea Co. and the Texas Christian University Center for Entrepreneurial Studies. At 27, Huzenlaub was the youngest recipient of the 2003 Business Press 40 Under 40 award and was a 2003 nominee for the Southwest Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award.

Investment enhances security

Lamar University's administration wants would-be criminals to know that they're being watched. To underscore that message, high-resolution digital security cameras will soon be stationed around campus to observe and record public areas. In addition to monitoring hallways in the university's residence halls, security cameras will be positioned to observe parking lots and other campus areas.

Continual investment in campus security is paying off, officials said. While some may see increased activity on campus – a result of growing enrollment – as opportunity to commit crimes, this proactive step makes identification and prosecution more effective. In recent years, the university has added 32 emergency phones across campus, started an evening van service for students living near the campus, hired more officers to increase patrols, improved campus lighting and more.

Columnist Molly Ivins visits

Nationally syndicated columnist Molly Ivins spoke before an audience attending the Feb. 12 lecture of the Academic Lecture Series sponsored this semester by the College of Arts and Sciences.

The lecture, funded by student service fees, was free to students, faculty and community members.

In columns that appear in more than 300 newspapers across the United States, Ivins writes about Texas, national politics "and other bizarre happenings." Ivins is the best-selling author and co-author of five books. Her most recent book, written with Lou DuBose, is *Bushwacked: Life in George W. Bush's America*, published in 2003.



Molly IVINS



Gilbert Adams Jr., Bruce Drury, Joann Stiles, Thad SITTON

Historian tells backwoods tales

Award-winning Texas historian Thad Sitton spoke about "Big Thicket Backwoodsmen" Jan. 21 during a presentation sponsored by Lamar University's Center for the Study of the Big Thicket. The presentation was underwritten by the Mamie McFaddin Ward Heritage Foundation. Sitton, a native of Lufkin who now lives in Austin, has explored the social history of rural Texas in a dozen books.

Nursing students find "A Caring Place"

Students majoring in nursing now have additional support on their path to success, thanks to a \$50,000 grant from the Texas

Higher Education Coordinating Board and \$10,000 match from Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital. The grant funds a special initiative called "The Caring Place" to help all of the university's nursing students successfully complete their studies, graduate and enter the workforce. The program will identify students at risk of non-completion, provide resources and training to aid stu-

dents and pair students with faculty for individualized advising and counsel.

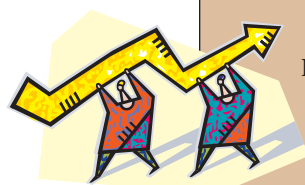
With the goal of increasing retention, the university could realize an additional 24 nursing graduates each year. "These additional graduates can provide nursing care to 36,000 patients a year," said Eileen Curl, chair of the nursing department. "That will have a significant impact on the nursing shortage in Southeast Texas."

Lyness honored for service above and beyond

In January, the Beaumont Rotary Club bestowed its Service Above Self award upon Loraine Lyness, coordinator of university reception centers for the Division of University Advancement. As coordinator of special events held not only in the University Reception Center of the Mary and John Gray Library, but also often in the Dishman Art Museum, Montagne Center and other venues, Lyness manages event logistics and behind-the-scenes preparation.



Loraine LYNESS





Sculptural steel

A steel teaching sculpture, a 3-D way for students to learn about steel framing and connections, was installed Dec. 16 adjacent to the civil engineering lab. The hands-on application of engineering material displays more than 20 connections used in structural steel construction. The sculpture was assembled by Larco Industries, and installation was donated by Mason Construction Co., both of Beaumont. The Texas Structural Steel Institute, a non-profit organization of Texas structural steel fabricators and the suppliers and service industries that support them, funded the project. Other participating fabricators on this model were: American Steel & Aluminum Inc., Grand Prairie; Ennis Steel Industries Inc., Ennis; Safety Steel Service Inc., Victoria; and Western Steel Co., Corpus Christi.

Collaborative research honored



José Parga, visiting professor from the Instituto Tecnológico de Saltillo, was recently honored for the best scientific project of Coahuilla 2004. Parga is collaborating with David Cocke, the Jack and Linda Gill Chair in Chemical Engineering and Chemistry, on an electrocoagulation water treatment project in Northern Mexico. The research, which is focused on promising technology for abating pollution from small industries on the Texas-Mexico

border, is funded by a grant from the United States Agency for International Development.



Bob Thompson,
Shirley Neeley

New education commissioner visits Principals Academy

Shirley Neeley, a graduate of Lamar University's Superintendents Academy and former superintendent of Galena Park Independent School District, spoke about the challenges and expectations of school administration today during a recent presentation at the John Gray Center. A day before her visit, Gov. Rick Perry named Neeley Texas commissioner of education. She addressed students of the Principals Academy, a program that provides advanced leadership training through personal and professional skill assessment, skill reinforcement and development, and decision-making and problem-solving training.

Srinivasan elected fellow

The American Society of Mechanical Engineering has named Malur Srinivasan, professor of mechanical engineering, a fellow. The fellow grade is the highest elected grade of membership in ASME and recognizes exceptional engineering achievements and contributions to the engineering profession.



Malur SRINIVASAN

Srinivasan joined the faculty of Lamar's College of Engineering in 1996 and became chair of the mechanical engineering department in 1999. Through research, he has made significant contributions to the knowledge base of castings, superplastic aluminum alloys, mechanical alloying of ceramics and ultrasonic residual stress measurement.

JASON broadcasts expedition live

The JASON Project, an educational initiative of scientist and oceanographer Robert Ballard, allowed Southeast Texas school children to take an interactive look at the coast and rainforests of Panama.

More than 10,000 students and teachers from the Region 5 area participated in the live broadcasts during the two-week period in February. The JASON Project makes real-world learning possible for fourth-through ninth-graders by providing access to subjects



of scientific study around the world.

In preparing for JASON XV, several local teachers took part in an expedition to the rainforests and coast of Panama in July, including Lamar professors Paula Nichols and Jim Westgate.

The broadcasts took place in the John Gray Center where state-of-the-art multimedia equipment brings the satellite broadcasts to three giant screens.

Scholarships increase opportunities

Several new scholarships have been established recently, bringing more opportunities for students to earn a quality education.

The **Charles Lewis and Eleanor Smith Garrett Scholarship** was recently established by the couple to benefit undergraduate students in the College of Engineering, with first preference going to those majoring in electrical engineering. The **Bobby and Suzy James Scholarship** was established as an annually funded scholarship for undergraduate students of nursing. The **Michael and Bette Turner Scholarship** assists students pursuing studies in engineering and business, whether undergraduate or graduate.

The **Dr. Robert A. Swerdlow Memorial Scholarship** was established in November 2003 in memory of Dr. Swerdlow's life and career. A 1970 graduate, Swerdlow contributed immeasurably to the excellence of the university's business programs from 1978 to 2003 as professor and twice as interim dean of the college. The scholarship, established by his wife of 24 years and professor of business law, Marleen Swerdlow, and his friends and students, will benefit junior or senior marketing majors.

The **Robert H. Wilkerson Memorial Scholarship in Communication** was

established in December 2003 by his children to benefit undergraduate students pursuing journalism within the field of communication. A lifelong journalism educator, retired professor of communication and advisor to the University Press, Wilkerson died in July 2003.

For information about contributing to or establishing scholarships at Lamar University, call University Advancement at (409) 880-8422.

Intensive summer creative writing workshop offered

Aspiring writers or those who want to polish their skills may attend the Intensive Summer Creative Writing Workshop June 14-25. The Department of English and Modern Languages offers the two-week program as a comprehensive approach to the creative craft – covering poetry, fiction and non-fiction writing, as well as scripts and screenplays. The course can be taken for either graduate or undergraduate credit.

With the benefits of four full-time instructors, three guest writers, lectures and a headlining author, students will be assigned to an instructor according to genre. This structure facilitates the workshop's key feature: its hands-on approach to writing. Tuition and fees for the three-credit-hour workshop are \$411. More information is available by contacting Jim Sanderson at (409) 880-8598 or sanderso@hal.lamar.edu.

Students build snowboards out of paper

College students from across the country, including a team from Lamar University, are getting hands-on experience about manufacturing design efficiency as they build snowboards from wood fiber to race at Winter Park Resort in Colorado April 3.

Lamar will compete with 13 other



Assistant Professor
Kendrick Aung, Corey
Thoe and Eli Clark

teams in the Energy Challenge '04, a national collegiate competition that teaches energy use, recycle/reuse issues and waste reduction in the pulp and paper industry, the second-most energy-intensive industry in the nation. Two senior mechanical engineering majors, Eli Clark of Lake Jackson and Corey Thoe of West Columbia, will compete as a senior design project under the eye of Kendrick Aung, assistant professor of mechanical engineering.

Providing support for the Lamar team are Mead Westvaco in Evadale, Temple Inland, and Borden Chemical in Hope, Ark.

Faculty celebrates Seuss

The Department of English and Modern Languages and the Early Childhood Development Center teamed March 2 to celebrate the 100th birthday of the late Theodor Seuss Geisel – Dr. Seuss.

Administrators and faculty members read to pupils in rooms bedecked in boughs of Seuss-themed decorations and then cut the "cake in the hat" to share with children young and old. The celebration paid homage to perhaps the most famous author of children's literature in the world, underscoring the need to read to children so they develop connections with words, stories, books and ideas, said Jesse Doiron, instructor of English who organized the event with Frances Drodgy, director of the center.

Associate Professor Stephanie Yearwood



TARGETING HUNGER



Clara Brown Cooper and Lola Millard

At Target Hunger, a staff of six feeds thousands — with the help of 4,000 volunteers — and Clara Brown Cooper '89 evaluates potential expenditures in terms of pounds of food before giving thumbs up or down.



Clara Brown Cooper '89 believes no one should go hungry.

With that goal firmly in mind as executive director of Target Hunger in Houston, she works to leverage every hard-to-come-by dollar so she can help as many clients as possible, relieving them from the pain of hunger.

"You don't wake up saying, 'I'm hungry today, or I think I need counseling,'" Cooper said. "It's when you hit rock bottom, and you realize, I only have two cans on the shelf."

Hunger is ecumenical – black, white, Hispanic, young or old – and not always the face some might expect. One of Target Hunger's clients, Cooper says, was educated, working and making \$33,000 a year. She had four children and a baby on the way and was raising her 18-year-old brother when her husband left her and she was laid off. The children went from piano lessons to being hungry. With groceries from Target Hunger and her children in the agency's after-school program, she was able to recover her job and now has a home for her family.

Another client, in the span of a year and a half, went from helping Target Hunger's efforts by donating used computers to its computer classroom to receiving the agency's aid when she lost her job and couldn't find another.

"These are people who never thought they would need our services," Cooper said. "In a perfect world, we wouldn't need these social service agencies, but, we do, and we're here."

Target Hunger began in 1989 when

United Way America challenged local United Ways to try to address the issue of hunger. A survey revealed that one in five residents were going hungry between five and seven days on a monthly basis. The area was the Fifth Ward and Kashmere Gardens – or the Greater Fifth Ward area – and Target Hunger began its mission.

Cooper came to Target Hunger after seven years with United Way's campaign department, where she worked to devel-

"We don't provide a quick fix. We try to get to the root of the problem."

– CLARA BROWN COOPER

op and strengthen relationships between the corporate and the non-profit communities. Before then, she earned a bachelor's in sociology from Lamar and upon graduation took a position with Big Brothers and Sisters in Ford Bend County, becoming director of the program there before moving to United Way.

"You do run an agency from your heart," she says, "but when you budget, work with your board of directors, ask for money, you have to be accountable. I knew three years before I started the MBA program that I wanted to run a United Way agency."

With an MBA from LeTourneau in hand, Cooper has only looked forward. The combination of her education and experience has benefited Target Hunger.

This year, Cooper is proud to report the agency earned an A+ assessment for its efficiency and effectiveness from United Way Allocation volunteers.

Of her current position, she said, "It's good to be on the serving side again." Active in her church choir and volunteering with AKA sorority, she is a busy wife to husband Travis and mom to 8-year-old Travis III.

The first to graduate from college on her mom's side, she learned a strong work ethic from her father, who worked construction and passed away unexpectedly one month after she began work with Target Hunger, and from her mother – her greatest mentor – who works with the Department of Veterans Affairs and began her college education when Cooper was in fourth grade.

Although she was fortunate to have had positive role models growing up, the children Cooper now sees every day in the After-School program don't always have those advantages. She finds that she is the role model to many of them.

Expectations were that Target Hunger would be a temporary program serving 700 families with three pantries and five community gardens. Within six months, it was feeding 1,500 people on a monthly basis. That need never went away.

"We don't provide a quick, Bandaid fix," Cooper said. "We try to get to the root of the problem. That's what our mission is: to alleviate hunger and its root causes. We teach people, if you will, 'how to fish.' We use food as the hook to get people in."



The gardens were a way to get residents involved. Today, Target Hunger operates 12 food pantries and 27 community gardens – and they’ve hit a record high, serving about 7,700 people on a monthly basis.

United Way’s latest needs assessment revealed that one of every three families in the Houston area cannot purchase the food it needs – 40 percent of them on a monthly basis.

Beyond the needs of children and seniors, Target Hunger, as well as other United Way and social service agencies, are seeing more people who have been recently laid off or been unemployed for a long time, unable to find jobs. “When you have limited resources, you try to save those to cover utilities, to stretch to pay for prescription medication and pay rent,” Cooper said.

Shopping at the Houston Food Bank, Target Hunger purchases food at 12 to 14 cents per pound. The agency can and will help anyone in an emergency. In Allison’s flooding aftermath in 2001, Target Hunger helped 3,300 people in a three-week span of time. “We do food. We do it well, and we do it full-time,” Cooper said.

But food is not all the agency does.

Housed in a portion of a cramped, just serviceable, 40-year-old former elementary school, the auditorium – or cafeteria – is used to distribute pantry goods during the day but is transitioned at 2 p.m. to accommodate the After School Hot Meals program. A curtain dividing the room from the stage provides a computer training area.

A youth center – a dream of Cooper’s – is in the planning stages. She hopes to design it as a house would be, providing a less institutional, more engaging and comforting atmosphere, complete with a library, computer room, kitchen, basketball court, playground and, of course, a community garden.

“I like to do things right,” Cooper said, anticipating implementation of a strategic plan she, her staff and board have developed. “This pantry is about 90 to 95 percent self-sufficient. In the next three to five years, we need to make sure other areas in need, such as the Port of Houston and Hobby Airport areas, are taken care of. While some areas have bus lines now, these areas are going to be older one day, and we need to have pantries within walking distance.

Cooper struggles daily with the needs in the community that go beyond a square meal. When clients need help with utilities, rent or shelter, she and her staff contact churches and other social service agencies to see if they have resources.

With budget cuts to many service agencies, clients are calling shelters only to find them booked. “Often I wish I could just write a check,” Cooper said, “but that’s not our mission. The way I have to look at it is if you help somebody with a \$100 light bill, how many pounds of food would that be?”

This past year, Target Hunger’s after-school program purchased one outfit of back-to-school clothing per child to help the parents and partnered with other service agencies to provide free school supplies. “We’ll go above and beyond in assisting that way,” Cooper said. The

agency also schedules time for immunizations, partnering with the Lyons Clinic, which provides nurses on site.

Volunteers help Target Hunger survive – the agency logged 41,000 volunteer hours last year. Many times, children only see a teacher, maybe a clergy member and a parent.

“It’s good that they can interact with the corporate community, so that when they get out of college – and I do encourage high school, then college – they won’t feel intimidated,” Cooper said. “My personal goal for those children is that I don’t want them to turn 18 and be clients in our program.”

She is the first African-American director of Target Hunger. “When I first came,” Cooper says, “it was a good feeling to know I’m helping my own community.”

Hunger leads to many things – domestic violence, poor education, health problems, crime.

“We have a lot of issues here in the Fifth Ward. But I don’t worry about that any more. I come here to take care of the community, and I believe the community takes care of us. We’re here to stay and that’s the key to helping any community – consistency and longevity.”

Nothing will be fixed overnight, but Target Hunger, under Cooper’s leadership, partners with many other agencies and evolves with the needs of its clients – from life skills training, health education, nutrition classes and computer training to GED courses, English as a second language classes, self-esteem workshops and individual counseling.

“I want to make it better for the seniors, for the children,” Cooper says, “easier for them, more comfortable, but we haven’t done enough. We’re serving more, but it’s not enough. While we’re never going to eliminate hunger, you can at least make it where people don’t have to make the life-threatening decision of whether to eat or pay rent or purchase medication. Our work is cut out for us.”

Cooper shakes her head, knowing the job is tough, but, with a half smile buoyed by optimism, she says, “We do more than food here. We do more than food – we provide hope.”



Lamar opens door to educational doctorate

The College of Education and Human Development is putting the word out about its latest offering — a doctoral degree in educational leadership — with the goal of creating the first class beginning this fall. With only 15 seats available and more than a hundred inquiries, the program is already competitive.

Preparation for the new program began more than two years ago, and the proposal is on the table with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board after receiving the green light from the university’s Graduate Council and the regents of The Texas State University System. In anticipation of “a favorable outcome and final approval” by the coordinating board, faculty hiring has begun and applications have been prepared for candidates for the first doctoral cohort, said Carl Westerfield, dean of the college.

The degree will offer two distinct concentrations, one in effective schooling and one in diversity and multiculturalism.

“The emphasis on accountability is here to stay,” Westerfield said of Texas’ Closing the Gaps initiative and the national No Child Left Behind program. “This doctoral program will help develop leaders prepared to educate individuals in ways that fit their needs and meet the goals of these programs.”

The goals for the Ed.D. program expressed in the application materials are substantial: the desire to “create a transforming school culture to accomplish lasting school reform” and “creating caring schools where teachers collaborate, exchange ideas and develop collegial connections to address equity, opportunity and excellence.”

Westerfield said, “We want to graduate doctorate-level people who know how to make schools more accountable — and by that I mean more than test scores — who can really educate people.”

To be eligible for the program, candidates must have completed a master’s degree

and demonstrate a commitment to education as a career and to the advancement of education through professional leadership. Detailed admissions requirements are available through the college. The 60 credit-hour program includes 18 hours in core courses, 12 hours in the chosen concentration, a 12-hour research methods core, six hours of electives and 12-hour dissertation.

“The emphasis on diversity and multiculturalism grows out of the realization that you no longer can prepare leaders to educate in a general way and expect success in a diverse and varied socio-economic environment,” Westerfield said.

“Lamar University has a mission to serve Southeast Texas, but without a doctoral degree in education, we have fallen short. Educators in our area have had to go outside our region, at great expense, to other institutions to pursue this caliber of degree.”

Offering a doctoral program in the college will bring other benefits as well, Westerfield said, including the ability to recruit faculty with experience supervising dissertations. “The quality and caliber of our faculty will be enhanced,” Westerfield said. “This brings a certain level of prestige to the university and serves a great unmet need in the region.”

The program will be unique, Westerfield said, and has the potential to be a forerunner in meeting a crucial need in the state and the nation, by building a cadre of leaders who can address the needs of an increasingly diverse student population. Only 4 percent of the state’s doctoral degree recipients in 2000 were African-American, and 6 percent were Hispanic.

“There is a strong need for a doctoral program that will focus on recruiting and educating under-represented doctoral students,” Westerfield said. “Our program will work in partnership with educational communities and businesses to produce more doctoral students, and recruitment of students from under-represented groups will be a strong consideration.”

For more information about the new doctoral program, contact the College of Education and Human Development at (409) 880-8661.

homecoming



(A) Class of 1953 alumni became reacquainted during the opening reception of Reunion 2004: from left, Earl Richmond '53, Smitty Hill '53, Helen Hill, Grady Smith '51, '53, Anne (Cox) Sandel '53, Jerry C. White '53, Dorothy (Stafford) Geers '53, '71, W.S. "Bud" Leonard '50, '53, '76 and Charlie Westmoreland '50, '53.

(B) Class of 1954 alumni include, from left, Hal Tierney, Phillip Sandel and Roger Baker. Sandel attended with his wife, Anne '53. The Sandels met in chemistry class and are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this year.

(C) College of Business alumni meet friends and visit with faculty during a reception hosted by the college: Janice Trammell, '85, '94, director of development at Lamar and executive director of the Lamar University Foundation; Elvis Mason, '53, Camille Mouton, executive director of university advancement; and Enrique (Henry) Venta, dean of the college.

(D) Honors Program English professor Dale Priest '71 and program director Donna Birdwell pause for a picture at the honors reception. Priest, a member of the first Honors Program class in 1962, now teaches English to honors students. Priest holds a frame with two photos - one showing him as a student and another as an instructor.



(E) Valentine Goodrich Boving '66 and Don Popken '67 hold up Honors Program mugs during a Reunion reception. Both were members of the Honors Program when it was launched in 1962.

(F) Bart Simmons, Marty Simmons, Hal Tierney '54, and Jerry White, from left, listen to a College of Business presentation during Reunion 2004.

(G) The band Mid-life Crisis performed during the President's Lunch for alumni attending Reunion 2004: seated, Antoine LeBlanc '74 and David Perkins, and standing from left, Brett Vickers, Jennifer Parker '94, Fred Schwartz, Mickey Shuffield, James Simmons, Frank Oberle '79, Susan Simmons '68 and Johnny Lindow.

(H) Christopher Barry, senior management major and CEO of ShopLamar.com, explains to alumni how students plan to market and sell Lamar University apparel on the Internet.



(I) Former LU Cardinal athletes join Coach Jack Martin on court in the Montagne Center after the alumni game. Many of the former players, making a few unforgettable trick shots, showed off still-sharp skills to an appreciative crowd.

(J) Ike Mills '77, #10, and Mike Rutter '81, #42, face opponents B.B. Davis '81, #23, and Anthony Murphy '00, #21, during the alumni basketball game. Former players Calvin Rice '93, Eddie Robinson '03, Tim Hickman '91, George Milhouse '95, Clarence Kea '86, Donny Coryell '98, Ronald Nunnery '99, Ki Lewis '80, Homer Taylor '77, James Gulley '88 and Don Bryson '65 also suited up for the event, with Norman Bellard '79 and Jack Martin coaching.

(K) Joe Lee Smith, former sports information director, talks with former LU basketball players Don Bryson '65, James Barrum '62 and Jack Lynch '72 during the Homecoming game.

(L) Ki Lewis '80, Jack Martin and B.B. Davis '81, pause from reminiscing at the President's Lunch. Martin is Lamar's all-time winningest coach, posting a 334-283 record in 25 years while leading the Cardinals and earning two Southland Conference Coach of the Year honors. Lewis and Davis played together on the Cardinal basketball team. Davis ranks as Lamar's second all-time leading scorer.



homecoming



M



N

(M) Homecoming King Brian Bean and Queen Ashley Johnson greet the crowd at the Homecoming parade. Bean also serves as Student Government Association president. Johnson welcomes new students to campus as an orientation peer advisor.

(N) Alpha Chi Omega sorority sisters Lawren Samaha and Andrea Rich wave to the crowd from their float.

(O) Members of Voice International display their decorated vehicle during the Homecoming parade. Their entry, adorned with flags of many countries, earned the prize for most original design.



O



P

(P) Ronnie Turner Jr. and Tyron Haynes throw beads from a float in the parade. The Alpha Phi Alpha duo dressed as doctors in support of the Homecoming theme: Cardinalitis.

(Q) Faculty members Wayne Dyess and Kim Ellis conduct band alumni performing in an amplified Pep Band.



Q

(R) Barry Johnson, vice president of student affairs, poses with members of the royal Homecoming court, elected by students. The winners, from left, are duke and duchess Steven Trahan and Shamia Williams; queen and king Ashley Johnson and Brian Bean; and princess and prince Brittney Champagne and Christopher Legnon.

(S) Big Red, the Spirit Team and fans support the Cards during the Homecoming basketball game.



R

(U) Students Chris Howell, Randy Edwards and Joel Franks of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity show Cardinal spirit. Howell and Franks painted their bodies red and white for the Homecoming game.

(V) Brandon Aldrich, assistant basketball coach for the Lamar Cardinals, and Head Coach Billy Tubbs in action.



S



T



U



V



W

(W) Big Red, left dances with the Cardinal mascots past (right), during the Homecoming basketball game. Kevin Prescott, '84, returned to LU to participate in Homecoming and reprise his role as the mascot.



X

(X) Former Lamar University cheerleaders give a top-level performance during halftime at the Homecoming basketball game. Performers included, top to bottom, Michelle Jefferson '91, Lara Harvill '92, Dawn Fitzgerald Swindel '94, C.R. Fischer '88 and Todd Miller '98. Jake Davis '96, bottom left to right, and C.H. Colvin '89 wait for the dismount.

(Y) Terrell Peteway, a forward for the Lamar Cardinals, carries the ball against Louisiana-Monroe.



Y

TalkKing a dream

Fortunately for millions upon millions of sports television viewers over the past quarter-century, Bill Macatee's college football career was a brief one.

Upon his 1973 graduation from Burgess High School in El Paso, Macatee carried his dream of playing college football to Southwest Texas State in San Marcos.

"I was a member of the football team for about five minutes," said Macatee. "I was terrible. All of the other guys were too big and too fast.

"I could see a butt-kicking coming in a hurry. I was better qualified to be equipment manager than player. I decided I was much more suited to talking about football than playing it."

That wise decision eventually led Macatee to Beaumont and to Lamar University, where he earned a degree in speech in 1978.

Now, in his dual arrangement with CBS Sports and the USA Network, Macatee talks nationwide about not only football, but also golf, tennis, baseball, basketball, boxing and many other sports. At age 48, he enthusiastically thrusts himself each day into what he calls "a pretty incredible and almost unimaginably great career."

Macatee's marquee assignments include the 18th-hole tower for PGA tour events, calling play-by-play for the U.S. Open and French Open tennis tournaments and working NFL games.

Macatee was still a military brat, however, when his career took root. He earned his third-class broadcast license at age 14 while doing radio newscasts at El Paso's Fort Bliss, where his father was a lieutenant colonel in the Army.

"Whether I'm in Augusta doing the Masters, on the field at an NFL game or at the Olympics (he served as weekend co-host of the 1998 Winter Games in Nagano, Japan), I quite often find myself thinking about Beaumont, El Paso or San Marcos," said Macatee in a telephone interview from his home in Newport Coast, Calif., where he counts Karl Malone, Peter Dinklage and Kobe Bryant among his neighbors. "Those are the places where I grew up and where I got my start. They are special places."

While a freshman at Southwest Texas, Macatee began pounding the high school sports beat for Channel 36 in Austin. That job eventually led to the sports directorship at Beaumont's KBMT-TV and his transfer to Lamar.

"I was 21 when I got the job at Channel 12 and moved to Beaumont," said Macatee. "I was wide-eyed as you could get, making 130 bucks a week, taking classes at Lamar and feeling like I was on top of the world.

"My time at Southwest Texas was more of the traditional college life, but I value my Lamar and Beaumont experiences more. I was a little older, a little more mature, a little more business-like and a little more focused on my approach to my career.

"Lamar may not have the profile of your bigger-name universities, but it is so solid in so many ways. I look back on those days with many fond memories. Even though I was working professionally, I looked forward to going on campus every day."

In addition to working on his degree requirements at Lamar, Macatee also covered Cardinal athletics for Channel 12 in addition to Southeast Texas high school sports.

"It was a great time to be both a Lamar student and a television sportscaster in Southeast Texas," said Macatee.

"Billy (Tubbs) had the basketball team rising toward national prominence. Jim (Gilligan) was doing a remarkable job with the baseball team. That was big-time, too.

"For a young guy in a smaller market, reporting on Southeast Texas sports represented a big opportunity. I had a blast covering the high school football teams in that area, especially like the ones Doug Ethridge had at Port Neches-Groves.

"Channel 12 had the ugliest news units in existence in those days – purple AMC Gremlins. I would buzz around to four games on

Friday night in one of those purple gems, beat it back to the station, process the film and have the highlights ready for the 10 o'clock news. It was so exciting."

After receiving his Lamar degree, Macatee worked at television stations in Kansas City and Dallas before becoming the youngest network sportscaster in the industry when he joined NBC at age 26 in 1982.

These days, when he's not on the road, Macatee stays busy as the father of a high school freshman, daughter Caitlin, and in such volunteer activities as

"I was wide-eyed as you could get, making 130 bucks a week, taking classes at Lamar and feeling like I was on top of the world."

– BILL MACATEE



fund-raising for a children's hospital. After he moved to California, he took a break and enrolled in screen-writing classes at UCLA. "I wanted to get away from sports reporting for a while," he said. "That whole experience was wonderful."

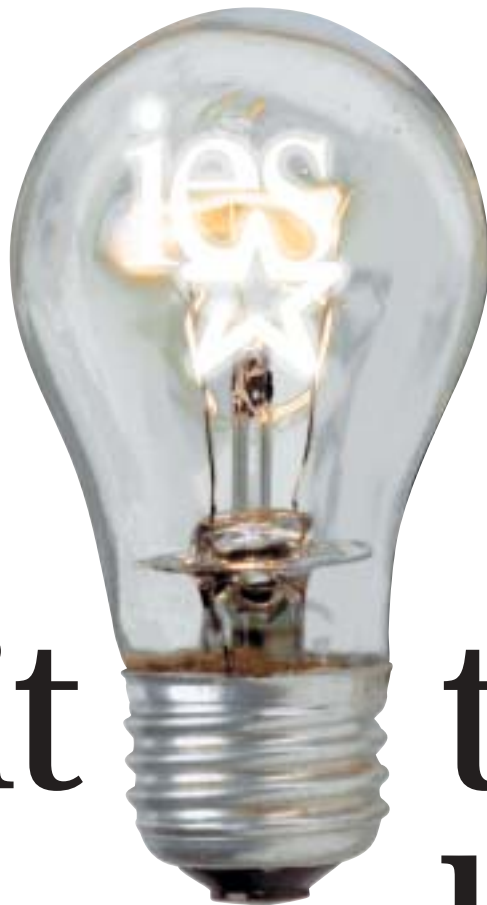
While he regularly conducts interviews with sports' greatest figures – Tiger Woods, Greg Norman, Vijay Singh, Davis Love III, Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi and the Williams sisters, Serena and Venus, just to name a few – Macatee described an off-the-air experience as one of the most cherished of his career.

"I can't remember the exact year, but we had torrential rain on Thursday – the first day of the Masters – and it was soon to be called a rainout," said Macatee. "Right before I go on the air, I always take a walk to calm my nerves and clear my thoughts.

"I had my umbrella raised, and, as I approached the driving range, I spotted Jack Nicklaus, out there all by himself, practicing. He was already well past his prime, but to see him out there with water dripping off of him and the determination in his eyes as he hit ball after ball told me so much about the Masters and so much about Jack Nicklaus. It was such a sweet and powerful moment.

"Experiences like that remind me of how extremely lucky I am to have what I regard as one of the greatest jobs a person can have."

All it takes is know-how



Just a little electro-chemical reaction ... a cranial spark ... an idea. A stroke of genius (maybe) that could make you rich (perhaps), or at least help make life a little easier. But, it seems, a thousand things stand against you (the devil, they say, is in the details) and, soon, self-doubt rushes in as assuredly as the tide. Another idea washed away.

Making ideas more permanent than sand castles takes know-how – bringing business ideas to reality is the specialty of the Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies.

Founded to stimulate economic growth and diversification in Southeast Texas, the center addresses the needs of entrepreneurs and small businesses, and educates tomorrow's entrepreneurs as well.

From its offices on the second floor of the Galloway Business Building, the center is actively pursuing research projects to help Beaumont and the region promote economic

growth and development. While many organizations are devoted to recruiting and retaining businesses in the region, only the institute is focused entirely on creating new business. While working closely with local chambers of commerce, economic develop-

ment agencies, and city and county leadership, IES focuses on helping create new enterprise. Such businesses hold great potential: 90 percent of new job creation in the U.S. is credited to businesses with fewer than 100 employees.

"It is our goal to provide a vision for the business climate and new venture creation for the region over the next decade," said center director Russ Waddill.

Already, undergraduates in the College of Business can earn a bachelor's degree in general business with a concentration in entrepreneurship. The center taps the rich resources of the college's business faculty in offering 18 hours of junior- and senior-level classes, including seminar courses on entre-

preneurship, the economics of entrepreneurship and a course on market opportunity recognition.

There's a lot to be learned from case studies, and there are no better way to bring experience to life than face-to-face interaction with knowledgeable and highly successful entrepreneurs. That is why the center created the Entrepreneurship Lecture Series, providing direct opportunity for interaction with students not only in the college but also from across campus and community. Recent participants include Oscar "Butch" Smith '75, founder and former chairman/CEO of Plano-based Crossmark, a 10,000-plus employee international sales agency and strategic marketing firm; Randy Best '67, who started his first company while attending Lamar and later sold it to Beatrice



Russ WADDILL

"There are so many good ideas – but it takes discipline and knowledge to put them into action."

— RUSS WADDILL

Foods for several million dollars and who is now founder/CEO of Voyager Expanded Learning, his 48th new venture; Joe Tortorice '71, founder/CEO of Jason's Deli, a highly successful chain with 121 locations across the U.S.; Todd Christopher, founder/CEO of Home Care Supply, the fastest-growing, privately held home health care supply company in the nation with more than \$120 million in sales; and Ash Huzenlaub, chairman, president and CEO of publicly held Emergisoft Corp., a leading provider of emergency department information systems to U.S. hospital emergency rooms. Huzenlaub was named as 2003's youngest recipient of the Business Press 40 Under 40 award, and was a 2003 nominee for the Southwest Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award.

A cross-discipline approach is another hallmark of the center. "Good business ideas don't just come from business people," Waddill said. "Amazing ideas can come from any discipline – but it takes good business sense to make them into feasible ventures.

"We are starting to collaborate with the College of Engineering and College of Fine Arts and Communication in the Seminar on Entrepreneurship course to engage non-business students and introduce them to entrepreneurship," he said. "We plan to develop a certificate program and a minor for non-business majors across campus.

"It is very exciting to meet with students and people from the community and talk business," Waddill said. "There are so many good ideas – but it takes discipline and knowledge to put them into action."

Collaboration can be key. Developing a team that brings all the critical elements together is often the factor that makes or breaks a business start-up. That is why one of the center's missions is to build the entrepreneurial infrastructure in the region. As a result, IES engages in a number of different programs to cultivate entrepreneurs and build networks. Among them is the FastTrac New Venture program, a product of the Kauffman Foundation and the New Venture Forum, which links aspiring entrepreneurs with "local angels and private investors to assist them in launching their business."

Other help provided by the center includes the monthly "Business Idea Evaluator," a three-hour course to help budding entrepreneurs convert ideas into business start-ups. The Entrepreneurship Mastermind Forum is being formed as a monthly breakfast meeting for local high-growth entrepreneurs to network, discuss common concerns and hear from knowledgeable guest speakers, Waddill said.

Other opportunities available through the center include a grant from the Space Alliance Technology Outreach program, offering entrepreneurs and growing businesses up to 40 hours of engineering expertise through alliance partners such as NASA, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon and Honeywell. Through Junior Achievement, the center is working to spark increased interest in business in the future. And, IES works closely with the Small Business Development Center to provide business planning and consultation.

To learn more about IES, contact Russ Waddill at (409) 880-8439 or e-mail waddillra@hal.lamar.edu.

DR. ROBERT A. SWERDLOW
1947-2003

Business educator and community leader



Robert Swerdlow is credited with leaving an indelible mark on Lamar University through a quarter-century of service in the College of Business. Over the years, his responsibility grew from assistant professor to full professor of marketing. Along the way, he

served twice as interim dean, lending his steady hand in guiding the college through times of transition.

Whatever the circumstances, it was the lives of the hundreds of students he taught and inspired that will best tell the story. While at Lamar, he served on numerous university, college and departmental committees and chaired 20 thesis committees for students pursuing master of business administration degrees. Most importantly, he served as a role model and mentor for his students and was proud of their accomplishments.

With more than 60 educational articles on a wide range of business topics, his legacy lives on in the body of knowledge that will guide future business education.

Known for service above self, he was active in many endeavors that carried excellence beyond the walls of the business college. He was appointed by former Governor George W. Bush to chair the Texas Council on Purchasing from People with Disabilities (1995-2001). The list of local organizations on which he contributed time, talent and treasure is long.

The Dr. Robert A. Swerdlow Memorial Scholarship in Marketing, established in November 2003, will serve to further perpetuate his legacy in the college by providing scholarship support for juniors and seniors in the major.

He is survived by his wife of 24 years, Marleen, professor of business law at Lamar, and a son, Matthew.

Contributions to the Dr. Robert A. Swerdlow Memorial Scholarship should be mailed to P.O. Box 10011, Beaumont, TX 77710. For more information, call University Advancement at (409) 880-8422.

December MBA graduates wore ribbons in memory of Robert Swerdlow.



A moment to



Joan Lisman '66 has a file full of love notes.

They come from her students, fourth- and fifth-graders who are discovering the joy of performance – thanks to their teacher.

“Music is my favorite subject,” they write, or “You have brought music alive to me.”

They say there’s no business like show business, and, for Lisman, there’s no better time to start bringing up the curtain than in elementary school.

Lisman, a music education alumna, has implemented a pilot program in the Katy Independent School District to involve young children in full-scale performances. She is bringing pupils at Sue Creech Elementary School together with students at Cinco Ranch High School to further the role of music in theatre arts. Lisman’s philosophy of education is to promote every child’s self-confidence and awareness.

“I believe every student should shine,” Lisman says. “There will be 175 of them in class, and every one of them will get off the riser with their own show numbers. No matter the size of the choir, each child is given a unique opportunity to step into the spotlight with a special performance that has been written just for him or her. Each will have a moment of glory.

“My aim is that these students have an experience they cannot ever have anywhere else and that they will be lifted to a higher performance standard,” she says. “That they’ll have a bigger picture of theatre and performance and that they’ll develop a love of theatrics.”

Although most elementary schools don’t stress theatre arts, Lisman believes there are many high school students who, after choosing to participate in the theatre arts curriculum, go on to major in this endeavor at a college or university. “This experience needs to begin at a younger age,” she says.

After graduation from Lamar, Lisman taught several years in Beaumont, including Austin Junior High; Cathedral in the Pines, where she was the first music teacher; and the Yamaha Music School, which she owned. When she moved to the Houston area 22 years ago, there was no doubt about her classroom destination.



“I didn’t go into junior high or high school because I felt more freedom to create and branch off on my own in elementary school. This could be the missing link for the artistic and talented, who often are left behind in the pursuit of academia,” she said.

Not only does Lisman direct, conduct and serve as a one-woman orchestra for her productions, she also writes them. She began composing full-length musicals at Cathedral in the Pines and continues to do so.

“Instead of using already composed musicals, I started writing my own and putting on my own. I loved the creativity and the children’s spontaneity and their reaction to getting up on stage,” she says. “I just love it.”

Lisman has composed, performed and

copyrighted more than 90 original solo compositions, seven Broadway-style musical plays and a tone poem for high school- and

college-level performance. She wrote and composed the music for the musical *Rahab the Harlot*, which premiered in Houston at the Jewish Community Theatre in 1998.

Lisman was a nominee for 2003-2004 Teacher of the Year at Creech Elementary. Before coming to Katy four years ago, Lisman taught 10 years in the Alief Independent School District, where she was recognized as Teacher of the Year for 1997-98 at Liestman Elementary School.

A Port Arthur native, the former Joan Leavell met her husband, Charles, during summer school at Lamar. Charles Lisman was a band director at Austin and Crockett junior high schools and Beaumont High in Beaumont before going into the oil business, from which he has since retired. They have three children: Chip, a bass player and composer in Las Vegas, where he works for the Nevada building authority; Katherine, whose profession in computer programming supports the film industry in Hollywood; and

Tracy, an English teacher in the Alief school district who is also a national gold-medal winner in roller skating and ice skating.

“I loved Lamar. I got so much out of my classes there,” she said. “It was so personable, and they really cared so much.”

Her studies served her well. During productions, Lisman says, “I am the orchestra. I have a midi-synthesizer and do all of the arranging. I am the violins. I am the drums. I am the flutes.”

This spring, her students will present *The Flight of the Geese*, the latest musical play by Lisman, who also wrote the music and designed the costumes.

Besides full-scale musicals at Christmas and in the spring, her students present performances throughout the year. “It never stops,” Lisman says. Her program requires lots of extra time and effort, plus volunteer efforts of parents. But, she says, “When we put on a show, the students are absolutely enamored by what they’ve done.”

Lisman’s philosophy not only promotes confidence and pride in the students, but also provides the opportunity of sharing something personal and memorable between students and their parents.

“I’ve raised the bar because I know kids can do far more than people expect from them – even themselves,” she says. “Parents who never liked to go to school concerts before are bringing Auntie So-and-So. And Grandparents So-and-So are flying in for the Christmas program.

“The children are so proud of themselves, and their parents are so proud of them. They say, ‘I can’t believe my child got up and did this.’”

“I believe every student should shine”

—JOAN LISMAN



CAROLANS CHART NEW COURSE



Piloting their sailboat around San Francisco Bay takes a team effort, but working together isn't new to this crew of two – Jim Carolan and Joan Setzer Carolan have been a team throughout 38 years of marriage, which has produced three children, three grandchildren and three small company startups.

When Joan (Setzer) Carolan '77 first came to campus, she was a first-grader and her father, Richard Setzer, had just accepted the job as the first dean of Lamar's School of Business.

It was fall 1951, Lamar's first year as a four-year institution. The school was poised for a decade and a half of dramatic growth under the leadership of President F. L. McDonald.

"I used to go to the campus a lot as a child," Joan said. "I remember two buildings in particular – the engineering building and the other building, the one that had everything (else)." In those early days, the college's technical roots ran deep, but its blossoming into a full university spelled an emerging period of dramatic growth that would see a myriad of new buildings spring up, and a quadrupling of enrollment.

It was also a time when "you knew everybody" and there was "a real sense of community," Joan said, vividly recalling memories of good times at faculty picnics hosted by her father at Ty Terrell Park with "all the kids and families. It was a lot of fun."

Joan's father had become dean of the College of Business and vice president of academic affairs in 1961, and then, in 1967, was named president of Lamar. A lover of sports, well-known for his mastery of golf, he was also a leader in civic and business affairs. He died suddenly in 1969 during a photo session after playing in a faculty-staff basketball game in McDonald Gymnasium. After his untimely death, the board of regents voted to rename the student union the Richard W. Setzer Student Center.

Joan's mother, also named Joan, had been teaching at Bowie Middle School and, in 1970, joined the faculty at Lamar, where she taught until her retirement in 1981. While Joan took some summer courses at Lamar, she pursued her bachelor's in history at the University of Texas at Austin.

Her future husband, Jim, son of James W. and Juanita Carolan of Beaumont, a family active in the transportation industry and civic affairs of Southeast Texas, attended Lamar in the early '60s and earned a degree in physics in 1965. It was newly arrived Lamar physics professor Joe Pizzo who helped focus the young graduate student on pursuing graduate studies at the University of Florida – Pizzo's alma mater.

Joan's parents also encouraged Jim to pursue an advanced degree. "Her mom and her dad both were consummate educators," Jim said. "I guess I owe a lot to them and to my wife for starting my Ph.D. program at all – even being interested in it."

"Lamar was a good experience," Jim said. "I found that after four years there, I was able to fit in pretty well, I would say, with students coming to the University of Florida from colleges and universities all around the country."

After Jim received his Ph.D. in physics from Florida, the family moved to England, where Jim was a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Nottingham from 1969 to 1971, studying nuclear magnetic resonance in rapidly spinning samples and at cryogenic temperatures with professor Ramond Andrew. Andrew was chair of the department and had built a world-class team of magnetic resonance scientists at Nottingham. The science was cutting edge and exciting. The researchers were poised on the edge of discovering one of the century's break-through technologies. One of the Nottingham team, Sir Peter Mansfield, who recently received a Nobel Prize for his pioneering work in the field, would soon connect the dots to create magnetic resonance imaging – the MRI – but that was not to happen before Jim had completed his fellowship and moved on to a career in industry.

In the private sector, Jim heard of his colleagues' work, and the

more he heard, the more excited he became about the possibilities it presented. At the time, he was at work designing and producing superconductive magnets for Bruker in Karlsruhe, Germany, and Boston, later working briefly for Canada Superconductor and Cryogenics in Montreal. "I perceived a really great market opportunity," Jim said. That motivated him to leave Montreal to found his own company, Nalorac Inc., in Beaumont in 1975. As president and founder of Nalorac, he designed and manufactured superconductive magnets.

That move presented a new opportunity for Joan as well. "In the years following the birth of our first child in 1969, my focus was on our young family as my husband pursued an advanced degree and then started a busy career," Joan said. In Beaumont, the couple's third child was born.

"Jim had started his company, and I decided I wanted a master's degree," Joan said. During their stay in Beaumont, she earned an M.Ed. at Lamar and made plans to pursue a teaching career when the youngest child began school.

Attending Lamar "was a really good experience," Joan said. "Some of the people who were there I knew as a child. I had babysat some of their children when I was in high school. They were wonderful teachers."

In 1977, Jim sold his company to Nicolet Instrument Corp.,

“It was a pleasure to come back to Lamar and see the really good changes on campus”

– JOAN CAROLAN

which then formed Nicolet Nalorac Corp., and he joined the new firm as company division president. Soon, the family of five was on its way to Concord, Calif.

There, Joan found different circumstances – “a teachers’ strike and a lot of chaos.” Her Texas teaching credentials would not be accepted by the state, which required a California teaching certificate, and a dearth of post-secondary teaching positions meant a lengthy stint as a substitute teacher.

After three years, Jim bought a portion of the company back from Nicolet and launched out on his own again, this time to pursue the developing Magnetic Resonance Imaging market, in a new startup, named Nalorac Cryogenics Corp. A bit over a year into the development of the new Nalorac, Jim needed help with personnel and accounting activities.

“Combining my skills with his to build the company at that point seemed a better opportunity for the family and for me than public education,” Joan said. She began “doing generally whatever was needed,” but soon it was clear that what was needed most was accounting. She began taking evening classes that culminated in an accounting certificate from the University of California – Berkeley.

“I was actively involved in raising money to get into the magnetic resonance imaging field,” Jim said. “We really did need more knowledge than either of us had in certain areas.”

Joan sees irony in her accounting career, given her academic background in history and education: “I think that my father must be up there laughing because, having a Ph.D. in economics, I think he would find it humorous that I have spent the majority of my career as an accountant.”

But, she believes, that unusual career path points to the real power of higher education: “A college degree prepares you to be very trainable, very flexible – able to change directions in your career when it is necessary – with a good, solid background.”

In their new company, Nalorac Cryogenics Corp., Jim led up to 45 employees in designing, manufacturing, selling and servicing magnetic resonance imaging instrumentation, superconductive magnets and high performance cryogenics, achieving annual peak sales of \$4.5 million before selling the company to Varian, Inc., in 2002.

The company created an imager and sold eight to customers around the U.S., but found less success in competing with larger, long-established companies, particularly with

medical content in the product. So, “we changed the company’s product mix to address a much better opportunity for us – the peripheral market where we made attachments for small MRI machines and probes for high resolution NMR instrumentation, in addition to our core superconductive magnet and cryogenics product lines,” Jim said. The primary customers were research laboratories, both government and corporate.

“It was a very heady time, it really was,” Jim said of the discovery and innovation in magnetic resonance technology that was “funneled into something that could really create a lot of jobs and bring a lot of positive value to the health industry.”

Now on a self-described sabbatical from “deadlines, schedules and stress,” Jim is pleased with selling the company “in the right kind of way – where Joan and I were poised at a new phase in our lives, the customers had continued support, the shareholders were happy, and the employees had opportunities at least as great as with Nalorac.”

Now, projects “that have hung around for years at the house” vie for attention with renewed interests in photography, art and the couple’s sailboat aboard which they ply the waters of San Francisco Bay.

But the team is still at work. That “free time” is balanced by volunteer work – Joan’s primarily, but with Jim often at her side adding computer skills or donating time on their sailboat as a fund-raiser – where the couple now gives back to the community at the Family Stress Center, helping in prevention and intervention in child abuse.

“I’ve gone back to teaching a little bit,” Joan said. “I teach parent education to parents in the child protection system either because it is mandated or they have had some sort of crisis in their family situation. I see myself becoming more and more involved because it is very rewarding work.” She also heads up a fund raising effort this year for the Family Stress Center.

The past year for the couple has also been rewardingly full with the stuff of life – the birth of their second and third grandchildren, their youngest child’s completion of graduate school and pending marriage. Their schedules will include plenty of travel in the days ahead.

Last summer the couple visited the LU campus. “Lamar’s gone back to its original charter – a university to serve the community – to enrich the students’ lives and prepare them for whatever they wanted to do in the future,” Joan said. Both expressed their pleasure in the many positive developments at Lamar since President Simmons took the helm.

“It was a pleasure to come back to Lamar and see the really good changes on campus,” Joan said. “It made us very happy to see the Setzer Student Center. Dad would be pleased, and we were too.”



LOOKING TO REPEAT

CARDINALS ENTER NEW SEASON WITH EYE ON CHAMPIONSHIP

Defending regular-season champion Lamar University, led by preseason All-American Jordan Foster, has been selected as the favorite to repeat in the preseason Southland Conference polls.

Lamar posted a 40-18 overall record last season and a 20-6 mark in conference play to capture its all-time-best ninth SLC title, finishing one game ahead of Texas State. Lamar finished the season ranked No. 22 in Collegiate Baseball’s final poll. Five position starters return for the Cardinals, led by Foster, who was named to six different all-America teams last season, including first team CoSIDA Academic All-America.

The Cardinals will replace starting pitchers Jesse Floyd, last year’s SLC pitcher of the year, and Josh Gray. The duo combined for a 16-8 record in 29 starts. Four pitchers, however, return. They combined for 22 starts and a 13-5 record with seven saves: Trey Rinando, who was named to the NCAA Regional at Austin all-tournament team, Christopher Coy, Kyle Stutes and William Delage, who

earned honorable mention all-SLC honors and was named to the Collegiate Baseball/Louisville Slugger all-freshman team.

Lamar received an at-large berth to the NCAA Regional at Austin and defeated Arkansas twice and Texas once before losing to the host Longhorns, 6-3, in the championship game. Texas went on to play in the College World Series after beating Florida State in the Super Regional.

“It’s a real honor that we were picked as the top team in the league, and it shows that everyone has a lot of respect for our program,” said Lamar coach Jim Gilligan, who was named SLC coach of the year for the fourth time in 2003.

“We aren’t going to sneak up on a lot of people by being picked first, which could present some problems, but it’s always nice to know that other people think you are going to be good.

“It’s not going to be easy, I can promise you that. There are some very good players in this league and some really good pitchers. There are no easy games in this league,



This season, Lamar has posted a 5-4 win over No. 7-ranked Arizona State and a 5-3 win over Wake Forest. The Cardinals were ranked No. 24 in the Collegiate Baseball poll on Feb. 23.

and the race for the championship should be as competitive as ever.”

Foster put together one of the best offensive seasons in school history last year, setting single-season records for batting average (.417), hits (96) and doubles (29), which also led the NCAA. He also had 71 RBI, which was the second-most in school history. A preseason first team all-SLC selection, he led the team in slugging percentage (.643) and on-base percentage (.479), and had a .994 fielding percentage.

Also returning to the outfield are seniors Brett Winn (Austin, Texas North Lake JC) and Rocky Craigen (Fannett, Texas-Hamshire-Fannett HS).

Winn batted .248 with 12 doubles and 23 RBI last season. Craigen, who scored seven runs, is primarily used as a pinch-runner and a late-game defensive replacement.

The newcomers are highlighted by John-Austin Emmons (San Antonio, Texas-Wharton JC) and Sam Huff (Beaumont, Texas-Ranger JC).

Senior Ryan Finan (Topeka, Kan.-Hutchinson JC) and junior Jeremy Gray

(Orange, Texas-Little Cypress-Mauriceville HS) are the returning starters. Finan hit .319 with 12 doubles, six home runs and 34 RBI to earn third team all-SLC honors last season. He played third base last season but may be switched to first base this season to strengthen the defense.

Gray also earned third-team all-SLC honors last season after hitting .320 with 15 doubles and 47 RBI. A preseason all-SLC first team selection, Gray was second on the team in doubles and RBIs last season.

Sophomore Will Henderson (Beaumont, Texas-Kelly HS) is the only other returning infielder for the Cardinals. He batted .280 with seven runs scored last season.

The newcomers are Adrian Cantu (San Antonio, Texas-Temple JC), Jo Jo Haney (Baytown, Texas-Mississippi State) and Chase Richards (Port Neches, Texas-Seminole JC).

Lamar will be breaking in three new players at catcher this season in freshman Michael Ambort (Rockville Centre, NY-South Side HS), who was rated as one of the Top 50 freshman by Baseball America in its college preview issue, Kyle Mandelbaum (Bulverde, Texas-San Jacinto JC) and Matt Wilson (Dallas, Texas-Richland JC).

The Cardinals led the SLC in pitching last season with a 3.52 team ERA, which also ranked 17th in the NCAA. Delage, a sophomore left-hander, heads the list of returnees. He was 5-0 with a 2.82 ERA and three saves last season. He had 35 strikeouts in 51.0 IP and limited opponents to a .251 batting average.

Rinando, a senior right-hander, came on strong at the end of the

season, pitching a complete-game in Lamar’s 6-2 win over 9th-ranked Texas in the NCAA Regional at Austin. He was 2-2 with a 4.31 ERA last season.

Stutes, a senior left-hander, was 3-3 with a 4.07 ERA and a team-high four saves last season. Coy, a senior right-hander, was 3-0 with a 3.22 ERA in 44.2 IP last season.

Also back for the Cardinals this season are seniors Scotty Diaz (Seabrook, Texas-Tyler JC) and Kevin Poenitzsch (Columbus, Texas-Alvin JC). Diaz was 0-1 with a 5.40 ERA in 5.0 IP and Poenitzsch was 0-2 with a 9.00 ERA in 5.0 IP.

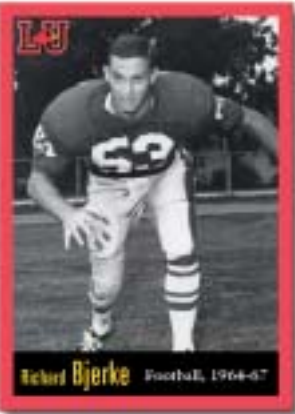
The Cardinals bolstered the pitching staff with an outstanding recruiting class highlighted by Adam Beseda (Abbott, Texas-Temple JC), Chris Buechner (Orange, Texas-Lon Morris JC), Ben Cox (Baytown, Texas-San Jacinto), Josh Harris (Belton, Texas-Texas A&M-Kingsville), Jon Hunton (North Plainfield, NJ-Hutchinson JC), and Scott Vander Weg (Englewood, Colo.-Midland JC).

2004 LAMAR HOME SCHEDULE

APRIL					
2	Fri.	*Texas-San Antonio	Beaumont	7 p.m.	
3	Sat.	*Texas-San Antonio	Beaumont	2 p.m.	
4	Sun.	*Texas-San Antonio	Beaumont	1 p.m.	
9	Fri.	*McNeese State	Beaumont	7 p.m.	
10	Sat.	*McNeese State (2)	Beaumont	1 p.m.	
28	Wed.	Louisiana-Lafayette	Beaumont	7 p.m.	
30	Fri.	*Sam Houston State	Beaumont	7 p.m.	
MAY					
1	Sat.	*Sam Houston State	Beaumont	2 p.m.	
2	Sun.	*Sam Houston State	Beaumont	1 p.m.	
20	Thurs.	*Louisiana-Monroe	Beaumont	7 p.m.	
21	Fri.	*Louisiana-Monroe	Beaumont	7 p.m.	
22	Sat.	*Louisiana-Monroe	Beaumont	1 p.m.	
26-29	Wed.-Sat.	Southland Conf. Tourn.	Hammond, La.		

Cardinal Hall of Honor

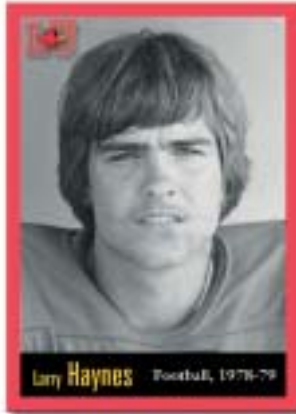
Created in 1974, the Lamar Cardinal Hall of Honor recognizes the achievements of Lamar student-athletes, coaches and administrators.



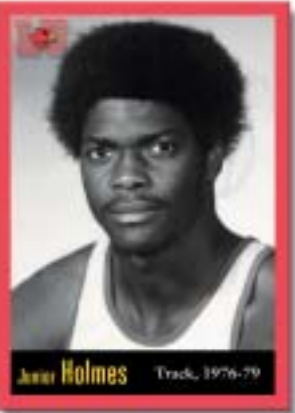
Richard Bjerke Football, 1964-67



Barry Collins Track, 1967-71
Track Coach, 1980-99



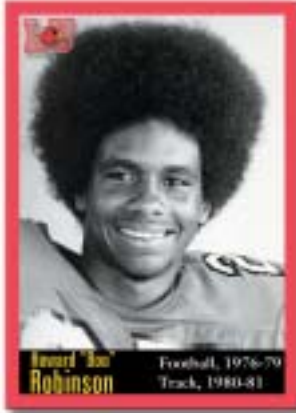
Larry Haynes Football, 1976-79



Junior Holmes Track, 1976-79



John Payton Football Coach, 1970-82



Howard 'Boo' Robinson Football, 1976-79
Track, 1980-81

The 2003 Cardinal Hall of Honor induction honored Richard Bjerke (football, 1964-67), Barry Collins (track 1967-71 and track coach, 1980-99), Larry Haynes (football, 1978-79), Junior Holmes (track, 1976-79), John Payton (football coach, 1970-82) and Howard “Boo” Robinson (football, 1976-79 and track, 1980-81).

Bjerke, who was a four-year letterman on the football team, was a two-year starter at linebacker and played on three Southland Conference championship teams in 1964, 1965 and 1966. He earned All-SLC honors at linebacker in 1967 and was named Lamar’s Most Outstanding Defensive Player in 1967.

A four-year letterman on the track team, Collins helped Lamar capture the 1971 SLC outdoor championship by finishing second in the one-mile run (4:11.9) and third in the three-mile run (14:56.6). His time of 3:48.00 in the 1,500-meters ranks as the fourth-best time in school history.

During his tenure at Lamar from 1980 to 1999 – becoming head coach in 1991 – Collins participated in 22 of Lamar’s 25 conference championship teams. He coached the 1988 and 1989 American South Conference cross country championship teams and was named Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year after guiding the Lady Cardinals to the 1992 SBC outdoor championship.

Haynes made the most of his two-year tenure at Lamar, finishing his career as one of the most prolific passers in school history. As a junior in 1978, he led the SLC in passing (114.6 yards per game) and was second in total offense (121.7). As a senior, he led the SLC in passing yards (2,641) and total offense (2,428), earning second team All-SLC honors. Named Best Team Player, he completed 58.0 percent of his passes in 1979, which ranks as the best single-season mark in school history, and his .555 career completion percentage is the best in school history.

A four-year letterwinner on the track team, Holmes helped ignite Lamar’s track program in 1978, beginning a streak of 10 straight Southland Conference outdoor championships. He won the 100-meter dash (10.8) and 200-meter dash (21.2) at the 1978 SLC championships, where he was named the Outstanding Track Performer.

A six-time conference champion and six-time NCAA qualifier, Holmes stills holds the fastest 200-meter time in school history at 20.63 set during the 1979 season. He holds the indoor 55-meter record (6.25).

Payton became the first African-American coach at Lamar when athletic director J.B. Higgins hired him in May 1970 to coach offensive backs under then-coach Vernon Glass. Payton had earned All-America honors in 1954 and 1955 at Prairie View A&M University and finished his career as the school’s rushing and scoring leader. He remained offensive backs coach at Lamar until 1982.

A highly successful prep football, basketball and track coach, Payton led Woodville’s Scott High School to back-to-back basketball state championships in 1957 and 1958. He guided Beaumont Charlton-Pollard to the 1964 basketball state championship and the 1970 Region III track championship.

Payton, who has been a physical education instructor at Lamar for more than 30 years, is also a highly distinguished high school football and basketball official with the University Interscholastic League (UIL).

A two-sport athlete for the Cardinals, lettering in both football and track, Robinson led the team in receiving three straight years, from 1977-79. Robinson had a breakout season in 1979, catching 59 passes for 840 yards and a school-record 12 touchdowns to earn first team All-SLC honors. He holds the school-record for career touchdowns with 18, and ranks second all-time in receiving yardage (1,811) and fourth in receptions (114).

Also a sprinter on the track team, Robinson helped the Cardinals claim SLC championships in 1980 and 1981 while competing in the 100 and 200 meters and running on the 400-meter relay team.

COOKIN' WITH Grandma Maud



"Tiger, to me, was Earl and Tida's little boy. I was just helping them get their little boy started," said Fregia, who was with them when Woods triumphed at the Masters in 1997. "I was so happy, and not just for him. There were a lot of people who helped make Tiger who he was."

For five years, Fregia had been a business confidant for Woods and his family, and an original member of Team Tiger, the group responsible for transforming the young athlete into a professional golfer. Years later, Fregia was an agent for the 1997 best-selling book *Training a Tiger*, penned by Earl Woods.

As the founding executive director of the Tiger Woods Foundation, Fregia created the blueprint, logo and its first mission statement. In doing so, he drew upon a penchant for organization that reached back to the creation of the local chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers at Lamar University more than 20 years before.

As a freshman, Fregia was among more than 100 African-American students seeking an engineering degree at Lamar. By the end of the year, an alarming number had dropped out of the program. Fregia was determined to find help.

With a few friends, he established a support group that would give minority students an opportunity to study together and help each other. Richard Price, director of minority recruitment and retention, approached Fregia about starting a chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers, and Fregia took to the task with zeal.

By the end of its first year, students had raised nearly \$15,000 for scholarships to assist African-American engineering students, and the retention rate improved. Now, Price serves as advisor for the group.

"People like Dr. Richard Price were pillars in my life – people who helped me to believe that I could take the next step, and that my dreams could be endless," he said.

Entrepreneur and businessman Paul Fregia '81 captured the flavors of his childhood in a bottle, and he expects others to make his line of food products a household name they're proud to have in the pantry.

Fregia's company, Grandma Maud's Down Home Cookin', has the potential to be as well known as Tiger Woods. Long before the golfing great became known far and wide, Fregia knew the young athlete would have a great future.

"When I met him, I knew he would make history," Fregia said, but he doesn't fawn over Woods like a star-struck fan.



After graduation Fregia began his career at Container Corp., a company owned by Mobil. Now, he has more than two decades of entrepreneurial and corporate management experience, including work at Damron Corp. and Hewlett-Packard Corp.

"Engineers make good managers because of the way that we think," he said. "It's the way engineering school prepares you. A lot of what I learned in circuit design I use today."

Fregia decided to return to school to get a master's degree in business management, which he earned from Purdue University.

After years in management, developing products for companies with national customers like McDonald's, Fregia created a food line to meet the public demand for Southern cuisine. His products help consumers replicate flavors that can take southern cooks hours to create.

While working as a product consultant, he had learned the ins and outs of product development. But, he discovered "everybody made a lot of money but me." He decided to put his skills in product design and development to work for himself.

With an engineer's process-oriented approach, he set out to design a product within a given budget that would perform well. Performance was based on flavor and cooking time. The challenge: to develop authentic southern flavor in a mix and make it quick and easy to prepare. "All a customer had to do was add three cups of water, and it would be ready in 25 minutes," he said.

First, the company created a line of bean meals, including the popular dish red beans and rice. "When I created this company, I knew I didn't want to produce (the product). I didn't want to operate a plant," Fregia said. "I design it all and own the product."

Fregia and his six siblings all attended Lamar University. Although his mother died when he was 7, he had a strong mother figure in his grandmother, Grandma Maud. His grandmother's Southern cooking meant more than a meal to him, he said. It was a way of showing affection.

"Nothing can represent a culture like food can," Fregia said. "It embodies culture. Food is a major part of southern culture."

When it came time to name his Chicago-based company in 1994, it was natural to name it Grandma Maud's Down Home Cookin'. Fregia serves as president and CEO of the company, which has products available in 1,500 stores.

Although Fregia's grandmother didn't live to see the company or taste its products, her legacy lives on. In 2003, Maud's became one of the first African-American companies to sell products nationally through Safeway.

All the major food companies had ignored the techniques and flavors of the south, he said, creating opportunity in the market place.

Although many African-Americans purchase Grandma Maud's products, he said, people from other ethnic groups also are getting hooked on its authentic Southern flavor. Much of the Southern food

African-Americans enjoy isn't exclusive to that group. People with Appalachian roots, as well as individuals from Kentucky and Tennessee, grew up on similar cuisine, he said.

The company's products include its Bean Meals mixes, Southern

Seasoning, sweet potato Pie Fixin's, frozen cookie dough and frozen ready-to-serve entrees and side dishes. The food line is carried in Albertson's, Dominick's, Jewel, Kroger, Von's, Tom Thumb, Randall's and Food Giant.



The original Grandma Maud

Since the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001, the United States has seen a resurgence in comfort food, Fregia said. In the South, people equate food with affection, caring and family.

It is with great affection that Fregia recalls the legacy he and fellow students created for African-Americans studying engineering at Lamar.

During a recent visit to LU, he addressed student members of the National Society of Black Engineers. Two decades after its inception, he is proud of the group. "It is like being a

parent. That was my baby. It was my group. I am so proud that 20 years later, it not only exists, but it is still helping students," he said.

Fregia is moved that his desire to help engineering students hasn't died. The seed that was planted has flourished and helped many students succeed at Lamar.

"The skills ingrained in me at Lamar have not been wasted in what I'm doing today. I would not be who I am today if I had not gone on that path," he said.



Class Notes

The third grade at Oak Forest Elementary in Vidor is awash in red. All eight of the school's third grade teachers are Lamar graduates, with graduate dates ranging from 1970 to 2002. They celebrated Red, White and You on their campus Nov. 18: left to right: Stacy (Pelly) Rector '93, Leslie LeBlanc '01, Michelle Harris '97, Shannon (Schreck) DeVillier '92, Kim (Smith) Fuller '02, Jan (Castille) Blackwood '70, Sandra (Gooch) Rye '89, and Betsy (Castille) Peet '75.



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. Send us your news: Write to Cadence, P.O. Box 10011, Beaumont, TX 77710, email hickscl@hal.lamar.edu or call (409) 880-8421.

50s

Grady M. Smith '53, B.B.A. general business, is retired from Gulf States Utilities Co. He and his wife, Nelda, live in Beaumont.

Wayne Cutler '59, B.A. English, is a research professor of history at the University of Tennessee. He received his Ph.D. from the University in Texas in philosophy. He lives in Knoxville.

James (Jim) Stewart '59, B.S. sociology, is retired from the Centers for Disease Control as chief of entomology. James is a deacon in the catholic church. He and his wife, Gwendolyn, live in Atlanta, and they have

two daughters and three grandchildren.

60s

Ed Hanna '60, B.S. mechanical engineering, retired in 1997 as a mechanical and environmental engineer after 33 years with the federal government. He is now principal engineer for HEC Environmental Group. He and his wife, Linda, live in Texarkana.

Charles R. Cutler '61, B.S. chemical engineering, ia a retired president of DMC Corp. He is chief executive officer of Cutler Johnston Corp. He and his wife, June, live in Barksdale.

Peter Pampollina '61, B.S. engineering, B.A. mathematics, was a systems engineer in the Aerospace Division at Boeing for four years before being hired by IBM for the NASA program to send a man to the moon. Assigned to several management positions during his 30-year career, he retired as a systems engineer. He lives in Lindale and enjoys golf and tennis when not working as a substitute math teacher at a local high school.

Rose (Holland) Davis '61, B.S. elementary education, '71, M.S. elementary education, is retired. She and her husband, Donald, live in Bridge City.

C. Nick Buford '64, B.A. history, '67, M.A. history, is a counselor for Orange Unified School District. He lives in Orange, Calif.

Ronald F. Lee '65, M.S. mathematics, is a teacher at Community Christian School. He lives in Orange.

Bob Lanier '67, B.S. biology, established Lanier Research Center. He was one of

the first investigators in Xolair's clinical trials. He is also the star of the syndicated television show "the 60-Second Housecall." Dr. Lanier was Lamar's Distinguished Alumni for 1994. He practices medicine in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Lloyd C. Smith Jr. '67, B.B.A. management, is retired. He and his wife, Geneva, live in Fredericksburg.

Richard J. Weeks '68, B.B.A. marketing, is a realtor with Keller Williams. He and his wife live in Conroe.

Arlene (Siegel) Turkel '68, B.A. English, '87, M.Ed. secondary education, '95, Ed.D., is associate professor of English at Lamar State College Orange. She serves as president of the Texas College of Reading and Learning Association.

Steven R. Pecora '69, B.S. biology, '73, M.Ed. secondary education, is a science teacher at New Caney High School. He and his wife, Pamela, live in New Caney.

Leslie McMahan '69, B.S. civil engineering, has retired from the City of Port Arthur. He served as city engineer, director of public works, and interim city manager within his 35 years of service. He and his wife, Linda, live in Port Arthur.

Marilyn (McDaniel) Baptiste '69, B.S. elementary education, has been named principal of Memorial High School in Port Arthur. She was inducted into the College of Education and Human Development's Educator Hall of Fame in 2003.

Emile C. Krimmel '69, B.A. history, spent two semesters as a history instructor at Lamar before beginning a Naval career from 1970 to 1991, including duty at Pearl Harbor, three tours in Vietnam and assignments in London, Florida, Pennsylvania, California, Germany and Saudi Arabia. He is now a purchasing agent for the Holland Corp., which handles produce purchases for McDonald's and Wendy's. His most recent trip was to Central America. He lives in Colorado Springs.

Ronald L. Benjamin '69, B.A. history, is a retired federal agent and substitute high school teacher. He is a farmer and a candidate for Episcopal priesthood. He resides in Mansfield, Pa.

70s

Sharon (McBride) LaRue '70, B.S. elementary education, is a second grade teacher at Ridgewood Elementary School in Port Neches. She was inducted into the College of Education and Human Development's Educator Hall of Fame in 2003.

Thomas J. Rolen '70, B.S. civil engineering, was appointed associate vice president for infrastructure and environmental planning at Turner Collie & Braden in

Houston. He is also an active member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Water Environment Federation and the American Public Works Association.

David Rives '71, B.S. health and physical education, '72, M.S. kinesiology, is executive director for the Southeast Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council.

Gerard Sala '73, B.S. secondary education, '75, M.S. biology, is water resource coordinator for the Sabine River Authority. He and his wife, Barbara, live in Orange.

Dan W. French '73, B.A. economics, is chair for the department of finance at University of Missouri. Dan has a Ph.D. from Louisiana Tech and has served as department chair at both New Mexico State University and Texas Christian University. Texas A&M University, Ecuador, Puerto Rico, and Mexico. He has published two textbooks on investment.

James M. Fulton '74, B.S. biology, received his doctorate of dental surgery from the University of Texas. He practices in Mont Belvieu.

Charles Kennerson '74, B.S. secondary education, is the director of human resources for La Porte I.S.D. He and his wife live in Missouri City.

Olga (Roark) Graham '74, B.S. elementary education, '78, M.E. guidance and counseling, is retired as a kindergarten teacher with WOS-Cove I.S.D. She and her husband, Billy, live in Bridge City.

Robert Nicks '75, B.S. secondary education, '78, M.Ed. administration, is superintendent of Midland I.S.D. He was inducted into the College of Education and Human Development's Educator Hall of Fame in 2003.

James R. Hopper '76, B.B.A. management, is the senior human resources manager for Kellogg Brown & Root. He is working in Iraq, Turkey and Kuwait supporting the Army Corps of Engineers and the Coalition Provisional Authority for the Rebuilding of Iraq. He heads human resource operations for the Team Rebuilding of Iraq Project.

Mary Kay "Katie" Durio '76, B.S. sociology, received the Mediator of the Year award for volunteer work at the Dispute Resolution Center in Beaumont. She helped establish the Victim/Offender Mediation Reconciliation Program for juveniles in 1990. She is a case manager at the Minnie Rogers Juvenile Justice Center.

Pamela L. Taylor '76, B.S. music, is the first lead pediatric chaplain for Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. She is pursuing a doctorate in Washington, D.C.

Reginald R. Reynolds '76, B.S. communication, is a graphic design instructor at Angelina College. He has a family rock

and blues band named "Social Bliss" and lives in Lufkin with his wife, Nancy, and two sons, Max and Nick.

Philip Brooks '76, B.S. elementary education, '82, M.Ed. administration, is principal of Eugene Field Elementary in Beaumont. He was inducted into the College of Education and Human Development's Educator Hall of Fame in 2003.

Ahmad M. Mehrizi '77, B.S. civil engineering, owns Carolina Auto Import. He and his wife live in Charlotte, N.C.

Thomas E. Robichau '77, B.B.A. marketing, returned from a one-year assignment in Saudia Arabia as the air mobility division chief at the Coalition Air Operations Center in the U.S. Air Force, moving cargo and people throughout the Saudi Arabian Peninsula, Horn of Africa and Afghanistan. He serves as Tanker Airlift Control Center Battle Staff director at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. He and his wife live in O'Fallon, Ill.

Kenneth W. Marks '77, B.B.A. management, is a purchasing specialist for Huntsman Petrochemicals. He also serves on several Port Arthur I.S.D. committees, including the facilities and bond committee. He and his wife, Dianne (Minix) '78, B.S. nursing, live in Port Arthur with their two children.

Carol (Gonzales) McKeever '77, B.S. elementary education, '88 M.Ed. supervision, is chairperson of the mathematics department of Central Middle School in Nederland. She was inducted into the College of Education and Human Development's Educator Hall of Fame in 2003.

Dale Campbell '78, B.S. industrial engineering, is the area manager of engineering for Structure Cabling at Southwestern Bell Corp. and works in San Antonio. He and his wife, **Bonnie (Fore)** '76, B.S. dance education, live in New Braunfels.

After 24 years of service with SFI/Precept, **Nancy Worthington** '79, B.S. industrial technology, has purchased the Beaumont location, renaming the printing and promotional products company Classic Forms and Products Inc. Nancy lives in Port Neches with her husband, Jeff, and two sons, John-Tyler and Michael.

Susan (Hendrix) Margolis '79, B.S. nursing, works in the office of Wayne S. Margolis, M.D. She and her husband, Wayne, live in Nederland.

Chris Frederick '79, B.S. electrical engineering, has been named captain of the 737 Fleet for Delta Airlines. He and his wife, **Beverly (Sequira)** '80, B.S. nursing, have two sons, Christopher and Winston, and live in Atlanta, Ga.

Michael H. Turpin '79, B.S. music, has received a doctorate from Texas A&M University, having studied educational human resource development. He is dean of institutional planning and coordinator of counseling and advising at Kilgore College, where he began working in 1984 as a music instructor and assistant band director. He and his wife, Terry, have two sons: Zach, a freshman at Kilgore College, and Philip, a sophomore at Pine Tree High School. They live in Longview.

80s

Lee A. Blackman '80, B.B.A. marketing, is senior account executive for Clear Channel Radio. He lives in Groves.

Martha (Harrell) Dean '80, B.A. political science, '86, M.Ed. administration, is a teacher in the Silsbee I.S.D.

Gerald W. Hildebrand '80, B.S. criminal justice, is an inspector for the Texas Department of Public Safety. He lives in Round Rock.

Melvin P. Bailey '81, B.S. communication, is an assistant principal in the Quinlan I.S.D. He and his wife, Carolyn, live in Wills Point.

Nancy (Langston) Conway '81, B.B.A. accounting, is a comptroller accountant at Lower Neches Valley Authority. Her husband, **Gregg** '82, B.B.A. accounting, works as a human resource manager at Modern Group, Limited. They live in Beaumont.

Melinda M. Droll '83, B.S. psychology, received a master's from University of Houston-Clear Lake. She worked for 20 years in counseling and social work before graduating from South Texas College of Law. She plans to pursue a career in health or elder law.

Dorsey W. McLeroy '81, B.A. accounting, is CFO/Controller for the Houston Aeros Hockey Club. He and his wife, Susan, live in Houston.

Michael Killingsworth '81, B.S. elementary education, is a learning consultant for Shell Oil People Services-Americas. Michael is a former LU cheerleader, spurring the Cards to victory from 1977 to 1981 and as captain from 1980 to 1981. He lives in Houston.

M. Clint O'Neal '81, B.S. biology, is an emergency room physician at Tyler County Hospital and a new director for Citizens State Bank. He is a member of the Woodville Lions Club and serves on the Board of Trustees. He is a deacon at First Baptist Woodville. He and his wife, Karen, live in Woodville, with their two sons, Ryan and Jordan.

Kelly L. (Hoekstra) Woomer '81, B.B.A. office administration, is human resource manager for Eni Petroleum in Houston.

Joseph A. Macchio '82, B.B.A. economics, is president of Century Tax and

Audit. He and his wife, Donna-Marie, live in Redding, Conn.

Marcia (Horn) Noyes '82, B.S. communication, has written *A Marathon of Dreams*, which was selected from thousands of potential stories and recently published in *Chicken Soup to Inspire the Body and Soul*, a special edition to the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series. She lives in Golden, Colo.

Yolanda G. Hudgins '83, B.S. secondary education, '00, M.S. educational administration, is a teacher for Houston I.S.D.

Edward M. Donohoe '84, B.S. energy resources, is a commander in the Navy. He and his wife, Tammie, live in Papillion, Neb.

Jerry A. Kitterman '84, business management, is director of purchasing and fuel for Celadon Trucking Services. He and his wife, Rachel, live in Fishers, Ind.

Chris D. Towry '84, B.S. mechanical engineering, is vice-president of sales for Invensys Triconex. He and his wife, Nancy, live in Bastrop, with their daughter Sarah Bess.

Philip Dobranski '85, B.S. computer science, is the director of Online Systems Development at Hotels.com. He lives in Dallas.

Sherry M. (Magee) Dishman '86, B.B.A. accounting, is a financial advisor for Merrill Lynch. She lives in Beaumont.

Joseph Malbrough '86, B.A. communication, is the assistant vice president of New Business Development of United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta and heads up a new initiative to recruit small and mid-sized Atlanta companies into United Way's fund-raising campaign. Malbrough serves on the board of directors for the US Fund for UNICEF and board of advisors of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. He was also recognized in Who's Who in Black Atlanta in 2001-2003. He and his wife have two sons and live in Smyrna, Ga.

Levi Williams '86, B.S. criminal justice, is a consultant for Catalyst Consulting. He received his master's in counselor education from Texas Southern University in December 2003. He lives in Houston.

Sharon M. Stone '87, certificate, vocational nursing, worked as a licensed vocational nurse for 13 years with Geriatrics and Home Health. She lives in Orange.

James M. Largent '87, B.S. kinesiology, received his doctorate from Sam Houston State University. He is the superintendent of Rusk Independent School District. He and his wife, Jeri, live in Rusk.

Clifton Simoneaux '88, A.A.S. radiologic technology, was elected to serve a two-year term in Ward 3 position for Groves City Council. He has two children.

Gerald W. Lasseigne '89, B.B.A. management, works for Rexel. He and his wife,

Dorothy, live in Spring.

Shelley D. Williams '89, B.B.A. accounting, is chief financial officer for the Texas Heart Institute. She lives in Houston.

90s

Walter S. Dillard '90, B.S. mechanical engineering, works for Reed Hycalog and lives in Houston.

DeMonica D. Gladney '90, B.S. criminal justice, is in-house counsel for Exxon Mobil Corp. She has also published her first book, *Reflections from God*, with New Horizon Publishers. She lives in Pearland.

William F. Heiner Jr. '90, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is senior lab technician for Motiva Enterprises. He and his wife, Christine, live in Beaumont.

Christopher S. Moore '90, B.B.A. business, is the business development manager for Bush Brothers and Co. He and his wife, Michelle, live in Knoxville, Tenn.

Lea Ann (Lemoine) Parks '90, B.S. elementary education, is an eighth-grade science teacher at Port Neches Middle School. She was inducted into the College of Education and Human Development's Educator Hall of Fame in 2003.



▲ December graduates show their LU loyalty, relief and gratitude.



▲ From left, longtime Lamar faculty member Robert Achilles, left, shares a proud moment with his granddaughter, Jenny Achilles, after he and Regent Kent Adams presented her diploma. With a 4.0 GPA, Jenny Achilles was one of three December Plummer Award recipients. Robert Achilles, regents' professor of communication, taught 23 years at the university before his retirement in 1986. His son, and Jenny's father, Dr. Jack Achilles '73, was the first Lamar alumnus to graduate in four years with three separate degrees: in chemistry, biology and psychology.

Red, White & You
Reunion 2004
drew hundreds
of alumni back
to campus
Feb. 26-28 for
a weekend filled
with activities.



▲ Left to right: Phillip Sandel '54, Smitty Hill '53 and Charles Westmoreland '53



▲ Anne (Cox) Sandel '53, left, Bettye (Dawson) Richmond '46 and Earl Richmond '53

▲ Bud Leonard '50, '53, '76, left, and Marion Phillips III '84



▲ Left to right: Cathy (Bebeau) Zummo '78, Martye (Sculley) Simmons '78, Minnie Lindsey and her son, Frank Zummo '78



▲ Three teammates of Lamar Junior College, classes of '42 and '43, reunited at the home of Theo "Cotton" Miles, center, in Wills Point. Joining him to catch up on events during 62 intervening years are Sherrill "Bottle" Garreth of Beaumont, left, and Sam Gallier of Grove, Okla.

Karen Gilman '91, B.S. communication, was named executive editor of the East Texas Catholic newspaper of the Diocese of Beaumont. She has served the ETC for 18 years. Karen is an adjunct instructor in communication at Lamar University.

Shannon (Schreck) DeVillier '92, B.S. professional pedagogy, enjoys her teaching career as a third-grade gifted and talented teacher at Oak Forest Elementary. She was the 1997 Region 5 Teacher of the Year. She and her husband live in Vidor with their 6-year-old daughter.

Christine L. McLain '92, B.M. music, is a music specialist at Martin Elementary school. She lives in Houston and plans to marry in July 2004.

Jeffery S. Miller '92, B.B.A. marketing, is a vice president for Bank of America. He and his wife, **Jane Ann (Moler)** '91, B.B.A. accounting, live in Stamford, Conn.

Kenneth W. Pajak '92, B.S. political science, is an attorney at the Bannerot Law Firm. He and his wife, Wendy, live in Austin.

Isaac Barbosa '93, B.B.A. accounting, '03, M.B.A. management information systems, is the director of computer services at Lamar Institute of Technology. He and his wife, Irene, live in Groves.

Michael W. Veuleman '93, B.B.A. accounting, is the audit senior manager for Pannell Kerr Forester of Texas, P.C. He and his wife, Jennifer, live in Pearland.

Bonnie Boykin '94, B.A. applied arts and sciences, is director of membership for the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce.

As part of her responsibilities to recruit and retain new and existing chamber members, Boykin oversees the Ambassador Committee and coordinates with staff to produce and distribute the chamber directory and to develop membership events that strengthen member-to-member interaction and communication.

Narasimhan L. Gopalan '94, M.S. computer science, is senior software engineer for Fujitsu Computer Systems. He lives in Fremont, Calif., with his wife, Bharathi, and their two daughters, Aditi and Anula.

James E. McMillan '94, B.B.A. accounting, is the chief financial officer for Angus Davis Industries and lives in Houston.

Cheryl (Irvin) Pate '94, A.D. nursing, received certification in inpatient obstetrical nursing in 1996. She and her husband, Robert, an obstetrician/gynecologist, live in Palestine with their three children, Jayne Lynn, 8, and twins Evan and Ryan, 3.

Thomas A. Riley Jr. '94, B.S. communication, is a former Bingman award winner. He is supervisor of recreation and aquatics with the city of Nederland.

Paul D. Welch '94, B.A. history, is director of undergraduate student services in the School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Georgia. He lives in Watkinsville.

Kenneth W. Cunningham '95, B.S. electrical engineering, works for Air Liquid America LP. He and his wife, **Cynthia (Ruff)** '94, B.S. mechanical engineering, live in Spring.

Chad W. Dugas '95, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a project engineer for LeTourneau Ellis Williams. He and his wife live in Pearland.

Gretchen (Kaczur) Atkinson '95, B.S. psychology, '98 M.S. community psychology, is a research analyst at the University of La Verne in California. She and her husband, Jason, live in Hesperia, Calif.

Jennifer (Dobbs) Manriquez '96, B.B.A. business management, is chief financial officer for Southern Avionics Co. Her husband, **James** '99, B.S. communication, is financial consultant, for Salomon Smith Barney. They live in Beaumont with their two sons, newborn, Parker, and his big brother, Jackson.

Pamela (Gordon-Davis) Metz '96, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a workforce developer specialist with the Texas Workforce Center. She and her husband, Ted, live in Beaumont with their daughter, Tayla.

John W. Johnson '97, B.S. industrial engineering, is manufacturing engineer manager for Grant Prideco. He lives in Silsbee.

Bobbilyn Lyons '97, B.S. social work, received a M.A. in counseling and is pursuing a M.S. in marriage and family studies. Bobbilyn is the recruitment and verification specialist for Trinity Children and Family Services and lives in Houston.

Jennifer Massie-Gore '98, B.S. civil engineering, has joined Bury + Partners Inc as engineer-in-training. She has worked in land development in San Antonio and Austin.

Anne (Attaway) Chambless '00, B.S. sociology, is an eligibility examiner for the Department of Health and Human Services for the state of Montana. She earned a master's in family and child studies from Texas State University in 2003. She and her husband, Jason, live in Bozeman, Mont.

Thomas A. Riley Jr. '94, B.S. communication, is a former Bingman award winner. He is supervisor of recreation and aquatics with the city of Nederland.

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Chad W. Dugas '95, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a project engineer for LeTourneau Ellis Williams. He and his wife live in Pearland.

Cleve J. Wilson '00, B.B.A. accounting, is a senior associate at PricewaterhouseCoopers. He is a former Student Government Association president and is pursuing a law degree at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Christopher W. Adams '01, B.B.A. finance, is an analyst for Orix Capital Markets in Dallas.

Amanda L. (Knight) Goldin '01, B.S. family studies, has an 8-month-old baby boy named Tyler. Her husband serves in the Marine Corps, and they live in Beaufort, S.C.

Elizabeth (Smith) Williams '01, B.S. dance, is a dance teacher at North Shore High School. She and her husband, Clifton, recently bought a home and are expecting their first child. They reside in Pasadena.

Clint Martin '02, B.B.A. management information systems, is head golf professional for Bayou Din Golf Club. He is completing work on a master's degree in business administration at Lamar University. He plans to work on his PGA Class A certification this summer.

Michael R. Broussard '03, B.B.A. general business, is human resource manager for Tekoa Academy. He lives in Groves.

Britton (Dean) Cooksey '03, B.S. chemical engineering, works for Meadwestvaco. Her husband, **Wesley Cooksey** '01, B.B.A. management information systems, works for B.J. Unichem. They live in Nederland.

Kimberly (Charles) Vallair '00, B.A. criminal justice, and her husband, Brandon, live in Lawrenceville, Ga., with their son Khayden, born Jan. 21, 2003.

Corky Rollings '01, B.A.A.S. health and sports medicine, is a trainer for the Beaumont Drillers. He and his wife, Wendy, live in Lumberton.

CORRECTIONS

In the Class Notes section of the Dec. 2003-Feb. 2004 issue of Cardinal Cadence, the younger sister of **Mike Morgan** '93 was incorrectly identified as his wife, Jennifer, who graduated from Southwest Texas State University in 1997. His sister, Jennifer West, graduated from Lamar in 1999.

In the same issue, **Joyce Giblin** was inaccurately listed as having earned a certificate of vocational nursing. Joyce graduated in 1980 with a bachelor of science degree in nursing and is a registered nurse.

We will miss...

Yvonne P. White '67, B.S. elementary education, '73, M.Ed. supervision, 70, died Dec. 3, 2003. She taught for more than 20 years at Hillcrest Elementary in Nederland and retired to Toledo Bend. Survivors include her husband, Wendell; two sons, Wendall and Benjamin; and daughter, Colleen.

Deanna Kay Stahl '69, B.A., '71, M.S. mathematics, 56, died Dec. 3, 2003. She graduated with honors and was a mathematics instructor for 31 years at Lamar Institute of Technology and received the LIT Alumni Association's Distinguished Faculty Award in 2003. Survivors include her mother, Bessie, and many cousins.

Sherry B. Hebert '75, B.S. studio art, '87, B.S. elementary education, 62, died Feb.5, 2004. She was an artist and a member of the Port Arthur Yacht Club. Survivors include her husband, Alfred; mother, Hazel Borel; and daughters, Kim, Cindy, Tina and Leigh Ann.

David Hodgson '81, B.B.A. personnel administration, '86, M.S. public administration, 68, died Nov. 29, 2003. The Port Neches native was laboratory administrator at Mid-Jefferson Hospital for six years and laboratory/X-ray administrator at Park Place hospital for more than 10 years. Survivors include his wife, Mary and his sons David, Daniel, Donald and Darin.

John M. Thorne '83, B.S. psychology, 54, died Dec. 3, 2003. A member of the Shriners and native of Rockhill, S.C., he was a sales associate for Radio Shack. Survivors include his parents, John and Odie.

Chris Berwick '91, B.S. political science, 33, died Nov. 9, 2003. A Beaumont native and graduate of West Brook High School, he was district executive for Boy Scouts of America Three Rivers Council and customer service representative for Drake Container. Survivors include his wife, Starr; daughters Oshean and Katie and son, Aaron.

Kevin Poston '92, M.A. English, 34, died Dec. 30, 2003. His poetry was printed in *Pulse*, a publication of the Department of English and Modern Languages. In 1993, he taught English at Human University in Kunming, China. He was an editor and graphic artist at Presidea Inc. in Austin. Survivors include his parents, Ken and Brenda, and brother, Trey. Donations in his memory may be made to the general scholarship fund at Lamar University, Box 10011, Beaumont, Texas 77710.

Theresa K. Pressler '01, B.S. chemistry, '01, B.S. biology, 37, died Nov. 14, 2003. During her time at Lamar, she was a laboratory instructor and also participated in the McNair Scholars Program. She worked for GEM 3 Microelectronics Materials as a laboratory manager. Survivors include her parents, Henry and Elizabeth; sister, Elizabeth Jacobson; and brother, Henry III.

Timothy Dwayne Boxie, 29, died Oct. 6, 2003, in Beaumont. He was a graduate of Central High School and attended Lamar University, where he played on the basketball team. He was also a member of Omega Psi Phi fraternity. Survivors include his mother, Dorothy '70,

certificate, vocational nursing; father, Thomas; brothers, Thomas Jr. and Terri; sisters Hope and Desiree; and fiancé, Minda Doucet.

Ashley Richard, 18, died Feb. 2, 2004, in an auto accident. A native of Baytown, she was a sophomore pursuing a degree in interdisciplinary studies.

Faculty, Staff and Friends

William C. Tyrrell Jr. died Oct.13, 2003. He was the grandson of Capt. William C. Tyrrell, an early entrepreneur of Beaumont and Southeast Texas. He was a patron and active participant in the Lamar University Cardinal Club.

Don Barton, 89, died Nov. 03, 2003. He was the owner of Don's Barbershop and worked at the Pennsylvania Shipyard during World War II. He was considered unofficial mayor of South Park and managed the Lamar football team in 1932. Survivors include his son, Dale, and his daughter, Janet.

Bryan D. Beck, 90, died Nov. 16, 2003. He was a member of the Lamar University Board of Regents for 12 years. In 1981, the college dedicated the baseball stadium in honor of him and Al Vincent. Survivors include his sons, Bryan, Ray and G. Roy.

Najla T. Salhab, 71, died Nov. 17, 2003. She received her teaching certificates for Spanish and French from Lamar and taught foreign languages at St. Anne Catholic School and Monsignor Kelly Catholic High School. Survivors include her son, Joseph, and her daughters, Marie, Celeste and Melissa.

Howard Wesley Adams, 81, died Dec. 4, 2003. Survivors include two sons, Dirk and Dallas. He was superintendent of schools for six years at Verdel and Meadow Grove, Neb., and was professor of secondary education at Lamar University from 1956 to 1982.

DeWitte Talmadge "Dutch" Holland Jr. and **Mary Martha "Marty" Holland**, both Lamar retirees, died in December, within a week of one another. Marty Holland died Dec. 17, 2003, and DeWitte Holland died Dec. 24, 2003, in Birmingham, Ala. DeWitte was an associate professor and professor in the Department of Communication from 1971 to 1990, including service as head of the department. Marty served as an instructor and head of documents/special collections in the Mary and John Gray Library from 1976 to 1989. After their retirement from Lamar, the Hollands began a 15-year ministry with the Presbyterian Church, most recently in Selma, Ala. Survivors include their sons, Samuel Stinson Holland of Dallas, John Kenneth Seymour Holland of Los Angeles, Daniel Lamberth Holland of Bloomington, Ill., and Ping Yun Li of Houston.

James "Jimmy" Menard, 71, died Jan. 15, 2004. He retired from Lamar as a painter. Survivors include daughters, Patricia, Cheryl, Belinda, Wanda and Sheree, and son, Richard.

From bad break to breakthrough

A Beaumont native and graduate of French High School, Charles Cutler '61 came to Lamar on a football scholarship in 1954 to play for Coach J. B. Higgins. After a high school career taking the snap as quarterback, he moved to half-back and was the leading ground-gainer in the conference in his second season.

But soon, Charles and his new bride, June Ann, welcomed their first child, and the bills began to pile up at home. The football scholarship wouldn't be enough, so he began looking for a job at a time when "veterans coming out of Korea were getting priority at the plants.

"I didn't figure sacking groceries was going to be my thing, so I decided to volunteer for the draft," Cutler said. He began a two-year stint in the Army in 1956. Athletic competition

soon captured his attention: He spent much of his tour on Army boxing and football teams traveling across Europe from his home station in Stuttgart, Germany. That is until he came to harm on the gridiron, felled by a broken leg.

When he entered the Army, Cutler had already amassed about 80 semester credit hours. Soon, he discovered that the officers who "were telling me when I could get up and when I could go to bed and when I could go to the bathroom" only had about 40 credit hours more. "I realized maybe there's more to this education than I gave it credit for," Cutler said.

When his tour ended, Cutler returned to Southeast Texas, determined to get back to Lamar. "My whole life up to that point was playing football," Cutler said.

One evening, "I said to my Dad, 'Dad, I think I'm going to go back to Lamar to play football. What do you think I ought to major in?' Well, Dad worked at the Mobil refinery, and he said 'The chemical engineers out here seem to do pretty good, Charlie, and you're good at math, why don't you be an engineer?' That was my career decision, literally. I was really coming out to play football."

In one of the first games of the season misfortune spoke: same place, same injury. Yet it would prove to be – ultimately – a lucky break for a young man who'd already attracted the attention of talent scouts.

"The Green Bay Packers scouts had talked to me about playing football and invited me to a camp based on my performance when I was a sophomore," Cutler said. This was before the days of multimilliondollar contracts, and, while he had entertained the idea of a coaching career, with the opportunity to play football now gone, he "decided to rethink the situation."

"What my dad suggested that night at the dinner table looked like a good opportunity to get a job in this area," Cutler said. With the football scholarship gone, and his family growing with the birth of their second child, two things helped keep food on the table: the GI Bill and working nights at the Beaumont post office.

Now focused on academics with the

intensity that had served him well on the field, Cutler already had arrangements to attend graduate school at Texas A & M, thanks in part to the support of engineering Dean Robert Andrews. But, his plans would change yet again.

"I wasn't looking for a job right out of college," Cutler said. That is before a friend couldn't make his appointment with an employment recruiter and asked Cutler to meet the man to tell him why he couldn't make it. Conversation over coffee led to an interview in Houston – just to get the experience of an interview under his belt, the man stressed.

"About a week later, my wife had this letter from Shell at home and she said 'Guess what, Charlie, you're not going to graduate school. You're going to work.' They'd made

'Dad, I think I'm going to go back to Lamar to play football. What do you think I ought to major in?'

— CHARLES CUTLER

me a really good offer." The deal clincher was the point that he could work full time and pursue graduate work at the University of Houston.

Cutler began a 23-year career at Shell Oil and attended graduate school at night. Soon, he was assigned to a research project to develop a real-time optimization of a fluid catalytic cracking unit in the second-biggest corporation at the time. Computer process control was a new concept, one that Cutler would pioneer. "It was a good opportunity to get in on the ground floor," he said.

He worked on the project for about three years, but grew increasingly dissatisfied with the outcome.

"There were a lot of problems," Cutler said. "We weren't really able to control it with the technology at the time."

The challenge having brought his interest to fever pitch, Cutler decided to go to school full time to explore his ideas. The technologies he developed from that research – Dynamic Matrix Control – he would bring back to Shell USA to prove in a unit with a \$63 million annual budget supporting a staff of 300 people. Over the next 11 years, Cutler was the force behind bringing process

control into the computer age, gaining invaluable experience and refining the algorithms that made it work.

After leaving Shell, Cutler created Dynamic Matrix Control Corp., which today provides the most widely used control software in the world, saving the industry more than \$2 billion a year. In 1996, he sold his company to Aspen Technology and retired. But not for long. Soon, he was serving as advisor to Aspen's senior management, then as an independent consultant.

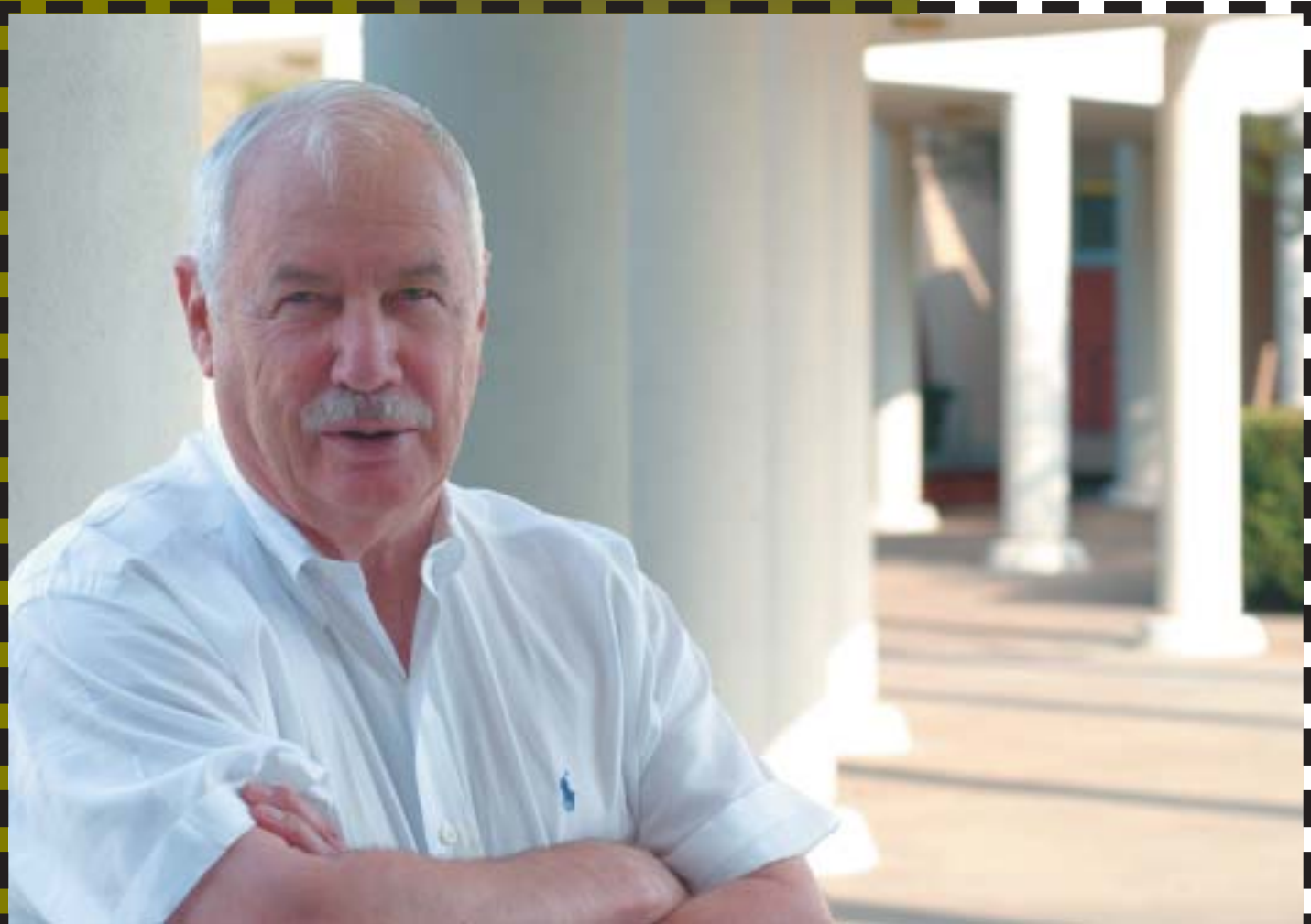
Along the way, he learned of a new challenge to be met. With DMC software precisely controlling as many as 150 multi-variable loops in the chemical process, "operators were just sitting there watching it and got accustomed to the software controlling things all the time." As a result, the operators grew increasingly rusty in hands-on management of the processes, and new operators never had opportunity to really learn manual control.

This erosion of operator skill needed to be addressed, so Cutler thought of ways to use the DMC controller as a training simulator. Soon, he was developing models and converting them into high-value training simulators. In 2000, he teamed with son-in-law Chuck Johnston to create Cutler Johnston Corp. That same year, he moved his company from Houston to his West Texas ranch near Camp Wood. Two years later, the system was ready and with patents pending, Cutler went to work traveling the globe to introduce his product to industry.

Despite his hectic schedule, Cutler serves on Lamar's College of Engineering Advisory Board where he is "impressed by the quality of people on the board. They're all engineers, but it is a very business-oriented environment."

Like others on the board, Cutler sees value in Lamar's move into the "research frontier where you can get funding" and encourages the college to continue to "look at what's needed out there to see how you can focus on where its going, not where it has been."

Looking forward, it seems, is second nature to the leading ground-gainer, who is still proud to be a part of team moving Lamar in new directions.



Charles Cutler



Amilcar Shabazz shares a moment with his mother, Winona Frank '58, at Nu World of Books.

THE HEART OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

The voice is gentle, steady, eloquent. The spirit is activist, intense, possessing an almost religious zeal seized with a love of learning. The soul is at one with his forebears, his roots, lit with a passion for the richness that binds past, present and future. There beats the heart of the African-American experience.

Amilcar Shabazz '90 stands more than 6 feet tall. The impeccably tailored suit and silk tie he wears contrast with the sensible shoes and the dreadlocks, now tinged with gray, that bespeak the places he has been, the roads he has traveled and a fervor for his life's work.

He grew up Eric Frank in Beaumont's Pear Orchard, savoring memories of tagging

along with his grandmother to buy fresh yard eggs from a woman in the neighborhood and hearing stories about Creole life in Louisiana.

As a youth, he stood on stage at Monsignor Kelly High School to present a dramatic reading drawn from the speeches of Martin Luther King Jr. – inspiring a lifelong quest to explore his ethnicity.

In a moment of epiphany as a college student, he felt moved to change his name in honor of Malcolm X, the African-American activist also known by the religious name El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz who died in 1965.

In Harlem, he helped lead the way to the naming of Malcolm X Boulevard.

As an historian, he chronicled the African-American struggle for access and

“Education had always been presented to me as the passport to my future”

– AMILCAR SHABAZZ

equity in Texas higher education in the book *Advancing Democracy*, published by the University of North Carolina Press earlier this year, evolving from a master's thesis at Lamar University.

Now, Shabazz gives voice to the black cultural experience as director of the African-American Studies Program at the University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa.

“I guess the exclamation point for me is about a love affair with history and culture, particularly one about which so much has been forgotten,” he says.

“I'm trying to mine the memory – and the archives and resources – that allow us to not forget from whence we came and how we got where we are. For me, this love affair is about how I've been shaped from the stories of my grandmother and the people of the community to how I now work to try and shape the next generations to remember some of these important things.

“So I've become a real troubadour, if you will, a clarion for the South as the critical geographical region from which to teach and from which to take another look at the African-American experience.”

Amilcar Shabazz is shaped by his own history and that of his family. His mother, Winona St. Julian Frank, was among the first African-Americans to attend Lamar after the institution opened its doors to blacks in September 1956, earning her elementary education degree in 1958.

On May 19, 1985, the birthday of Malcolm X, he shared the stage in Harlem with a platform of dignitaries, including

Betty Shabazz, the widow of Malcolm X, and served as master of ceremonies for the name-change ceremony for the boulevard.

This year, he'll mark the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, the landmark case that ended segregation of public schools, as a member of Alabama's commission planning the observance.

To become a historian, Amilcar Shabazz came home, returning to his own history and that of his forebears.

He had grown up in Beaumont, attended West Oakland (now Price) Elementary and Odom Middle School and graduated from Kelly. He earned a degree in economics from the University of Texas at Austin and spent eight years in New York City where advocacy projects brought him together with such figures as Betty Shabazz; Japanese-American grassroots organizer Yuri Kochiyama, who was a friend of Malcolm X; international affairs leader and educator Elomb Brath; and former New York City Mayor Ed Koch.

“Education had always been presented to me as the passport to my future,” Shabazz said. “The resolve when I started on my master's at Lamar and chose history. I believe, had to do with my coming back after many years away from home and living again with my grandmother, who had raised me. She was a wonderful storyteller, and I lived through her stories.

“When I returned, it evoked all of the memories. I realized this is something I was called to do: to be a storyteller.”

Shabazz keeps coming home. He stays connected to his mother, Winona, his father, Edward Frank Jr., his older brother Ed Frank, and his half-sister and two half-brothers, plus an extended family in the Pear Orchard. For a book-signing in January to promote his new book, he chose Nu World of Books, only blocks from where he grew up. He came to town for a presentation at the Beaumont History Conference where townspeople and academicians joined former teachers and mentors to greet this native son.

Eric Frank left Beaumont for Austin “because I wanted something bigger and different.” There, professors, white and black, encouraged him to delve deeper into the African-American experience. “In so many ways, I became shaken at my roots, and that was a big turning point.”

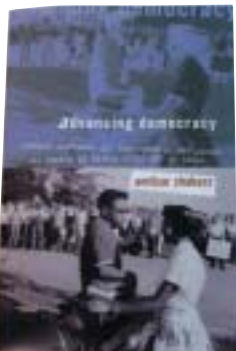
By the time he graduated from UT, Texas was too small for him “so I moved to New York, knowing only one person there. I feel like I earned my first Ph.D. just surviving.”

Shabazz got involved in journalism, via the alternative press. But that didn't put food on the table, so he also worked as a counselor at a day-care center, as a research assistant for a management consulting firm and for Ralph Nader's New York Public Interest Research Group. At Pratt Institute, he taught young people how to do public-interest organizing on behalf of causes ranging from health care and the environment to racial equality. His experience at Pratt Institute became a turning point, planting the seeds for what would become his life's work.

“I began to say, ‘Well, you know, I have this knack for communicating with younger adults, and I like the university setting – it inspires and enriches me – so why don't I look at going back and teaching at the university level?’”

Homesick for Texas and his family, Shabazz moved back to Beaumont and, while at home, said, “Let's see what they have going on at Lamar.”

Shabazz met members of the history faculty, seeking out those with interest in African-American studies. One of them was John Carroll, who was then working on his book on pioneering African-American football player-coach Fritz Pollard. “I found the milieu very welcoming, very warm,” Shabazz said. “I was 28 or so, and it was quite inspiring to be related to and spoken





Amilcar Shabazz enjoys a reunion with his older brother, Ed, and father, Edward Frank Jr., during a visit to Beaumont in January.

to as a peer. I was also invited to teach, so I taught my first college-level history courses at Lamar. It was a open door to help me develop and help me enter the profession.”

Shabazz earned his master’s degree in history in 1990, also leaving a research legacy in his thesis, “The Desegregation of Lamar State College of Technology.”

He gained acceptance to a number of doctoral programs, but chose the University of Houston, where the history department and African-American studies program tapped him to teach a course on Houston’s black history. He called the course *Invisible Houston*, combining hands-on community service assignments with reading about the black community and class discussion on the students’ experiences.

One of his students was Demetria Rougeaux, an English major from Galveston, with whom he shared not only the Afro-Creole culture and family roots in Louisiana but also “a love of life of the mind.” After the class concluded, the two began seeing one another. Their son, Amilcar Shabazz Jr., was born in April 1993.

With a family to support, Shabazz accepted his first full-time teaching position, as the Benjamin Benneker Instructor of History at Prairie View A&M University, commuting daily from Houston. But the long commute took a toll on his writing and research, and a fellowship at the University of Houston Downtown enabled him to complete his dissertation, “The Opening of the Southern Mind: The Desegregation of Higher Education in Texas, 1865-1965.”

In 1996, he and a colleague became the first African-Americans to earn doctorates in history from the University of Houston.

VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

“Dr. King talks about his epiphany in the kitchen where he felt called on to what he went on to do. I had mine when I was walking back from UT to my little house in East Austin . . . I don’t know if you would say it was the spirit of Malcolm X, but certain emotions arose in me of his courage, his life of conviction and his self-determination. I remembered his quote, ‘Of all our studies, history is best qualified to reward our research,’ and was inspired to take on the work of researching history – particularly pages of history that have been lost or hidden or were distorted . . . He symbolized that for me, so I wanted to make his name part of mine.”

A photo on the wall of Amilcar Shabazz’s office bears witness to one of the proudest days in his life: the conclusion of a successful campaign to rename Lenox Avenue Malcolm X Boulevard. A massive platform stood at the intersection of streets honoring Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. Through a public address system, the name-change ceremony resonated through Harlem. “They asked me to be the emcee,” Shabazz recalled. “So I’m up there with Betty Shabazz – a striking figure almost as tall as I and, oh, so gracious. I felt honored when she embraced me as a member of her family.”

Although the program was founded in 1991, Shabazz became the first faculty member to receive a dedicated appointment in that area. It was up to him to “grow” the program.

“To this day,” Shabazz explains, “this area of the state has always been more black than white. Whites are in the minority, but they control the economy and you’re the oppressed strata. What are the implications of that for the cultural life?”

“Part of that implication, we come to find, is that this is the real birth of the blues. The Alabama blues, the folk art – it’s so rich and that’s part of what has kept me in Alabama: seeing many of these culturally and historically rich areas that so little has been done on,” he said.

“The other part is that the people have embraced me. They read about me and call up say, ‘Oh, Dr. Shabazz, you’ve got to come and see . . .’ My willingness to take a look at what people have, what people are doing, brings me in touch with a lot of folks,” Shabazz says. “We have the ability to reach out and bring greater awareness in the state’s really wonderful projects with historical preservation, community reclamation and organization. People have begun to see it, and it has had a great measure of success.

“I argue that within African-American studies is a neglected area – the fact that the heart and soul, the place where the majority of the African-American experience has been lived and died – is between Texas and Washington, D.C. I’m right at the center of it. The heart of it is Alabama. They call the state ‘The Heart of Dixie,’ but it’s also the heart of the African-American geo-cultural experience,” he said.

“Working out from here, we can tell a new kind of story about the African-American experience. You read about the Harlem renaissance. I lived in Harlem. I love Harlem. I respect Harlem. But Harlem is one little place, one little moment, outside of where the people really live.”

Cardinal Club members and fans enjoy lunch at Carabba’s and catch the latest news on Cardinal athletics. The club meets monthly. To join, call Donny Coryell, (409) 880-2319.



▲ V.F. and Kathryn Lusignan



▲ Carolyn (Stubbs) '70, '80 and club board member Larry Bodin '70

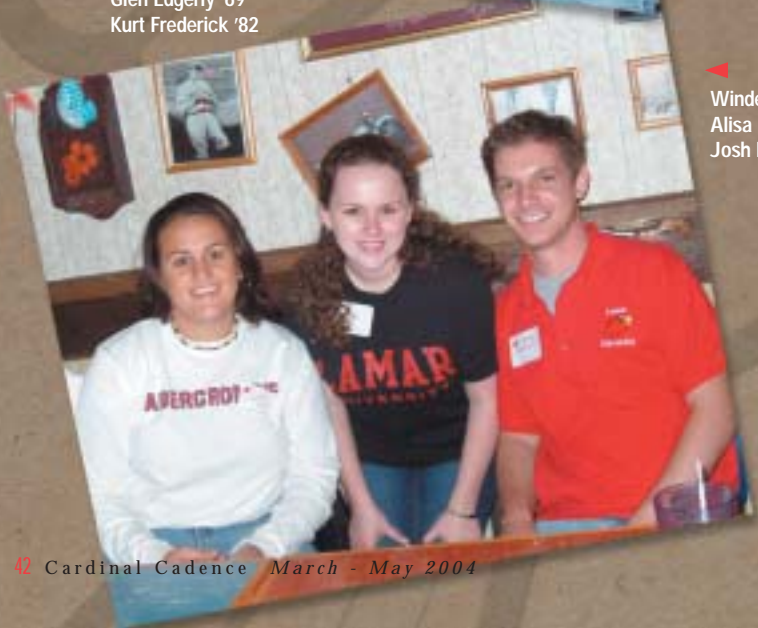
Alumni gather at Joe’s Crab Shack in San Marcos for a pre-game reception for alumni in the Austin and San Marcos areas Jan. 21.



▲ Gary Gant '68
Glen Edgerly '69
Kurt Frederick '82



▲ Donny Coryell '98
Karen (Bunieck) Puckett '91
Matt Puckett '89, '96



▲ Windee Killough '01
Alisa Hicklin '02
Josh Daspit '04



▲ Jo (Booker) Frederick '65, '71
Jo Gartside



▲ Students Brian Bean and T.J. Gieger, left, and Dean Brenda Nichols and her husband, Harry, right, join columnist Molly Ivins before Ivins' Academic Lecture Series presentation Feb. 12.



▲ Le Grand Bal chair Joy Crenshaw admires the cuisine and tropical decor at a pre-Bal tasting in the University Reception Center. *Spring Into the Arts* the theme of the March 20 fund-raiser to benefit students in the College of Fine Arts and Communication.



▲ Big Red takes a twirl with a young fan at Cardinal Lights to the rhythms of the Lamar Pep Band.



▲ After having their faces painted, children attending Cardinal Lights make fast friends with Big Red and members of the Lamar Spirit Team.



▲ Juror Dewey Mosby poses with a drawing by Gerry Wubben of Lake Charles, a past winner of the Dishman Competition. The drawing was among 45 works selected for the exhibition from more than 400 submitted.

▲ The glow of candlelight kindles holiday spirit during Cardinal Lights.



▲ Regents on the board of The Texas State University System show Cardinal pride during Homecoming week, which coincided with the board meeting hosted this quarter on the Lamar campus Feb. 25-27. Left to right: Kent Adams, Don Flores, Bernie Francis, Nancy Neal, Pollyanna Stephens, John E. Dudley, Jimmy Hayley, and Alan W. Dreeben



State Rep. Joe Deshotel '74, the 2003 Cardinal Lights honoree, enjoys the Dessert Gala with his wife, Claudia, and son, Joseph.

Arts & Culture



A walk on the art side

Outside the Dishman Art Museum, a flood watch remained in effect. The rains came, and so did the artists and art patrons – from across town and from across the country.

Sixty-five diverse works lined the walls of the museum, selected by juror Dewey Mosby from 415 submitted. Mosby, a 1963 Lamar graduate and renowned art

historian/scholar, not only selected the works of art, but also painstakingly arranged them in the museum to maximize their impact. The exhibition reflects a range of subjects and techniques. "Some stay on the surface and others plunge into space," said Mosby.

Mosby, attending the event with his wife, Rebekah Presson Mosby, conducted a tour of the exhibition, commenting on the works and inviting artists to do so. "Thanks to all the artists who participated in this magnificent project," he said.

In the upper gallery, Joan Konkel stood quietly beside a multi-media masterpiece, eclectically blending the sleek hardness of aluminum and the softness of exotic fibers. The guests strolling past the work, which earned an honorable mention, soon learned Konkel was the artist, who traveled from her home in Washington, D.C., to attend the opening.

Joan Konkel won honorable mention for this mixed-media work inspired by her father. She traveled from Washington, D.C., for the opening of the Dishman Competition Exhibition.

The work, *Samurai's Daughter*, represents a return to art for Konkel after years spent raising her children. "Caring for my father after he suffered a stroke, I found myself homebound," she said. "I needed escape and turned to art."

Samurai's Daughter incorporates fabrics Konkel had purchased on a business trip to Japan with her husband. "This represents a discovery of my father, who is the samurai, but the work also has feminine touches in the fabrics," she said.

"This is the single relief piece I chose for the exhibition," Mosby said of Konkel's work as he invited the artist to share her thoughts about its creation.

Across the way, a circus parade commanded attention. So did the blue ribbon beside it. The grand-prize winner of the 2004 Dishman Competition: *Puppets on Parade, Palermo, Spain*.

A pair of art enthusiasts meandered past, smiling. Enjoying the ambiance of the occasion. Admiring the piece, and why not? They'd come to cheer for the award-winning artist, their friend Jim Siegler, and his wife, Ellen, fellow Houstonians. But for K. Schurig and Steve Sucher, that wasn't the entire agenda. After the reception, they'd be off for an even more momentous occasion: their 2 p.m. wedding in New Orleans the next day.

Jim Seigler was glowing. Not only did he win the competition, but he also placed two other paintings in the exhibition. "I've been painting since I was





Dishman Competition winner Jim Seigler, left, explains the inspiration for his work to Dewey Mosby.

6,” he said.

Seigler’s early career as a circus designer inspired his award-winning mixed-media work. After graduating from the Ringling School of Art in Sarasota, Fla., Seigler spent several seasons designing sets, floats and costumes for the Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus. The experience exposed him to the use of strong color and figure movement – characteristics that are strong influences in his work today. “You can see the circus in everything I paint,” Seigler said.

Now retired after 40 years as a designer of Foley’s department stores, Seigler devotes all of his time to his art. Mosby hailed the winning work. “This painting is alive and speaking to us,” the juror said. “You can hear the horns.”

Lancaster resident Ann Huey grew up in Beaumont and was happy to come home for the opening – where she would learn her entry had won third place in the 2004 competition. Last year, she

earned honorable mention. Her bright and bold mixed-media work, *1967 – 67 Views*, was an up-tempo presence on this stormy night.

“I made these little paintings – these little pieces – and put them all together,” Huey said. “It just kept growing. I researched everything I could about the year 1967 – when I was 12.” A companion piece to Huey’s winning work was a painting of Lady Bird Johnson, also among the icons included in the “67 or so” small works in Huey’s homage.

Nearby, Kumiko Ueli Builer paced, still wearing the raincoat that had shielded her from the elements. Builer – one of six honorable-mention winners – had traveled all the way from Ardsley-on-Hudson, N.Y., for the opening and was eager to pose for photos with Mosby beside her winning work, *Afternoon Studio*, in pastels, her favorite medium.

Also attending the opening was Sheila Ernst-Biffano of Houston, who won honorable

Rollins hits Grammy gold



“And the Grammy goes to ... Don Rollins and Jim “Moose” Brown for *It’s 5 O’Clock Somewhere*.”

Lamar’s favorite son of country music took home the big prize Feb. 8 when the Recording Academy handed out its golden gramophone statuettes, honoring the piece as best country song of the year. The tune also garnered Alan Jackson and Jimmy Buffett, who recorded the song, a Grammy nomination for best collaboration with vocals.

Rollins and Brown received their award before the televised ceremony – as did winners in 94 other categories. Viewers watched presentation of the remaining 11 awards. But Rollins still took in the Grammy festivities and also visited with recording executives during his sojourn in Los Angeles.

Meanwhile, *It’s 5 O’Clock Somewhere* earned its share of end-of-the-year honors: No. 1 song of 2003 in radio’s American Country Countdown and No. 5 country video on CMT, which also tagged it the No. 18 drinking song of all time.

The Academy of Country Music nominated *It’s 5 O’Clock Somewhere* for awards in four categories: single, video, song and vocal event of the year. Winners will be announced May 26 in Las Vegas.



mention for *Dancer at Rest*, one of her several photographic-pastel depictions of dancers selected for the exhibit. A favorite of juror Mosby was the second-place winner, *When It Rains . . . Sue!*, a satirical spin on the classic Morton’s salt package, painting in acrylic on canvas by Isabella Natale of New York City. “I like that sassy girl!” the juror said of the figure beneath the umbrella, later selecting it as the backdrop for a photo with his wife.

English department offers vintage poetry

The Department of English and Modern Languages is making about 30 copies of a poetry collection by the late Ruth Garrison Scurlock available to the public. The 1960 book is titled *Voice Upon the Wind*. Scurlock was the first creative writing teacher at Lamar many years ago, said R.S. “Sam” Gwynn, professor of English. Those who would like copies of the book may write to Gwynn at P.O. Box 10023, Beaumont, TX 77710.

Ann Huey won third place for *1967-67 Views*.

ArtNotes

Lamar Theatre presented the children’s classic *Charlotte’s Web* in February performances for area school children and the public. Theatre students entertained thousands of pupils from schools across Southeast Texas in performances Feb. 16-26. An enchanting story about friendship, the play by Joseph Robinette is based on the story by E.B. White – also the inspiration for a popular 1973 animated film. It’s characters include Charlotte the spider, Wilbur the pig; Templeton the rat and Fern, a girl who understands what animals say to each other . . . The Lamar University Puppet Theatre celebrated its 10th anniversary as a popular attraction at Dickens on the Strand in Galveston with performances Dec. 6 and 7. In addition to its formal performance, the troupe delighted audiences with street performances of non-stop merriment and high-flying high jinks throughout the festival. Antics included (but were not limited to) “judicious juggling, audacious dancing, pitiful waifs, crafty beggars and many a melodious melody,” theatre spokesman **Randall Wheatley** reports . . . Also in the Island City, **Kurt Dyrhaug**, assistant professor of art, displayed recent drawings and sculpture in an exhibition titled *Current Devices* Jan. 24-Feb. 29 at the Galveston Arts Center . . .

Meanwhile, *The Power of Words*, the master’s thesis exhibition of May 2003 graduate **Grace Megnet**, received an encore presentation Jan. 24-Feb. 28 at Gallery 101 in Houston. Megnet’s works integrate calligraphy, painting and printmaking . . . **Andy**



Charlotte and friends entertain area audiences.

Coughlan, assistant director of student publications, was featured poet Jan. 18 at Thoughtcrime, the monthly poetry reading at The Art Studio Inc. Coughlan, an artist and self-confessed dabbler in poetry, edits *Issue*, the monthly arts magazine of The Art Studio . . . Award-winning poet **B.H. Fairchild** presented

a reading of his work Feb. 9 at Lamar. Fairchild is the author of *The Art of the Lathe*, which was a finalist for the 1998 National Book Award for Poetry, and of *Occult Memory Systems of the Lower Midwest*, winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry . . . Author **Tracy Daugherty** read from his work Feb. 25.

Daugherty is the author of four novels, including *What Falls Away*, which earned the Associated Writers Program Award and Oregon Book Award . . . The Lamar’s NewDance Ensemble highlighted modern dance pieces revealing a women’s view of the world in a concert Jan. 29 . . . A magical, mesmerizing performance by the A Cappella Choir Dec. 2 ushered in the holiday season and brought down the curtain on the fall *Lamarissimo!* concert schedule. The series resumed with the Jazz Band March 4 and concludes April 20 with the Cardinal Singers and Lamar Dance company . . . Mark your calendars for June 8, when LU-llaby of Broadway presents a tribute to Rodgers and Hammerstein. The annual stage extravaganza benefits theatre scholarships at Lamar.



The A Cappella Choir makes holiday magic.



Clay pays for Olympic hopeful

Olympic hopeful Laura Kolb is on a mission. While she is focused on her goal of making the USA Olympic team and winning an Olympic Gold medal, she's down to earth when it comes to making the grade as well. A business management major at Lamar University, the sophomore from Beaumont has already formed a shooting club on campus with the goal of sharing her avocation with others.

Kolb's shooting prowess has taken her far from her 4-H days and life at Hamshire-Fannett High School – to destinations like Egypt, Germany, Italy, China and Finland. The week-and-a-half trips, made possible by her spot on the National Development Team, offer plenty of time to experience overseas culture – but for two days busting clays, she's all business.

Kolb began shooting while a freshman in high school in the Jefferson County 4-H shooting program. While she began with rifles, she found it far less engaging than the shotgun sports; in fact, she took to skeet and trap shooting so well that she won second place in her first competition and an invitation to go to a Junior Olympic Training Camp after only two months of shooting. Today, her favorite is the 12-gauge Browning Citori Gran Lightning over and under.

After two years of shooting, she began to win consistently. In 2001, she was the Junior Olympic Women's Champion. "My name is on a trophy in the Olympic training center in Colorado," Kolb said. After spending a year training at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, she returned home for a break from competition. A few months later, she learned of Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Mo., and earned a scholarship to be on the school's shooting team.

Warmer weather and the value of Lamar brought her back to Beaumont, where she has an eye toward entrepreneurship. Balancing the books and a jam-packed competition schedule require a lot of discipline and time for practice.

That practice has paid off. At the 2003 ACUI Collegiate Clay Target Championships, she racked up four titles during four days of competition. She was the National Lady Champion in International Skeet (her favorite event) and 5-Stand events, as well as a member of the National Team Championship in 5-Stand. Her combined points lofted her to the 2003 Women's Collegiate National Champion.

After she came to Lamar, it didn't take her long to pick out the outdoor types on campus – the camouflage print was one give-away – and saw that there might be sufficient interest to form a shooting club on campus. With the support of faculty sponsor Kevin Smith, associate vice president for academic affairs, she founded the Lamar University Trap and Skeet Club.



With a dozen members already signed up and more in the wings, the group will focus on shooting safety before working on technique at the One in 100 Gun Club in Lumberton. "I'm looking forward to letting them see how much fun it is," Kolb said.

One of the group's first goals is to attend the Collegiate National Championships in San Antonio, March 31 to April 4. Its members hope to find donations as well as sponsors to help support the group by covering expenses for trips and equipment for the club to use, Kolb said. For more information about the club, contact Kolb at (409) 466-4425.

Spring break found Kolb at the range brushing up – an important competition was just around the corner. She headed to Georgia the next week for the Spring Selection Nationals, the second round of selection for the Olympic team. Currently ranked sixth in the nation, Kolb has her sights set on being No. 1 at the competition. She'll need that title to be selected to represent the U.S.A. in Athens.