

# CARDINAL Cadence

VOL. 33 NO. 1

A PUBLICATION OF LAMAR UNIVERSITY  
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DEC. 2004 - FEB. 2005

**LU  
RED  
WHITE  
& YOU**

**HOMECOMING  
Feb. 25-26, 2005**

Homecoming  
pg. 33





## From the President

This December, a record number of Lamar students joined the growing ranks of LU alumni as they received hard-won diplomas on the Montagne Center stage in one of the largest winter graduating classes ever. Even as they bask in the accolades of family and friends, scores of others are gaining valuable credits during the winter mini-session or preparing for a terrific spring semester.

Lamar's fall enrollment of 10,804 set another all-time record.

During the past six years, we have seen a 28 percent increase in full time students and a 23 percent increase in the graduation rate. Excitement is high at the Montagne Center as the Lamar Cardinals' men's and women's basketball seasons are already on a roll. It is also exciting to know that several new projects to continue the renovation of our campus will be getting underway in the coming months, including construction of the new dining hall.

On Feb. 25, we will "say goodbye" to McDonald Gym with a concert – Jimmy Simmons & Friends – as a part of our homecoming celebration. The gym has been home to a lot of Lamar's history and begins a new chapter as the cornerstone of the greatly expanded, state-of-the-art Sports Recreation Center.

Cardinal Lights, Lamar's kick-off to the holiday season, was a decidedly student-focused but community-friendly event that paid tribute to America's men and women in uniform around the globe and honored local hero ExxonMobil for its steadfast support of the university. It was a pleasure sharing the stage with our great friends across the road.

Likewise, the support of Lamar's alumni and friends continues to make a real difference in the life of the university. Your support – time, talent and treasure – make special opportunities possible for today's students at Lamar University. I thank you for your generous continued support.

Sincerely,

James M. Simmons

President

Lamar University



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## Cardinal Events 2004 - 2005

**Jan. 11**  
SPRING REGISTRATION

**Jan. 12**  
CLASSES BEGIN

**Jan. 23**  
The Tea Room and the Arts presents Lamar Chamber Winds. 3 p.m. Art Museum of Southeast Texas. Reservations required for brunch. (10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.). (409) 832-3432.

**Jan. 24-March 3**  
Dishman Competition. Reception 7-9 p.m. Jan. 16. Dishman Art Museum

**Feb. 5**  
Basketball Players' Reunion Weekend. Information and reservations (409) 880-2319

**Feb. 5**  
New Dance Ensemble. 7:30 p.m. University Theatre

**Feb. 12**  
Red, White & You Alumni Reception. Post-basketball game. Arlington. (409) 880-8921 or (800) 298-4839

**Feb. 17**  
"African American History in Southeast Texas: From Mexican Texas to Spindletop." Lecture presented by Jo Ann Stiles. 7 p.m. Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum. (409) 835-0823

**Feb. 19**  
Red, White & You Alumni Reception. Pre-basketball game. San Marcos. (409) 880-8921 or (800) 298-4839

**Feb. 21-26**  
Red, White & You Homecoming Week. Get your red on! Reunion events welcome Lamar alumni back to campus. Special events planned for alumni of the College of Engineering and the Class of 1955. [www.lamar.edu/alumni](http://www.lamar.edu/alumni). (409) 880-8921 or (800) 298-4839

**Feb. 25**  
Red, White & You Homecoming Celebration featuring Jimmy Simmons and Friends. 7 p.m. McDonald Gym. \$25 [www.lamar.edu/alumni](http://www.lamar.edu/alumni). (409) 880-8921 or (800) 298-4839

**Feb. 26**  
Homecoming. Events throughout the day. Basketball – Cards vs. Sam Houston

**Feb. 26**  
Springfest.™ LU annual open house for prospective students and their families. (409) 880-8316

**March 5-6**  
"The Little Prince," presented by Lamar Theatre. 2 p.m. University Theatre. Tickets (409) 880-2250

**March 8**  
Lamarissimo! Jazz Bands. 7:30 p.m. Julie Rogers Theatre. Tickets (409) 880-8144

**March 14-18**  
SPRING BREAK

**March 28**  
Le Grand Bal Exhibition open show. Dishman Art Museum

**March 31**  
Summer and Fall 2005 class schedule distributed

**April 2**  
Le Grand Bal. Dishman Art Museum and Montagne Center. Tickets (409) 880-8137

#### TICKETING INFORMATION

**Dept. of Music, Theatre & Dance**  
(409) 880-8144

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Mon. – Fri.

**Dishman Art Gallery** (409) 880-8141  
8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Mon. – Fri.

**Montagne Center Box Office**  
(409) 880-1715  
8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Mon. – Fri.

**Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum** (409) 835-0823  
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tues. – Sat.  
1 p.m. – 5 p.m. Sun.

**University Theatre Box Office**  
(409) 880-2250 phone calls are returned

**Athletics Event Information**

(409) 880-8329

[www.athletics.lamar.edu](http://www.athletics.lamar.edu)

**LU Alumni Affairs** (409) 880-8921 or (800) 298-4839 • [www.lamar.edu/alumni](http://www.lamar.edu/alumni)

Events open to the public without charge unless otherwise indicated.

[www.lamar.edu](http://www.lamar.edu) • Events (409) 880-8419 • Admissions (409) 880-8888

# product and potential



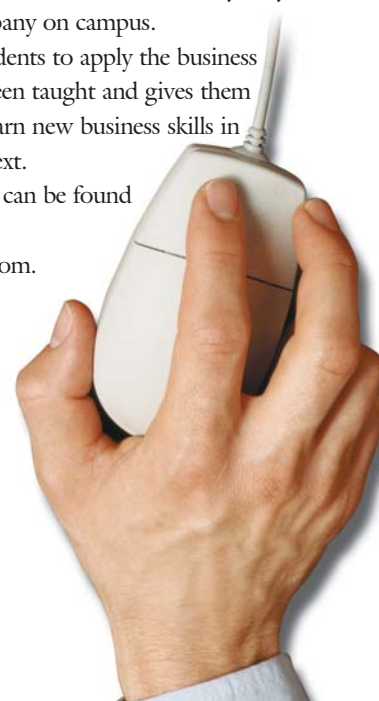
The power and reach of the Web is part of the formula students and the Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies are hoping will make Shop Lamar – a student-run business – a success. Selling apparel and accessories with the licensed Lamar University logo from their office in Beaumont, the students hope the service for alumni and friends of the university from beyond the region will grow.

Incorporated in 2004 under the university's chapter of the Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization, Shop Lamar is the first, and currently only,

student-run company on campus.

It allows students to apply the business skills they have been taught and gives them opportunity to learn new business skills in a real-world context.

Shop Lamar can be found on the Web at [www.shoplamar.com](http://www.shoplamar.com).



# www.shoplamar.com

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Design by Mike Rhodes • Cover photo illustration by Brian Sattler



Loraine Thibodeaux, director of the Lamar University Reception Center, was certified this summer as a corporate etiquette and international protocol consultant by The Protocol School of Washington in Portland, Maine.



Shannon Klutts, Lamar staff senate community service chairperson, shows President Simmons just a few of the 28 boxes of "Thank the Troops for Thanksgiving" items collected at Lamar. The staff senate and Student Government Association joined forces to brighten the holidays for American troops by saying a tangible "thank you." For several weeks, campus groups collected food, toiletries, reading materials, cards and other items to create care packages for service men and women.



## Audiology program begins "new era"

Eleven Lamar University students broke new ground this fall as they began work in the newly initiated audiology doctoral degree program. In 2002, Lamar's audiology program in the Department of Communication Disorders and Deaf Education received approval to offer a graduate program that allows students to earn their doctorate of audiology degrees. Lamar is one of only four institutions in the state to offer the degree.

## Historic enrollment increase revealed

Official figures showed fall enrollment at 10,804 – an all-time record for Lamar. During the past six years, the university has seen a 28 percent increase in full-time students and an increase of 23 percent in graduation rates. An increase in diversity has also occurred in the past six years: the number of African-American students growing by 49 percent; Hispanic students by 42 percent; Asian-American students by 17 percent; and international students overall by 106 percent. The number of students scoring high on entrance exams has increased, while the size of the Honors Program has doubled.

## College of Business picked as best

Lamar University is one of the nation's most outstanding business schools, according to The Princeton Review. The school is featured in the 2005 edition of the student opinion-driven guidebook, "Best 143 Business Schools."

Lamar University's two-page descriptive profile is posted at [www.PrincetonReview.com](http://www.PrincetonReview.com)

## Engineers' pursue far-flung fruits

Ever wanted to see how far you can chunk a pumpkin? A number of students competed in a "Pumpkin Chunkin'" contest sponsored by the stu-

dent chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Nov. 5.



The student group sponsors a competition each semester for mechanical engineers.

"These kinds of design competitions promote innovation and creativity among students and, at the same time, the students can have fun participating as they gain some engineering knowledge," said Aung Kendrick, assistant professor of mechanical engineering.

Only materials on the building materials list supplied to each group could be used in developing each machine – so no compressed air cannons competed – and the time limit kept complexity in check as well.

Lowes' Home Improvement donated materials, and H.E.B. donated pumpkins.

## Public talks air quality with EPA

Lamar and the Texas Air Research Center conducted public meetings at Lamar State College-Port Arthur, Lamar State College-Orange and Lamar University to discuss air-quality in Southeast Texas. Topics included an air quality overview, the permitting process, unpermitted emission, flares, monitoring, toxicology and health effects, reporting incidents, public information access and air modeling. The sessions were sponsored by the Beaumont/Port Arthur State Implementation Plan Education Committee, a group comprising representatives from local industry and citizen organizations.

## Camp Empowerment program wins national award

Camp Empowerment, a city of Beaumont Community Youth Development Program, was awarded a 2004 Minority Affairs Award given by the Association for Continuing and Higher Education. Camp Empowerment coached students in first through sixth grades in knowledge and skills needed to pass TAKS test subjects. The program was sponsored through a coalition between Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Beaumont Independent School District and Lamar's Community Outreach Program. The coalition included students, parents, teachers, church members and community volunteers.

## Searching for nursing 'apprentice'

The LU nursing program searched for its own "apprentice," seeking knowledgeable freshman nursing students. The program offered students a chance to win scholarship money and shadow nurses at Memorial Hermann Baptist Hospital through the operating and emergency rooms for a day. Participants competed in donning surgical gloves and gowns with the clock ticking, naming the parts of the human body and guessing the calories in certain foods. The scholarships were sponsored by Memorial Hermann Baptist Hospital.



## Lamar gets \$100,000 ESL, deaf education grant

Three Lamar educators have received a \$100,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to help deaf and non-English-speaking children excel in science. The grant, which supports a multi-departmental and multi-agency project called Access Science, will involve several schools and academic departments at Lamar. The College of Arts and Sciences, the Center for Speech, Hearing and Deafness and the Jack and Linda Gill Advanced Learning Center will develop a curriculum to help educators better teach science to deaf students and those for whom English is a second language.

## Project Scientist offers new teachers a solid foundation

Project Scientist, a program designed by the Center for Distance Learning, gives science teachers a more solid foundation for teaching the discipline in the region's elementary,

middle and high schools. The \$80,000 grant from the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board provides funds for up to 30 teachers, primarily science teachers on emergency certification or those who are not certified in middle school science. The project activities will be provided primarily online and at a pace compatible with teachers' schedules. Included in the program are six hours of grant-paid courses on how to take web courses, two five-week JASON Expedition grant paid web courses and on-line activities in the eighth-grade Xtrem Science modules.

and physical processes that are thought to be important for understanding atmospheric trace gas transformations and distributions.

## Graduate Vickers wins state writing contest

Lamar's Stacey Vickers '97, '04 won first place in a fiction competition sponsored by the Texas Association of Creative Writing Teachers for her short story *The Professional*. Daniella Medley '03 of Port Arthur was the runner-up in graduate fiction for her short story *Maple Sanctuary*.

## Big Red Resources gives the guidance

Big Red Resources, on the first floor of the Mary and John Gray Library, is staffed by students trained to answer questions on the basic who, what, when, where and how of college life at Lamar. The center also can act as a support system for students in need of academic counseling,

said Daniel Bartlett, retention coordinator. Big Red Resources is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays during the fall and spring semesters.

## History professor Kelley lectures in Germany

Mary Kelley, assistant professor of history, received a Fulbright Scholarship to lecture at the University of Potsdam during the spring and summer of 2004. Her topics included women in American society, Texas history and the American presidency. While in Germany, she published her first book, *Foundations in Texas Philanthropy*.



Che-Jen LIN, Hsing-Wei CHU and T.C. HO

## LU researchers take expertise to China

Three Lamar University professors, T.C. Ho, Hsing-wei Chu and Che-Jen Lin, were invited by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to join a U.S. delegation led by Mario Molina, a Nobel Laureate from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, on a visit to China Sept. 14-25 to focus on that nation's air pollution problem. The professors shared scientific expertise in Community Multi-scale Air Quality (CMAQ) modeling that they have been developing for Southeast Texas at the air quality forums hosted by Chinese environmental protection agencies. The CMAQ modeling system simulates various chemical



Rep. Joe Deshotel, left, joins Kerrick Henny and Larry Siler of SBC, President James Simmons and Congressman Nick Lampson at the Southwestern Bell Co. Foundation presentation of a \$20,000 contribution completing a \$100,000 commitment to support and promote telecommunications and distance learning at Lamar University.



## Needham honored for community service

Keith Needham, instructor of English, accepted the 2004 Julie and Ben Rogers Outstanding Service Award Nov. 3. In addition to teaching freshman composition and American and world literature, Needham is faculty liaison to the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities and encourages his students to use their talents to help others.

The Bay City native and Port Arthur resident conducts and supervises a program called TALHent on Wheels, in which students from the academy perform each week for retirement

centers in the Beaumont area. Needham also created the Adopt-a-Grandchild program and coordinates the Leadership Consortium and College of Arts and Sciences Student Awards Day ceremony.

## University Press takes 16 SWJC awards, ad sweepstakes

The University Press earned 16 awards and took home the advertising sweepstakes in the 2003 competition of the Southwestern Journalism Congress. The UP and its magazine, Upbeat, scored in four of five categories in advertising. It took all places awarded by the judges for best magazine ad, including first place for an ad for ExxonMobil titled "A New White Cloud."



Library associate Diane Ducote, seated, who earned her 35-year Lamar service award Nov. 4, joins 30-year recipients George Beverley, Raymond Glover, Gail Cokley and Bill Skinner, standing, from left. Beverley is station manager of KVLU public radio; Cokley and Skinner, employees of the Print Shop; and Glover, director of academic computing. Library supervisor Brenda Oliver, also a 35-year honoree, is not pictured.

## Weiss presents paper in Austria

Scott Weiss, assistant professor of music and director of bands, presented a paper, "Paul Hindemith and the Genesis of the Symphony in B flat for Concert Band," at a conference of the International Society for the Investigation of Wind Bands in Oberwöölz, Austria, in July. Meetings took place in the Austrian Wind Band Museum, where band scholars from around the world presented papers.



Scott WEISS

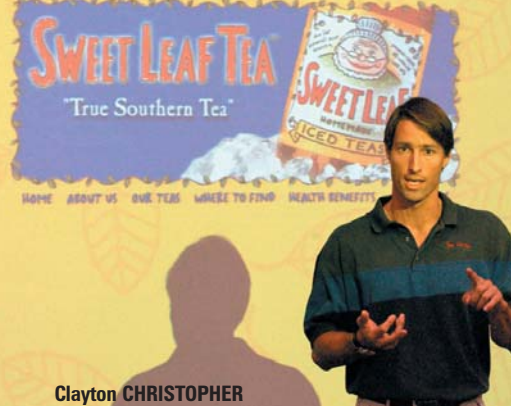
## \$798,000 U.S. Dept. of Education grant supports doctoral program

Lamar University's Department of Communication Disorders and Deaf Education has received a \$798,000 grant to fund doctoral students in its deaf studies/deaf education program through 2009.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2005, the four-year grant will provide stipends for deaf, minority and minority deaf applicants who wish to earn the doctorate in deaf education to qualify for leadership positions at universities and schools for the deaf, said Jean Andrews, who wrote the grant and will administer it.

"This significant and continuing partnership between Lamar University and the U.S. Department of Education enables the faculty in our outstanding deaf studies program to change many lives for the better, to include those who become teachers of the deaf, as well as the students who will ultimately benefit from their training and expertise," said Stephen Doblin, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Andrews, University Professor of deaf studies/deaf education, said the grant will continue to support Lamar's doctoral program in this field, which has been in existence at Lamar since 1994.



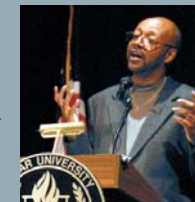
Clayton CHRISTOPHER

## Sweet Leaf founder Christopher speaks in Landes Auditorium

Clayton Christopher, founder and chief executive officer of Sweet Leaf Tea, discussed the evolution of his company Sept. 21 as a guest of the College of Business Entrepreneurship Lecture Series. He founded Sweet Leaf Tea in Beaumont in 1998. Today, it is based in Austin and has distribution agreements in place in 16 states.

## Pulitzer Prize-winner Pitts visits

Syndicated columnist Leonard Pitts Jr. spent a day on campus Sept. 13, meeting students and giving a free public lecture. He also spoke with students during their classes.



Leonard PITTS Jr.

Pitts is a 2004 Pulitzer Prize winner for commentary. The College of Fine Arts and Communication sponsored his visit.



Joe DOMINO and Terri DAVIS

## Davis presents Distinguished Faculty Lecture

Terri Davis, assistant professor of political science at Lamar and a nationally known constitutional scholar, presented the 2004 Lamar University Distinguished Faculty Lecture, sponsored by Entergy Texas. Her topic was "Politics and Dissent: The U.S. Constitution in Times of Crisis." She brought the constitution to life through a narrative tracing the history of Supreme Court opinions, using music, art, literature, film and photographs from eras in which opinions were issued to demonstrate how popular culture impacts and reflects landmark rulings.

## Gen. Barry McCaffrey lectures on war on terror

A national expert on the war on terrorism, Gen. Barry McCaffrey, spoke at Lamar Oct. 11 as part of the university's student-funded Academic Lecture Series hosted this semester by the College of Engineering. McCaffrey is the Bradley Distinguished Professor of International Security Studies at the United States Military Academy at West Point. He serves as a national security and terrorism analyst for NBC News and also writes a regularly scheduled commentary on national security issues for Armed Forces Journal.



Gen. Barry McCAFFREY

## College of Business hosts GE global business manager

Lamar business students and the public had the opportunity to learn first hand from Jeff Charlson, an alumnus who helps manage one of the nation's largest global businesses. Charlson spoke Oct. 20 and 21 as part of the ExxonMobil Executive in Residence program. Charlson is the general manager of Wal-Mart and Cross Business Sales for GE Consumer and Industrial, a \$13-billion global business that employs 73,000 people in 150 locations around the world. Charlson graduated from Lamar with an M.B.A in 1999.

Bill SAMUELS



## Former CNN executive Anderson speaks at Lamar



Bonnie ANDERSON

The Gray Library Lecture Series hosted author and broadcast journalist Bonnie Anderson Nov. 8. She is the author of *News Flash: Journalism, Infotainment and the Bottom-Line Business of Broadcast News*, which calls for a renewed commitment to responsible broadcast journalism. The 27-year news veteran has won seven Emmy Awards and has been a Pulitzer Prize finalist. She spent about 10 years at NBC and CNN.

## Business abroad post 9-11

The "Real-Politik of Doing Business Abroad Post 9/11" was the topic of a free public lecture Nov. 9 by international business and politics expert Ray Miles. He addressed students and guests in the College of Business as part of the ExxonMobil Executive-in-Residence Program. Miles, a successful entrepreneur in high-technology and telecommunications, is president of Rajko Associates, a consulting firm based in Dallas.



Ray MILES

## Samuels shares success

Bill Samuels Jr., president and CEO of Maker's Mark Distillery Inc., visited the Lamar campus Sept. 29 to share his success story. Samuel's lecture, hosted by the College of Business at Lamar as part of the ExxonMobil Executive in Residence program, focused on how he turned a hobby into a \$600-million business. Samuels encouraged students to find a job that "excites you," so the desire to produce can lead to high productivity, promotions and possibly even other jobs offers.



# Artful involvement



As a high school freshman, Igalious “Ike” Mills ’77 chose to stand up and be counted.

With integration in place, Mills was one of only a few African-American students attending Central Heights High School in Nacogdoches.

Soon after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., Mills began educating his classmates and teachers about the struggle for civil rights. Few understood why people were marching and rioting in the streets. Mills felt compelled to share the story of black Americans with those at his school.

Now, his experience is among those told online at [www.voicesofcivilrights.org](http://www.voicesofcivilrights.org), an AARP project highlighting stories of the civil rights movement.

Under the headline “The Principal Told Me Not To Get Involved,” Mills recalls that his principal, who also was the basketball coach, said he was “too good of a basketball player to get caught up in that type of situation.” Mills believed that if African-Americans were good enough to play basketball for his high school, then African-Americans were good enough to teach there as well. At the time, no black teachers were on the faculty.

Mills was able to tutor fellow students and his teachers on black history – a subject not covered in his textbooks. Because Mills played basketball, many students related to him. Now, he sees that sports were a means of breaking down walls in communities struggling with integration.

“By my senior year, they hired the first black teacher and teacher’s aide,” Mills said.

Mills and his nine siblings learned what it was like to work at an early age. At times, their father attended school only half a day because he was needed at home to pick cotton. This created a strong work ethic in his family, which he has shared with his sons.

Mills earned a basketball scholarship to San Jacinto Junior College where he remained in the minority. By 1974, he received a basketball scholarship to Lamar, where he played for Coach Jack Martin. In his final year on the team, Mills was named a second-team all-conference player for the Southland Conference.



CHRIS CASTILLO

When he came to Lamar, he was glad to find African-American students and teachers. He was also inspired by people like the late John Gray, who helped him travel to New York to continue his studies in art. Mills also praises “the vision” of people like art professor Lynne Lokensgard, who helped him develop as an artist.

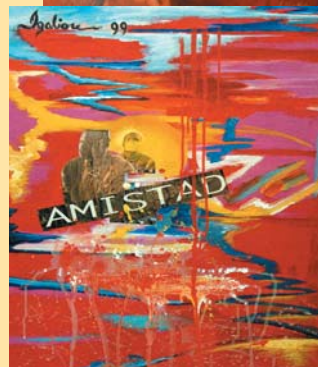
Now, as executive director of the Port Arthur Economic Development Corp., Mills is creating new opportunity for his city. With business as his paintbrush and Port Arthur his canvas, he works to create business growth and job opportunities for the city’s residents.

Mills, the first African-American to earn a bachelor’s in fine arts at Lamar, is never far from his brush and canvas. His art is in the collections of notables like Earl Campbell, Bill Cosby, Walter Mondale, former President Jimmy Carter, Coretta Scott King, Johnny Carson and Margaret Thatcher. Mills has even been nominated for the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his contribution to the arts and peace.

Mills hopes his abstract expressionist work speaks to its audience spiritually and stirs up deep feelings. “I still view myself as a pioneer, opening doors to try and make things better for others, specifically African-Americans,” he said.

“God has everyone in a place for a reason,” Mills said. “I’m still trying to get people to see things in a different way. We all have to understand that we can bring about change.”

— JCC



Christina Baum



BRIAN SATTLER

With ample experience in library science and a doctorate in higher education administration, Christina Baum was the obvious choice for the new position of dean of library services at Lamar.

Now, with her first semester at Lamar coming to a close, Baum is tackling a list of ideas destined to further enhance the library.

New hires top the list. “We’re running two national searches for associate dean for public services and a coordinator for collection development,” Baum said of the effort to hire top-quality staff.

At the moment, Baum and staff are making the library more service-oriented for the students, a goal she set when she took the job in May. “I think we’re making progress in that area, and I think the library usage is really up,” she said. “It’s busy in here every night, and they’re waiting in line on Saturday and Sunday to get in. I think that’s going in a positive direction.”

Already, the library has launched a new web site, initiated a newsletter, and implemented electronic document delivery for inter-library loan. To keep moving forward, Baum is working on creating electronic reserves so students will be able to receive electronic copies of reserved materials directly at their computer desktops.

Baum also plans to conduct a survey of students and faculty to find out where the library stands on service. “I’d like to assess where we are at a service level to see what people think and build on that so I can plan how to improve services,” Baum said.

She also wants to improve the book collection, maybe one day adding her own book to the stacks. “I think we have a wonderful collection of electronic resources for this size campus, but I would like to improve the book collection,” she said. The effort will include reviewing the collection based on standard bibliographies, updating the collection and purging unneeded materials.

A published author, Baum wants to undertake a project dear to her and to Lamar. “I am interested in writing a history of the Mary and John Gray Library,” she said. “I have already done a little work toward that.”

With all of the positive additions to the library, Baum is helping create the library’s history as its first dean and proving that Lamar is exactly where she is supposed to be. “I’m very happy to be at Lamar,” she said.

— ALR

## Library Card *volumes of vision*

Beginning with a new security system for the Mary and John Gray Library, new dean Christina Baum is planning other renovations. But, she isn’t going at these challenges single-handedly. Backing Baum is a library staff that she has grown to really appreciate. “My favorite thing is working with the staff and getting to know them,” she said.

Likewise, she has praise for her fellow deans. “The other deans are so driven and dedicated to their work,” she said. “It’s a joy to work with them. They are people who really care about Lamar.”





Beaumont lawyer James Makin '74 and his wife, Lynda Kay, enjoy KVLU's 30th-anniversary celebration.



Betty Greenberg, Vic Rogers, Dr. David Caldwell '76 and Donna Evans, from left, were among a large contingent of KVLU supporters celebrating the Lamar public radio station's 30th anniversary Oct. 28 at Katharine and Company.



Cheryl and Robert Bertrand enjoy the reception and silent auction that preceded the vintner dinner at La Dolce Vita.



Floyd McSpadden, Paige Windham, Morris Windham and Patti McSpadden, from left, are among the arts patrons attending the opening night of La Dolce Vita. The McSpaddens coordinated the event's vintner dinner.



Leonard Pitts displays the "Spirit of Love" award presented by the Julie Rogers Gift of Life Program at his Sept. 13 lecture at Lamar. With him are Gift of Life President Nell McCallum Morris, left, and Chair Regina Rogers, who made the presentation. Pitts accepted the award on behalf of his mother, Agnes Pitts, who died of breast cancer in 1988. The award included a \$2,500 donation to the American Cancer Society.



Austin '78 and Phoebe Dishman take a tour of the Eisenstadt Collection of the Dishman Art Museum during a reception preceding the vintner dinner at La Dolce Vita.



Judy and James Black are among patrons enjoying the vintner dinner at Lamar's Dishman Art Museum.



Lori Ryerkerk, ExxonMobil Beaumont Refinery manager, poses with her son, Grant, in front of Lamar's holiday tree at Cardinal Lights Dec. 2. The event honored ExxonMobil, and President Simmons called on Grant to switch on the lights illuminating campus.



Lamar University's newest deans - Hollis Lowery-Moore and Christina Baum, from left - visit during a reception in their honor Oct. 13. Lowery-Moore is dean of the College of Education and Human Development, and Baum is Lamar's first dean of library services, formerly library director.



Regents' Professor of History John Carroll and his wife, Charlotte Yust, enjoy the Dishman Art Museum opening with their daughter, Mary Charlotte, a 10-year-old fifth-grader.



Jack '41 and Charlotte Brooks congratulate Distinguished Faculty Lecturer Terri Davis.



Michael Lee '67, joined by his wife, Tanya, is among featured artists attending the Sept. 10 opening reception for alumni and faculty exhibitions at Dishman Art Museum.



Dean Brenda Nichols of the College of Arts and Sciences, left, and Eileen Curl, chair of the Department of Nursing, welcomed prominent MD Anderson Cancer Center physician Dr. Curtis A. Pettaway, who spoke about early detection of prostate cancer - the subject of this year's Gift of Life Health Forum, which more than 600 nursing students and medical professionals attended Sept. 22. Lamar hosted the forum with Julie Rogers Gift of Life Program, the Jefferson County Medical Society and The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.



# Power of enterprise

BY BRIAN SATTLER

It was the carrot of global opportunity that really got Austin's competitive spirit going in the 1980s, transforming the college town into a high-tech powerhouse. Behind that transformation was super-lawyer-turned-civic-entrepreneur Pike Powers '62.

"We saw that the future was global competition and that we could either sit back and have it happen to us, or we could capture our share and be part of the information technology economy," Powers said. "Otherwise, we would remain some kind of second-class economy."

Others have taken notice of Powers' leading role in bringing high-tech to town. Powers, managing partner in the Austin office of the law firm Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P., was honored recently with the Laura Kilcrease Community Business Leadership Award by the University of Texas-Austin Technology Incubator, joining prior recipients computer entrepreneur Michael Dell; Luci Baines Johnson, chairwoman of LBJ Holding Co.; healthcare executive Neal Kocurek; and CenterPoint Ventures partner Bill Bock. In 2003, he received the first-ever Austin Business Journal Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to the economic development of Austin and Central Texas.

These accolades recognize Powers for attracting research/development and technology enterprises and jobs to the Central Texas region for more than two decades. Southeast Texans are familiar with Powers' can-do attitude and drive from his service to the region in the Texas House of Representatives from 1972-79, and as a trial lawyer in Beaumont for 11 years.

Tapped a "Texas Super Lawyer" in the November 2003 issue of Texas Monthly, Powers looks on his Austin experience with pleasure. "I was really blessed," he said. "I was in the right place at the right



BRIAN SATTLER

time, and a lot of lucky things happened. I've had such a good time doing it all. I could not have dreamed it would have been possible."

At Lamar, Powers pursued a major in government and a minor in history, a logical combination for a student with his sights set squarely on law school. Although he could have gone with only three years of his undergraduate work completed – receiving his bachelor's degree after finishing his first year of law school – he decided to "double up" to complete his degree at Lamar. With a scholarship to Southern Methodist University's law school, Powers headed to Dallas, where he made good marks. Yet, when the year ended, he also learned his scholarship was ending. The pre-approved loan was "all typed up and ready to sign," but that didn't look appealing to the aspiring lawyer. "I literally got in the car and drove to Austin to visit the University of Texas School of Law," Powers said.

The school was closed when he arrived, but he encountered T. J. "Thunder Jet" Gibson, then dean of admissions, who queried him on the spot about his grades, credentials and ambitions. "He said, 'You're in. You're admitted,'" Powers said. "You couldn't anymore do something like that today than fly to the moon in your head. So, I

transferred to Texas that day."

Powers, the eldest of three siblings, thrived at UT, earning his juris doctorate in 1965.

In a day when few graduates had jobs in hand on graduation day – long before clerking was common practice – Powers took the bar exam, then entered the U.S. Coast Guard. He was learning the ropes in boot camp when President Lyndon Johnson escalated the U.S. involvement in Vietnam. After completing six months' duty on the U. S. Coast Guard Cutter Dexter, and having learned he had passed the bar, Powers returned to Beaumont to find employment and continued to fulfill his reserve duties each summer.

Strong, Pipkin, Nelson & Parker found promise in the young lawyer. Powers worked for the 10-person practice 11 years, on "anything that came through the door, from bankruptcies and divorces to murder cases."

Criminal District Judge George Taylor, who had been alumni advisor to the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, knew Powers from his Lamar days and would often assign him as a court-appointed attorney. "I wasn't seeking to be in the murder case defense business, but it found me," Powers said. "When you get appointed to one of those cases, your sense of responsibility at having someone's life and liberty in your hands is the damndest thing I've ever experienced. You don't eat. You don't sleep. It's a dramatically different kind of pressure."

Powers entered the political arena in 1972 with his election as a state representative for Jefferson County in what was then multi-member District 9. Later, he served as representative of District 7, which stretched from Port Arthur through Port Neches, Groves, Nederland and west-end Beaumont to the Hardin County line. In 1977, Powers served on the House Appropriations Committee, "protecting the interests of Lamar University." He was tapped as a Distinguished Alumnus of the university in 1978.

For Powers, that was a very transitional year. "It was too good an offer to pass up," Powers said of the opportunity to establish Fulbright & Jaworski's Austin office. "I hated to leave Beaumont. The people in southeast Texas were wonderful."

It was Powers' relationship with former Texas Gov. Mark White that spurred his move into economic development. "He and I spent a lot of time as good friends, talking about key public and political leaders noted for economic development," he said. "So, we started working on things that related to that in the late '70s and early '80s." When White was elected governor, he tapped Powers to be his first chief of staff in 1983 and made economic development job one. "It enabled me to continue my past experience in politics and law and put it to good use," Powers said.

In 1983, he led the effort in rallying the community around the then-tremendous goal of landing the most prestigious economic development prize of the early 1980s — the Microelectronics Computer Technology Consortium (MCC), an initiative to further the U.S. competitive position in computing technology. It was a national winner-take-all competition in which victory would mean

research operations, laboratories and highly skilled people – a magnet for attracting and growing technology-based companies.

"Gov. White said, 'I want you to stop working on everything you're working on and work on this. I don't want to be second. I want to win by a mile.'"

Under Powers' energetic drumbeat, an ever-expanding circle of increasingly interested people met every morning to develop the winning proposal, size up the competition and rehearse the pitch. "It was our first opportunity as a community to try to bring consensus to economic development," Powers said. "We had a real sense of mission and purpose, which helped us put our petty differences aside. It tested our community in ways we had never been tested before." Practice and teamwork paid off.

"On May 18, 1983, we won," Powers said. The announcement made the front page of the nation's newspapers of record and helped

put Austin squarely on the road to high-tech leadership. Later, when Powers left the governor's office, he became a key volunteer broker in future deals that helped put Austin on the economic development technology map: SEMATECH, Applied Materials and 3M.

Powers served on Gov. Rick Perry's Science and Bio-Technology Council in 2002-03 and was a leader in creating his Texas Technology Initiative (TTI) in 2002 to redefine and reinvigorate the collaboration of government, academia and private industry. In response to this strategy and the need to stay globally competitive with incentive programs, the state of Texas created a \$295-million Enterprise Fund that led to the retention of

International SEMATECH and significant funding for the University of Texas at Austin.

"It's the same song sheet," Powers said of the initiative, "just written a little bit bigger, and I think everybody in the state now recognizes that if we are not willing to be competitive in the advanced-technology arena, we won't be very competitive elsewhere."

"This work is exciting because the ideas are so powerful and the future of the place is so compelling," Powers said. "Mix all of that together in the right way, and it makes for a heady mix of solid civic pride."

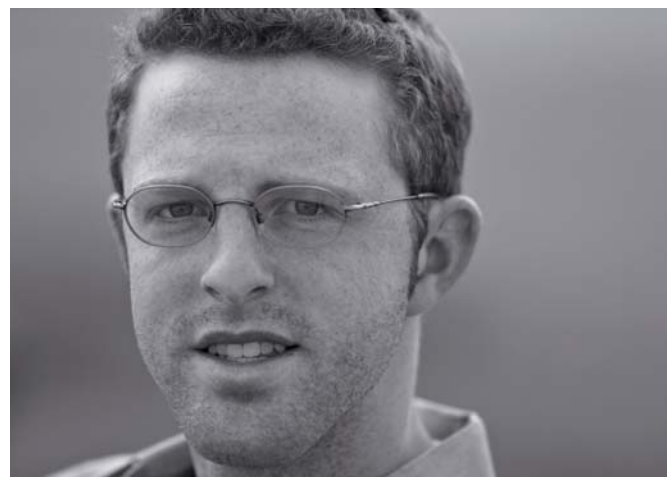
"My wife, [Pam (Honea) '68] tells a story that when I was an active trial lawyer, I'd be sitting at home late at night with a yellow pad out and scowling. Later, when I was running for political office – which I did six times – she'd find me late at night with my yellow pad thinking about the opponent with my face in a scowl. Later, as this economic development life began to unfold, I'd be up late at night with my yellow pad in my hand with a huge smile on my face."

"It has been a very positive experience; it was all constructive," Powers said. "It never has stopped being fun. Politics was fun, trying lawsuits was fun, but economic development is a lot more fun, and it has long-term positive consequences for the entire community – all boats rise with the economic tide. Lamar needs to step up and be the regional leader for and of economic development . . . the future of the economy of Southeast Texas."

"We saw that the future was global competition and that we could either sit back and have it happen to us, or we could capture our share and be part of the information technology economy," Powers said. "Otherwise, we would remain some kind of second-class economy."



# Sporting muse



MICHAEL STRAVATO

BY CHRIS CASTILLO

When Jason Robichau '02 was a student at Lamar, he saw an ESPN story on Buffalo Bills quarterback Jim Kelly and his son's struggle with a genetic disease. The news story focused on Hunter's Hope, a foundation promoting treatment, education and research into Krabbe's Disease.

"I called (the foundation) and told them I couldn't donate money, but I'd do a portrait they could auction off for charity," Robichau said. The foundation asked Robichau to submit slides of his work, then agreed to let him do a portrait of Kelly.

"I did the portrait from a photograph, then flew to Buffalo and presented it to Jim Kelly in October 1999. He loved it," Robichau said. "That really got me motivated."

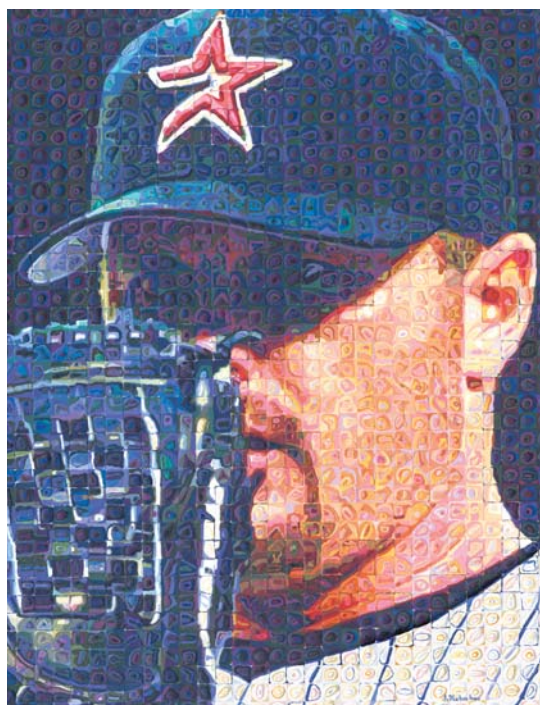
The Kelly portrait was done in a realistic style, but that isn't Robichau's trademark technique.

Inspired by New York artist Chuck Close, Robichau typically paints in the illusionist style, adopting a technique of using small painted squares to create a larger picture. Each square contains four to eight colors. The project consists of

hundreds of squares. Viewed up close, the painting is a collage of colors, but from farther away, it resembles a photograph.

Robichau, who lives and works in Houston, started painting when he was a high school sophomore.

"I can't say that anyone has taught me (art). I think it's something that's natural. I



Roger Clemens

learned from trial and error," the 24-year-old said. He took several art classes at Lamar but decided not to pursue an art degree because he thought a business degree would help him market his artwork and provide a more secure future.

Robichau paints in acrylic on illustration board or canvas. A self portrait, his first attempt at illusionism, took 10 hours to complete. Now, working from a photograph, he spends 50 to 60 hours on each painting. He works from photos, rather than live models, because of the time it takes to complete each project.

"I do a lot of sports art," he said. "I'm really passionate about art and sports, so I combined the two."

Robichau made his mark with the Houston Rockets after donating artwork to their annual Tux & Tennies fund-raiser. He approached the team about painting Rocket Yao Ming. Again, after seeing slides of his work, they agreed.

"They auctioned it off, and it did really well," he said. "That's how I got my foot in the door."

The first time he painted Yao Ming



Lance Armstrong

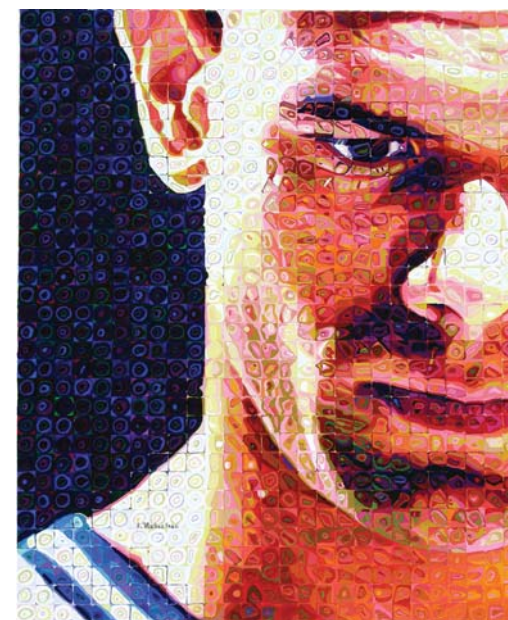
was in 2002. As usual, he gave the original artwork to the subject of the painting, but Ming didn't know what to make of it. Ming gave the art away soon after the presentation.

Later, he did a portrait of Ming and teammate Tracy McGrady. The work was chosen to be printed on every season ticket that year, and Robichau was elated.

He has painted more than 20 celebrities. His subjects include golfer Tiger Woods, cyclist Lance Armstrong, entertainer Rosie O'Donnell, actress Jennifer Love Hewitt, Mark McGwire of the St. Louis Cardinals, singer Britney Spears, Sheryl Swoopes, Tina Thompson and Cynthia Cooper of the Comets, and the band Fleetwood Mac.

The highlight of his career was meeting country singer Faith Hill before a San Diego concert, where he presented her with a portrait as a gift.

"Faith Hill is one of my favorite people. I gave her the painting because I wanted to



Shane Battier

meet her, with no strings attached," Robichau said.

The gesture did garner him some publicity. Country Week Magazine published an article on the gift and highlighted Robichau's art.

Since then, he has caught the eye of athletes and other celebrities. His idea of donat-

**"I do a lot of sports art," he said. "I'm really passionate about art and sports, so I combined the two."**

ing paintings to celebrities for charity has given his art significant exposure.

"I worked for the Houston Rockets for eight months in corporate sales," he said. While with the Rockets, he met a lot of people with the Houston Astros organization.

One of his most recent projects involved Astro Roger Clemens. The painting, commissioned by the Astros, was used as a giveaway during an Astros game.

The first 10,000 fans who arrived at the June 24 game received a poster of the unique painting.

"I didn't present the original painting to him (Clemens) until Aug. 15. He said he already had a spot picked out for it," Robichau said. Clemens requested an additional 100 posters for family and friends.



Cynthia Cooper

On average, Robichau's work sells for between \$2,000 and \$4,000. During one charity auction, a pair of his paintings went for \$20,000. At a recent charity event for the Boston Celtics, his painting of former Celtics coach Arnold "Red" Auerbach sold for \$16,000.

"I prefer silent auctions," Robichau said. "At silent auctions, I stand in front of the painting and talk about the style. I get to meet a lot of people."

Robichau is his own boss, but that often means putting in a lot of hours and long days.

"It's fun to do your own thing. People think I don't work. That's a misconception. I put in eight- to 10-hour days. I can work several months (straight) on a project. In his art, Robichau stays at the top of his game.



Grant Hill



# A love of learning



MICHAEL CARPENTER

Ann Die HASSELMO

All her life, Ann Die Hasselmo '66, has excelled in the academic world – as a student leader, summa cum laude graduate, university professor, dean, college president, distinguished alumna and on dozens of boards that chart the course of colleges and universities.

Now, more than ever, she is part of the big picture in higher education.

Since 2002, Hasselmo has been managing director of Academic Search Consultation Service, one of the leading educational executive search firms in the world. Each year, the Washington, D.C.-based company matches 60 or more institutions of higher learning with just the right leaders.

"I've had the opportunity to work with national higher education associations, scientific foundations and colleges and universities," says Hasselmo, a Distinguished Alumna of Lamar University and President Emerita of Hendrix College in Arkansas. "Instead of doing institutional development and institutional transformation at a single institution, the opportunity to get to do that across the nation was one I couldn't pass up."

Her seventh-floor office on K Street Northwest, in the heart of the nation's capital, looks out over skyscrapers where the machinery of national government hums, whirs and whistles. "The nation's capital is an exciting place to live," Hasselmo says. "It's great fun."

Hasselmo's job takes her to campuses across the country and around the world. The demands are intense, the pace nonstop. For Ann Hasselmo, the rewards are unending.

"I love it," she declares, with a passion in her voice that says she means it. "It is amazing that higher education has so much talent . . . it's remarkable the people who are ready to assume positions in senior leadership."

It is no surprise she has come such a long way, for Ann Marie Hayes was a little girl with lofty dreams – "to travel, to see new worlds, to experience things that I had only read about and to live a life I could only imagine," as she describes those dreams today.

"I do believe that each day, doors opened and new paths became

available as I went through life."

Hasselmo was born in Baytown and graduated from high school in Silsbee before arriving at Lamar, a first-generation college student.

"It was a door to education. I found the classrooms at Lamar so exciting and the faculty members who taught me so inspiring, that, each time I took a class, I thought, 'That's what I want to major in,'" Hasselmo said.

"I had a grandfather who wanted to go to college but was never able to because of financial constraints and having to work full time from when he was young," Hasselmo said. "He was a leader and

mentor in my life, and we spent many hours discussing current events and magazine articles. He appreciated my desire to get an education and the love I had for learning. He and my parents encouraged and cultivated and celebrated with me as I was able to go through my educational experience."

At Lamar, she says, "I had the most wonderful professors – people who took a special interest in students, who cared about education and learning. I had incredible mentors."

She singles out Myrtle Bell, Samuel Evans and Ralph Wooster. Hasselmo was taking Evans' Texas history course the semester he died, and she went on to earn the first Samuel Evans Award for Texas history, an honor she will never forget.

Hasselmo served as news editor of the campus newspaper, then the Redbird, and was associate editor of Pulse, the literary magazine. She was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi national honor society, the Freshman Honor Society and a senator representing the College of Arts and Sciences in the Student Government Association.

When she ran for the SGA post, she borrowed a marketing strategy from Burma Shave signs that once lined the nation's roadways:

"When promises of candidates . . . Have you in a daze . . . Make the right choice . . . Vote Ann Hayes."

After graduating summa cum laude from Lamar with a degree in elementary education, Hasselmo earned a master of education from the University of Houston in 1969 and a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Texas A&M University in 1977. She joined the Lamar faculty after completing an internship at the campus Counseling Center as she was finishing her doctorate. A position was open in the psychology department, where her mentor, Myrtle Bell, was chair.

Hasselmo was drawn to psychology with her first course in the subject, educational psychology with Bell. "I remembered not only the general issues, but also the details, research, examples, theories and principles," she says. "The excitement of reading about the human potential and human behavior has never ceased to be fascinating."

In her department, she says, "I had a great group of colleagues. We tried to provide an educational experience the students who were majors or minors or just passing through psychology would find valuable. I enjoyed the viewpoints of faculty across the university."

She became an advisor to SGA. "It was a rare and meaningful opportunity to get to come back to my alma mater," she said. "It was a special treat to watch students as they went through the educational program and ultimately walked across that stage to get a degree."

Hasselmo was at Lamar 11 years, serving as president of the Faculty Senate and earning the highest honor accorded a Lamar faculty member, that of Regents' Professor. She advanced to Lamar's executive team as assistant to the executive vice president. In 1986-87, she became one of 29 Fellows of the American Council on Education (ACE) and spent the year in the president's office at the College of William and Mary.

"Ann has the most remarkable interpersonal skills of anyone I've

ever met," said former student Melanie Dishman '88.

"That, combined with her great sense of humor and keen intelligence, is what made her such an exceptional teacher. She instilled in her students the desire to learn and the self-confidence to excel. I learned skills in Ann's classes that, 20 years later, I use every day."

What has Lamar meant to Hasselmo's career? "The question," she replies, is "What has Lamar meant to my life?"

Her fellowship to William and Mary led to her next step on the educational ladder. "When Tulane was doing a search for a dean of Sophie Newcomb College, they asked individuals on the American Council on Education if they had someone they would like to nominate for that position," she said. Hasselmo received a nomination. In 1988, she became dean of Sophie Newcomb College and associate provost of Tulane University, also serving as chair of the Newcomb Foundation board. She was responsible for the university's strategic plan, among other things.

Another search led to the presidency at Hendrix College, a prestigious liberal arts college in Conway, Ark. During her presidency at Hendrix, she chaired the Council of Fellows for the ACE, the board of the National Association of Independent Colleges and

Universities and Division 3 President's Council of the NCAA, on whose executive committee she served.

Hasselmo often received calls from search firms working on behalf of institutions to find leaders. "Who do you know?" they would ask, and describe an institution and a position. "I would try to give them five or six names of people I had met through programs I'd been involved in – people who had impressed me with what they had accomplished in their own institutions.

"I was into my ninth year at Hendrix — the position I held at Newcomb and

Tulane was similar to a presidency so that when I went to Hendrix, it felt much like a second presidency.

"I thought, 'I still want to work in higher education, but I think I want to work across institutions,'" Hasselmo said. "I had wonderful careers at several different kinds of institutions, and I appreciated what each brought to the table in terms of the great diversity of American higher education and the opportunities that diversity gives students, parents and faculty in picking a place that seems to fit who they are and their educational mission. I had found that all of those educational missions suited me, and I loved them all."

Search consultants told her: "You seem to enjoy leadership development. Why don't you consider doing higher-education executive search?" So now, I do institutional development and institutional transformation in all the sectors of higher education and national associations and foundations that support higher education. I also participate in leadership development from the dean to the vice president to the presidential level across this diverse array of American higher-education institutions.

She finds living in Washington particularly valuable and makes it

**"Qualities that made her an effective manager and president – tenacity, good will and smartness about people – have stood clients in good stead in searches brought to successful completion."**

— Academic Search profile of Ann Die Hasselmo

BY LOUISE WOOD



a point to stay abreast of issues affecting higher education.

“When a college or a university is doing a search for a president or a chancellor, it needs someone who is knowledgeable about those issues in order for the institution to be led well. I try to find people who can bring their best to an institution.”

Hasselmo divides her time between management and participation in selected searches. She headed the search for the president of the American Association for Higher Education and worked with Research Corp., the first scientific foundation in the country. She also chaired an organizational assessment for the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

Hasselmo strives to be an advocate for every aspect of higher education and to participate in the leadership development programs around the country. Last year, she chaired the Millennium Leadership Initiative of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, of which Lamar is a member. The initiative supports the development of under-representative minorities in higher education leadership.

Her profession led Hasselmo to her Swedish-born husband, Nils Hasselmo, president of the Association of American Universities and former president of the University of Minnesota. They married in 2003 and make their home in The Watergate, a D.C. landmark.

The couple traveled this year to his homeland, where, according to the bride, “I met a lot of his cousins and grade-school friends.” It was her first trip to Sweden since 1970, when she bought a Eurail pass and spent the summer in Europe.

The two met when both served on higher education boards. “He chaired the board of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges two years before I chaired the board of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities,”



1966 yearbook photo

Hasselmo said, “Both of us were active on national higher-education issues, but our paths never crossed until we both lived in Washington.”

Hasselmo is the mother of one daughter, Meredith Die Strachan, a lawyer in Houston. A licensed psychologist, Hasselmo has directed a graduate clinical program and served as a consultant to attorneys, corporations, boards, hospitals, school districts and colleges and universities.

Community activities include work on refugee assistance issues, intercultural councils and mental health, civic and performing arts boards.

Hasselmo maintains her license to practice psychology. “I make sure I do the continuing education I need to keep current because, in retirement, it would be wonderful to volunteer my skills as a licensed psychologist.”

Out of the office and off the executive search trail, Hasselmo savors the Washington fine arts scene – a love cultivated at Lamar. “While I was on the faculty, I would take an exercise or dance class during my lunch hour three days a week. I always had a love of dance but was never able to take lessons as a child, so I studied ballet, modern dance and jazz at Lamar.”



Ann Die Hasselmo, with Barbara Ferrare, director of administration and finance for Academic Search.

She sustains that interest as a supporter and season ticket-holder of the Washington Ballet, Shakespeare Theatre and National Symphony Orchestra.

“I love theatre, and this city is such a great place for performances,” she said. “I live next door to the Kennedy Center and can literally pop over for productions. I especially love Tennessee Williams, and last spring, the Kennedy Center had a Tennessee Williams Festival where I saw *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Streetcar Named Desire* and *The Glass Menagerie*.

“Last Sunday, I saw a Calder/Miro exhibit at the Phillips Collection. I enjoy travel and reading, but I really love the arts and the opportunity I have in this city to sample the best.”

Hasselmo also enjoys keeping up with her students. “It was an honor to be asked to participate in the further development of their lives long after I had them in class,” she said.

“It has been a particular pleasure to have known individuals who started out in my first introductory psychology class. I have kept up with several of them throughout their lives, their many adventures, degrees and career opportunities.”

To this day, Hasselmo considers her grandfather, Albert Cooke, her greatest inspiration: “There is no rival.”

Time with him shaped her life. “He and I were such good buddies. He had a small place in Lampasas, north of Austin, and I would spend weeks in the summer when I was in grade school and junior high, helping him with the farm and with his sheep and his cows,” she recalls.

“Those opportunities gave us long hours to ride and talk. He was a man of impeccable morals and values and ethics and always behaved in a way that made other people want to be like him. We were working on the land, which was also a good lesson.

“He was a great adventurer, and we would explore Central Texas. He had a wonderful gift for stopping and getting to know people.

“We would pick fruit in a farmer’s garden if he was selling it. We would get to know that farmer, and the next time we went through that area, would stop and see him again. He continued to cultivate the relationships he created. Through him, I learned the rewards of taking time to get to know people all through life and all along life.”

# Class act

## Preparing tomorrow’s teachers

As the new dean of the multi-faceted College of Education and Human Development, Hollis Lowery-Moore says she takes it one day at a time.

“I work hard on time management, making sure that each department gets the attention it deserves,” she said.

With her considerable experience, Lowery-Moore is destined to bring great changes to the college.

“Hollis brings to this position precisely the range of teaching and administrative credentials we were seeking, from doctoral program development and leadership to substantial experience with the country’s premier teacher education accrediting body to national stature in her discipline,” Stephen Doblin, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, said.

Since joining Lamar in August, Lowery-Moore has used this semester to observe the college and decide what improvements need to be made.

“It is an exciting time at Lamar. I think things are growing and changing in a positive way,” Lowery-Moore said.

The college is working on re-accreditation by The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. The NCATE accreditation team is scheduled to visit the college in spring 2006.

She also plans to foster relationships between the college, the public schools and community colleges.

Community colleges are the primary feeder schools for educator preparation, and Lowery-Moore would like to make it easier for students to transfer.

In addition, she wants to work with the public schools to help improve teacher

retention. “When you are talking about preparing teachers, the job doesn’t stop with college education. When they get out, they are novice teachers, and we need to work with school districts and regional service centers to help them stay in the profession,” Lowery-Moore said.

The college is growing with an enrollment of 1,803 students and the creation of several new programs.

In August, the college began its educational leadership doctoral program. It is based on a cohort model where students move through the program together and provide support for one another.

“What makes our doctorate unique is that it is for working professionals,” Lowery-Moore said. Most of the inaugural class of 15 students have full-time positions in school districts. The next cohort will begin in fall 2005.

Currently, the community-based graduate program in public health in the Department of Health and Kinesiology is at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for approval.

In the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, the culinary program was accredited by the American Culinary Federation in 2002, making it one of only seven four-year institutions in the country with that status.

The dietetic internship program, which links students directly with potential employers, is accredited by the American Dietetic Association. It is one of only a few in the state with that distinction.

Before coming to Lamar, Lowery-



BRIAN SATTLER

Moore was the associate dean of the College of Education and Applied Science at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville. She was responsible for accreditation, accountability, certification, educational partnerships, field experience, advisement and technology resource programs of the college’s educator preparation programs.

A prolific author, she has published more than 20 scholarly articles in professional publications and serves as a peer reviewer for several professional publications. An in-demand presenter, she frequently speaks at state, regional, national and international conferences, conventions and workshops on a wide range of topics in teacher education.

Lowery-Moore is taking in the culture of Beaumont and the dynamics of Lamar.

“Being here is a wonderful opportunity for me to grow and learn and be a part of something exciting.”

— SAH





Lamar Wind Ensemble

## Lamar Wind Ensemble stars at international band clinic

The Lamar University Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Scott Weiss, traveled to Seattle, Wash., Nov. 19-22 for a featured performance at the Western International Band Clinic.

At the invitation of the clinic, the ensemble presented a concert during the final night of the clinic, which attracted more than 650 high school band students, as well as several hundred band directors and music teachers.

Highlighting the Wind Ensemble's program was the world premiere of a double concerto for trombone, timpani and band, composed by Nick Rissman, associate professor of music at Lamar. Weiss, now in his fourth year as Lamar's director of bands, also presented a workshop.

This marked the second time a Lamar band has performed at this prestigious event. The first came in 1992 when the Lamar Symphonic Band, under the direction of Barry Johnson, became the first Texas band to perform at the conference.

"We were pleased that a Lamar University band once again received an invitation to perform at this outstanding conference," said Johnson, now vice president for student affairs. "The Wind Ensemble and Dr. Weiss are to be congratulated. The experience the students glean from this event will be a highlight of their university experience."

## Arts patrons savor flavor of *La Dolce Vita*

Magnifico! The superlative captured the essence of *La Dolce Vita* - from the *Vino Magnifico* vintner dinner to the *Bella Cucina* cooking seminar/tasting and *Buona Sera* wine pairing the next day.

It was a memorable debut for the Oct. 22-23 weekend of fine wine and haute cuisine to benefit the Dishman Art Museum. Master chef Ernst Gruch, executive chef of the Dallas Country Club, and San Antonio vintner F. Woody de Luna of the Block Wine Division of Block Distributing were the stars of the opening evening as Lamar patrons reveled in the opening event, chaired by Patti and Floyd McSpadden.

Activities continued with a cooking seminar and tasting - presented with flair by Chef Gruch and coordinated by Lamar's Chef Charles Duit and Connie and Marvin Dunnam. A centerpiece of the weekend's success was the wine pairing, featured 20 wines and complementary tastings of fare from fallen soufflé of goat cheese to

wild mushroom and sun-dried tomato risotto. All of the offering drew raves from patrons, much to the delight of Charlotte and Tom Stirling and Linda and Gerald Patrizi, who coordinated the pairing.



F. Woody de Luna explains the fine points of fine wines to guests at the vintner dinner.



Teri Winger, left, of Glazier Wholesale shares laughter - as well as wine - at *La Dolce Vita*.



Chef Ernst Gruch performs culinary wizardry at the cooking school.



## *Lamarissimo!* strikes up the band, stages election-day celebration

Conductor Scott Weiss, dashing in a white tuxedo, prepares to conduct the Lamar Wind Ensemble to open the 15th-anniversary season of *Lamarissimo!* The Lamar Concert Band shared the bill for the Oct. 5 performance. On election day Nov. 2, faculty artists staged a star-spangled musical celebration, complete with a salute to armed forces veterans in the audience and, with the American flag for a backdrop, a rousing Sousa medley. Here, Robert Culbertson and Wayne Dyess take a patriotic turn. The concert opened on a classical - and historical - note when Charlotte Mizener became the first faculty artist to perform a harp solo at a *Lamarissimo!* concert. Mizener joined the faculty this fall.



## ArtNotes

Judy and George Dishman will be the honorees at Le Grand Bal, the annual gala benefitting the College of Fine Arts and Communication. The artful evening is scheduled April 2. "Judy and George were selected for their longtime support of both the arts and Lamar University," said Russ Schultz, dean of the college. "Because of their sustained belief and support, many positive things have been accomplished and developed on our campus. Their selections recognizes all they have done for our university and community." Paula "Torchy" Salter is Bal chair . . . Lamar hosted the National Council of Art Administrators for its annual conference Nov. 10-13. The conference gave Lamar students a time to shine, while showcasing Lamar programs to peers from all over the country, said Donna Meeks,



chair of Lamar's Department of Art and conference chair. A highlight was the presentation of Awards of Distinction to Lamar's Keith Carter '70, who holds the endowed Walles Chair in Art, and to Ed Hill and Suzanne Bloom of the University of Houston, who collaborate and

exhibit under the name Manual Hill/Bloom. Adair Wakefield Margo of El Paso, chair of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, was keynote speaker, joined by program presenters from throughout the country. Lamar entertained the group with a Cajun-style cookout and Zydeco dance at Spindletop/Gladys City Boomtown Museum. Conferees also visited The Art Studio Inc., Art Museum of Southeast Texas and Houston art venues. . . The College of Fine Arts and Communication and Art Museum of Southeast Texas are combining brunch and beautiful



music in a new series of concerts. *The Tea Room and the Arts* made its debut Oct. 31 at the art museum with chamber music by Lamar faculty artists. The series continued with the Lamar Jazz Ensemble 14, and Lamar Silver Tubes, Dec. 12. The series will continue with Lamar Chamber Winds, Jan. 23; *Shakespeare's Women of Character: An Afternoon of Modern Dance*, Feb. 20; original compositions, March 6; a program to be announced, April 24; Lamar Chamber Winds, May 8. Bunch is from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and performances at 3 p.m.





Father and son Ron Sullivan '67 of Dallas and Eric Sullivan '96 of Port Neches enjoy a reunion at the opening for Lamar's alumni and faculty exhibitions. Both award-winning designers, they exhibited posters, logos, brochures, print advertisements and other work.

Spence '97, Eric Sullivan '96, Ron Sullivan '67, Susan Swanson '04, Lynn Sweat '56 and Andy Taylor '03.

The faculty exhibit showcased works by Keith Carter '70, Steve Hodges '63, Kurt Dyrhaug, Meredith Jack, Ann Matlock, Donna Meeks, Prince Thomas, Linnis Blanton '72, '77, Greg Busceme '79, Jamie Paul Kessler '80, Rose Matthis and Jerry Newman.

## Alumni exhibit links past to future

Almost half a century of talent emerging from Lamar's Department of Art was represented in a special exhibition on display last fall as the Dishman Art Museum.

*Then and Now: An Alumni Survey 1956-2004* concluded Nov. 17. Sharing the spotlight was the annual Faculty Exhibition, with works by 12 faculty artists.

*Then and Now* included works from 28 Lamar alumni, most of whom have achieved international, national and regional prominence. Among them were painters, sculptors, photographers, graphic designers and art educators.

"For this, our third alumni exhibition since the Dishman Art Museum opened in 1983, the art faculty selected former students who specialized in their areas of expertise," said Lynne Lokensgard, professor of art history. "These artists not only represent our program, which goes back to 1956, but also illustrate to the viewer the strength of our educational vision and the many successes our alumni have achieved."

Featured alumni were John Alexander '66, David Bennett '02, Craig Dunn Clark '96, Darren Crull '00, Richard Davis '66, Danny Duhon '96, Jenny Evans '03, James Daron Franklin '04, Adam Frusha '02, Greg Hendon '01, Michael Kennaugh '86, Sandy Laurette '80, Michael Lee '68, Paul Manes '82, Ken Mazzu '92, Grace Megnet '03, Jacob Miller '02, Robert Moreau Jr. '00, Wyatt Nash '01, Alan Prater '99, Tiffani Robertson '03, Chuck Russell '95, Cathy



Sandy Laurette '80, curator of education at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas, poses with her mixed-metal sculpture "Helmet for a Hairdresser's Divorce."



Amanda Rowell, a sophomore communication major from Orange, admires a sculpture by alumna Tiffani Robertson '03, an art teacher in Key West, Fla.



## Fall footlight fare

Lamar Theatre opened its 2004-2005 season Oct. 7-9 with Eric Overmyer's *On the Verge*, a "comic drama of cosmic proportions" directed by Randall Wheatley. Here, Adam Conrad, as dashing nightclub owner Nicky Paradise, woos intrepid traveler Alexandra, portrayed by Kara Click. Conrad, who played eight roles, and Click are both from Orange. Next on the playbill was Christopher Durang's *Baby with the Bathwater*, hailed as a "bizarre but brilliant comedy" and directed by Cody Crawford, a theatre student from Vidor. From left, Kathy Hearne of Groves, Christopher Murray of Beaumont and Rhiannon Delano of Orange rehearse a scene from the play, which ran Nov. 18-23.



December 2004

Dear KVLU,

For 30 years, you've been a constant companion. Through all your guises, program hosts, format rearrangements, cutbacks, reinstatements and changes in both our schedules, you've been there for me and lots of people I know.

This is a fan letter. A love letter. A valentine.

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways (only a partial list, to be sure, in alphabetical order): Noah Adams, Marilyn Arnold, Byron Balentine, Gordon Baxter, George Beverley, Darrell Brogdon, John Burnett, Andre Codrescu, Bob Crockett, Melanie Dishman, Ed Dix, Al Dugan, Bob Edwards, Johnny Edson, Joe Elwell, Dick Estelle, Bob Fox, Elizabeth French, Janna and John Fulbright, Abby Goldstein, Bonnie Goldstein, Pat Harrigan, David Harrington, Stacey Haynes, Gary Hinson, Garrison Keillor, Nancy Lawrence, Les Ledet, Tom and Ray Magliozzi, Marian McPartland, Guy Noir, Daniel Pinkwater, Sylvia Poggioli, Dave Pomeroy, Alan Rayne, Cokie Roberts, Joanne Scarborough, Hazen Schumacher, Lisa Simeone, Scott Simon, Corndodger Snopes, Dale Spear, Susan Stamberg, Bill Stanley, John Stevens, Billy Taylor, Nina Totenberg, Bailey White, Ken Wilson, Nancy Wilson and oh so many others.

There are quite a few favorites missing, for the talents carried over your airwaves – current and past, real and imaginary, local and national – are legion. You, NPR, APM and other sources provide real news for real people: breadth and depth in reporting stories no one else covers, a refreshing respite from pack journalism.

When you go off the air, you disrupt my psyche – and my day, but, hopefully, not many of them. When you first signed on 30 years ago, my car had only AM radio. Those were the days of technological yore, and I watched, apologetically, sheepishly, but with a sense of great glee, as a friend crawled under the dashboard to install an FM converter.

On the road, you're a fast friend. By candlelight or under moonlight you're an idyllic musical companion. On the deck, beside the lake, at the beach, under the trees, especially when accompanied by the perfect sunset, you're pure magic.

I'm not a morning person, and, when the alarm goes off, you, caffeine and Morning Edition get me going.

We've been together through thick and thin. When I was single, you kept me company. Since I've been married, you've given me music to dance to. To kindred spirits separated by miles and decades, you're a common denominator.

I'll say to you what program director Byron Balentine has said so affectionately to his listeners perhaps thousands of times in the 30 years:

Don't go far.

Fondly,

A longtime admirer



## KVLU: 1974

The late John Gray, then president of Lamar, and Brock Brentlinger, then dean of the College of Fine and Applied Arts, tour the KVLU studio soon after the station went on the air in 1974.

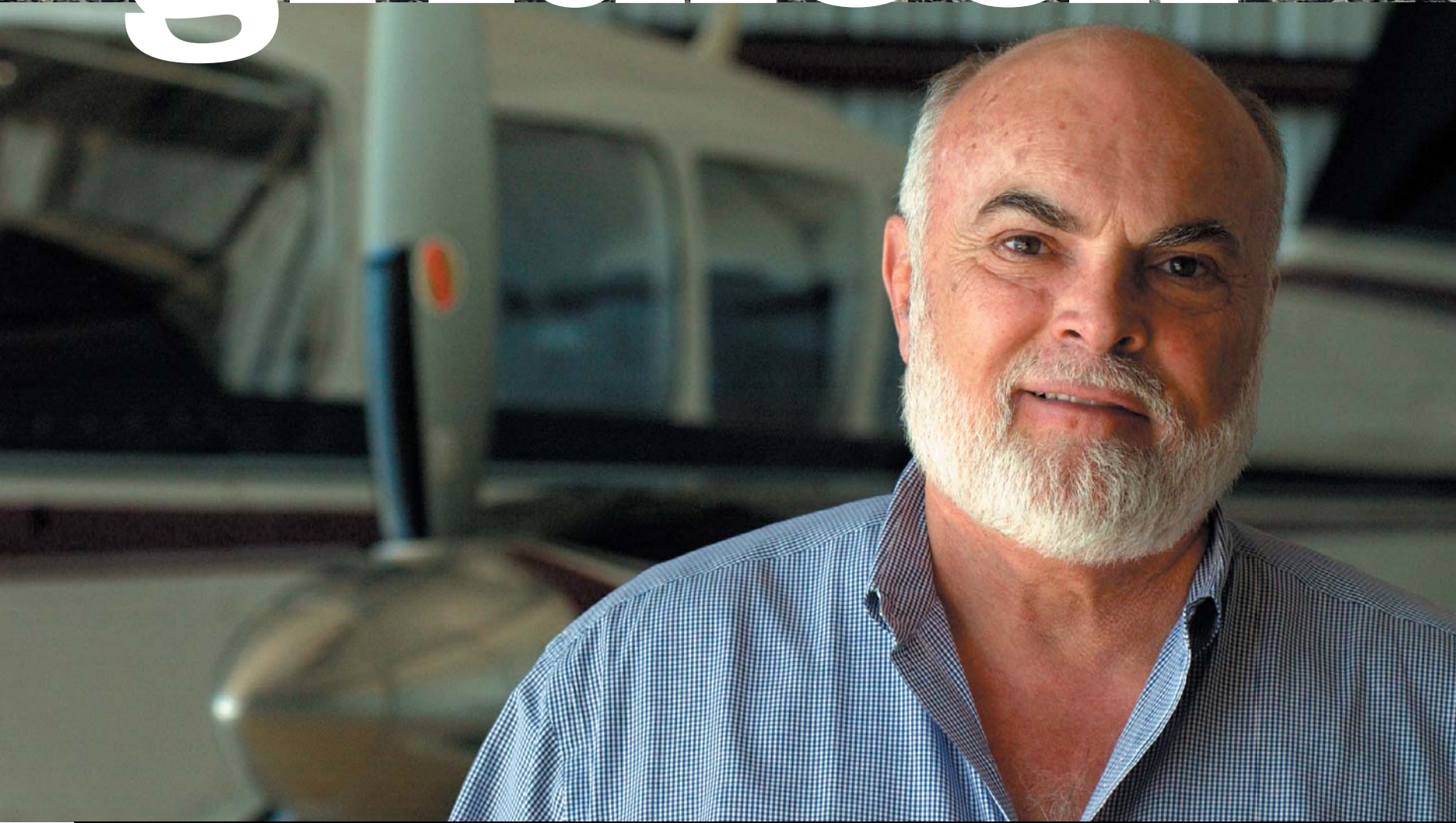
## KVLU: 2004

Several of KVLU's longtime members join station manager George Beverley, second from left, at the 30th- anniversary celebration Oct. 28. From left are Frank Messina, Carlo Busceme III, Scout Carr and Alan Sturm. Beverley explains: "Frank was involved in one of our first fund-raisers when we were still in the post office building. Carlo has given us coffee it seems like forever. Scout has always been a big public radio supporter wherever she lives. Alan has been a member on our books for years, although I had never met him until that night."





# Breaking the gridlock



BRIAN SATTLER

From his downtown Jacksonville, Texas, office, Robert Nichols '68 can keep tabs on the traffic on Commerce Street. This is small-town Texas, but with a twist.

Jacksonville, on U.S. 69 between Rusk and Tyler, stands out as a mecca for middle- and high-tech businesses, the result of purposeful planning and diligent effort.

"We've been working at it since the 1950s," Nichols said of the town's diversification. He can take pride in the accomplishment, not only as a purveyor of the plan but as founder of four of Jacksonville's anchor companies.

He is well known in the town where his heart is – and not just for his business prowess. Nichols has served on countless boards of business and charitable

organizations, as supporter of the town's junior college and hospital, on city council and two terms as mayor.

Today, Nichols shows this same passion in his second term on the Texas Transportation Commission after Gov. Rick Perry reappointed him in June 2003.

Nichols has brought to the position a noted industriousness, a discipline sparked

BY BRIAN SATTLER

early, fostered at Lamar and honed through decades of successful product development and manufacturing.

Honored by the nomination and genuinely surprised at his selection as commissioner by then-Gov. George W. Bush in 1997, Nichols took to the task in the only way he knew how – "get out there and get educated." He embarked on a 120-day tour of all 25 district offices, spending two or three days at each, then visited most county area and maintenance offices in Texas, listening to the concerns and learning the projects, priorities and problems in all areas of the state.

"I went to every work station trying to meet everyone," Nichols said of the leadership style he carried forward from his company days. He also met with local elected officials in each community to learn first hand their needs and to see how well the department's stated priorities matched up. "By and large, I found that we were doing a good job of listening and planning the right projects," Nichols said.

What he also found, however, was an organization that had grown too process oriented and too little project focused. Together, the commissioners set about to help create a change in the department's culture.

Within three years, without raising transportation taxes or fees, TxDOT increased "output to the road" about 75 percent and since that time has almost tripled it with the same number of employees, Nichols said. Fiscal year 2005 purchase orders for highway construction are expected to be around \$4.5 billion, up from around \$1.7 billion in 1995-96.

"TxDOT has worked together to break the logjams, and as output increased, enthusiasm has grown, and local and legislative support has increased," Nichols said.

Another challenge Nichols found in 1997 were rules and statutes that lingered from outmoded thinking. He set to work to find support to get those laws changed. One statute forbade TxDOT from spending state funds on construction of user-funded projects such as toll roads. Now, TxDOT is spending about 20 percent state funds on the \$2.9-billion Austin State Highway 130 project, a 50-plus-mile tolled freeway system. User fees will fund the balance, Nichols said, but the project to relieve Interstate 35 congestion could not move forward without

direct state investment.

Safety is always a top priority, Nichols said, followed by the incredibly complex challenge of relieving urban highway congestion. The costs can be eye-watering. Acquisition of right-of-way exceeded \$300 million for the Interstate 10 Katy Freeway lane expansion underway in West Houston. The cost of the Dallas Central Expressway U.S. 75 and Interstate 635 interchange project will near \$500 million. Yet the cost of addressing the problem pales compared to the cost of doing nothing, Nichols said.

Traffic already snarls every Texas city, as the number of vehicles on Texas highways continues to grow. In the

next 20 years, state demographers expect 9 million people to call Texas home, and 90 percent of those people will live in the state's urban areas. TxDOT knows that for every 1 percent growth in population, vehicle miles traveled increase by 2 to 3 percent.

"There is more highway construction underway in Texas than there has been in several decades," Nichols said of the full-throttle effort to address the growing challenge of getting around the state.

In Nichols' Commerce Street office, three silver revolvers are proudly displayed in a glass case at the end of the hall. More than toys, these cap guns pay homage to the genesis of Nichols' passion for manufacturing. The creation of Nichols' father, Talley, the six-shooters are die-cast zinc with white plastic grips, reminiscent of the arms that tamed the Wild West and flourished in the imaginations of America's youth in a day when the cowboy genre dominated Saturday afternoon matinees and became the staple of daytime television. Young Nichols grew up wandering around his father's tool and die shop, visiting the factory floor with a growing fascination for making things. By the time he graduated Jacksonville High School in 1963, he was determined to do just that.

After contacting a number of Texas colleges that had recognized engineering schools, Nichols found Lamar's industrial engineering program the strongest in the state. "Lamar taught me how to prioritize business decisions and to figure the cost so I could analyze the whole factory. So, later, it was just a matter of figuring out what I wanted to make," Nichols said.



**"There is more highway construction underway in Texas than there has been in several decades."**



“Having saved up my money to go to college, I was looking for the best value,” Nichols said. That meant buying used books over new, opting for a dorm room without air conditioning – saving \$20 a month – and finding part-time jobs.

On his first day at Lamar, Nichols met David Gates, a professor of industrial engineering and later chairman of the department. After working hard several semesters to make ends meet – including ironing shirts for other students – Nichols discovered the college’s co-op program and landed a job at Union Carbide in Texas City.

As a sophomore, Nichols opened a fireworks stand with a \$250 investment. With the proceeds, he built a larger stand and improved the first. By his senior year, he had 10 large fireworks stands open in Houston, Texas City, Galveston, Beaumont, Orange and Port Arthur, all staffed by fellow engineering students who kept 10 percent of the take. In his last 10 days of operation, Nichols cleared \$30,000 – in a time when a brand-new Pontiac GTO sold for \$3,500 and graduating engineers were averaging annual salaries of less than \$10,000. “Still, I didn’t feel like my future was in firecrackers,” Nichols said of his decision to sell the business.

In the late 1960s, plastics was one of the fastest-growing industry groups. Nichols’ Union Carbide co-op had introduced him to a variety of plastics, and he was soon recruited by Phillips Petroleum as one of a dozen people to be trained by the company “in every means of plastics processing known to man.”

“It was like getting a Ph.D. in plastics processing,” Nichols said of the time in the company’s Bartlesville, Okla., laboratory. “I met with the researchers in the morning and worked with advanced machinery in the afternoons making practical things.” After completing training, he moved to the Phillips products division to pursue his interest in injection molding processes.

While he intended to go into business for himself, a call from his father changed his



also began working for three Dallas-area investors with an idea for an intravenous device. “We worked nights and weekends on the design and production problems,” he said. The product proved successful, the company grew, became a division of Travenel and was bought by Baxter. “I found myself making millions of parts for Kendall, Travenel and then Baxter – three big

names in the medical products field,”

Nichols said.

Sometimes he would visit hospitals to see how his products were being used. One visit to an operating room led to a very successful product when he spotted a two-gallon glass pickle jar used to collect a patient’s fluids while in surgery. “The nurse hated it,” Nichols said. “It got slippery and if you dropped it you’d have glass splinters and blood everywhere. It had to be dumped, rinsed and sterilized, repackaged. And then you could look forward to using it again.

“I told her I could make one of those out of plastic, and it would be cheaper and it wouldn’t break,” he said. That idea became a new business. With a \$1,000 investment and \$10,000 from the bank, Nichols worked on the design on nights and weekends. Nichols had earlier worked with one of Dr. Michael DeBakey’s nurses on a project, so he had opportunity to visit with the famous heart specialist one Saturday morning. DeBakey liked the product so much he wanted all of his operating rooms converted for Monday morning surgery.

“We scrambled that weekend, but from then on when anyone asked me who used the product I’d say ‘It’s the only one Dr. DeBakey will even consider using.’ That opened all kind of doors,” Nichols said. As sales picked up, he founded Medi-Vac in Jacksonville, began to hire and quickly grew the company to about 650 employees.

“Dr. Gates would have loved the factory layout and automation,” Nichols said of his Lamar professor. Silos of plastic pellets stood at one end of the building and the loading dock at the other. Between them stretched automation and assembly, including

direction. Now semi-retired but still owner of the tool and die shop, his father had purchased several plastics-molding machines and opened TallyHo Plastics. Within a year or two, the company was losing money, and his father’s retirement was in jeopardy.

“I really didn’t want to go into the family business, but, in the end, it turned out to be the best thing that could have happened to me,” Nichols said. For the next few years, he studied the company from top to bottom, applying the business training he had learned at Lamar. “We took the business from gross sales of \$500,000 and a \$50,000 annual loss, to \$5 million in sales and about 14 percent profit,” Nichols said. He also diversified the business by creating products and parts for the aviation, construction, electronics, military and air conditioning industries.

With his background, training and experience, Nichols grew increasingly adept at assessing customer needs, often evaluating and redesigning products to make them better and more cheaply than before, and he could present the customer with a cost estimate very quickly. Supporting several industries also allowed him to bring unique approaches from one discipline to another, often helping meet customer needs in unforeseen ways.

Nichols sought to break into the medical industry as well, “but I never could make inroads.” Rebuffed because he had no medical product experience, he sought people with ideas – doctors and nurses – who wanted to develop medical products. “Many of those ideas were never successful,” Nichols said. But some were. One plastic medical pan made a lot of money for the investors, and the family sold to Kendall L.P. Nichols

numerous robotic operations that ran 24-7, averaging production of two units per second and allowing Medi-Vac to supply hospitals throughout the U.S. “We converted the entire U.S. suction collection device market to plastic,” Nichols said. At 39, he sold Medi-Vac to Baxter, then sold TallyHo Plastics to investors and retired.

With royalties from his 12 U.S. patents, Nichols could have settled into a life of ease “but like a race horse, I couldn’t be still,” he said.

He knew that the nation’s large chemical companies developed plastic lines that covered the vast majority of the market, but that niche markets were unmet. “No one in a five-state area was creating custom-made plastics,” Nichols said. He bought industrial property north of Jacksonville to create a “plastics campus,” including a research and development laboratory, and a pilot manufacturing facility. He then hired “a bunch of smart people” and founded Progressive Polymers.

“I knew many manufacturers were buying more expensive plastics than they really needed for the products they were making,”

Nichols said. He set out to create more cost-effective plastic compounds. Soon, a major portion of his business became custom-tailored plastics for the major chemical companies and private-labeled products.

Within a year, he began to produce a plastic container to sterilize and store surgical equipment. This box, manufactured from a strong thermally conductive plastic the research lab developed, replaced an antiquated process in which instruments were wrapped in cloth or disposable paper, steam-sterilized and stored. Every 30 days, instruments would have to be sterilized again. Nichols’ founded Monarch Products to manufacture the box in which instruments could be stored in a sterilized environment indefinitely. He began converting the industry from the old method to the box system, which featured a disposable filter cartridge. Within a few years, 750 hospitals had moved to the Monarch product, and the company took the system international to Canada, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Singapore. It was nearing a deal with India when a distribution agreement with Johnson

& Johnson blossomed and later turned into an offer to buy the company outright in 1992. One of his partners in the venture, Bill Patterson, was also a Lamar engineering graduate.

Four years later, Nichols sold the compounding facility to investors and retired again, now with 32 U.S. patents and 165 foreign patents to his credit. “I still had a lot of ideas for products, but had to re-evaluate my personal life to decide do I want to keep building factories or do I want to do something else?” Nichols said.

For the people of Texas, that “something else” came in the form of a call from the governor’s office.

Aside from his considerable duties as a TxDOT commissioner, Nichols leaves time for family – he and his wife, Donna, live in Jacksonville and have three children, Brittny, Joshua and Collynn – flying as a private pilot, raising registered Longhorn cattle, as well as world travels in pursuit of exotic game, many displayed in his home and his Jacksonville office. Nichols’ “retirement” is a busy one.

## A TEXAS-SIZE JOB

Building and maintaining Lone Star highways is a huge job. All told, TxDOT is responsible for more rural miles of road than the whole country has miles of interstate highway. Texans drive more than 570 million miles a day – equivalent to 1,200 trips to the moon and back – and that figure is expected to rise 56 percent by 2025.

It is also a huge challenge: A quarter of the interstate highway system in the metropolitan areas is at 97 percent capacity, and the next 40 percent is at 80 percent capacity, Nichols said. In early 2002, Gov. Rick Perry challenged TxDOT to prepare a plan implementing a new vision for the future of cross-state mobility – the Trans Texas Corridor.

When completed, the Trans Texas Corridor will be a multi-use statewide transportation system that will include toll roads, high-speed passenger and freight rail, regional freight and commuter rail and underground transportation for water, petroleum, gas and telecommunications.

The corridor will reduce traffic congestion in three ways. It will provide cross-state traffic with alternate routes around urban centers. Segments of the corridor will parallel existing congested highways, giving fast and safe alternative transportation routes between destinations as well as separating cars and trucks. And the corridor will include a rail system to allow movement from road to rail.

Nichols was specifically tasked with developing the rail portion of the department’s strategic plan. As the interstate highway system developed in the ’50s and ’60s, the nation’s railways were highly regu-

lated, giving inadvertent advantage to the trucking industry, Nichols said. When deregulated in the 1980s, cash-strapped and out-competed rail companies tore up lines and sold rail as scrap. Texas alone lost more than 4,000 miles of rail line, and countless communities lost rail service. The miles traveled by trucks on state-maintained highways has increased nearly 50 percent since 1991, according to a TxDOT study. The extent to which railroad abandonment contributes to increased truck traffic can’t be measured easily. Other factors, like economic growth and the North American Free Trade Agreement also boost shipping volume.

Likewise, the recently announced Texas Metropolitan Mobility Plan incorporates the use of new finance options — including \$3 billion in bond proceeds — allowing TxDOT to fund \$15.4 billion in projects in the state’s eight largest metropolitan areas. Through traditional funding, only \$6.8-billion would have been available.

“The plan moves 90 percent of the metropolitan mobility projects planned for the next 12 years forward in half the time,” said Mike Behrens, TxDOT executive director. “This plan gives us a revised blueprint for the future of transportation in Texas.”

The program is part of TxDOT’s two-fold plan to improve mobility and maintain the state’s existing transportation system. The other half of the plan, approved in May, is the Statewide Preservation Plan, a \$9-billion blueprint for maintaining the existing transportation system.



# GOOD COMPANY

Lamar Coach Jim Gilligan joined another elite circle with induction into the Texas Baseball Hall of Fame.



**Jim Gilligan, with Houston Astros Craig Biggio, left, and Jeff Bagwell.**

Gilligan often ran the roads with comedian-actor Bill Murray – a part-owner of the team – and other Hollywood celebrities.

It was nothing unusual in the late 1980s or early '90s to spot Gilligan in the same circle with then-Texas Gov. Ann Richards, and, for golfing partners over the years, he has taken swings with the likes of Larry Dierker, Whitey Ford, Tommy LaSorda, Cesar Cedeno, Sandy Koufax, Enos Cabell, Sparky Anderson, Billy Martin and Phil Garner.

Jim Gilligan has always been known for keeping illustrious company. When he managed the Salt Lake Trappers in the Class A Pioneer League in 1987,

Gilligan was again in illustrious company on the night of Nov. 12, when he was inducted into the Texas Baseball Hall of Fame, along with Houston Astro icons Craig Biggio and Jeff Bagwell and Texas Ranger pitcher Kenny Rogers. Also enshrined in ceremonies in Houston were Astros broadcaster Bill Brown, the late Debs Garms of the old St. Louis Browns and the late Rube Foster, an early pitching star in the Negro Baseball League.

"It's difficult to describe the emotions that went through me that night," said Gilligan, who is preparing for his 28th season as Lamar's head baseball coach. "There are just so many people with phenomenal credentials who are more deserving of this honor than I am, but I'm not giving it back. It's special."

Gilligan's credentials include guiding Lamar to 11 conference championships, 11 NCAA Regional appearances, four conference-tournament championships and a career record of 962-601 that places him 16th on the active list and 33rd all time among NCAA coaches. He has earned six conference Coach-of-the-Year awards, coached 71 first-team all-conference players and sent more than 130 players into professional baseball.

"I felt so happy to see Biggio and Bagwell go into the Hall after all they've done for the Astro franchise and the city of Houston," said Gilligan. "The timing couldn't have been better with its coming right after so many people had written them off in midseason, but they came back to be big factors in probably the biggest season in Astro history."

"Also, going in with Kenny Rogers was something special. Like me, he's a left-handed pitcher, who doesn't have much velocity but he knows how to get people out."

"The proudest thing about it personally, though, was going into the same Hall of Fame that includes Al Vincent. Al was such an influential factor in my career and in my life. I was there when he went into the Hall in ceremonies in Dallas, and I had a feeling he was there with me."

Vincent, a longtime professional player, coach and manager, spent many years as a volunteer assistant to Gilligan before his death four years ago at age 90.



*"I've enjoyed a bunch of big moments, but, before I leave coaching, I have a feeling something even bigger will happen, and I want it to be right here at Lamar, the school I love."*

"After spending just a little time with Al, you would find out just how little you knew about baseball," said Gilligan. "If you absorbed what he said, though, you also found out how much more you knew about baseball."

At an age (58) when many coaches may think of retirement, Gilligan is going stronger than ever. His past three Cardinal teams have won 36, 40 and 41 games and earned NCAA Regional berths each year, with the 2003 squad forcing host and sixth-ranked University of Texas to a championship showdown for the right to advance to a Super Regional.

"Hopefully, this award will add a little prestige to our program," said Gilligan, whose 2003

Cardinals also defeated eventual national champion Rice University twice. "Most of the time, when you get an award like this, it means the end of your career is in sight. They're trying to tell you your time is up."

"I'll tell you what it does for me. It pumps me up. I'm excited. I don't see any reason to quit. I'm having too much fun. I'm ready to go to another level."

While Gilligan has called the shots that have taken Lamar to unprecedented heights, he is the first to acknowledge he has had plenty of assistance.

"I was fortunate in high school (in Bayside, N.Y.) to have a baseball coach – Jerry Pannell – who had great style," said Gilligan, who first came to Texas to play baseball at Wharton Junior College. "I admired him so much, and he was one reason I wanted to get into coaching."

"I was fortunate again to have Bob Frederick as a coach after I came to Lamar. He was like a dad to me, and his wife, Jo, was so nice, always insisting that we out-of-state guys come to their house for Thanksgiving dinner and on other special occasions (a tradition carried on by Gilligan and his wife, La Verne, whom he met while he was at Wharton JC).

"Bob was a football guy by trade, but he knew enough about baseball to coach it. I really respected him for that."

"I've also been fortunate over the years to have assistant coaches who like to work hard, and I don't mind working myself. I still enjoy going to the high school games and meeting the families of the players we're recruiting."







Kevin Millar, Boston Red Sox first baseman and former Cardinal, presents Jim Gilligan with his 1960s Lamar jersey.

As for the hundreds of players he has coached at Lamar, Gilligan says they have left him with at least that many memories, ones he will cherish for the rest of his life.

“Going to the regional in Wichita (in 1995) and beating Wichita State twice was something special,” said Gilligan, who earned both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Lamar. “Seeing Trey Rinando, who had pitched very little in a month, go out and flat shut down Texas for nine innings (in a 2003 regional semifinal game won by the Cardinals 6-2) was something phenomenal.

“The greatest thing about coaching at a school like Lamar, though, is getting players who some of the so-called bigger baseball programs passed on and then watching them develop and go out and prove they can perform on the big stage.

“What it comes down to is their work habits. We’ve had players who have simply outworked other people’s players, and I would like to think I’ve had a little something to do with the work habits of our players.

“We’ve had so many players who have been huge factors in helping this program be what it is today. I’ll apologize first to every great player I leave out, but I do have to mention as many as come to mind right now.

“Jerald Clark, Kevin Millar, Joe McCann, Jeff Martin, Jordan Foster, Micah Hoffpauir, Alan Marr, Neil Reynolds, Blake Justice and Bruce Aven were all great hitters. Rick Nesloney was our first great pitcher, and Julio Alonso came along soon after that.

“I don’t know if we’ve ever had another pitcher as good as Julio, but we’ve had a lot of really good ones. Dan Hetzel could throw a mean ball, and so, too, could Tony Mack, Jesse Floyd, Keith Silver, Mike Morgal, Eric Cammack, Heath Totten and Clay Hensley.”

In addition to his lofty achievements at Lamar, Gilligan managed the Salt Lake Trappers to a then-professional record of 29 consecutive victories in 1987, yet he ironically says his greatest moment in the profession came in a loss. The University of Texas scored a controversial run in the 10th inning to edge the Cardinals 6-5 in the 1984 Central Regional in Austin.

“The proudest I’ve ever been of a team was the night in 1984 when we played a national-television game and beat Texas, although the score didn’t indicate it,” said Gilligan. “We had just finished beating Nevada-Las Vegas (10-5) in extreme heat in a game that lasted almost four hours, and we had to go back out and play Texas in its home stadium.

“Every one of the 23 Lamar players in uniform did something significant that afternoon and that night. We had the night game taken away from us (on a questionable call by plate umpire Tony Patch), but that was still a big moment for Lamar baseball.

“I’ve enjoyed a bunch of big moments, but, before I leave coaching, I have a feeling something even bigger will happen, and I want it to be right here at Lamar, the school I love.”



## MEN'S GOLF UPDATE

Despite the loss of two-time All-American and four-time Southland Conference Player of the Year **Chris Stroud**, Lamar men’s golf hasn’t skipped a beat this season. The Cardinals won team championships at the Baylor Invitational and the Wolf Pack Classic hosted by the University of Nevada. Lamar has posted top-five finishes in all five fall tournaments. Leading the way for the Cardinals has been freshman sensation **Dawie Van Der Walt** from Cape Town, South Africa. Van Der Walt won medalist honors at the Baylor Invitational and the Wolf Pack Classic. In winning at Baylor, he closed with a season-best round of 6-under par 66 for a 54-hole total of 9-under par 207. He posted rounds of 4-under 68 and 1-under 71 at the rain-shortened Wolf Pack Classic for a 36-hole score of 5-under 139. Van Der Walt leads the team with a 71.10 scoring average.



Dawie VAN DER WALT

Sophomores **Ryan Kornmann** and **Dusty Smith** have also played well this fall. A Kingwood native, Kornmann is second on the team with a 72.56 scoring average and has posted three top-15 finishes, including a season-best eighth-place finish at the Baylor Invitational. Smith, a native of The Woodlands, has a 73.00 scoring average and posted a season-best fifth-place finish at the Baylor Invitational. Seniors **Andre Metzger** and **Shawn Stefani** have been a steadying influence on the younger players. Metzger, a native of Norman, Okla., is third on the team with a 72.83 scoring average. He has posted three top-20 finishes this season. After a slow start, Stefani has picked up his game of late. The Baytown native placed 16th at the Missouri Bluffs Challenge and fourth at the Wolf Pack Classic, which included a pair of season-best rounds of 2-under par 70.

Heading into the spring season, Lamar will be looking to win its fourth SLC championship in five years. The Cardinals won three straight from 2001-03, but lost in a playoff to Louisiana-Monroe last season. Lamar will also be looking to extend its streak of NCAA Regional Tournament appearances to five straight.

## WOMEN'S GOLF UPDATE

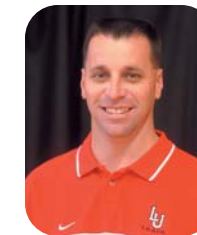
Led by senior **Casey Cain**, the Lamar women’s golf team has shown significant progress, including three top-10 finishes in four tournaments this fall. The Lady Cardinals placed second at the Sam Houston Ellingson/Waterwood Fall Classic and posted seventh-place finishes at the Battle at the Lake hosted by Oral Roberts University and the Lady Indian Classic hosted by Arkansas State. Cain, a Lumberton native who leads the team with a 77.30 scoring average, has third-place finishes at Battle at the Lake and the Lady Indian Classic. Freshman **Hillary Zeigler** has been a pleasant surprise for the Lady Cardinals. The Livingston native is second on the team with an 81.00 scoring average. Junior **Christa Gunn**, a transfer from McLennan Community College, has also made a significant contribution. She is third on the team with an 81.50 scoring average and posted a season-best 14th-place finish at Sam Houston.

— DC

# Worst to first

Only a handful of teams, professional or otherwise, have been able to rebound from a last-place finish to a championship. Of those that have accomplished such a feat, even fewer have pulled it off in only three short years.

The Lamar women’s cross country team made history Nov. 1 when it raced to its first conference title in school history with a convincing victory at the 20th annual Southland Conference Cross Country Championships held at Idylwild Golf Club in Pinewood. It was the first



Trey CLARK

“Since I got the job (Aug. 2002), I started recruiting athletes that I thought could help us win a championship,” Waru, a former four-time SLC Cross Country Champion at McNeese, said. “I’ve been trying to tell the girls to put in the hard work, the dedication and just to make them believe in themselves that they could win.

“I think the biggest accomplishment for me was my first year when the girls got last in conference, and I knew we could only get better. The next year they finished third, and this year they got first, so they’ve really, really come a long way and it feels great.”

Two of the most instrumental members of this year’s championship team were **Natasha Williams** and **Jackie John**. Williams,



Natasha WILLIAMS



Jackie JOHN

a junior from Nederland, had her best-ever finish in a conference meet as she raced to a second-place finish with a time of 21:24. John, a junior from Iowa, La., finished only seconds behind in a time of 21:43 for third place. Both runners earned All-SLC honors for their efforts, which are given to the Top 10 finishers in the conference race.

“We’ve put a lot of hard work in, and Sita has been setting us up to do well. She’s been giving us great workouts,” Williams said.

“Since we knew we had a better chance (to win) this year, we put a lot of hard work in with 6:30 (a.m.) practices Monday through Thursday, even Monday through Friday sometimes, and two times a day every day.” In her third full season at Lamar, Williams has emerged as one of the top distance runners on the team, and her





2005 BASEBALL SCHEDULE

Sat.	Feb. 5	Jackson State (DH)	Beaumont	1:00 p.m.	Fri.	Apr. 1	*Nicholls State	Beaumont	7:00 p.m.
Sun.	Feb. 6	Jackson State	Beaumont	1:00 p.m.	Sat.	Apr. 2	*Nicholls State	Beaumont	2:00 p.m.
Fri.	Feb. 11	at Texas-Pan American	Edinburg	6:00 p.m.	Sun.	Apr. 3	*Nicholls State	Beaumont	1:00 p.m.
Sat.	Feb. 12	at Texas-Pan American	Edinburg	4:00 p.m.	Fri.	Apr. 8	*at Louisiana-Monroe	Monroe, La.	7:00 p.m.
Sun.	Feb. 13	at Texas-Pan American	Edinburg	1:00 p.m.	Sat.	Apr. 9	*at Louisiana-Monroe	Monroe, La.	2:00 p.m.
Fri.-Sun.	Feb. 18-20	Rice/Coca-Cola Classic			Sun.	Apr. 10	*at Louisiana-Monroe	Monroe, La.	1:00 p.m.
Fri.	Feb. 18	vs. Mississippi	Houston	1:00 p.m.	Tues.	Apr. 12	Louisiana-Lafayette	Beaumont	7:00 p.m.
Sat.	Feb. 19	vs. Southwest Missouri State	Houston	4:30 p.m.	Fri.	Apr. 15	*Southeastern Louisiana	Beaumont	7:00 p.m.
Sun.	Feb. 20	at Rice	Houston	3:30 p.m.	Sat.	Apr. 16	*Southeastern Louisiana	Beaumont	2:00 p.m.
Fri.-Sun.	Feb. 24-26	Midland Tournament			Sun.	Apr. 17	*Southeastern Louisiana	Beaumont	1:00 p.m.
Thurs.	Feb. 24	vs. Texas-San Antonio	Midland	1:00 p.m.	Tues.	Apr. 19	Louisiana Tech	Beaumont	7:00 p.m.
Fri.	Feb. 25	vs. New Mexico State	Midland	1:00 p.m.	Wed.	Apr. 20	Louisiana Tech	Beaumont	3:00 p.m.
Sat.	Feb. 26	vs. Texas Tech	Midland	7:00 p.m.	Fri.	Apr. 22	*Northwestern State	Beaumont	7:00 p.m.
					Sat.	Apr. 23	*Northwestern State	Beaumont	2:00 p.m.
Tues.	Mar. 1	Rice	Beaumont	7:00 p.m.	Sun.	Apr. 24	*Northwestern State	Beaumont	1:00 p.m.
Fri.-Sun.	Mar. 4-6	Cardinal Classic			Tues.	Apr. 26	at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi (DH)	Corpus Christi	12:00 p.m.
Fri.	Mar. 4	Indiana State	Beaumont	7:00 p.m.	Fri.	Apr. 29	*at Sam Houston State	Huntsville	7:00 p.m.
Sat.	Mar. 5	UNC-Wilmington	Beaumont	5:00 p.m.	Sat.	Apr. 30	*at Sam Houston State	Huntsville	2:00 p.m.
Sun.	Mar. 6	Southern Mississippi	Beaumont	3:00 p.m.					
Tues.	Mar. 8	Texas A&M-Corpus Christi (DH)	Beaumont	2:00 p.m.	Sun.	May 1	*at Sam Houston State	Huntsville	1:00 p.m.
Fri.-Sun.	Mar. 11-13	Lamar Classic			Fri.	May 13	*at Texas-San Antonio	San Antonio	3:00 p.m.
Fri.	Mar. 11	Central Connecticut State	Beaumont	7:00 p.m.	Sat.	May 14	*at Texas-San Antonio	San Antonio	2:00 p.m.
Sat.	Mar. 12	Michigan	Beaumont	5:00 p.m.	Sun.	May 15	*at Texas-San Antonio	San Antonio	1:00 p.m.
Sun.	Mar. 13	New York Tech	Beaumont	3:00 p.m.	Thurs.	May 19	*Texas State	Beaumont	7:00 p.m.
Wed.	Mar. 16	Purdue	Beaumont	7:00 p.m.	Fri.	May 20	*Texas State	Beaumont	7:00 p.m.
Fri.	Mar. 18	*Texas-Arlington	Beaumont	7:00 p.m.	Sat.	May 21	*Texas State	Beaumont	1:00 p.m.
Sat.	Mar. 19	*Texas-Arlington	Beaumont	2:00 p.m.	Wed.-Sat.	May 25-28	Southland Conference Tournament	Natchitoches, La.	
Sun.	Mar. 20	*Texas-Arlington	Beaumont	1:00 p.m.					
Tues.	Mar. 22	at Louisiana-Lafayette	Lafayette, La.	6:30 p.m.	Fri.-Sun.	Jun. 3-5	NCAA Regional Tournament		
Fri.	Mar. 25	*at McNeese State	Lake Charles, La.	7:00 p.m.	Fri.-Sun.	Jun. 10-12	NCAA Super Regional Tournament		
Sat.	Mar. 26	*at McNeese State	Lake Charles, La.	3:00 p.m.	Fri.-Sat.	Jun. 17-25	NCAA College World Series	Omaha, Neb.	
Sun.	Mar. 27	*at McNeese State	Lake Charles, La.	1:00 p.m.					
Tues.	Mar. 29	at Texas A&M	College Station	7:00 p.m.					

\* Southland Conference Games  
All times are Central and subject to change.

hard work hasn't gone unnoticed. "She's finally put it all together. She started having more confidence in herself and working hard every day she comes out to practice," Waru bragged. "I know her goal was to be at least all-conference, which was top 10, so to get second was a real accomplishment."

A communication major, Williams was understandably happy to be a part of the Lady Cardinals' championship team. "This is the best feeling in the world," she described. "When it actually happens and you actually win, it's an amazing feeling, and not too many people get that experience."

John, who is in her first full season with Lamar after transferring from Texas A&M, has also had a major impact on the success of the cross country team. Her leadership was a driving force all year, helping with the development of a relatively young team. John, a former high school All-American, was the Lady Cardinals' top finisher in all four races leading up to the SLC meet. "She's been really focused," Waru said of John. "She wanted it (a title) really bad, and she helped encourage the girls at the beginning of the season so they could get there."

"The majority of our workouts are hardcore, and we come out here and we work to the best of our ability," John stated. "We all have the will to win, basically, but we didn't really actually know how



Sita WARU

strongly each other felt until the race, when we all just gutted it out and gave it everything we had."

Now that the Lady Cardinals have earned a conference title, the team and staff look to maintain that level of success in the future. With the top five runners returning from this season's team, there's even talk of more conference titles in the very near future.

"I think this is just the start of it," Waru said of the future. "I see us winning every year or at least being competitive for the title. I have a young team, and I only lose one girl this year (**Candace Taylor**). We've got a recruiting class coming next year, three or four girls that are only going to help."

"There is a winning spirit now, and everybody's going to want to win," Williams said.

With 16 years at Lamar under his belt as a student, athlete and now coach, Clark and his crew are definitely making strides toward returning LU to its glory days. Waru has helped build the first-ever women's cross country championship team.

"Nobody else will be the first one to win for LU," Williams said. "We're the first ones, and that's pretty cool. We changed history."

— MB

# Homecoming 2005

Let's rock the roof off  
... one more time!

I-TUNES?  
NOOO, MAN.  
LIVE TUNES!

7:30 p.m. til 10:00 p.m. Feb. 25 McDonald Gym  
\$25 per person

## Basketball Feb. 26

LU Cards vs. SHSU Bearcats  
Cardinals @ 1 p.m.  
Lady Cards @ 3:30 p.m.  
Tickets: 409.880.1715

For details or to make reservations:

409.880.7733 • 800.298.4839 • [www.lamar.edu/alumni](http://www.lamar.edu/alumni) •  
[alumni@lamar.edu](mailto:alumni@lamar.edu)

Music

Pep Rally

Bonfire

Join Jimmy Simmons and alumni musicians for a Homecoming to remember as we say a rockin' farewell to McDonald Gym before its makeover into a greatly expanded state-of-the-art Sports Recreation Center.

Don't miss the last big bash for these boards that have played host to so much of LU's history.

You can't beat tunes blasted live, so make sure you're there to reminisce and make a little history of your own.

## Get your red on!

Homecoming welcomes Lamar alumni back to campus – special events for alumni of the College of Engineering and the Class of 1955.



Find your official LU apparel and accessories on the Web at [www.shoplamar.com!](http://www.shoplamar.com!)

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](mailto:hickscl@hal.lamar.edu) or call (409) 880-8421.

## 40s

**James M. Cain** '48, A.A. general studies, received his bachelor's in chemical engineering from the University of Colorado in 1950. He is retired from GulfOil Corp. and lives in Port Neches with his wife, Billie.

## 50s

**Elizabeth (Manry) Hentschel** '52, B.S. music, is retired and lives in Beaumont with her husband, Jerry, who is also retired.

**Arthur B. Benson** '55, B.S. biology, received his medical degree from the

University of Texas in 1960. He is retired and lives in Houston with his wife, Margaret.

**Marjorie (Peebles) Gore** '55, B.S. social science, lives in Beaumont and has a daughter who graduated from Lamar in 1981 and three grandchildren.

**Mary (Griffin) Burt** '58, B.S. elementary education, lives in Rosser with her husband, Don.

**Herman D. Lowe** '58, B.S. geology is a hydro geologist at the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals in Baton Rouge. He is responsible for Louisiana's ground water source for the state drinking water program and lives in Baton Rouge with his wife, Virgie.

**Gwen (Cummins) Barclay** '59, B.S. music education, is director of food service for the James Dick Foundation for the Performing Arts in Round Top, where she lives. She also represents lectures and demonstrations during herbal seminars held at the McAshan Herb Gardens at Festival Hill throughout the year.

**George Harvey** '59, B.B.A. management, lives in Fair Oaks Ranch, Texas with his wife, **Margaret (Burch)** '57, B.S. medical technology.

**Robert G. Campbell** '59, B.S. chemical engineering, worked for more than 39 years at Boeing Company in Wichita, Kan., and St. Louis, Mo., first in materials engineering and then in information systems as an Oracle programmer before retiring in 1999. He lives in Troy, Mo., with his wife, Janice.

## 60s

**Karol "Karl" Baumgarten** '61, B.B.A. business administration, is president of Baumgarten

& Associates and lives in Dallas with his wife, Rose.

**Verne D. Horsley** '61 B.A. political science, lives in Vernon with his wife, Corliss. They have three children and 13 grandchildren.

**Donald R. Moseley** '61, B.S. mechanical engineering, is the captain/owner of Shellback Yacht Cruises in Balboa, Calif., where he lives.

**Jerry E. Rogers** '61, B.S. kinesiology, is retired and lives in Chandler.

**Harvey A. Krueger** '61, B.S. commercial art, is a graphic designer for Conoco Phillips in Houston. He lives in New Caney with his wife, Linda, and has three children and seven grandchildren. He reports that he is about to retire.

**Jane (Jolley) Spencer** '61, B.S. elementary education, is retired and lives in Bullard with her husband, Richard.

**Lydia (Cone) Cash** '62, B.S. elementary education, retired after teaching for 37 years in Louisiana and Texas. She lives in Lake Charles with her husband, Joe, who chairs the Department of English and Foreign Language at McNeese State University. Their first grandchild was born in March.

**Thomas R. Pilling** '62, B.S. civil engineering, retired from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, after 36 years of service. He is a Korean war veteran who served three years with the 82nd Airborne Division. He lives in Equestrian Way, Ky., and has traveled throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe since retiring.

**John D. Rowland** '62, B.S. electrical engineering, received his master's in electrical engineering from the University of Houston in 1986. He retired from ExxonMobil in 1995 and is now principal electrical engineer with GDS Engineers, working on projects for petro chemical companies and consulting engineering services. He lives in Baytown with his wife, Linda.

**Dan K. Shaddock** '62, B.A. sociology, is president of Brewton Area YMCA in Brewton, Ala., where he lives with his wife, Sandra, who is retired from the U.S. Postal Service.

**Klyne P. Wright** '62, B.S. industrial engineering, received his master's in industrial engineering from Arizona State in 1964. He lives in Austin with his wife Margaret (Crocker) '62, B.A. home economics and education.

**William E. Manthei** '63, B.A., '64 M.A. history, is retired and lives in Pearland with his wife, Rena.

**Don M. Hannegan** '64, B.S. industrial engineering, is functional director of underbalanced systems for Weatherford Drilling and Intervention Services. He is the inventor or co-inventor of several offshore variations of rotating control devices and other technology vital to managed pressure drilling. He lives in Fort Smith, Ark., and was honored in October with the "Innovative Thinker Award 2004" at the World Oil Awards in Houston.

**Wilbur J. Hunt** '64, B.S. commercial art, is retired and lives in Valley View with his wife, Narca.

**Robert S. Millican** '64, B.S. industrial engineering, is owner and chairman of HE Space Operations in Katwijk, Netherlands where he lives with his wife, Lia. He is planning on retiring shortly to complete a Ph.D. in management and to pursue work with Christian CEO Rountables.

**Donald C. Wells** '64, B.S. physics, received his Ph.D in astronomy from the University of Texas in Austin in 1972 and is now retired and living in Charlottesville, Va.

**Michael C. Waters** '65, B.S. sociology, retired in August 2004, after a 24-year tenure as president and CEO of Hendrick Health System in Abilene, where he lives. In August the Hendrick Health System Board named its trauma center the "Waters Trauma Center" in his honor.

**William C. Wilson** '65, B.S. physical education, is retired from Kountze school district. He lives in Kountze with his wife, Sandra, and daughter, Ashley, who graduated from Lamar in 1994.

**Ralph F. Felder** '66, B.S. chemistry and B.A. math, received his M.B.A. from Tulane University in 1971. He is a switch capacity manager for BellSouth and has been an American Society for Quality certified quality engineer since 1997. He lives in Metairie, La., with his wife, Susan, who works as a dentist in Kenner, La.

**Anita N. Gerlach** '66, B.A. English, won the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching in 1996 and has taught science and dance for 38 years. She lives near Santa Fe, N.M., with her husband, Paul. She is working with Nedplace to record lullabies of all nations.

**Marshall Thibodeaux** '66, B.S. chemical engineering, retired from Huntsman Corp. and lives in Port Neches with his wife, Lucy.

**David W. Gann** '67, B.S. civil engineering, is president/owner of G&W Engineers Inc. in Port Lavaca. He lives in Inez with his wife, Judy, who is retired.

**Donald N. Herrin** '68, B.B.A. accounting, is software systems specialist for the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and lives in Santa Fe, Texas.

This past July the **Rev. Linda Sue Carter** '69, B.S. chemistry, was appointed pastor of Zion United Methodist Church in Toledo, Ohio, where she lives.

**Patrick Durio** '69, B.B.A. accounting, is president of Durio & Co. P.C. in Bellaire, where he lives.

**Glen J. Edgerly** '69, B.A. marketing, is vice president of global sales for Emerson Process Management in Austin and lives in Spicewood.

**Sarah (Meshell) Fraley** '69, B.B.A. office administration, works as a land analyst for Cabot Oil & Gas Corp. in Houston where she lives with her husband, **Morris**, '64 M.S. civil engineering. He is project manager of road and bridges in Harris County.

**Jerry G. Springfield** '69, B.A. math, is retired and lives in Woodville.

**Ellen (McCorvy) Thornton** '69, B.A. elementary education, received her master of arts in elementary special education in 1973. She is a retired teacher for the Nederland school district and lives in Groves with her husband, Jack.

**Ashok T. Vora** '69, M.S. chemical engineering, is retired and lives in Wayland, Mass., with his wife, Nayana. The couple recently celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary. They have three sons.

## 70s

**Katheryn (Williford) Kirkland- Lovett** '70, B.A. economics, is a purchasing agent for ENGlobal Engineering Inc. in Beaumont, where she lives.

**Paula Ann (Malain) Sherman** '70, B.S. elementary education, earned certification in special education. She teaches freshman religion classes at Monsignor Kelly Catholic High School in Beaumont, where she lives, and was named Distinguished Alumna of St. Anne's School and Kelly High School. She has taught in the Beaumont diocese for 23 years. She volunteers yearly to collect money for leukemia as a memorial tribute to her husband, Keith, and has been honored this year with the Beaumont A&M Club's Outstanding Teacher Award. She has six children.

**Danny H. Bryan** '71, B.A. history, is principal at McKinney North High School in McKinney, and will retire at the end of the school year. He received his master's in education from Prairie View A&M University and has more than 30 years experience in education. After retiring, he plans to work on the School Improvement Resource Center in Austin as a consultant to the state's "Leave No Child Behind" initiative.

The Triangle AIDS Network honored Beaumont lawyer **Bob Wortham** '71, B.A. political science, with its 2004 Red Ribbon Hero Award for his untiring efforts and ongoing support on behalf of persons living with HIV/AIDS. Wortham is a member of Reaud, Morgan & Quinn law firm and former U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Texas. He and his wife, Karen, live in Beaumont.

**Larry W. Crocker** '72, B.B.A. management, is president of Jefferson County Title Co. in Beaumont. He lives in Lumberton with his wife, Dorothy, who is owner of Sabine Services.

**John Paul Jordan** '72, B.S. industrial engineering, retired from the Halliburton Corp. after almost 32 years of service. During that tenure, he and his family lived in five coun-

tries, and he had operational responsibility for branches in more than 20 others. He now serves as general manager for Enventure Global Technology in Houston, where he lives with his wife, Mariko.

**Adair (Thorn) Bowen** '73, B.S. elementary education, '89 M.S. home economics, is the assistant professor of interior design at Baylor University and lives in Waco with her husband Kevin, who is senior account manager for Whirlpool Corp.

**Carlita (Conley) Zummo** '73, B.S. health education, lives in Port Arthur. She is active in the community, serves on many boards and is involved in many organizations including the Samaritan Christian Counseling Center and the Hibiscus Club. She is also a member of the Port Arthur Little Theatre and the Lamar Cardinal Club.

**Albert K. Haynes** '74, B.S. industrial engineering, is senior pastor at Bethany Baptist Church in Dallas. He recently released a book called *Love Conquers All*, and lives in Desoto with his wife, Edolia (Simien) '77, B.S. home economics, who works for Dallas Public Schools. They have three children, Jaelin, Kinderlin and Albert Jr.

**Dan Williams** '74, B.S. civil engineering, graduated from St. Mary University School of Law and with a juris doctor in 1984 and was admitted to practice law in Texas in May 1985. In 2000, he moved from Fort Worth to Rush Springs with his wife, Jean, and began working for a new law firm there. They have a son, Dason, who lives in Dallas and works for the Dallas Mavericks.

**Raymond D. Cox** '75, B.S. music, is band director for Daingerfield High School in Daingerfield, where he lives.

**Jerrell J. Hebert** '75, B.S. electrical engineering, is head of Americas Local Line Procurement for Radianz Americas Inc. in New York, N.Y. where he lives with his wife, Deborah.

**Richard G. Howe** '75, B.S. geology, is vice president of Terrain Solution Inc. in Houston, where he lives with his wife, Marilyn.

**Vera (Pollok) Weldon** '75, B.S. music, is senior electronics technician for Coming Cable Systems in Keller. She lives in Fort Worth with her husband, Albert.

**James Cannon** '77, A.A.S. drafting technology, is president of Cannon's Design Services Inc. in Newport News, Va.

**Thomas Harvey** '77, B.S. music, is superintendent of La Vernia school district in La Vernia, where he lives.

**Glen S. Hutson** '77, B.S. music, earned a master's in music education from the University of Georgia in 1979. He is the employee development consultant for the North Carolina Judicial Branch, developing and delivering training for elected officials and their staffs in courthouses statewide. He lives in Hillsborough, N.C., with his wife, Merri, and their 4-year-old son, Keyon.

**Elizabeth (Martin) Jeffrey** '77, B.B.A. office administration, is a real estate agent for Coldwell Banker Donovan Real Estate in Lufkin, where she lives with her husband, Kenneth.

**Nancy (Jones) Read** '77, B.S. family and consumer sciences, is a kindergarten teacher for Gwinnett County Schools. She lives in Grayson, Ga., with her husband, **Jack** '78, B.S. sociology, a sourcing manager for Marconi.

**Jesse R. Hoke** '78, B.S. biology, received his master of science in educational administration in 1984. He is the executive director of the Texas Association of Assessing Officers, a 2,500-member association of property tax professionals. He lives in Georgetown with his wife, Tracy, who is executive director of financial services for Round Rock school district.

**Keith Kelley** '78, B.B.A. accounting, received his master's in business administration in 1983. He is a certified public accountant with Funchess, Mills, White & Co.and has become a stockholder with the firm. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, **Sherry (Gibson)** '95, B.S. nursing. She is a teacher at Christian Heritage School in Beaumont.

**Bill Kondo** '78, B.S. chemical engineering, is a self-employed rice farmer in Beaumont where he lives with his wife, **Donna (Fontenot)** '81 B.S. elementary education. She is a teacher in the Hamshire-Fannett school district.

**Jimmy R. Stark** '78, B.S. chemical engineering, is senior drill representative for Chevron Texaco in New Orleans. He was on the drillship Deep Seas, which drilled in the new world water depth last year and also helped drill another well to a new depth in the Gulf of Mexico, setting another world record. He lives in Kirbyville with his wife, Sandra, and has two daughters.

**Susan (Musch) Cowen** '79, B.B.A. accounting, graduated summa cum laude and also received her bachelor of arts in Spanish the same year. She earned her law degree in 1982 and works as a tax director for Transocean Offshore Deepwater Drilling Inc. in Houston, where she lives with her husband, David, who is also an attorney.

## 80s

**James "Rick" Casey** '80, B.B.A. accounting, coached high school football for six years and now owns his own accounting firm. He and his wife, Ruth, live in Aledo.

**Leonard A. Castro** '80, B.S. art, was an art director with a Dallas firm before returning to Beaumont to work for the Beaumont Enterprise as graphic designer for 20 years. He retired to devote time to artistic endeavors.

**Kandy (Anderson) Daniel** '80, B.B.A. accounting, is treasurer for the city of Beaumont, where she lives.

**Gary M. Jones** '80, B.S. chemical engineering, is project manager at James-Mangan Automation in Lake Jackson, where he lives with his wife, **Margaret (Bunt)** '77, B.A. English.

**Bobby K. Martin Jr.** '80, B.B.A. finance, is an agent for AllState in Groves. He lives in Port Neches with his wife, **Lisa (Shaw)** '80, B.B.A. general business, an engineering

assistant for Huntsman in Port Neches, and their son, Bobby Martin III, a student at Lamar.

**Rick E. Roberts** '80, B.S. mechanical engineering, is contract administrator for Jacobs Engineering in Houston. He lives in Spring with his wife, Judy.

**Ruthie (Bach) Robinson** '80, B.S. nursing, is director of the magnet program and Clinical Research at Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital in Beaumont, where she lives. She is working on her dissertation at Texas Woman's University in Houston.

**Nicola Sparks** '80, B.S. English, B.S. physical education, is vice principal of Oaklands High School in London, England, and lives in Barking, England. A former Lady Cardinal golfer, she has won the Swiss Open and the Portuguese Open and plans to join the Senior Tour next year.

**Thad J. Angelle** '82, B.A. business administration, recently joined Texas State Bank in Orange as vice president commercial lending officer. He lives in Orange with his wife, **Candace (Parker)** '83, A.A.S. general secretary.

**Cecile Ceylan** '82, B.A. English, '85 M.Ed. counseling and development, is a representative for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Service/ Child Care Liscensing in Houston, where she lives.

**Linda F. Prosperie** '82, B.S. mathematical science, is a research associate for the University of Texas Center for Space Research in Austin, where she lives.

**Sally (Wade) Switzer** '82, A.A.S. dental hygiene, is an registered dental hygienist for **Sheryl Hunter Griffith, D.D.S.** in Katy, where she lives with her husband, David, who works for West Houston Medical Center.

**Terry M. Welch** '82, B.S. engineering, is global director of environment technology and operation for Dow Chemical Co. in Houston. He lives in Katy with his wife, Janelle.

**Cheryl S. Neese** '83, A.A.S. nursing, recently earned re-certification as a certified wound care nurse and works as a registered nurse for the Regional Wound Healing Center in Spartanburg, S.C., where she lives.

**Leslie (Gardiner) Symmonds** '83, B.S. mass communication, owns Ace Real Estate in Port Neches, where she lives with her husband, Jon, an agent with the firm and their four children.

**James E. Fitzpatrick** '84, B.S. industrial technology is a test engineer for Eastman Kodak Co. in Austin, where he lives.

**David Kendall** '84, B.S. physics, is assistant professor in the mathematics and physics department at Alfred State College in New York. He has taught physics at Sam Houston State University and mathematics at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He earned a doctorate in mechanical and industrial engineering and



Jake Tortorice '76, hosted students in the College of Business Nov. 16 at Rao's Bakery, which he owns. The Office of Alumni Affairs and the Career Center sponsor the program — A Dinner and 12 Strangers — to create opportunities for students to meet alumni in their chosen field of study and learn from their experiences. Business majors clockwise from bottom left: Debra Brown, Dwight Moore, Jake Tortorice, Randy Skiles, Julie Flores, Tina Bunnell, Jason Richards, Tiffany Brown and Daylyn Turner.



# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI NOMINATIONS REQUESTED

The Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Young Alumni awards are the most prestigious honors bestowed by the university on its alumni.

### Eligible alumni must:

- be distinguished in his or her chosen profession or life work
- be a person of such integrity, stature and demonstrated ability that faculty, staff, students and alumni will take pride in and be inspired by his/her recognition
- be an individual who, in deed and in action, recognizes the importance of his/her education at Lamar and whose interest and loyalty are evident.

Nominations may be based on a distinguished career or life's service, for alumni who work in public service, or to recognize young alumni who have distinguished themselves early in their careers.

The nomination form is available on the Lamar University alumni website at <http://www.lamar.edu/alumni>.

A letter of nomination along with additional information available regarding the nominee is also acceptable. All nominations should be sent by Jan. 31, 2005, to:

**Alumni@Lamar.edu**  
or  
**Distinguished Alumni Awards Committee**  
**P.O. Box 10005 • Beaumont, TX 77710**

a master's in mathematics and statistics from UMass, Amherst, and a master's in space physics and astronomy from Rice University. He and his wife, Georgina, are parents of a daughter, Aeowyn, 7.

**Susan M. Thompson** '84, B.S. elementary education, received her master's in educational supervision in 1988 and a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from Texas A&M in 1999. She is a professor in the Department of Instruction and Curriculum Leadership in the College of Education at the University of Memphis, specializing in teaching and learning theory, urban education and preservice teacher education.

**David G. Busbee** '85, B.B.A. accounting, is president of The Busbee Group in Houston, where he lives with his wife, Zeynep.

**Todd A. Landry** '85, B.S. chemistry, is president and chief executive officer of the Child Saving Institute, a not-for-profit, child welfare agency in Omaha, Neb., where he lives with his wife, Kari. He oversees the agency's administration, services, finances and fund-raising.

**Alton Baise** '86, A.S. law enforcement, has been with the Port Arthur Police Department for nearly 18 years. He is also a Jefferson County Narcotics Task Force detective and an instructor for the Lamar University Police Academy. He lives in Port Arthur with his wife, Flavia.

**Alan Bone** '87, B.S. education, earned a master's in English from the University of Nebraska in 1995. He is an English teacher at Westside High School in Omaha, Neb., in his 18th year of teaching and was recent-

ly named to the Nebraska Council on Teacher Education, the state's professional standards board. He lives in Omaha with his wife, Melissa.

**Jane L. Ledet** '87, B.S. home economics, is transportation analyst for Huntsman in The Woodlands and lives in Houston.

**Luis Collazo** '88 B.A. history, lives in Seguin, where he is police chief.

**Jeffery D. Floyd** '88, B.B.A. accounting, is a special-populations support coordinator for Springfield Technical Community College in Springfield, Mass., where he lives with his wife, Dawn, a director for Smith College in Northampton, Mass.

**Betty L. McCall** '88, B.A. sociology, is assistant professor at Lyoming College in Williamsport, Pa., where she lives.

**Cecil "Jeff" Fowler** '89, B.S. criminal justice, also received his associate of science in law enforcement in 1989 and master's in counseling and development in 1998. He is senior specialist for United States Pre-Trial in Houston. He lives in Kingwood with his wife, **Rachel (Denzlinger)** '89, B.S. social work.

**Manju S. Tumkur** '89, M.E. structural engineering, is managing partner for Management Strategies Group in Bangalore, Karnataka, in India, where he lives.

**Travis C. Wilson** '89 B.B.A. accounting, received his master's in accounting in 1994 and is finance coordinator for Chevron Texaco in Bellaire. He lives in Houston with his wife, **Trudie (Downs)** '83, B.S. education, who is a teacher for Alief ISD.

## 90s

**Rodney D. Cavness** '90, B.S. kinesiology, received his master's in educational administration in 1994 and graduated from the University of Houston with a doctor of education degree in May 2004. He is principal at West Brook High School in Beaumont, where he lives with his wife, Tanya.

**Kimberly (Parks) Gibson** '90, B.M vocal performance, lives in Houston with her husband, Greg.

**Sheila (Gobert) Metoyer** '90, B.A. English, teaches sixth-grade English and serves as English department chairperson at Vincent Middle School in Beaumont, where she lives. The Beaumont A&M Club recently honored her with its 2004 Outstanding Teacher Award.

**Arthur C. Prevost** '90, B.S. communication, recently began working as the women's basketball coach and recruiting coordinator for Georgia Institute of Technology. He lives in Villa Rice, Ga., with his wife, Satonia, and daughter, Taylor Marie.

**Meredith (NanWeeks) Barnes** '91, B.B.A. accounting, was recently promoted to vice president for subsidiary operations of ENGlobal Engineering Inc. and is controller for the corporation's engineering division in Beaumont. She earned the designation of certified management accountant in May of 1998 and lives in Orange with her husband, Les.

**Steve Curran** '91, B.B.A. accounting, graduated summa cum laude and had served in the Port Arthur Fire Department since 1971, before recently taking over as chief of the Port Neches Fire Department in June. He lives in Port Arthur with his wife, Janice. They have two children and two grandchildren.

**Amy (Eldridge) Igo** '91, B.S. communication, is a paralegal for Howard & Kobelan and lives in Austin.

**Yolanda R. Kelley** '91, B.S. elementary education, is owner/consultant of the Worker Bee Education Consultations in Houston, where she lives. She is pursuing a master's in education.

**Vivian (Briscoe) Ballou** '92, B.B.A. general business, is the grants program manager for Irving's community development department. She lives in Irving with her husband, Jesse, and sons, Jesse III and Jaylan.

**James J. Bradshaw** '92, B.A. theatre, is the theatre arts instructor at Clifton Middle School in Houston, where he lives.

**Michael G. Jennings** '92, B.B.A. finance, is systems analysis for the Hanover Co. in Houston, where he lives with his wife, Anna.

**Christie (Beeson) Kitzman** '93, B.S. speech, is a design consultant for her business Precision Interiors after leaving Ethan Allen

in 2002 when her son Daniel was born. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Neil.

**Joy (Paul) Leblanc** '93, B.A. English, earned a doctorate in medicine from the University of Texas Health Science Center and completed her residency at the University of Texas-Houston, Hermann Hospital for Obstetrics and Gynecology. She is a board-certified doctor and works for the Obstetrical and Gynecological Associates in Houston. She lives in Pearland and has three children: a 5-year old boy/girl twins and a 1-year-old son.

**Vic Odegar** '93, B.A. English, a summa cum laude graduate, is a copy editor for the Beaumont Enterprise and lives in Beaumont. He was recently named the winner of the 2003 John Murphy Award for Excellence in Copy Editing presented by the Texas Daily Newspaper Association.

**Larry R. Greene** '94, B.S. sociology, is quality services manager for HoustonWorks USA in Houston and lives in Orange.

**Michael D. Matkin** '94, A.A.S. instrumentation technology, is an instrumentation technician at MeadWestvaco in Evadale. He lives in Vidor with his wife, Angela; son, Thomas; and daughters, Savannah and Makenna.

**Danny C. Mitchell** '94, B.A.A.S. general studies, is a teacher and coach for Tatum school district in Tatum and lives in Longview.

**Melissa (Myers) Mitchell** '94, B.S. education/interdisciplinary studies, is the assistant principal for Glenwood Heights Elementary in Battle Ground, Wash. She lives in Camas, Wash., with her husband, Jamey, and her daughter, Madison.

**Heath Burns** '95, B.S. communication, '97, M.Ed. school administration, earned his doctorate in education in 2001 from Sam Houston State University, where he is an adjunct professor. He was recently named superintendent of Angleton school district. Prior to this appointment, he worked three years as principal in Livingston school district. He has also served as principal at Assumption Catholic School in Beaumont and as a teachers in Tomball and Port Neches-Groves districts. He and his wife, Cherie, live in Angleton and are parents to twins, Eli and Emma.

**Dana (Hoffpauir) Hanks** '95, A.D. nursing, '90 B.S. speech communication, is a registered nurse at the Endoscopy Center of Southeast Texas in Beaumont and lives in Lumberton.

**Lauren LaFleur** '95, B.A. English, lives in Palestine and is a staff writer for the Jacksonville Daily Progress.

**Hunter B. Bothe** '96, B.S. criminal justice, is vice president of the Sales and Marketing Executives Club in Beaumont and has joined Coldwell Banker Arnold Properties as a commercial real estate agent. He lives in Beaumont.

# Class Notes



Alumni in the Houston area gathered for a reception hosted by James '62 and Jane-Page Crump in their home Oct. 17.

◀ Susan (Williams) Simmons '68, President James Simmons, Jane-Page and James Crump '62



◀ Brent and Carole (Pastorick) Wells '70



◀ Robin and Jack B. Stout III '80

**Dixie J. Fuller** '96, M.E. counseling, received her bachelor of science in education in 1990 and she has a son in college.

**Tonya R. Andris** '97, B.S. sociology, is a seventh-grade math teacher at Permenter Middle School in Cedar Hill school district. She lives in Dallas with her son, Torry, who turned 1 in November.

**Steven R. Bradford** '97, B.S. electrical engineering, works for United Space Alliance in the space shuttle upgrades program, developing digital flight data recorders and crash recorders for the shuttle program. He lives in League City with his wife, Charlene.

**Darren H. Burris** '97, B.B.A. marketing, is operations supervisor for the Social Security Administration in Houston. He lives in Dickinson.

**Pam E. Dixon** '97, B.A.A.S. mass communication, is an anchor/reporter for KPLC-TV in Lake Charles, where she lives.

**Zobayur Rahman** '97, B.S. civil engineering, is project manager for EBA Engineering and lives in Edmonton, Canada.

**Kari R. Dolan** '98, B.A. English, is program director for the I Have A Dream Program in Beaumont, where she lives.

**Vani U. Kapur** '98, B.B.A. economics, is product marketing manager of StorageTek in Louisville, Colo., where she lives with her husband, Rahul. The couple married in September 2004.

**Richard A. Ashmore** '99, B.S. geology, B.S. earth science, received his master's in geology from Texas Tech University in 2003. He is an adjunct instructor at Lamar University and lives in Orange.

**Melissa R. Cessac** '99, B.B.A. marketing, is admissions representative for Lamar University and is pursuing a graduate degree in marketing. She lives in Beaumont.

**Bryce A. Darby** '99, B.S. chemical engineering, is environmental manager for Chemical Lime in Marble Falls, where he lives.

**Richard A. Knox** '99, B.S. criminal justice, is lead construction manger for D.R. Horton Homes in The Woodlands and lives in Pearland.

**Cheryl (Smith) Pierce** '99, B.A. psychology, received her master's in clinical psychology from the University of Houston in 2002 and is clinical research coordinator for the University of Texas Medical Branch in Houston. She lives in Webster.

**Samuel P. Sharp** '99, B.A.A.S. communication disorders, received his master's in deaf education in 2002. He is a deaf education teacher for Aldine school district in Houston and lives in Splendora with his wife, Wendy, who works as a nurse for Aldine schools.

**Shannon N. Woods** '99, B.S. social work, lives in Port Arthur with her 8-year-old daughter, Tori, and is a social worker for Port Arthur school district. In April 2004, she was honored as the Port Arthur News' Woman of the Week.

## 00s

**Karol L. Allen** '00, B.S. criminal justice, lives in Port Arthur and is a fifth-grade teacher for the Port Arthur school district.

**Jamie (Schubert) Baker** '00, B.S. biology, is a medical dosimetrist for M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and lives in Friendswood with her husband, Steven.

**Aaron M. Goodman** '00 B.S. political science, works in procurement, where he is a research assistant for Redman Offshore in Beaumont.

**Elizabeth A. Graff** '00, B.A. management, lives in Beaumont with her husband, Michael.

**Bruce M. Jackson** '00, B.B.A. management information systems, received his master's in management information systems in 2003. He is senior programmer analyst for the American National Insurance Co. in Galveston and will travel throughout the U.S. from January-May 2005 to teach a new program he recently developed. He lives in League City.

**Michael L. Lewis** '00, B.S. mechanical engineering, is team manager of receiving inspection for Westinghouse Electric Co. in Columbia, S.C. He lives in Lexington, S.C. with his wife, **Elizabeth (Bach)** '99, B.S. communication disorders, who is speech language pathologist for Easter Seal in Columbia. She earned her graduate degree in speech language pathology in 2001.

**Brian Pratt** '00, B.A. general studies, recently graduated from the University of Texas Dental School in San Antonio. He plans to open a private practice in the Spring area where he lives with his wife, Kendra.

**Becky (Powell) Almany** '01, M.A. English, lives in College Station with her husband, Travis Almany; former Lamar assistant director of bands. Becky teaches English at College Station Middle School, and Travis is the associate director of bands at Texas A&M University.

**Christopher M. Flanagan** '01, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, plays professional baseball for the Sioux City Explorers in Sioux City. He lives in Austin.

**Rajas R. Joshi** '01, M.S. industrial engineering, is senior engineer for Cummins Inc. in Columbus, Ind., where he lives with his wife, Mukta.

**Krupakaran Kolaideivelu** '01, M.E. civil engineering, is project manager for Hunt & Joiner Inc. in Dallas and lives in Farmers Branch.

**Angela R. Orta** '01, B.A. psychology, earned her master's in education in counseling and development from Lamar in 2004 and lives in Beaumont.

**Elizabeth (Smith) Williams** '01, B.A. dance, teaching certification, is a dance teacher for Galena Park school district at North Shore High School. She lives with her husband, Clifton. They welcomed a son, Clifton Andrew Jr., in July.

**Stephanie A. Chesson** '02, B.S. criminal justice, graduated summa cum laude and is account manager for Clear Channel Communications in Mobile, Ala. She lives in Daphne.

**Tammy L. Humphrey** '02, B.S. computer science, is a resolution expert center specialist for Dell Inc. in Round Rock and lives in Hutto.

**Trey J. Elliott** '02, B.S. computer science, is a programmer analyst at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, where he lives.

**Abdul Y. Kargbo** '02, B.B.A. accounting, received another B.B.A., in finance, in 2003. He is project accountant for Affiliated Computer Services in Beaumont, where he lives.

**Kelly A. Martin** '02, B.S. psychology, is an ABA/VB therapist for START. She is pursuing a doctorate at Argosy University in Washington, D.C. She lives in Alexandria, Va.

**Dorothy O. McIntyre** '02, B.S. communication, is account executive for Clear Channel Radio in Pensacola, Ala., and lives in Daphne, Ala.

**Christy (Harper) Nowotny** '02, B.A. English and B.S. physics, lives in Beaumont with her husband, **Carl** '03, B.S. physics.

**Chanelle (Guidry) Reese** '02, B.B.A. management information systems, is administrative assistant for Judicial Expense Fund



At a Houston Area Alumni Regional Club Reception Nov. 4, many alumni and fans toasted Coach Jim Gilligan '70 who was welcomed into the Texas Baseball Hall of Fame Nov. 12.

▼ Left to right: Glenda (Nelson) Breazeale '91, Coach Jim Gilligan '70, Rachel Barnett '00, Laurie House Ritchel '85, Melissa Gabriel and Frank Breazeale



▲ Left to right: Steve '91 and Dana Broeder, Kevin '93 and Tanya (Harrell) Roblyer '94, and Carrie (Newton) '00 and Jason Broussard '00



in New Orleans, La., where she lives with her husband, Terrance. The couple wed June 12, 2004.

**Jacqueline Bennight** '03, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is a kindergarten teacher for Sienna Crossing Elementary and lives in Sugar Land.

**Carlton "Wyatt" Cagle** '03, B.S. communication film, is the editor and traffic manager for Wild Blue Pictures in Houston, where he lives.

**Wes R. Coleman** '03, B.B.A. management information systems, is a dispatcher for Quality Carriers in Sulphur, La. He lives in Lake Charles.

**Britton (Dean) Cooksey** '03, B.S. chemical engineering, is process engineer for MeadWestvaco in Silsbee. She lives in Lumberton with her husband, **Wesley** '01, B.B.A. management information systems, who is account technician for BJ Chemical Services in Nederland.

**Carey-Colleen Doyle** '03, B.S. general studies, competed in the Miss Texas USA pageant in June. She competed in the Miss Golden Triangle pageant three years ago and was named Miss Jefferson County in 2003 and 2004. She lives in Groves and helps teach dance at the Dance Studio.

**Shawn M. Mills** '03, B.S. chemical engineering, graduated summa cum laude and is a chemical engineer for SchmArt Engineering in Beaumont. He lives in Baytown with his wife, **Vanissa (Turney)** '02, B.M. music, who is a band director with Goose Creek school district at Gentry Junior High in Baytown.

**Charles J. Roy** '03, B.S. communication, is a marketing representative for HealthSouth Diagnostic Centers in Port Arthur. He lives in Port Neches with his wife, Brandy and a new daughter born 13 days after his graduation from Lamar.

**John L. West** '03, B.S. criminal justice, is in Giessen, Germany. He just returned from a tour in Iraq.

**Richard C. Wong** '03, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is the call center manager and sales manager for the Houston Grand Opera. He lives in Humble with his wife, Tracy, and new son, Hunter, born Aug. 25.

**Brian C. Bean** '04, B.B.A. marketing, lives in Beaumont and works for Texas State Bank. He was Student Government Association President at Lamar in 2003-2004.

**Veronica Garcia** '04, B.S. biology, will volunteer for a year with AmeriCorps in Federal Way, Wash. She serves at Deatur High School and at the West Way Community Center.

**Sarah (Williams) Hinton** '04, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, graduated summa cum laude and received the Plummer Award in May 2004, finishing her college career with a 4.0 grade-point average. She lives in Bridge City, with her husband, Eric.

**Er Prakash Chandra Khanal** '04, M.A. engineering, is a civil engineer for Primus Engineering in Buford, Ga., where he lives.

**Wesley P. Linder** '04, B.S. chemical engineering, graduated summa cum laude and received the Plummer Award in May 2004. He is associate automation engineer for CITGO Petroleum Co. and lives in Orange.

**Daisy (Barnett) Netterville** '04, B.B.A. general business, is pursuing a master of business administration and plans to graduate in 2005. She lives in Vidor with her husband, Jeremy.

**Diane (Lewis) Thibedaux** '04, B.S. general studies, is CRA administrator for Texas State Bank in Beaumont, where she lives with her husband, **Robert Lee** '76, A.A. business, who is retired.

**Elizabeth Yelverton** '04, B.B.A. marketing, is an honors advisor at Texas Woman's University in Denton, where she lives.

**CORRECTIONS**  
The last issue of Cadence, Vol. 33, No. 1, published **Timeca Allen-Shaheed** 's graduation year as 1998. The correct date in 1997.

# Class Notes

## We will miss...

**Elizabeth Aldridge Plummer** '26, South Park Junior College, died Oct. 8, 2004. A lifelong resident of Beaumont, she married Otho Plummer in 1930. She was a homemaker, active member of many organizations and a member of First Methodist Church. Survivors include her sons, Otho Jr. and Robert. Memorial contributions may be made to the Otho and Elizabeth Plummer Scholarship at Lamar University, P.O. Box 10011, Beaumont, Texas 77710.

**John Michael Green** '34, Lamar Junior College, died Aug. 13, 2004. He studied at Lamar on a football scholarship and played tackle on Lamar's first football team under Coach John Gray. He completed his education at Loyola University and served the Navy on active duty from 1942 to 1946 before retiring as lieutenant commander. In 1968, President Johnson appointed him director of the Houston Regional Office of the Federal Housing Authority, where he worked until 1969 when he resigned to become president of Miller-Vidor Land Company. In 1973, he began a six-year term on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, which preceded seventeen years of service on the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy, and four children, John Jr., Patricia, Sarah and David.

**Nora (Binder) Leitch** '40, '62, B.A., M.A. English, died Oct. 16, 2004, from complications of ALS. She taught English at Lamar from 1950 to 1982, serving as director of freshman English from 1969 to 1973 and director of retention from 1973 to 1977. She directed the Lamar in London program from 1977 until her retirement in 1982. Survivors include her husband, J. Douglas; son, J. Douglas Jr.; and daughter, Mary Ann.

**Richard L. Chinnoch** '55, B.B.A. accounting, died Sept. 30, 2004 at Trinity Medical Center. A veteran of the Navy who served as an electronics technician, he retired in 1994 from Bank One in Brenham and was active with the city's police academy. Survivors include his wife, Carla; daughter, Rachel; step-daughter, Sarah; and son, Richard.

**Luther Terrell Smith** '60, B.S. chemistry, died Oct. 29, 2004. A 47-year Groves resident, he completed his degree at Lamar while working full time as a postal carrier, lab technician and plant operator. He served as an Army corporal during the occupation of Germany, 1945-47. He retired as a senior chemist after 22 years with Sinclair Koppers/Arco Polymers. Survivors include his wife, Normareen, and six children, Terrell, Norma, Montgomery, Marioreen, Darlijo and Seth.

**Ronald L. "Ron" Kellett** '62, B.B.A. accounting, died Sept. 1, 2004, at his home in Rockport, Texas. He was the executive of King Ranch Inc. in Kingsville and chairman of the Kingsville Area Economic Development Foundation. After moving to Rockport in 1999, he became a member of the board of directors of the Rockport-Fulton Area Chamber of Commerce. Survivors include his wife of 39 years, Sharon, and daughter, Rhonds Peterson.

**Clyde J. Villemez** '63, certif. industrial electronics, died Sept. 26, 2004, in Plano. After serving in the Army for 21 years as lieutenant colonel, he retired in 1960. He won multiple Golden Glove Boxing Championships and was a long-distance runner, earning the distinction of being the only individual to have run all of the first 25 Houston marathons. Survivors include his wife, Lillian; daughters, Betty and Doris; and son, Capt. Clyde Villemez Jr.

**Robert J. Connelly** '64, B.A. graphic design, died July 24, 2004. He served in the Air Force and was a past president of the Art Directors Club of Houston, where he lived. Survivor include his wife, Nancy Lynn; son John Robert; and daughters, Elizabeth Wirth and Courtney Estelle.

**Harriet (Eidem) Ferguson** '65, B.S. elementary eduation, died Aug. 12, 2004. A native of Marietta, Minn., she taught homebound students in Port Neches-Groves school district before retiring in 1983. Survivors include her husband, Paul; and daughters, Nancy and Carol.

**Jo Ann C. Thompson** '67, '76, B.A., M.A. English, died Aug. 23, 2004. She was a Bronze Life Master in duplicate bridge and was a member of First Christian Church where she taught Sunday school for many years. She also taught English for South Park school district for many years. Survivors include her husband, Doug; and grandchildren, Stacy, Drew and Cody.

**Mary K. (Hughes) Caraway** '68, B.A. history, died Aug. 21, 2004. She received her master's degree in education from Southwest Texas State Teachers College in 1977 and worked for Round Rock school district until 1978, when she opened North Oaks Elementary and worked as its principal until she retired. Survivors include her husband, Don; sister, Shannon Hughes Patton; and step-mother, Mary Maude Hughes.

**James T. Hawa** '68, B.S. biology, died July 21, 2004, in Fort Worth. After graduating from Lamar, he attended the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, graduating in 1977, and opened a practice in Benbrook, Texas. He was a member of the board of directors of

Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas. Survivors include his wife, Marie; sons, Hunter and Jeremy; daughter, Jordan; and stepson, Stephen.

**Murphy G. Vital** '69, B.B.A. management, died Sept. 9, 2004, in Houston. He earned a master's in public administration from the University of Colorado and served the U.S. Postal Service for many years. Survivors include his wife, Betty; son Mark; and daughters, Ruby, Monica, Ellen and Harriet.

**Minnie L. McKinley** '70, B.A. English, died July 7, 2004. She taught high school in Orangefield and Vidor school districts and was the church organist at First Baptist Church in Orangefield. Survivors include her husband, Ellis; daughter, Chindy; and sons, Monte and Ellis Jr.

**Franklin H. "Teke" Baker** '70, B.S. government, died Sept. 24, 2004, in Austin. He lived in Round Rock and was active in the community, playing "Santa" for many years. He worked for the Texas Association of Business as the director of programs and promotion. Survivors include his two daughters, Jennifer and Mallory; and sister, Sherry LeBlanc.

**Johnny A. Dugan** '72, B.B.A. management, died Oct. 7, 2004, at his home in Groves. He had lived in Port Arthur for 66 years and served in the army. He owned Long Star Marine School, where he was an instructor. Survivors include his uncle, John, and aunt, Glades.

**Robert B. Houseman** '73, B.S. secondary education, died Sept. 8, 2004, at his home in Vidor. In 1983, he earned a master of arts degree in history and taught appraisal classes at Lamar for ten years. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Vidor and was very active in Vidor and Orange Counties. Survivors include his wife, Donna; daughter, Susan; and step-sons, James, Greg and Ken.

**John D. McKusker Jr.** '74, B.S. government, died Aug. 21, 2004, at his home in Port Arthur. He served in the Navy; worked in law enforcement, education and construction. Survivors include his wife, Susan; mother, Dorothy; and daughters, Robyn Becker, Shari Johna and Susan Lynn.

**Jessie Geneva Cade Miller** '75, B.S. elementary education, died Aug. 10, 2004. Born in 1928, she was an accomplished seamstress and homemaker. Survivors include her sister, Johnnie, and children, Gail, Dale and Thomas.

**Clara Denise Dees Weissmann** '76, B.S. elementary education, died July 13, 2004. She earned a master's degree in special education from the University of Houston, and though a battle with multiple sclerosis prevented a teaching career, she maintained an active schedule of volunteer work for a number of organizations. Survivors include her son, Frank; mother, Lenora; and step-father, David.

**Beatrice Metzler Williams** '77, M. Ed. special education, died Aug. 2, 2004. A longtime resident of Houston, she had lived in San Antonio for 10 years. She taught children with learning disabilities and was a member of the Eastern Star and First Presbyterian Church. Survivors include three daughters, Linda, Christine and Donna.

**Betty Jane (Poole) Gratz** '84, A.A.S. education, died in Missouri City, Texas, Sept. 28, 2004. She was a long-time resident of Port Arthur who served as a Sunday School teacher and church treasurer of the United Methodist Church and worked for a decade in the Port Arthur school district as a teacher's aide in special education at Edison Junior High. Survivors include her husband of 61 years, Robert; daughter, Barbara Burnham of Sugarland; and sons, Robert, James and Thomas.

**James Anthony Gussman** '95, B.S. biology, died Aug. 8, 2004. A Nederland native, he worked for GSE in Houston and was a member of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. Survivors include his wife, Janna, and son, Enrique.

**Mark S. Rhone** '03, M.S. mathematics science, died Oct. 31, 2004. A native of Port Arthur, he was a computer instructor and member of St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in Port Neches. He served with the Marines in Vietnam. Survivors include his mother, Verigina, and sisters, Carla, Teresa and Jennifer.

**Sheilon N. Collins** was pursuing a B.A. in English when she died July 16, 2004. She graduated from West Brook High School in 1996 and was studying to become a teacher.

The Office of Alumni Affairs sponsored Move In 2004 Aug. 21 during Week of Welcome. Alumni volunteers, staff and current students helped freshmen move into their new quarters.

▼ General Studies executive director Madelyn Hunt, right, joined the crew to help students during Move In 2004.

▼ Engineering fraternity Sigma Phi Delta students carry some of the weight.



▼ Diana Licatino '78, right, helps a parent unload.





# Spirited women



Heather



Alawan

The roar of the crowd and cheers from the stands energize former Lamar Spirit Team members Heather and Alawan as they share their enthusiasm with Houston sports fans.

Heather '03, who earned a degree in dance at Lamar University, and Alawan, a junior studying fashion merchandising at Lamar, both joined the world of professional sports after tenure on the Lamar Spirit Team. The two women represent Lamar and their home teams on the field and center court, respectively. In April 2004, just a few months after graduation, Heather became a cheerleader for the Houston Texans. Alawan joined the Rockets Power Dancers in June.

Heather, a California native, served on the LU Spirit Team four years and also was part of the Lamar Dance Company before she made her move to the big league.

"I learned to perform for large audiences (at Lamar). I went from dancing at Montagne Center to dancing for 70,000 people in Reliant Stadium," the 23-year-old wedding coordinator said.

Alawan's experience with the Spirit Team molded her as a dancer.

"I never really had any background in dance because I grew up a cheerleader. Being on the Lamar Spirit Team helped me develop a style that is unique to me. The structure of the Spirit

Team isn't that different from the Rockets," the 20-year-old said.

Heather started dancing at age 5. "I studied ballet for 12 years, exploring various techniques ... once I turned 12, I fell in love with the art of belly dancing and began performing professionally with a troupe on the west coast. It wasn't until I came to college that I was introduced to jazz and modern and began to apply all of the disciplines (and teachings) I had learned over the years."

Neither Heather nor Alawan expected to make it on their respective teams. Tryouts were grueling, but the women did it for the experience, which removed a lot of pressure.

April 3 and 4, Heather joined about 1,200 women to audition in Reliant Stadium for the

Texans' squad. That group was whittled down to half, and, by the second day, only 75 were being considered. The remaining women worked on a routine for about a week so the Texans could see how they worked together, she said. The Texans announced its new cheerleaders April 15 during a press conference.

"I had just gotten back from a performance with the Lamar Dance Ensemble in New Orleans. I didn't plan on going to audition," Heather said. "It (the audition) was my first step out of college. I just looked at it as a learning experience."

Now, she is part of the team of 36. "We work very well together. We have a lot of energy," she said.

Alawan, who was on the LU Spirit Team for two years, hadn't planned to audition for the Rockets' Power Dancers either. The LU junior from Crosby said her boyfriend encouraged her to try out after the couple attended a game. "I had a friend who wanted to try out, so I decided to try out too."

After a lot of prayer, Alawan said, she put the audition in God's hands. She decided that if she made the team, it was meant to be. If not, she would continue dancing at Lamar. Although her friend didn't make the cut, Alawan did.

"We went through the first two rounds of auditions one Sunday, then we had a week to get a drug test and had an interview. The finals were the Sunday after that."

The field of almost 400 women who auditioned was narrowed to 45. "I really didn't expect to get that far. I didn't think I was going to go to the finals because there were a lot of awesome dancers there."

The women awaited word in their locker room, listening for the judges to announce their decision by calling each participant's audition number.

After they skipped Alawan's number, she approached one of the Power Dancer representatives and said her number was 483. She hadn't made the list. Downcast, she walked through the Toyota Center and approached her boyfriend's car. When she told him the news, he knew something wasn't right. Her audition number – 493 – was still on her shorts.

The mistake allowed her to feel "both the sadness of losing and the elation of being with the girls who made it," she said.

Both women must maintain a strict schedule.

"I have everything written down on my calendar," Heather said. "I look at it several times a day to make sure I'm where I should be." She is constantly on the run. At times, she doesn't get to see her husband of one year before heading to practice. "Sometimes we have to put dinner dates down on the calendar to see each other."

Alawan, who lives in Beaumont, is constantly on the road, driving to and from Houston to attend Rocket games or practice. Alawan always carries her daily planner with her to ensure she's on schedule. "I write everything down. I'm a time fanatic."

Three days a week, she attends classes at Lamar; and she works

at a retail clothing store twice a week. "Balancing everything is hard, but school is my No. 1 priority. There is no room for error," Alawan said.

So, what is best about their jobs?

Heather enjoys the way the Texan Cheerleaders inspire others. "I really enjoy being a leader in the community, and that I'm someone children look up to. It's awesome to be out there to get people excited about the game."

Personally, she said, she is glad she can put her degree in dance to use. "I can never imagine myself not being in a dance-related field."

In addition, she and her fellow Texan Cheerleaders have had a chance to help boost the morale of the U.S. troops. The team has visited Fort Hood several times to meet the men and women who are leaving to fight overseas. "We met them, shook their hands and thanked them. It (gave us) a wonderful sense of patriotism. And, at the same time, it was touching. We got to know them as people, not just a part of the military."

For Alawan, the youngest member of the Power Dancers, working with the Rockets has definitely opened some doors. She has already traveled to China, where the Rockets played exhibition games in Beijing and Shanghai. "I even got to see The Great Wall," she said.

In a short time, Alawan said, she has grown close to the other dancers. She is learning from the veteran Power Dancers and is getting to know the players. Alawan is soaking it all in.

"People look at us as cheerleaders, but we're both dancers and cheerleaders. It's kind of like what Lamar has," Alawan said.

Heather continues to have high expectations. She loves working with the Texans, but sees it as a stepping stone for the future.

"I'd love to dance on stage. Usually, four years is maximum for (cheering) on a football team. I want to develop myself as a dancer to the highest potential." Heather will continue challenging herself. Now, she is focused on learning.

"I'd love to dance for (the late) Bob Fosse's company. I'd love to do something on Broadway. Any big stage production, I'm on it. I try not to rule anything out," Heather said.

Alawan looks forward to graduation. She hopes to manage a retail clothing store someday, then eventually own a store and start designing her own clothing line.

For now, Heather and Alawan will continue rooting for their home teams. Cheering from the sidelines, they'll strive to fill Houston fans with enthusiasm. With their daily planners in tow, they'll make their schedules work. Hour by hour.





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Between September 1, 2003, and August 31, 2004, donations were received in memory of the following alumni and friends of Lamar University. If you would like to honor the memory of someone in this special way, please send your contribution to Lamar University, P.O. Box 10011, Beaumont, Texas 77710. We will notify the families of your thoughtful generosity.

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## Cardinals for Life

The University recognizes and extends its sincere appreciation to those who have supported Lamar University throughout the years. Cardinals for Life are those alumni and friends who have cumulatively made significant contributions.

## Heritage Society

The Heritage Society honors alumni and friends who have made planned gifts for the future of Lamar University. These gifts come in the form of bequests, life insurance and life income arrangements such as charitable remainder trusts and charitable gift annuities. If you would like to become a member of the Heritage Society by making a provision for Lamar University's future through a bequest or trust, please contact Janice Trammell, director of development, with the Division of University Advancement at Lamar University, (409) 880-8422.

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# Regional clubs roll across Texas



Since graduation, you and your fellow Cardinals may have migrated across Texas and beyond, but . . . no matter where you are, the Office of Alumni Affairs is making it easier for you to reconnect with classmates, meet other graduates, participate in the evolving life of your alma mater and have some fun.

We're expanding the reach of our regional clubs to give you better opportunities to be involved with Lamar University. To make those opportunities more convenient for – and to – you, we're focusing on programs, activities and communications directed to your particular geographic area.

We will send most invitations and news for regional clubs' events and programs via e-mail. And, if you know other LU alumni, please encourage them to forward us an e-mail address so they, too, can reconnect with their alma mater.

We hope you will update your contact information on our web site at [www.lamar.edu/alumni](http://www.lamar.edu/alumni) . . . share your good news . . . and join us and your fellow alumni for good food and good times!

If you are interested in being involved in a regional club program, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs. (409) 880-8921 • (800) 298-4839  
[Alumni@lamar.edu](mailto:Alumni@lamar.edu) • [www.lamar.edu/alumni](http://www.lamar.edu/alumni)

## Austin – Feb. 19

In Austin, LU alumni will gather at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 19 at Joe's Crabshack in San Marcos for a pre-game reception to spur the Cards to victory over the Bobcats. The club includes, to date, alumni in Bastrop, Burnet, Caldwell, Hayes, Llano, Travis and Williamson counties.

**Steering Committee:** Jenny Achilles '03, Donny Coryell '98, Bryce Darby '99, Glen Edgerly '69, Paul Gautier '93, Jo Anne (Sellers) Huber '74, Steve Huber '76, Bob Jones '73, Kenneth Koym '61, Katy (Reeder) Wells '87, Chaz de la Garza '70, Larry Drayer '60 and Jack Moncrief '58

## Brazoria County – Jan. 17

Brazoria county alumni meet the third Monday of each month in Lake Jackson. The group's Lamar Big Red Association was chartered March 17, 1983. Its current president is Ed Zingleman '63, who represents the association on the LU Alumni Advisory Board. At the annual Spring Fling, alumni celebrate the year's achievements along with administrators, faculty and deans.

## Dallas/Fort Worth – Feb. 12

Alumni in the Dallas/Fort Worth area are invited to a post-game reception at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 12

in the Carlisle Suite at University Center on the UT-Arlington campus after the Cardinals meet the Mavs. The club includes, to date, alumni from Collin, Dallas, Denton and Tarrant counties.

**Steering Committee:** Mary (Sculley) Holleman '73, Rebecca Meadows '82, Chip Mercer '98, Kristy (Eastham) Mercer '99 and Martye (Sculley) Simmons '78

## Houston – Jan. 11

The Houston Area Regional Club gets together the second Tuesday of each month. The first meeting will be Jan. 11, 6 p.m. at Lupe Tortilla's I-45 North location. Alumni hail from Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris and Montgomery counties, as well as the city of Pearland.

**Steering Committee:** Tommy Bertrand '94, Dana Broeder, Steve Broeder '91, Carrie (Newton) Broussard '00, Jason Broussard '00, Grace (Davis) England '55, Erika Guillory '97, Derrick Jones '93, Ken Lloyd '73, Lyndon Rojo '88, Kevin Roblyer '93, Tanya (Harrell) Roblyer '94 and Denise Sherman '94

## Jefferson County

**Steering Committee:** Lamar University Alumni Advisory Board members

The Jefferson County Regional Clubs are in the organizational stages. If you are interested in helping establish clubs in Jefferson County and plan for area events and programs, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs.