

CARDINAL Cadence

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MEMBER OF THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

MARCH - MAY 2005



LNU
RED
WHITE
& YOU

LAMAR UNIVERSITY



From the President

What a great weekend! Red, White & You, Homecoming and Open House all came together into one exciting weekend on the Lamar University campus. It was a pleasure to renew acquaintances with many alumni and friends of the university. Just as exciting was seeing the anticipation in the eyes of thousands of prospective students and parents as they toured campus and learned about opportunities at Lamar.

The Friday evening concert was a fitting way to say “good-bye” to McDonald Gym as we know it. During its 10-year span as the primary event facility for the university, McDonald Gym played host to such musicians and groups as “Doc” Severinson, Up With People, The Beach Boys, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Vince Vance and the Valiants, Clark Terry, Isaac Hayes, Blood, Sweat and Tears, Jerry Jeff Walker, Kiss, and Merle Haggard. Soon, the building’s extensive renovation will begin. Even so, Lamar’s tribute to F. L. McDonald will remain – the gymnasium contained within the state-of-the-art Sports Recreation Center and the entrance to it will still bear his name.

Nearby, construction of the new dining hall is well underway. Not only will this greatly expanded facility meet current and anticipated student needs, but its construction will also give the university the opportunity to convert the old dining hall into much-needed classroom and office space.

In March, we welcomed Charles Matthews, the new chancellor of The Texas State University System, to our campus for the first time. He and our outstanding Southeast Texas legislators are doing great work in representing the needs of the university in Austin.

Just as essential to helping the university fulfill its mission of education, research and service is the support of individuals like you. Through your gifts of scholarships, and support of programs and more, you are a vital part of the work of Lamar University. Thank you so very much!

With Cardinal Pride,

James M. Simmons
President
Lamar University



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Cardinal Cadence

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Cardinal Events 2005

April 6

College of Education Academic Lecture Series presents Marlee Matlin. 7:30 p.m. Montagne Center

April 11

Registration begins

April 11-24

High School Scholarship Exhibition. Reception 2-4 p.m. April 24. Dishman Art Museum

April 12

Student Choreography Concert. 7:30 p.m. Rothwell Recital Hall

April 13

University Professor and Merit Award winners announced at reception. 2 p.m. University Reception Center, eighth floor, Gray Library

April 15-17

Spindletop/Lamar University Film Festival. University Theatre. Tickets www.spinfest.org or (409) 880-8490

April 17

Wind Ensemble Concert. 3 p.m. Julie Rogers Theatre

April 18

Poet David Mason presents reading of works. 7 p.m. Lecture Hall, Dishman Art Museum

April 19

Dinner and Twelve Strangers. LU Alumni host dinner for students studying a particular major to meet professionals in that field. alumni@lamar.edu or (409) 880-8921

April 21-26

Twelfth Night, presented by Lamar Theatre. Nightly 8 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m. Studio Theatre. Tickets (409) 880-2250

April 22

A Cappella Choir & Grand Chorus. 7 p.m. First United Methodist Church

April 27-May 5

Senior Thesis Exhibition. Reception 7-9 p.m. April 29. Dishman Art Museum

April 28

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

April 28

Reception honoring University Scholar. 2-3 p.m. University Reception Center, eighth floor, Gray Library

May 8

The Tea Room & The Arts series presents Lamar Chamber Winds. Brunch 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Concert at 3 p.m. Reservations required for brunch. (409) 861-1900

May 9-13

Master's Thesis Exhibition. Reception 7-9 p.m. May 13. Dishman Art Museum

May 11-23

Summer Mini-Session

May 13

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

May 14

Commencement. 9:30 a.m. Montagne Center. Ann Die Hasselmo is speaker. (409) 880-8419

May 9-13

Master's Thesis Exhibition. Reception 7-9 p.m. May 13. Dishman Art Museum

May 31

Summer I registration

June 1

Summer I classes begin

June 7

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

June 15-16

Orientation. (409) 880-8085

June 24-25

Orientation. (409) 880-8085

Events open to the public without charge unless otherwise indicated.

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



SIXTH ANNUAL SPINDLETOP/ LAMAR UNIVERSITY FILM FESTIVAL

APRIL 15 - 17, 2005

Meet Hollywood insiders and professionals involved in all aspects of filmmaking, from directors to composers, at the Sixth Annual Spindletop/Lamar University Film Festival.

The 2005 speakers include award-winning actress Irma P. Hall, director Stuart Gordon, FX experts Steve Wolf and Sandy Collora, musician and LU alumnus

Becky Barksdale and others who know how Hollywood works and how to work Hollywood. Hall, a Beaumont native, will be honored at the festival as she is inducted into the Southeast Texas Filmmaker Hall of Fame.

Attend action-packed panels, see the best in indie films and boost your filmmaking expertise. Registration is \$65. Students pay only \$25.

Just want to watch some really awesome flicks? Pay \$15 at the door for admission to all Saturday night and Sunday features.



Irma P. Hall

Becky Barksdale

For full information, visit www.spinfest.org.
or call (409) 880-8419.

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Design by Mike Rhodes • Cover photo Allen Moore



Pre-professional programs join University of Houston

The directors of Lamar's pre-pharmacy program signed a contract with the University of Houston School of Pharmacy for early acceptance beginning this spring of up to five Lamar freshmen per year into the school's doctoral program.

LU joins with UT-Medical Branch

President James Simmons signed a contract this month admitting Lamar into the Center of Excellence Academic Enrichment Program at the University of Texas Medical Branch. Lamar pre-medical students will receive preferential admission into UTMB's medical summer enrichment programs after their freshmen, sophomore and junior years. The UTMB agreement offers a unique opportunity for students to gain first-hand medical school experiences during each summer of their undergraduate work. The Premedical Academic Enrichment Programs will be at UT-Pan American in Edinburg, May 31-July 1.

Construction of new dining hall begins

In response to continued enrollment growth, construction of a new dining facility began in December. American Campus Communities, the Austin-based company that built and manages the university's three

residence halls, will manage construction of the \$6.4-million dining hall, designed by Craycroft Price Architects of Dallas. The hall will be on East Virginia Street between the Mary and John Gray Library and Cardinal Village. The building's design complements that of the university's new student housing, with covered porches, cupolas and a varied roof line. With a dining capacity of 590 seats, the new design will more than double that of the university's existing dining hall.

ExxonMobil contributes \$166,300 to LU projects

ExxonMobil provided Lamar programs with resources totaling \$154,500 during fiscal year 2003-2004 and announced in November that it would add a \$11,800 recruiting grant to that figure for a total of \$166,300. The grant is part of a \$1.6 million donation to 86 colleges and universities for assistance with various academic programs. The grant will be divided among the chemical, mechanical, civil and electrical engineering departments. The program contributions support a broad spectrum of Lamar programs, including the Cardinal Connection Mentor Reading program in the Department of Athletics; the Dynamic Simulation/Advanced Process Control and Engineering Student Ambassador programs in the College of Engineering; and the Executive-in-Residence program in the College of Business. Other beneficiaries

include the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Education and Human Development and Fine Arts and Communication.

Lamar gets seismic interpretation software grant

Lamar's Department of Earth and Space Sciences received a \$675,000 seismic interpretation university software grant from Houston-based Seismic Micro-Technology for their industry-standard software for the oil and gas industry. It will be used by the department in teaching students how to interpret reflection seismic data on computer workstations, including non-profit reflection seismic research related to the petroleum industry, near-surface environmental studies, and larger scale studies of the Earth's crust.

LU joins IRIS Consortium

Lamar has been admitted as a member of the Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS), a consortium composed of universities and federal agencies that contribute to education and scholarly research in seismology. Membership in IRIS provides many benefits, including discounts for software used in seismology, greater access to the latest seismic equipment, and networking opportunities for collaboration with seismologists around the country.

Scholarships provide eligible students with much-needed, often critically needed, funds to allow them to pursue degrees and, most important, continue study through to graduation. A number of new scholarships have recently been established.

Joan Letulle '76 leaves a lasting legacy through the **Joan Letulle Memorial Scholarship for Students with Disabilities**. The award is open to undergraduate and graduate levels with preference given to students with a physical disability. Letulle, who was left paralyzed from a car accident, worked with President John Gray to make the campus more accessible to students with disabilities. They established cut-out curbs to sidewalks, ramps to buildings, an elevator in the Setzer Student Center, modifications to classroom locations and a wheelchair section in the football stadium.

The Emma Genevieve and Charles Albert Stead Sr. Memorial Scholarship was created for undergraduate students enrolled in the College of Business. The endowment was established by **Bette Stead '57** in honor of

her grandparents.

Parents, students, friends, faculty and Lamar alumni joined to endow the **Richard L. Price Scholarship in Engineering, Math & Science**. Price, associate professor of mathematics, is being honored for his distinguished years of service to students at Lamar. The awarded scholarship will rotate between the departments on an annual basis beginning in fall 2005.

The Lamar Chemical Engineering Alumni Scholarship will give its first award in fall 2006 due to the loyal support of department graduates.

The Society of Plastics Engineers Tex-La Gulf Chapter Scholarship in Chemical Engineering was established recently to aid undergraduate and graduate students studying chemical engineering. The scholarship will be

awarded annually beginning in fall 2005.

Herman Ortega '67, '72, vice president of the Integrated Supply Chain for Honeywell International, Special Materials Division, has established a scholarship for undergraduate and graduate chemical engineering students.

The J.V. & Gene Minyard Memorial Scholarship in Engineering was established by Micky Minyard '63 in memory of his parents for engineering majors with preference given to industrial engineering. The scholarship is open to full-time undergraduate and graduate students.

The James L. Cooke Memorial Scholarship in Electrical Engineering honors the memory of professor Cooke who taught at Lamar from 1956 to 1991.

Representatives of Lamar's many academic programs, scores of student organizations and the Setzer Student Center staff put out the Cardinal red carpet Feb. 26 as thousands of prospective students and their parents attended Open House on the Lamar campus.



Lee Green, right, discusses several heated dies with Jack Hopper, dean of the College of Engineering. They will be used in the Andrew Green Composite Center laboratory pultrusion machine.



Dean Jack Hopper and Robert Yuan, chair of the civil engineering department, right, watch as the newest addition to the Green Composite Center, a pultrusion machine, is put to work for the first time, creating a continuous-form glass fiber rod.



The new Dining Hall



Oscar winner – author Marlee Matlin visits April 6

Marlee Matlin, who received worldwide acclaim after winning an Oscar for her performance in *Children of a Lesser God*, appeared at Lamar University April 6 as the spring Academic Lecture Series speaker.

Matlin, also well known for her recurring role in television's *The West Wing*, conducted an afternoon student session and a public lecture at 7:30 p.m. in the Montagne Center. The free public lecture, hosted by the College of Education and Human Development, was funded by student services fees.

Conn's Bill Nylin speaks to engineers

Engineering majors, graduate students and the public had the opportunity to learn from the career of one of Lamar's successful alumni at the annual All College of Engineering Seminar Oct. 25 when Bill Nylin, president and chief operating officer of Conn's Inc., spoke in the John Gray Center Auditorium. At Lamar, Nylin served as a computer science professor, administrator, vice president for finance and deputy chancellor. As president and COO of Conn's, Nylin has responsibility for the credit companies; the service division;

the distribution, delivering and warehousing division; and the management information department.

Tourism exec speaks on 'Business of Nature'

Nature tourism advocate Ted Eubanks visited the university for a presentation sponsored by Lamar's Center for the Study of the Big Thicket. He is founder and president of Fermata Inc., a consulting firm based in Austin. The company has more than 30 years of expertise in the business of wildlife watching, conservation programming and nature tourism development. Eubanks has spoken and published widely on environmental, natural history and nature tourism issues.



Joe Tortorice keynotes commencement

Joe Tortorice '71, founder of Jason's Deli and president of Deli Management Inc., was the keynote speaker for winter commencement Dec. 18. Lamar conferred 764 degrees, including four doctorates – three in engineering and one in deaf studies/deaf education.



With perfect grade-point averages of 4.0, six graduates shared Plummer Award honors in the class of December 2004. The Plummer recipients are Jo Lena Adams of Vidor and Susan Ivey of Lumberton, seated, and, standing, from left, Anthony Fertitta of Beaumont, twin sisters Kelly and Kerry White of Mauriceville and Lance Pickard of Nederland.

Natural history expert discusses 'Century of Change'

Natural history expert David Schmidly visited Lamar Feb. 1 to present a lecture sponsored by the Center for the Study of the Big Thicket titled "Texas Natural History: A Century of Change." The presentation gave an authoritative view of how Texas land once looked, and what happened to the wildlife heritage, as well as how to protect it in the future. Schmidly is chief executive officer of The Oklahoma State University System and president of Oklahoma State University-Stillwater.



Entrepreneurial Studies hosts mountaineer

The Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies hosted entrepreneur, mountaineer and venture capitalist John Preston Feb. 22 for its spring Entrepreneurship Executive Lecture Series. As co-founder and vice president of XL Systems Inc. in 1986, he began building a company that created and patented the world's first large-diameter threaded connection for large-diameter pipe and created a unique manufacturing system to produce connections. Soon, XL Systems products were in use in every major offshore market in the world. Preston now focuses his sights on the world's most challenging mountains. He has had 18 major climbs around the globe, such as Matterhorn, Kilimanjaro, Mount Whitney, Aconcagua, El Pico de Orizaba and Vinson Massif.



Advisors visit Guadalajara, review programs

Brooke Hall, a post-baccalaureate counselor for Lamar's medical pre-professional program, and Jim Westgate, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of earth and space sciences, traveled to Mexico Oct. 20-24 to participate in a pre-medical advisors conference at the Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara, a top international medical school. The pair visited UAG along with representatives from several U.S. schools in Texas, California, New Mexico and Arizona. According to Hall, the university is seeking to encourage American students to attend medical schools in Mexico to earn their credentials to practice medicine in the U.S. Graduates gain medical knowledge in a bi-cultural, bilingual setting.

Zaloom named to homeland security panel



Victor Zaloom, professor and chair of industrial engineering, was appointed to a two-year term on the National Maritime Security Advisory Committee of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. He will represent the academic/public policy sector on the committee with 21 members from industry who will advise, consult with and make recommendations to the secretary of homeland security via the commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Thomas Collins. The committee will advise Collins on matters of maritime security strategy, policies and actions mandated by the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002. Zaloom is also director of engineering graduate programs and director of the Center for Ports and Waterways at the university.



Brooke HALL

Nichols appointed to global nursing education task force



Brenda Nichols, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, will serve on a joint task force for the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission and National League for Nursing. The Task Force was created to provide leadership in bringing together the community of nurse educators from around the world to address and influence issues related to quality nursing education, the preparation and ongoing development of faculty, and advancement of the science of nursing education. Her appointment was one of 10 made to this international committee.

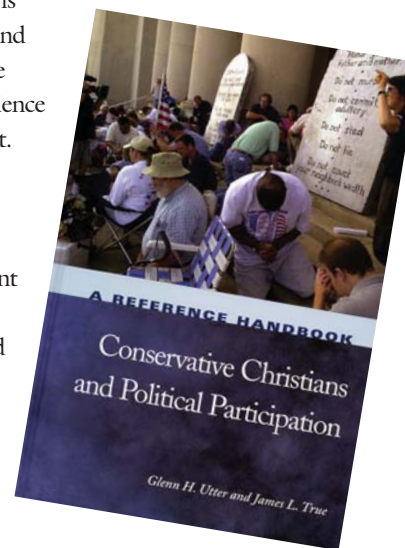
The Bible and the ballot box

From the pre-Civil War activism of abolitionists to the campaign against alcoholic beverages to the crusade against teaching evolution in public schools, Lamar

professors Glenn Utter and James True have completed a guide for journalists, students and policy-makers unfamiliar with the history and role of conservative Christians in American politics.

Their latest work, *Conservative Christians and Political Participation: A Reference Handbook*, joins the Political Participation in America series published by ABC-CLIO. The book covers the rise of Christian political activism from its nadir at the time of the Scopes trial to its current significant role in American politics.

Utter is professor and chair of the political science department. True holds the Brooks Chair of Government and Public Service and is associate professor of political science.





BEAU THERIOT

BRIAN SATTLER

BEAU THERIOT:

Thresholds of design

By Brian Sattler

“Life is a constant transition,” said Robert “Beau” Theriot ’70. Being on the threshold of a dream come true is not a new position for the 58-year-old. He has already left an indelible mark on two of Texas’ biggest cities. But his latest achievement may be his hardest fought.

Well known across the Lone Star state for his two landmark restaurants, The Brownstone in Houston and The Oasis in Austin, as well as a sought-after eye for interior design, Theriot is beginning development of 500 scenic acres on the edge of Lake Travis.

“We’re actually breaking ground,” he said. “Sometimes I just about have to pinch myself to believe it’s really happening.”

His dream-in-progress has taken more than a dozen years to reach this point, and, because as many as 17 governmental entities had to be satisfied before construction could proceed on Theriot’s Comanche Canyon Ranch, an up-scale community. In fact, the carefully planned development must leave room for two federally protected bird species – the black-capped vireo and the golden-cheeked warbler, as well as subterranean karst invertebrates – any of a group of 16 endangered invertebrate species only capable of surviving in caves or karstic rock known to the Central Texas region. Habitat loss due to urbanization is a major threat to the species.

In 2000, the federal government granted Comanche Canyon Ranch a 10-A permit, which meant development could proceed, but only with the guarantee that both the avian and subterranean creatures would be protected. To meet that goal, Theriot has, in effect, had to leave three-fourths of the land undeveloped.

It has “taken \$4 million just to get through the process,” Theriot said of the cost he estimates will add \$75,000 to the price of each lot. “But it is going to be a unique area,” he said, “a place like no other.”



The acreage surrounds Theriot's popular Oasis restaurant as well as his home, Villa del Sol, a Mediterranean-style villa perched 300 feet above Lake Travis. All the homes in the new development will have architectural similarity based on Theriot's vision, and magnificent views will be in the offering.

"We will have different builders to do the job, but I will control the style," Theriot said of his five-year plan. "If it happens in five years, I'm really going to be on skates," he said.

After 25 years of going back and forth between Austin and Houston, Theriot is ready to plant his feet for a while. But he'll be just as busy, overseeing the development of the land he bought so many years before.

One area will be a gated community with 99 lots, beginning with 40 garden homes with courtyards in the \$500,000 range, then 40 canyon-view lots with homes in the \$750,000 to \$1-million range, with the balance of lake-view lots harboring homes valued at \$1 million plus.

Theriot expects the community to be in great demand because of its unique appeal and its proximity to downtown Austin. Only 11 miles from the Capitol, the development will be the closest community on Lake Travis.

Theriot credits his business sense to his father's guidance while he helped in the family lumber company as a boy. "That taught me great basics," he said. Theriot also loved his college years and the work experience he gained while at Lamar. It was from his Phi Delta Theta brethren that he gained the "Beau" moniker. An overabundance of frat brothers named Bobby resulted in a move to new nomenclature – French in keeping with his surname.

Just as lasting was the effect of an auto accident that left him with two broken legs and temporarily wheelchair bound. His college friends teamed together to ensure he got to

"We will have different builders to do the job, but I will control the style," Theriot said.

classes during his lengthy recovery. Out of the experience, the already eager young man gained a seemingly unquenchable zest for life and friendship.

But his love for form and design he credits to his mother. "Mom always had an interest in furniture and a pretty home and took great pride in that," he said. "That's how I really got into it."

After finding some success as an antique dealer and seller of furniture to interior designers, Theriot decided to build "a little restaurant and antique gallery."

Through his vision, what began as a collection of old warehouses was transformed into "a place so unique that it would please all the senses."

Even as The Brownstone grew in stature as the place to dine in Houston, Theriot was gaining a reputation as the man to seek when it came time to make a home transcend the ordinary. "People loved the way it was decorated and asked me to help them decorate their houses," he said.

Theriot's employees are loyal, with some having been at The Brownstone since it opened 31 years ago and many more with tenures of 25 years or more. Both The Brownstone and the adjacent antique business prospered, giving Theriot the funds to purchase the 500 acres on Lake Travis. There, he opened "a little eatery called The Oasis."

With as many as 275 employees in its

busy season, The Oasis is perhaps Texas' largest restaurant, seating up to 2,500 people on terraced balconies each affording an unrestricted view of splendid sunsets over Lake Travis.

"The Oasis has been growing steadily – every year we're adding more decks – three new decks this year. It's quite a place," Theriot said. "I've got a great chef up there so I'm really pleased with that aspect of it. We're always working to make it a better and better place."

Now in its 23rd year, The Oasis remains one of Austin's Top-10 attractions and the only one privately owned.

Changes may be in store for his two antique shops as well. He hopes to trim the 30,000-square-foot Houston store and double the scale of the store in Austin. "I want to make it a lot bigger and remodel it to a castle-type feel," he said. "The rock work in Austin lends itself to that."

With the development, Theriot is also considering adding a parking garage "with a great little Italian village on the front of it" to house some trendy shops.

In true entrepreneurial fashion, Theriot rents furnishings – and decorating skill – to some of Houston's finest homebuilders when they have spec homes that haven't sold. "We make it look like somebody lives there, and they generally sell twice as fast." Theriot's touch embellishes living areas, libraries and dining rooms.

"We do a pretty good little business, but it takes a lot of furniture, warehouse space, trucks and people to keep everything going," he said. At last count, he had 23 houses decorated. Sometimes, the new owners like the presentation so well they buy the works.

A renowned interior designer who never took a class in interior design, Theriot has a natural gift. "I can take an empty room and picture in my mind the way I want it decorated.

"I can see the overall picture – that's what I can do really well," Theriot said. "I like pretty things, I make no bones about it. It has been my life."

From antiques to decorating, to gourmet dining, to friends and fun in the setting sun, it's a beautiful life indeed.

Rioux reaches stars with *Star Trek* bio

Through a series of fortunate events, Terry Lee Rioux '00 has gone where no one has gone before – completing the authorized biography of actor DeForest Kelley, noted for his role as Dr. McCoy in the original *Star Trek* series.

"As a kid, I watched the original *Star Trek*. It was a very important part of my development as a person who looked for life experience, adventure and investigation. The most interesting character was McCoy," said Rioux, who now lives in New Orleans.

Although Rioux wrote fiction as a child, she eventually put down her pen. "I really didn't know what to do with the desire to understand and communicate what I experienced, imagined and thought about," she said.

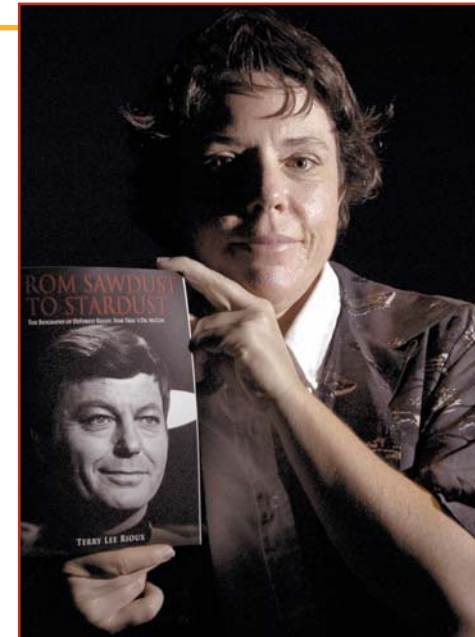
After earning her bachelor's degree in anthropology from the State University of New York in Plattsburgh, she and her husband, Bob, served in the Coast Guard. Rioux served on the Chesapeake Bay. She moved to Port Arthur while her husband was stationed at Sabine Pass. It was Bob who convinced her to get a master's degree in American history at Lamar. And, in graduate school, the writing bug bit her again.

"I approached graduate school with a vengeance. My first attempt at a biography was a piece about Lamar history professor Ralph Wooster, and people really seemed to like it. So I was off and running." Rioux decided that if she had to spend a vast amount of time on a research paper, as required by her professors, she could spend a little more time and end up with finished articles.

As a historian-type, she said, she expected to work with dusty archives and old moldy books. But, the reality was very different. "My work was pinned to and with living people, voices about their past or perspectives about our history." Rioux's thesis at Lamar was on George W. Carroll, a prohibition leader in Texas at the turn of the century and pioneer at Spindletop. She published a book on Carroll in 2001.

While completing her studies, a friend told Rioux about DeForest Kelly's death. "I really wasn't ready for the effect it had on me. She had been given permission to do his story, but couldn't. She didn't have the training or the will at the time."

Rioux met Carolyn Kelley, DeForest's widow, and they



DYLAN SLAGLE

became quick friends. "Three months after his passing, I was visiting with Kelley's wife in Los Angeles. We talked and hit it off." She was familiar with Rioux's work and encouraged her to write the authorized biography of DeForest Kelley.

With help from Carolyn Kelley and others, Rioux contacted DeForest's old friends, Hollywood celebrities, actors and *Star Trek* fans for her research, which took two years. She interviewed stars, including Leonard Nimoy, who played Spock; Nichelle Nichols, known for her role as Uhura; and Harve Bennett, who portrayed Admiral Robert Bennett and was a producer on several *Star Trek* films.

Carolyn Kelley died in 2004.

Although Rioux didn't have a publisher for the biography when she started, the project was picked up by Pocket Books, a division of Simon and Schuster.

Rioux is conducting book signings around the country to promote the biography. She is honoring the memory of DeForest and Carolyn Kelley by donating a percentage of the book's royalties to the North Shore Animal League, the couple's official charity.

And Rioux is no stranger to Beaumont. She still enjoys checking in on her professors, visiting those who sparked her interest in biography. She says what she enjoyed most about writing the book was meeting those people who were close to DeForest Kelley.

"The best thing was finding Kelley's friends and becoming their young friend. I loved traveling to see them and going through the pictures and memories. Of course, interviewing the actors and professionals was pretty amazing, but they were all very kind. I walked through Paramount Studios, Warner Brothers, the streets of old Hollywood, looking and finding what I needed. I went to the Los Angeles archives and research centers to have a look at Hollywood history, and of course I tried to put *Star Trek* itself into some kind of cultural, historical context."

As a youth, Rioux always saw DeForest's character of McCoy as a grandfather figure. And, after his death, his widow became a grandmother figure to her. "I am always surprised by the love everyone had and has for DeForest Kelley. They were deeply affected by him, and the loss of him."

— CC

Pastor James Hwang

From algorithms to biorhythms

Engineer trades symmetry of robotics for serendipity of humanity



BRIAN SATTLER

"I have gone from shepherding robots to shepherding people," said James Hwang '87, pastor of the Clear Lake Chinese Church in Webster.

In 2001, he began his new faith odyssey by leaving a successful career in space robotics for the pulpit when the pastor of the church he attended called him into his office one day to announce he had been called to a larger church in New York. He suggested Hwang become the pastor.

"I was shocked," Hwang said. "I said I didn't have the experience to pastor. I felt confident as an engineer – to design things, to do project management – those were my strengths."

During the next few months, however, "I began to feel stronger and stronger that God was telling me that it was his timing." In August, he accepted the pastorate.

"It's a small church – a very cozy one," he said. Of its 200 members, about 60 participate in the early English-language service. One of the church's ministries is teaching Chinese to second- and third-generation Chinese-Americans, helping them keep a practical and valuable skill, Hwang said.

He finds the church's 80 children an exciting part of the ministry. "Not only are there a lot of children, we're still growing by birth," he said. "Right now, we have six expectant mothers, and, two years ago, we had 12 at one time. That's a most joyful time for a pastor, holding newborn babies."

Hwang came to Lamar from Taiwan in the early 1980s to fulfill a dream. Lamar had offered him a scholarship plus transportation expenses. During the next five years, he earned a doctorate in engineering with an emphasis on robotics and electrical engineering.

While at Lamar, he taught robotics courses one year at what was then Lamar's Orange campus (now Lamar State College-Orange), then taught three years in the university's technical arts program (now Lamar Institute of Technology). He met Berling, his wife of 20 years and a pharmacist, at First Baptist Church in Beaumont. The couple has three daughters, ages 19, 17 and 15.

After receiving his doctorate, he took a job in robotics simulation and automation with Lockheed at NASA's Johnson Space Center. He began working in the Astronaut Training Building during the post-Challenger accident "Return to Fly" program.

There, in JSC's cavernous Building 9, Hwang helped recreate the space shuttle's giant robotic arm. While the space-certified robotic arm built by SPAR Canada is used to launch satellites from the cargo bay and perform other tasks in zero gravity, accurately replicating its operation and tremendous reach within the pull of Earth's gravity required high-powered hydraulics and other adaptations.

By Brian Sattler

The Americans, Europeans and Japanese all see robotics as a good way to perform many tasks on the International Space Station (ISS). A 65-foot long robotic arm – called the Space Station Remote Manipulator System (SSRMS) – is used by NASA. The Europeans and Japanese are developing similar robotics for their portions of the ISS.

Hwang helped develop a robotic lab to simulate handling orbital replacement units for the International Space Station, certifying that the ORUs could be manipulated successfully by the robotic arm and then training astronauts in the task.

"There are a number of units outside the pressurized areas that can be replaced and maintained in orbit," he said. "You can either do the job with an astronaut – a space walk or extravehicular activity – or use a robot so there's less risk."

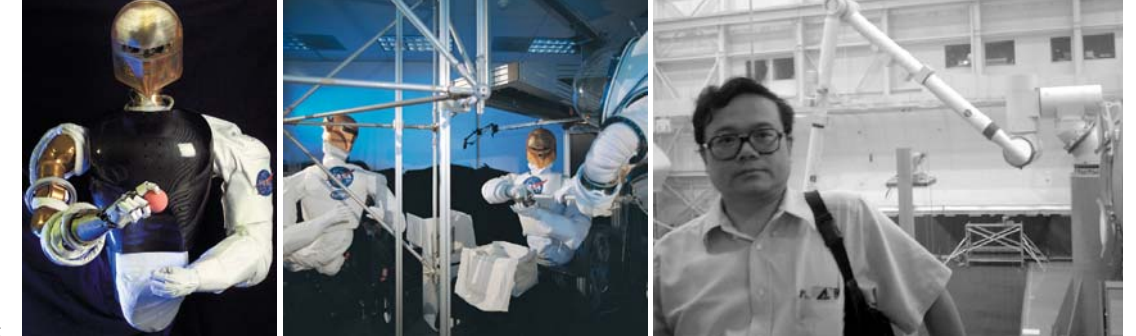
While the robotic arms Hwang helped support at NASA have played a huge role in the success of both the shuttle and ISS programs, he is equally proud of the division's work on a joint NASA-Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency project to design an anthropomorphic robot. The man-like robot is controlled by an astronaut wearing a virtual-reality helmet containing LCD displays which project the "vision" of the robot's eyes. Sensors in the astronaut's gloves and suit track hand and arm movements, which the robot replicates precisely.

"Hopefully, in the future, we'll be able to use this kind of robot in space," he said.

The subject of robotics in space recently came to the attention of the nation with debate on the best approach to save the aging Hubble satellite: either accept the risks of multiple manned missions to rescue the craft, or accept the technical risks of using robotics to make the needed updates and repairs.

"A lot of study is going on," Hwang said. "Hopefully, we can use robots to maintain it."

One major challenge is that the Hubble was not designed to be maintained by robots. Tolerances are tight, requiring degrees of precision, dexterity and strength



that robotics are only now on the threshold of achieving.

Robotics are not only likely candidates for saving the Hubble, but they are also the best choice for paving the way in future exploration. "Robotic missions are always the first step, even if you have manned missions planned," Hwang said. "As the first explorers, robots can establish the environment and make it possible to send astronauts."

In a way, Hwang is exploring new territory too. But it isn't the first time he's charted new directions. In 1997, he left Lockheed after an eight-year career to begin Roboteq Consulting Co., a move that gave him the flexibility to pursue personal interests.

With a seven-year contract with his former employer and projects from other corporate clients, Hwang found plenty to keep his attention. But at the same time, he wanted to enrich his Bible-teaching abilities – he taught Sunday school classes and was a deacon in the church – so he began work on a master of biblical studies degree through Dallas Theological Seminary's Houston extension.

Hwang's work toward the degree was nearly done when his pastor broke the news about his move to New York.

"My original goal was just to teach better," Hwang said. "I thought I might someday get a Ph.D. in theology, then teach at a college or university after I had seen my three daughters through college."

He credits his willingness to make the career change to his heritage of faith, a heritage that extends five generations. His great-great-grandmother was the youngest of 10 children, and, when she was 12, both parents died. Her older siblings abandoned her, but she was accepted at a boarding school for girls begun by American missionaries. There, she thrived and continued her education through the junior-college level. "She came to know Christ in that way," Hwang said. "So, her abandonment by her

family was a blessing in disguise."

When she graduated, a missionary introduced her to a young man from the boy's boarding school, a young man she would later marry and then join in ministry as he became the first pastor in Hwang's family history. "I'm very, very thankful for such a special blessing," Hwang said. "Because of this heritage, I got to know Christ when I was very young." In Taiwan, less than 2 percent of the population identifies with Christianity.

Hwang's father and mother had emigrated to Formosa (later called Taiwan) in 1948 and 1949, respectively, as Chiang Kai-Shek's Kuomintang lost political control of mainland China to Mao Zedong's communist forces. They met and married there, and Hwang was born in Taiwan in 1955. He earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from Tatung University in 1977 and 1979.

Hwang's passion for his faith surpasses even his zeal for robotics. He has traveled to the Far East many times to train Bible teachers, serves as a radio host for Houston-area broadcasts on Saturdays and has been a visiting speaker for the China ministry of Far East Broadcasting Co., Chino, Calif. Earlier this year, he and Berling traveled to Israel on a tour of biblical sites hosted by the Dallas Theological Seminary.

From celebrating with a young couple in the birth of a child to being with a family around an elderly parent's deathbed, Hwang marvels at how completely his congregation has allowed him into their lives.

"Robots are very predictable. People are unpredictable. To be a pastor is to deal with people," Hwang said of the new job, which might mean heading to the hospital in the middle of the night to be with a member who has been in an auto accident or dropping his agenda to help someone in crisis. He smiles broadly when he says he wouldn't have it any other way.



Competition X3

Swim team captain alumna strokes . . . and peddles . . . and runs . . . her way to gain the title All-American

By Cynthia Hicks

Being a wife and mother of two is a full-time job, but, for the past decade, Richa “Lynnie” (Alfred) Terry ’83, senior vice president for Perry Homes, has bookended her days with triathlon training as well. The challenges and the juggling have been worthwhile, though, because she’s good – good enough to represent the United States at the World Triathlon Championship this past year in Funchal, Madeira Island, Portugal.

Her goal for the world championship last May was a Top-20 finish, but she hadn’t counted on the hilly terrain. “All week, we viewed the course, and all week, I was scared to death. It’s hard going uphill, but I’m worse at going downhill because I don’t enjoy going 40 to 50 miles an hour on a bike. It’s just you and the concrete.”

Apprehensive about a headlong descent, Lynnie decided to stop beside a competitor who had given up. “There was a Canadian girl who was crying on the side of the road because she was scared too. So I stopped with her. We both decided we were going to finish the course but would walk a little bit of it to where we felt comfortable to get back on the bike,” Lynnie said.

Though the breather prevented her from reaching her goal, she was ninth out of the water, had a run split of 19th fastest and finished 43rd.

Though usually located in more distant U.S. cities, the 2003 USA Triathlon National Championship was held in Shreveport, La., Lynnie’s hometown. “When it came to Shreveport, I thought, ‘This is my chance.’ I had to place in the Top 16 in my age group to qualify for the world’s team. I got 10th.” That placement earned her a spot on the U.S. team.

“It’s the closest I’ll ever get to an Olympics, to compete against other countries in a foreign country,” Lynnie said.

It was the capstone of an athletic career that began in high school and matured in college. “I enjoyed swimming for Lamar. It was a lot of work; we were at the pool twice a day, five days a week. I remember walking from Gray Hall at 5:30 in the morning across the tennis courts to the swimming pool. The thing I really enjoyed was our Christmas break training,” she said. On those breaks, she traveled to Padre Island, Mexico City, the Virgin Islands and Colorado Springs.

Lynnie was team captain for the 1982-83 season, her senior year, and set a school record in the 50-meter breast stroke, a strength that helped her qualify for the AAIW national championship and, later, pursue the triathlon.

“Having the swimming background gave me a big advantage. I ran all through college during the off season. So, I had the running and swimming,” she said.

Lynnie and her husband, Dennis ’84, general partner for Solana Venture Partners, a privately held investment partnership, have been together since their college days. When Lynnie, a member of Lamar’s women’s swim team, injured her shoulder, she went to Dennis for treatment. He was a Cardinal b-ball trainer in the sports medicine program who also worked for the swim and volleyball teams. Both came to Lamar on scholarships.

A Dallas native, Dennis recalls his college days with affection. He was “in charge of the women’s athletic dorms” his last two years before graduating in May 1984, but his interest was firmly fixed on only one of the 90 female athletes. He and Lynnie, who had earned a B.B.A. the previous December, married that July and lived their first year of marriage in the Unit Apartments while Dennis took post-graduate courses and Lynnie worked with the swim team.

She remembers being involved in Cap and Gown, and Dennis was in Blue Key. “He was a Kemble Award finalist,” she said, “but I can’t say I was a finalist for Bess Gentry. I was nominated but not a finalist. He gives me grief about that. But I would not take any of that time back for anything. It was a great part of our lives.”

Today, the couple has two boys, Dustin, 16, who runs cross country, and golfer Tyler, 12.

She began to compete, running about 10 races each year during a season stretching from April to October. Her training regimen – staying proficient in three sports takes



Lynnie and Dennis Terry

commitment – is robust: swimming in the mornings three days a week, running each evening after work, biking in the mornings the other two days a week. “On Saturday, I

and her best has been fourth. For the past five years, she was USA Triathlon All-American.

The win gave her a fulfilling sense of accomplishment and a gladness that her training paid off. “You feel good that your family is there because they’ve been there to support you. That first overall win in 2000 was really neat. To look at all those females in the race and know, ‘I’m faster than anyone here today.’ You get there that morning and see who’s there, and race your own race and see what muscles are gonna show up that day,” she said.

She’s a tough competitor, but, even as a devotee of the sport, she’s “amazed at the stamina of the women who race in the Ironman,” the mother of all triathlons. Her average race takes about an hour and 15 minutes to complete. In Ironman, the professional athletes take nine hours and the average triathlete about 15. “I can’t imagine doing a marathon period, and they do a marathon after swimming and biking,” she said.

“Having the swimming background gave me a big advantage. I ran all through college during the off season.”

Dennis’s early career evolved from high school athletics to a health club and then to a position as a trainer for the Houston Rockets in 1994 and 1995. He counts the experience valuable but blessedly brief. “I got in on the good years – the two championship years. I got the world championship ring and traveled with them extensively. It was like a year of constant travel, never knowing where you’re going to wake up, meeting movie stars and eating bad, sleeping on planes and buses. But my family got to participate in the world championship, the parades and all the celebrations,” he said.

Early in their marriage, the couple lived in Memphis, Tenn., for a year, and Lynnie chose to swim in the Master’s Program, a post-collegiate organization for athletes still interested in competitive swimming after they graduate. Fellow competitors were triathletes, and the fever was contagious. When her husband gave her a bike for Christmas in 1996, she entered a short triathlon race the next May and “got hooked.”

would do a long bike, and on Sundays, a long run,” she said.

And during her days as VP with Perry Homes, that affinity for structure and organization allows her to manage high-volume home building – the company builds in four Texas cities and begins construction on 250 houses each month.

Lynnie has been in the USA Triathlon category called “elite athletes” for five years. These are the Top 20 athletes in a region, and “when they show up for a race, the race is worth more,” she said. Points races are those sanctioned by USA Triathlon. “Championship races are worth more points than others. At the end of the year, there’s a ranking, so your goal is to place high in championship races, and you have to do at least three races each year to be ranked,” she said.

In 2003, Lynnie was ranked first as the overall female in region – across all age groups, “which is a pretty good accomplishment for being 42,” she laughs. She was 12th in the nation last year in the age group 40-44,

She competes in about two triathlons each year at the Olympic distance: 1.5k swim, 40k bike and 10k run. The other races are slightly shorter.

Though Houston’s flat lands didn’t prepare her for the hills of Madeira, she’s comfortable with the effort. “That bike killed me overall,” she said. “Some people just have a lot of guts. There were some European women not even trying to put their brakes on downhill. You have to train that to be able to do that.” The next day, she and her sister Brenda Antee, who traveled with her to Madeira, watched the pros race to qualify for the Olympics. She wouldn’t trade the experience, the race or her placement, but she’s ready for another breather.

She and Dennis are eager to spend as much time with their children as possible before they leave home, so Lynnie will race and train less for a few years. But when the kids are older, “I’ll get back into it. I’ve worked out since 1976 when I started swimming, and that’s all I know to do. I’ll still be doing that to stay in shape and then . . . just race.”



In Portugal



With her sister, Brenda

Skylab EVA after deploying twin-pole solar shield.



NASA PHOTO



NASA PHOTO



NASA PHOTO



NASA PHOTO

Astronaut David Scott on Apollo 15 moonwalk.



NASA PHOTO

Advantage: Space

by Brian Sattler



BRIAN SATTLER

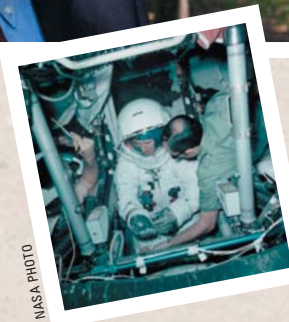
Scott Millican

From his vantage point in the crew procedures division, Scott Millican '64 saw most of Americans race to space first hand. Today, he brings 37 years of experience in preparation for human space flight to the member nations of the European Space Agency (ESA) as they participate in the International Space Station program.

From Gemini 10 to Apollo 17, Apollo/Soyuz to Skylab 3, Millican was a part of the Johnson Space Center. Along the way, he helped train America's astronauts in the procedures that spelled success in space and, in some instances, helped avert potential disaster.

Now, Millican is director of HE Space, a company specializing in providing professionals to work alongside ESA staff in mission operations and support, science operations, life and physical sciences research, payload safety engineering, administrative support and astronaut training.

When he graduated from Jesse H. Jones High School in 1959, neither Lamar nor space was in his plans. His father, a staunch Methodist, had hoped his son would go to Southern Methodist University, but the resources weren't there. "My friends were going to Lamar," Millican said, "and my parents



NASA PHOTO



NASA PHOTO

supported me in my decision.”

With no real goals, his early college career lacked thrust and vector. “I was floundering, with no real drive or direc-

tion,” he said. But, as he neared the three-year point, he began to “see the end of the tunnel.” The encouragement of his physics professor launched him on a path of lifelong learning, and, with the goal of finishing his industrial engineering degree, “I buckled down and really began to enjoy my engineering classes.”

Dormitory life was a lot of fun, Millican recalls, and he shared time with some of Lamar’s basketball players. He got to know then-freshman coach Billy Tubbs. Millican, who played ball in high school, was recruited to work out with the team, scrimmage, chase down balls and help officiate the practice sessions.

After graduating in 1964, Millican served two years in the Air Force at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio where he helped organize maintenance operations supporting the service’s B-52 Stratofortress bombers. After his tour, he returned to Houston and took a job at Johnson Space Center where “the space race was in prime time.”

There, Millican found himself using the engineering disciplines he had learned at Lamar and honed in the Air Force to design missions and train astronauts. In working with the flight crew, flight planners and other trainers, he prepared procedures and timelines – all laboriously scripted on IBM typewriters – for each flight crew.

Like steps to the stars, each mission built on the experience of the one before. “We would practice launch, recovery, docking and separations,” Millican said. “These were very complex in those days.” Gemini 10, his first mission, set up a docking target – a module in orbit – and demonstrated that NASA could send a crew up, rendezvous with a target, dock, undock and return to Earth.

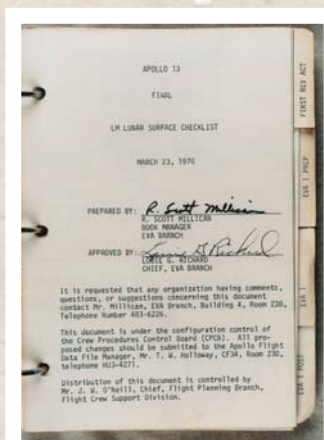
Developing the procedures and teaching the use of the space suit and its portable life system during extravehicular activity (EVA) was one of Millican’s main tasks throughout his NASA career. “That’s where the engineering comes in – knowing how to operate the system and teaching others how to use it,” he said.

Gemini 4 was the first mission to conduct an EVA, and subsequent missions sought to practice EVA procedures. The crew of Gemini 10 completed a 1 hour 29 minute EVA.

Millican, who recently met many of his former NASA colleagues at an Apollo operations team 35th-anniversary

reunion in Houston, remembers that the pace of operations was incredible, with a launch about every 2 to 3 months for the earlier flights. Even the later Apollo missions that reached for the moon came at a furious pace; Apollo 11 launched July 1969, Apollo 12 launched November 1969 and Apollo 13 launched February 1970.

Millican was in mission control, at his station next to the Capsule Communicator (CapCom), when an arc in an oxygen tank crippled Apollo 13 as it neared the halfway point to the moon. With the crew’s life in peril, flight director Gene Kranz led the JSC team in finding a way to bring the crippled craft home. The JSC team was able to work through the critical power shortage, solve a life-threatening build-up of carbon dioxide and execute a carefully controlled burn to use the moon’s gravity to give a slingshot boost back to Earth. Millican’s intimate knowledge of the lunar lander, gleaned by months of preparation, enabled him to quickly direct others to parts the crew could use to build the CO2 scrubber.



His know-how also helped during another difficult day in NASA’s history, this time with the first Skylab mission. After Skylab was launched, it was clear from the data received that two significant problems had occurred. Of the craft’s two solar wings, one had been lost and the other was unable to deploy. Further, abnormally high temperatures inside the craft indicated that a significant portion of its thermal covering had been torn away.

Clearly, an EVA would be necessary to correct the problems before the spacecraft could be used. Teams from JSC and Marshall Space Center in Alabama raced to develop solutions. It was spirited competition, Millican recalls, and the results were different, but equally viable, approaches to the problems. He recalls how representatives of the local telephone company demonstrated the equipment they used to clear lines – and how NASA engineers adapted this ground-based technology to the higher-level problem.

After a 10-day wait, three astronauts launched with plans to rectify the problem. In their hands were not only new tools, but also procedures Millican helped script. With the Apollo capsule “station keeping” alongside the much larger Skylab, the hatch was opened, and with one astronaut flying, the second held the legs of the third as he grappled with the pole, trying, unsuccessfully, to remove the debris preventing the solar panel’s deployment. In Zero G, each tug on the pole threatened to send the capsule crashing into Skylab and necessitated a counteracting thrust away. Already up for more than 24 hours, NASA decided the crew

Astronaut John Swigert holds the jerry-rigged CO2 scrubber on Apollo 13.



NASA PHOTO

needed to rest overnight and ended the EVA.

But, as the crew attempted to dock with the Skylab, something went wrong. “Fortunately, a friend had written a procedure – a ‘what if’ section – and using this procedure on another EVA, the crew was able to successfully dock.”

Later, the crew would perform two more EVAs to free the solar arm and repair the thermal covering on the craft. “We saved the mission by being able to do these things,” Millican said.

Millican left JSC in 1980. At that time, he was taking classes at the University of Houston in software engineering and was in the pipeline to be a flight director. He had begun working on specifications for the space shuttle program – then anticipated to fly as many as 60 flights a year – sizing training facilities and staffing accordingly. He wrote the operations for the shuttle’s EVA airlock based on experiences in the preceding programs.

In his career at NASA, he had participated in the later Gemini flights, the entire Apollo program, Apollo/Soyuz and the three Skylab missions. “I couldn’t imagine anything more exciting than what I had done with Apollo, and I was eager to get into the world of entrepreneurship.” He left JSC and went to work for David Scott, commander of Apollo 15, who had a company contract to train Air Force astronauts. During this time, he heard from a former JSC colleague, Mike Hernandez, who was eager to establish a business in manned space flight support.

In 1983, he and Hernandez co-founded Hernandez Engineering in Houston. Their first customer was the German Space Agency, and they provided the initial training of Spacelab D1 astronauts. Within a short time, Hernandez Engineering GmbH was founded in Germany and continued to grow as it provided expertise to the ESA.

In 1987, Millican left Hernandez Engineering to become a principal at Booze Allen Hamilton in their space segment. “I found after time that I didn’t have any heart in it,” Millican said. “I was wanting to get back into space.”

“Mike called about that time,” Millican said. “He had grown the company to about 700 employees but wondered if I would be interested in taking over the operation in Holland. It was about to die from lack of attention.

“I took it back. We had only one Ph.D. left, but we picked it up from there and jump started it,” Millican said. Today, HE Space is the largest contractor in the human space flight directorate in Holland.

In 1997, Millican became the chairman, and the name was changed to HE Space Operations BV with offices near the European Space Research and Technology Centre in Noordwijk, Holland. In addition, HE Space Operations GmbH was founded



NASA PHOTO

Skylab with twin-pole solar shield deployed.

in Cologne, Germany in 1998 near the European Astronaut Centre, and in 2004, moved to Bremen. HE Space Operations Inc. is near JSC in Houston. The three companies form the nucleus for providing support for the ESA at ESTEC, EAC and JSC on programs for the space shuttle and Spacelab, the ESA contribution to the International Space Station program.

Fifteen countries are partners in the European Space Agency, with Germany, Italy and

France being the largest contributors. Awards of contracts tend to parallel the contributions, so doing business in these member nations makes the most sense, Millican said.

Today, HE Space has about 50 people supporting ESA’s role in the International Space Station, primarily in operations engineering, although some are scientists working with principal investigators from industry or institutes. HE Space employs more than a dozen people with doctorates in material, physical and life sciences.

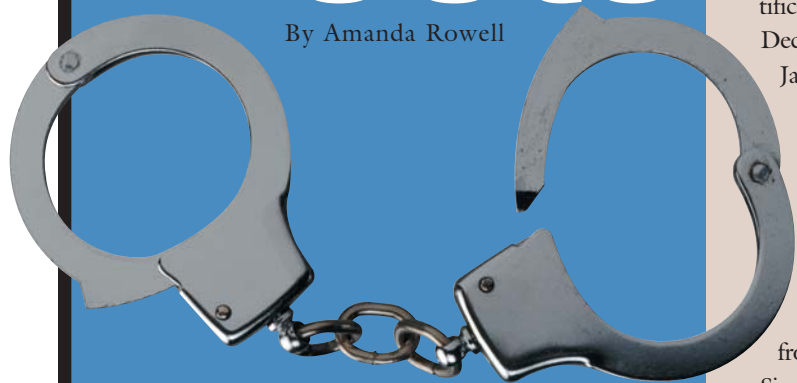
“We take care of our people, we are easy to do business with, and we hire the very best,” Millican said. HE Space is a “values-based company,” he says, meaning that its core values are derived from a biblical perspective, one he is not shy in sharing. Concurrently, while he expects his employees to share and practice the company’s values, he “fully accepts that not all employees share my Christian faith, nor do I expect them to.” He often works with other Christian businessmen in discussing business principles and practices and hopes some day to chair a Christian CEO Roundtable, such as those offered by the C12 Group and similar organizations.

With a goal to become the largest space contractor in Europe, HE Space is working to expand its support beyond manned space operations into science technical support and communications, like the Galileo system that will be similar to the Global Positioning System put in place by the U.S.

For the man who ran 12 marathons during “my compulsive behavior days at JSC,” the space race has not ended. He is looking ahead to pass the baton to the next generation. HE Space is at work supporting the ESA’s effort to increase interest in space among Europe’s youth. With a declining number of high school students pursuing science and engineering degrees in the universities, ESA has begun funding to enhance study of these subjects in public education. Some of the experiments aboard the ISS are designed to capture the imagination of Europe’s youth, and HE Space is at work helping plan an interactive museum and education center similar to Space Center Houston.

Sign Posts

By Amanda Rowell



Overcoming obstacles was nothing new for Boley Seaborn when he became the most recent doctoral graduate of Lamar University's internationally recognized program in deaf studies/deaf education.

Seaborn, who is deaf himself, has a resume loaded with leadership roles and awards. He has traveled all over the world – from Tokyo to Los Angeles and Bangkok to Washington, D.C. – in pursuit of a world-class education, culminating in the doctorate he earned from Lamar in December. That was something Seaborn didn't have to think twice about. "I was eager to learn more," he said. "I got a lot of support from the faculty, family and friends."

He said the most rewarding thing about earning the advanced degree was expanding his horizons and gaining the knowledge.

Twenty-six years earlier, in 1979, Seaborn was chosen as a recipient of the Thomas J. Watson Foundation scholarship and studied abroad in Tokyo, Japan, for a year. There, he

studied Kabuki and the Japanese cultural arts and taught American Sign Language classes with usage of Japanese Sign Language.

He returned to America and attended theater and linguistics courses at the University of California at Los Angeles and was employed as a sign language instructor at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock from 1982 to 1984. In 1993, he earned a second bachelor's degree in sign communication and deaf studies from Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., then returned to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock as an instructor.

After enrolling at Lamar in January 1998 as a graduate student, Seaborn received a master of science degree and a teacher's certificate in deaf studies/deaf education in December 1999, then reentered Lamar in January 2000 as a doctoral student.

Between completing his master's and beginning his doctoral degree at Lamar, Seaborn interned at the Sethasatian School for the Deaf in Bangkok, Thailand. In Tokyo, he became an unofficial interpreter for a group of deaf middle and high school students visiting from Thailand and interpreted using Japanese Sign Language and Thai Sign Language.

Seaborn said he has always known that he wanted to pursue deaf education, but that his preference for his students changed along the way.

"My original goal was to teach some hearing students," he said. "I, however, enjoyed teaching deaf students."

If he hadn't chosen to major in deaf studies, Seaborn said, he would have more than likely majored in psychiatry or drama.

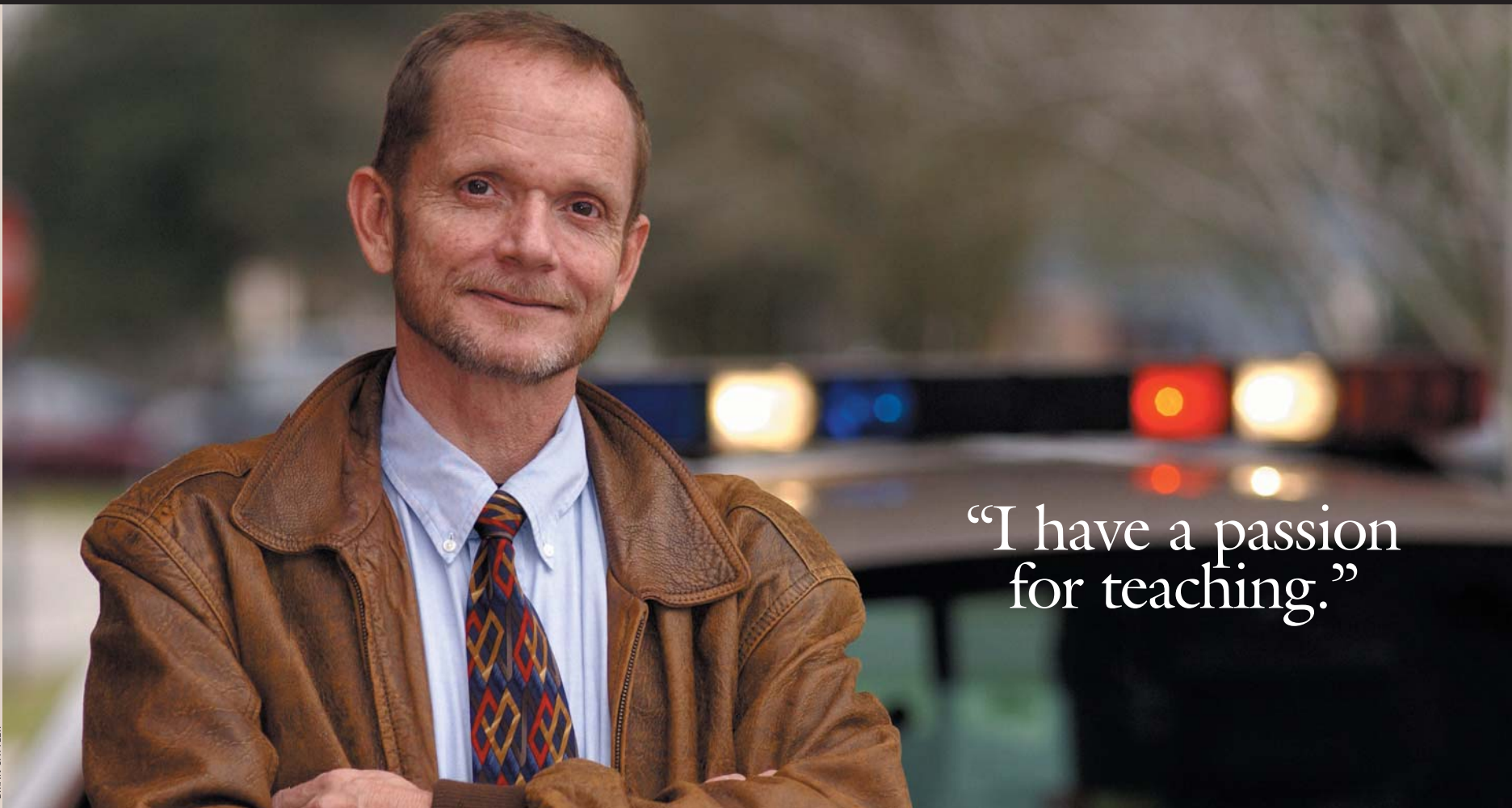
"I might have chosen to major in psychiatry to help deaf clients with their mental health issues," he said. "Another area that interests me is drama. I have a bachelor's degree in theater arts from Gallaudet University, but I'm also interested in the field of linguistics. I would have enjoyed studying and doing some research on the grammatical structures of American Sign Language."

Seaborn was able to pursue some interesting research while working toward his doctorate. His dissertation topic was "The Comprehension of the Miranda Warning in English and American Sign Language By Postsecondary Deaf Adults."

"The Miranda Warning is a statement that the police must inform the suspect he has the right to remain silent and the right to the assistance of a lawyer," he said. "Many deaf adults cannot read the Miranda Warning as written on a card that a policeman will typically give them." Seaborn said that even if they are furnished with a sign language interpreter, many deaf adults have weak skills in signing as well as in reading and writing English.

"We have frequent interactions with deaf suspects," said Frank Coffin,

BRIAN SATTLER



"I have a passion for teaching."

an officer in the Beaumont Police Department. "It is always difficult and a time-consuming task to determine how much they understand us," Coffin said.

"Many deaf people complained about how the police handled them and could not understand exactly why they got arrested," Seaborn said. "Often, they were not told they had the right to remain silent and to get an attorney. It got my attention."

Seaborn suggested a workshop for police officers, so they could learn more about the deaf community and their relay services as well as basic signs they could apply in the field. He also believes it is important to teach officers how to use an interpreter properly.

"And for deaf people, having a workshop would help them read the rights in American Sign Language, understand them better, and handle police officers and a law interpreter conveniently," Seaborn said. "Having mock trial could also benefit."

Seaborn said being deaf affected one aspect of his time at Lamar as opposed to other schools he attended. "In the past, I have attended a deaf university where everyone signed. Here at Lamar, I had to use an interpreter for classes outside of my deaf education major," he said.

"This was challenging for me because it introduced a third party into my relationship with my professors. The deaf ed professors knew sign language, and I had very good interaction with them, but it is far more convenient and comfortable to have direct communication with a signing professor than communicating with a hearing professor by way of an interpreter."

During his varied career, Seaborn has been active as a leader of the deaf community, serving as president of the Conference of American Instructors of the Deaf Chapter in Beaumont in 1998 and 1999. He is also a member of the National Association of the Deaf, Arkansas Association of the Deaf, Deaf People Against AIDS and HIV, the Conference of American Instructors of the Deaf and a lifetime member of the Alpha Psi Omega national drama fraternity.

He has received many awards for his contributions to the deaf community, including the Henry Scroggins Award Scholarship and the American Postal Workers Union Award. He received this award after he worked for the U.S. Postal Service in Little Rock, Ark., for five years while he was working at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Before working for the postal service, Seaborn ran his own business, Cahoots, a specialty gift and antique store in Little Rock. But Seaborn knew he was destined to make teaching his life.

"I have a passion for teaching," he said. "I enjoyed seeing my students use what they've learned from me and be able to communicate with other deaf people."

After graduation in December, he joined the faculty of Lee College in Baytown where he teaches part time as an instructor of American Sign Language.

Seaborn doesn't know where life will lead him from there, but knows that something great awaits him.

"There are many potential jobs for me," he said. "I want to help deaf people, as well as improve myself."

Love story: Millar & Lamar



COACH JIM GILLIGAN



KEVIN MILLAR

The story of Kevin Millar and Lamar University is one of love at first sight. It began in the fall of 1991 when Lamar baseball coach Jim Gilligan made a recruiting trip to Los Angeles where Millar had played for LA City Junior College.

"I was taking ground balls when Coach Gilligan came up and offered me a recruiting trip to Lamar," said Millar. "I had never heard of Lamar or Beaumont. I went home and told my dad (Chuck) about it, and he, too, knew nothing about Lamar or Beaumont. We flew to Beaumont, though, and, after about 10 minutes, I was thinking, 'I don't know about this place.' It kind of stunk with the smell from the petrochemical plants.

"Five minutes later, though, I was loving it. We were in Bennigan's, and the people there were so friendly. I loved the accents of the girls.

"That night, we went to a basketball game in the Montagne Center. The whole friendly atmosphere of Texas and Beaumont just made me fall in love with it. I grew up in the fast lane in LA, but I

decided that night that it was time for me to become a big fish in a small pond instead of being a small fish in a big pond."

Millar and Lamar.

These rhymers will always go hand in hand.

For two glorious seasons, Millar was a key part of Lamar's return to prominence in collegiate baseball. In 1992, Lamar went 32-21, posting the NCAA's biggest turnaround with a 14-victory improvement over the 1991 season. Millar led the Cardinals that season in runs (41), hits (56), home runs (13) and runs batted in (50), and he earned All-Sun Belt Conference honors.

The next season, Millar helped lead the Cardinals to a 44-18 record, to the SBC regular-season and tournament championships and to a berth in the NCAA's Central 1 Regional in College Station.

"I had some fabulous, special and exciting moments while I was at Lamar," said Millar, now a member of the Boston Red Sox team that "Reversed the Curse"

by winning the 2004 World Series.

"Winning the conference in 1993, then going to Jacksonville (Fla.) and beating Jacksonville State (6-3) to win the conference tournament are the memories that stand out the most. We were a scrappy group of guys."

After leaving Lamar, Millar served a four-year apprenticeship in the minor leagues before earning a ticket to "the bigs" with the Florida Marlins in 1998. He hit his major-league highs of .314 and 39 doubles for the Marlins in 2001.

Millar joined the Red Sox in 2003 and promptly recorded his major-league best of 25 homers and 96 RBI. This past October, he ignited the Red Sox's resurgence from a 3-0 deficit to the New York Yankees in the American League championship series, and the team went on to sweep the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series.

While the 2004 season was Millar's most eventful, so, too, was his off season. In early December, he was honored by having his Lamar jersey No. 15 retired

during halftime ceremonies of a basketball game in the Montagne Center, and, in early February, he became one of seven new inductees to the Cardinal Hall of Honor. In between, City Council proclaimed Kevin Millar Day in Beaumont.

In helping present Millar at the Hall of Honor banquet in the Mary and John Gray Library, former Cardinal teammate Kyle Green said, "This accomplishes one thing. It gets Kevin Millar into the library for the first time."

Millar disputed that in his acceptance speech. "This is my second trip to the library," he deadpanned. "The first time was when Coach Gilligan brought me here on my recruiting trip."

Gilligan says Millar made a lasting impression on him in his very first at-bat for the Cardinals. "I already knew that Kevin had taken a liking to Texas women, and it was apparent that the girls were also enamored by him," said Gilligan.

"In our season opener that year, Kevin stepped into the on-deck circle, and, all of a sudden, from different directions, I heard four or five female voices saying, 'Kevin, you promised me a hit,' or 'Kevin, get a hit for me.'"

"Kevin went to the plate and immediately drilled a double. I turned to David Hall (then one of the Cardinals' assistant coaches) and said, 'Now, that's hitting under pressure.'"

Another vivid memory Gilligan has of Millar is from a game in which the third baseman wasn't so successful with the bat. "We were down at Texas-Pan American (in 1993), and, in the final game of the series, we set a team record for hits (with 21, but since exceeded several times)," said Gilligan. "Everyone on the team got at least one hit, except for Kevin, who went 0-for-a-lot."

"To this day, I enjoy kidding him about that. I tell him that hey, even the bus driver got a couple of hits in that game."

Millar collected many hits in his two-season stay at Lamar, and he remains a hit today by making his off-season home in Beaumont, where he met his wife, the

former Jeana Chance, in 1995. They are expecting twins (their firstborns) in May.

"I have never regretted coming to Lamar," said Millar, who now plays first base. "It's the best decision I ever made."

"Jim Gilligan is a tremendous teacher of baseball. He teaches without an ego, and he teaches in a manner that is easy to understand. He could be a tremendous major-league pitching coach. He cares about his players, and he cares about what he does."

"I have never regretted coming to Lamar. It's the best decision I ever made."

— KEVIN MILLAR



you're failing seven times out of 10.

"Jim is the guy who got me on track as far as realizing that if I'm going to do this (play baseball) for a living, I had better be tough.

"If a high school or junior college baseball player were to ask me today, I would tell him that Beaumont is a great city, that there are great people there and that Lamar has a tremendous coach. There's not a better one in college baseball. Jim and I are now best friends, and Beaumont and Lamar are very fortunate to have him.

"I would tell a recruit that Lamar is underrated and that it's not nationally publicized like other programs, but that he will be a much better player when he leaves Lamar."

In the aftermath of the Red Sox's World Series triumph, Millar attracted national attention by referring to himself and his teammates as "a bunch of idiots having fun."

That is so far from the truth, says Gilligan. "Kevin has a lot of the intangibles that other players don't have," said Gilligan.

"He's been a leader in every clubhouse he's been in. You can't really rate how important that quality is, but he has it.

"I witnessed it once when I was in the Marlins' clubhouse after a game in Florida. I won't mention the pitcher's name or the infielder's, but a certain pitcher came into the clubhouse complaining about how that infielder had played.

"Kevin immediately backed that pitcher into the wall and let him know that in no uncertain terms he had better not ever again hear him complain about a teammate. Kevin carries that attitude with him every day of the week.

"I'm so proud of what Kevin has accomplished, but there's more to see. It's going to be very difficult for him and the Red Sox to top what they did this past season, but there's plenty of baseball left in Kevin. I also believe he'll be a great major league manager one of these days."

KIM CHRISTENSEN *Baseball, 1979-82*

- Four-year letterwinner, baseball team, 1979-82
- All-Southland Conference honors, 1980 and 1982, third base
- Southland Conference championships, 1979 and 1981



As a senior, Christensen hit .343 with 48 runs scored, 71 hits, nine home runs and 50 runs batted in. He received the Al Vincent Award, which is given annually to the team's most valuable hitter.

Christensen posted a record-setting junior season in 1981. He helped Lamar win a school-best 54 games and advance to the NCAA

Regional at Austin. He led the team with 11 home runs and 73 runs batted in, which still stands as the school's single-season record and led the SLC.

A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Christensen still ranks among the all-time leaders in school history in several categories. He ranks first in RBI (190), second in home runs (32) and seventh in total bases (340).

CURRENT JOB – Firefighter, Louisville, Ken.

"I would like to congratulate all the recipients. This is an honor that surely comes with a lot of hard work and is something to be very proud of. I think when you look back at your career, you start to respect what you achieved and how much fun college life was. I really enjoyed my time at Lamar."

KATRINKA JO CRAWFORD *Volleyball Coach, 1981-95*

- Volleyball coach, 15 seasons, 1981-95
- LU's all-time winningest coach with 336 career wins
- Southland Conference Championships, 1983 and 1984
- American South Conference Championships, 1987 and 1990
- Sun Belt Conference Championship, 1993
- NCAA Tournament appearances, 1983, 1984 and 1993



Crawford coached the first two SLC player of the year recipients with Liz Blue winning the award in 1983 and Ruby Randolph in 1984. She also coached the school's only All-America recipient in Blue, who was an Asics All-American in 1983. Seven volleyball players won the prestigious Babe Zaharias/John Gray Award during her tenure.

After Lamar, Crawford went on to coach at Texas-San Antonio, where she guided the Lady Roadrunners to the 1999 regular season title and the 2000 SLC tournament championship. She was inducted into the SLC Hall of Fame in 2004, and the league's coach of the year award bears her name.

Katrinka Jo Crawford died of cancer in 2002. The Katrinka Crawford Memorial Scholarship in women's volleyball at Lamar was established in her memory.

PATRICK GIBBS *Football, 1968-71*

- Four-year letterwinner, football team, 1968-71
- Outstanding wide receiver, three seasons
- Defensive back, senior year, All-Southland Conference honors



Gibbs was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles in the ninth round of the 1972 NFL Draft. He played one season with the Eagles at defensive back. He recovered one fumble and averaged 20.3 yards per kickoff return.

As a three-year receiver for the Cardinals, Gibbs caught 115 passes for 1,667 yards and 15 touchdowns. He ranks third on the school's

all-time list in catches (115), fourth in yardage (1,667) and ninth in scoring (96 points). His 15 touchdown receptions tie for the second most in school history.

CURRENT JOB – Owner, G Team Real Estate in Beaumont

"I realized early on that I needed to go to college in order to better myself and that I would need to go by scholarship. I was fortunate enough that Lamar offered me that scholarship. ... To get a chance to better one's life is really important."

CATHY MENDOZA *Three-Sport Athlete, 1973-78*

- Softball, track and field, and volleyball
- Two-time recipient, prestigious Babe Zaharias/John Gray Award, 1976 and 1977



Mendoza was the setter/outside hitter on some of the most successful volleyball teams in school history. She helped the Lady Cardinals post a 43-14-1 record in 1977, which included capturing the Southwest AIAW regional tournament championship and finishing ninth at the national tournament.

In 1975, the Lady Cardinals were 54-7-1 and won the Texas AIAW championship, finishing a school-best seventh at the national tournament. Lamar posted a 40-18-1 record in 1976 and won the Southwest AIAW regional championship, placing ninth at the national tournament.

Mendoza threw the javelin and discus as a member of the track team. She won the javelin competition at the 1976 Ty Terrell Relays and the discus at the 1977 Ty Terrell Relays.

A Port Neches native, Mendoza helped Lamar post a 32-15 overall record in its first year of softball competition in 1974. She played four years at shortstop for the Lady Cardinals.

CURRENT JOB – Physical education teacher, Port Neches Middle School

"I am very humbled and appreciative of this honor. Not only did Lamar offer me a chance to play sports and get a quality education, but it also gave me the opportunity to travel. ... This award is just one more memory that Lamar has given me that I will always cherish and will keep in my heart forever."

KEVIN MILLAR *Baseball, 1992-93*

- Two-year letterwinner, 1992-93
- Helped Lamar win 1993 Sun Belt Conference regular season and tournament championships and advance to the NCAA Central Regional at College Station



As a senior in 1993, Millar hit .324 with 70 hits, 53 runs scored, a team-best 18 doubles, five home runs and 53 runs batted in.

In 1992, Millar led the team in runs scored (41), hits (56), home runs (13) and RBI (50) to earn All-Sun Belt Conference honors. He also earned the Al Vincent Award.

Millar enjoyed an outstanding minor league career, which culminated in being named MVP of the Double-A Eastern League in 1997 as a member of the Portland Sea Dogs. He made his major league debut a year later with the Florida Marlins.

Millar was acquired by the Boston Red Sox in 2003 and enjoyed his best season as a major leaguer. He hit .306 and set career bests with 25 home runs and 96 RBI. Millar helped Boston win its first World Series title since 1918 in 2004.

CURRENT JOB – Major league baseball player, Boston Red Sox

"This is truly an honor to be here tonight and receive this award. I'm from Los Angeles, but I call Beaumont home now. ... I've been in professional baseball for eight years now, but I still feel that there is not a better teacher or coach in baseball than Coach Jim Gilligan."

RUBY RANDOLPH *Volleyball, 1981-85*

- Four-year letterwinner, volleyball team, 1981-85
- Back-to-back Southland Conference championships, 1983 and 1984.
- First-team All-Southland Conference honors, 1984 and 1985
- SLC player of the year, 1984
- Led team and SLC in kills, 1984 (535 – the school's single-season record) and 1985 (664)



Her 1,469 total attacks in 1985 ranks as the second most in school history. Randolph's 34 kills against Texas State in 1985 is tied for the most in a single game in school history.

The Beaumont native, who recorded a double-double with 10 kills and 15 digs in Lamar's first round NCAA Regional loss at ninth-ranked Texas in 1984, ranks second on the school's all-time career kills list with 1,749 and ranks third with 3,859 total attacks.

CURRENT JOB – Currently pursuing a career in insurance at AIG after working as a process operator for a chemical company for 12 years.

"When I got the call that I was receiving this award I was overwhelmed. This is such a great honor, and I would like to thank all those responsible. I was fortunate to play on some great teams and had some great teammates, which has led to life-long friendships."

Gibert set for success



Justin Gibert

Faithful Lamar fans may feel a sense of déjà vu this fall when they attend their first volleyball match and gaze down at the Lady Cardinals' bench. A new face will be patrolling the sidelines for LU, but it won't be the first time he's been court-side with the LU volleyball team.

After three years in the Southland Conference as an assistant coach with Texas-San Antonio and Stephen F. Austin, Justin Gibert will be sitting on the home side of the court when he makes his head-coaching debut later this fall in the Montagne Center.

Tabbed as the seventh head volleyball coach in Lamar's history on January 25, Gibert has already started spring workouts and hired his assistant coach.

"It's exciting to be able to get back to head coaching," Gibert said. "It's (Lamar) an exciting place to be right now, and I look forward to putting Lamar back on track to be successful.

"I'm excited about working in an environment where the administration and staff are so supportive of the volleyball program, and I'm eager to put Lamar volleyball back to where it needs to be."

Gibert, the top assistant under Debbie Humphreys at SEA for two seasons, most recently helped the Ladyjacks post a 26-6 record and earn a share of the 2004 Southland Conference regular-season co-championship. In 2003, Gibert played a vital role in working with a youthful SEA squad, helping it make a late-season charge, winning 13 of the final 14 matches to finish second in the league with a 19-13 record.

Gibert assisted with all phases of the program, including recruiting, daily workouts and in-game coaching. He was also responsible for the signing of SEA freshman J.J. Jones, the 2004 SLC Setter of the Year.

"This was a timely search, and we had some really good applicants, but Justin separated himself from the rest of the candidates," said Athletic Director Billy Tubbs.

Prior to joining the staff at SEA, he spent one season as an assistant coach at UTSA, where he aided in the Roadrunners' recruiting process. Gibert was largely responsible for the signing of UTSA sophomore Meagan Daniel, who has twice earned first-

— DC

team all-SLC honors. He also assisted the head coach with in-game coaching of both the offensive and defensive schemes.

Before heading to San Antonio, Gibert spent six seasons on the bench at Panola College in Carthage, Texas. He spent the first two seasons as an assistant and helped guide the Fillies to their first two conference championships. In 1998,

Gibert took over as the head coach at Panola. In four seasons, he directed the Fillies to 133 wins and a .751 (133-44) overall winning percentage. Panola won three conference titles in the four seasons under Gibert. Panola's volleyball program also gained respect on a national level during Gibert's stay in Carthage, advancing to four consecutive playoff berths, two

regional tournament final appearances and two Top-20 national rankings.

A 1994 graduate of Texas with a bachelor's degree in accounting, he is completing requirements for a master's degree at SFA. Gibert and his wife, Tracy, make their home in Beaumont.

— MB

Tracksters topple times



Jake Champagne

After weeks of preparation, the Lamar track and field teams turned in several record-breaking performances at the Southland Conference Indoor Championships, Feb. 18-19 at the University of Houston.

The LU women set two individual and two relay records en route to their best SLC finish in school history, while the men broke a record and won an individual title in posting their best finish in three years.

The Lady Cards placed sixth and scored 69 points, which more than doubled their 2004 – point total of 34. The sixth-place showing was also the best conference finish since the track team placed third in the 1998 Sun Belt Conference Championships.

The Lamar men placed ninth this year, after back-to-back 10th-place finishes in 2003 and 2004. The Cardinals scored 35 team points, the most since rejoining the SLC in 1999 and the highest conference meet total since a 58.5 tally in the 1998 SBC indoor meet.

In the first day of action, the women's distance medley relay team of Sarah Weir, a sophomore from Ontario, Canada; Candace Taylor, senior, League City; Amber Prather, junior, Houston; and Jacqueline John, junior, Iowa, La., shattered a seven-year-old record, racing to a first-place finish with a time of 12:01.57. The relay unit won by only 1.17 seconds, but earned 10 team points to help position the LU women in seventh place after the first day of competition.

Also scoring for the Lady Cardinals on day one were Renee Graham, Natasha Williams and Amanda King, who placed fourth, seventh and eighth, respectively, in the 5,000 meters. Graham, a freshman from Hawera, New Zealand, ran the second-fastest time in school history (17:38.44) en route to her five-point finish.

Sophomore Hamish Meacheam turned in the men's best individual performance on Friday with a fifth-place finish in the 5,000

meters. The Hamilton, New Zealand, native ran Lamar's fastest indoor 5K in 12 years, posting a time of 15:12.77.

Thirteen LU athletes emerged from the preliminary rounds with berths in the finals. Freshmen Michael Gauthier and Jessika Johnson, punched their tickets after breaking school records in the prelims.

A native of Bridge City, Gauthier blazed to the men's 60-meter dash final with a pair of impressive runs. He posted a school record 6.83 in the prelims, only to out-do himself in the semi-finals with a 6.80 clocking. He still had enough left in his tank on Saturday to secure fourth place with a time of 6.85.

Johnson, a graduate of Humble High School, raced to a school-record 8.75 in the 60-meter hurdles during the semi-final round. She went on to place sixth in the final with a time of 8.78.

On the final day of competition, records continued to fall, starting with sophomore Toni Sylvester's fifth-place showing in the 400 meters. The Hardin-Jefferson High School grad recorded a personal-best and school record with a time of 56.40.

A day after scoring in the 5,000 meters, Graham paced the women's distance runners with a third-place finish in the 3,000 meters. Graham's time of 10:03.22 was a season best and it, too, broke a school record.

In the women's 800-meters, Taylor grabbed third with a 2:17.81 before helping push LU's 4X400-meter relay team to a school record time of 3:50.54.

The women's mile relay squad blazed around the 200-meter track to the delight of numerous Lamar fans. Sylvester led off, followed by Prather and Taylor. Junior and Houston native Chinelo Nwobu, less than an hour and a half after the 200, ran the anchor leg to help LU secure its record-breaking performance.

Jake Champagne, a junior from Port Neches, raced to the men's only individual title in the 800 meters. The 5-4 speedster used a strong kick in the final 50 meters to edge UTSA's Justin Pitchford at the line after sitting fourth with less than a lap remaining. His time of 1:54.70 marked a season high and was also an indoor personal-record.

— MB



Renee Graham

Class Notes

Eight alumni earn Hall of Fame

Lamar honored six educators with induction into the College of Education and Human Development's 2004 Educator Hall of Fame. The honorees are **Catherine (Barnes) Hillsten '93**, a sixth-grade teacher at Central Middle School in Nederland; **Susan (Teel) Ingram '72**, a 32-year Beaumont Independent School District teacher; **Lynn (Jeffrey) James '64**, principal of Port Neches Middle School; **Rachel (Johnson) Jones '67**, principal of Price Elementary in Beaumont; **Jeff Laird '84**, director of performing arts for Aldine school district; **Ronald Nash '73**, principal of Read-Turrentine Elementary in Silsbee; **Debbie (Fisk) Newton '86**, teacher at Nederland Elementary; and **Ann (Strange) Woodall '72**, fifth-grade teacher at Port Neches Elementary School.

We hope you enjoy reading about former classmates. If you have news to share – a position announcement, milestone, achievement, wedding, baby – or know the whereabouts of a lost alumnus, we want to hear from you.

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

50s

Elizabeth Dell (Dickson) Golbach '56, B.S. commercial art, maintains a studio in Bartlesville, Okla., where she lives with her husband, **John '57**, B.S. mechanical engineering, who retired from Phillips Petroleum Co. and is enjoying volunteering and traveling. Libby paints and researches genealogies.

Pattie (Corley) Walker '57, B.S. home economics, lives in Austin with

her husband, William. They have five children and 13 grandchildren.

Joseph S. Ebanks Jr. '58, B.B.A. accounting, is retired and lives in Willis with his wife, Elizabeth, a retired teacher. They own a home in the Cayman Islands and survived Hurricane Ivan there in September.

Archie P. McDonald '58, B.A. history, is a professor at Stephen F. Austin University and director of the East Texas Historical Association. He lives in Nacogdoches with his wife, Judith.

Harry Frank '59, B.S. chemical engineering, has had a 44-year career in the epoxy resin field with Shell Chemical and it's successor, Resolution Performance Products. He works and lives in Houston with his wife, Betty, four children, three in-law children and two grandchildren.

60s

Virginia Anderson '60, B.S. secondary education, is professor of biological sciences at Towson University, near Baltimore, and a classroom assessment activist. She has directed two major TU urban science education NSF initiatives, published numerous articles and book chapters, and is best known for her work with Barbara Walvoord in co-authoring *Effective Grading: A Tool for Learning and Assessment*. She has served as a consultant for the American Society for Microbiology, Ecological Society of America, Woodrow Wilson Foundation, the United States Peace Corps, National Science Teachers Association, and both state and national Writing Across the Curriculum projects.

Harvey A. Krueger '61, B.S. commercial art, is a graphic designer for Conoco Phillips in Houston and lives in New Caney with his wife, Linda. He plans on retiring soon and has three children and seven grandchildren.

Ben F. Meador Jr. '62, B.B.A. management, is the president/CEO of Meador Staffing Services in Pasadena, where he lives with his wife, Janice, who is vice president of administration for Meador. Ben was named Distinguished Alumnus of the Pasadena Independent School District in 2000 and was appointed to the board of regents of San Jacinto College in 2003.

Walter L. Hearnberger '63, B.S. civil engineering, retired from the Texas Department of Transportation in Lufkin in 2002 after 39 years and lives in San Augustine with his wife, Nelda.

Kenneth R. King '63, B.S. history, served as commanding officer of a squadron of Navy river patrol boats in Vietnam. He later earned a master's degree in public administration from the University of Oklahoma. He worked for the Social Security Administration until he retired as assistant district manager, Dallas district. He now works part time as an adjunct professor of political science at a community college and lives in Flower Mound with his wife, Dorothy, who works for American Airlines at DFW airport as a supervisor in international reservations.

Sally A. Sholes '63, B.S. home economics, is retired and lives in League City.

Herman T. Wilson Jr. '63, B.B.A. accounting, is a self-employed investor in Houston, where he lives with his wife, Bobbie.

Carolyn (Mays) Worsham '65, B.S. elementary education, received her master's in counseling and development in 1975. She works for Nederland school district as a testing coordinator. Her husband, **William '72**, B.S. health and physical education, earned a master's in health and physical education and is director of athletics at Lamar State College-Port Arthur. The couple lives in Nederland.

Jerome Owens '66, B.A. history, was recently awarded a plaque recognizing his community service to Tyler County from the County Progress and County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas. Owens is a judge in Tyler County and lives in Woodville.

Rex K. Reavis '66, B.B.A. management, is owner of Reavis Consulting in Houston where he lives with his wife, Alice.

Barbara (Cox) Toler '66, B.B.A. office administration, is a retired teacher living in Cleveland, Texas. Her husband, **Glendon '66**, B.B.A. general business, owns Pace-Stencil Funeral Homes.

Hubert R. Martin '67, B.B.A. marketing, is a consultant for business affairs at Dallas Baptist University. He lives in Mineola.

Demetrius F. Loukas '68, B.S. biology, earned his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch in 1971. He lives in Austin with his wife, Janis.

Richard H. Martin '68, B.S. chemistry, lives in Houston and is a Realtor for Karen Derr Realty in the Houston Heights after a long career in chemical quality assurance.

Patti (Driskell) Carlton '69, B.S. elementary education, received her master's in elementary education in 1970 and is executive director of corporate training and continuing education for Houston Community College. She lives in Houston.

Bill De La Garza '69, B.A. government, earned his law degree from South Texas College of Law in 1973. He has been awarded the Dave Gibson Award for professionalism and excellence in family law and is a frequent lecturer for the State Bar of Texas continuing education in family law. He is a partner with Bill De La Garza & Associates in Houston, where he lives.

George C. Piazza '69, B.A. government, is division counsel for Health Care and Billing Management Association in Dallas. He lives in Irving with his wife, Linda.

Benjamin Woods '69, B.S. instrumental music, earned a master of music from Midwestern University and a doctorate in musical arts from the University of South Carolina. He is a professor of music at Francis Marion University and has given numerous solo piano concerts across the country, including Coolidge Auditorium of the Library of Congress and Carnegie Recital Hall in New York City. He has recently been named one of Francis Marion University's Board of Trustees' Research Scholars. He and his wife, Sherry, a violinist, live in Florence, S.C. They have two children, Christopher, a violinist, and Adrienne, a cellist.

70s

Diane (Countryman) Naquin '70, B.S. sociology, runs a family-owned business in Lewisville, Texas, where she lives with her husband Kenneth, a professional drilling engineer.

Edward D. Prejean '70, B.B.A. marketing, is the vice president of The Staubach Company in Houston, where he lives with his wife, Sue. She is vice president of Sentinel Trust Co.

J.B. Waschlin '70, B.S. civil engineering, is director of the office of program development for U.S. DOT-FHWA-Federal Lands in Washington, Va. He lives in

Catlett, Va., with his wife, Rosemary, who is a public health nurse at the Fairfax County Health Department. Their son, Lt. Kirt Waschlin was married this summer and is an operational test director. Their son, Lt. Mark Waschlin was recently commissioned and is assigned to The Basic School at Quantico, Va.

Chris Carson '71, B.S. English, is a publisher for his company, Emerald Ink Publishing, and lives in Hot Springs, Ark.

Carolyn (Oliver) Darcy '71, B.A. history, is senior vice-president of Knudson & Associates in Houston. She lives there with her husband, Jim, who is vice president of general management for Tank Mate Inc.

Walter Dennis Isaacs '71, B.S. secondary education biology, is an environmental manager for E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Co. Inc. in Beaumont, where he and his wife, Ruth, live.

Byron McGilvray '71, B.M. music education, earned a master's from Texas Christian University and a doctorate in conducting and literature from University of Missouri Conservatory of Music. He has held the position of head of the vocal department at San Francisco State University and toured the world for the past 20 years as part of a professional ensemble. McGilvray has organized and taught more than one thousand clinics and workshops worldwide. He is currently a music instructor at Trinity Valley Community College and lives in Athens, Texas.

Marilyn (Williford) Murphy '71, B.S. biology, lives in Sugar Land with her husband, James.

James E. Wilcox '71, B.B.A. general business, earned a doctorate from Texas A&M. He has recently been named the new superintendent for Waxahachie school district after serving as the superintendent of Hooks school district for 12 years.

Elton Norman Gish '72, B.S. chemical engineering, is a senior project engineer for Star Enterprises in Port Arthur. He has written two books: *Fred M. Locke: A Biography and Texaco's Port Arthur Works: A Legacy of Spindletop and Sour Lake*. He lives in Buna with his wife, Kathryn.

Melanie J. (Freeman) Lesko '72, B.S. chemistry, earned a doctorate from the University of Texas in 1977. She is senior lecturer, professor of oceanography and assistant department head at Texas A&M University at Galveston. She lives in Alvin with her husband, Andrew.

Walter Irving Tacquard '72, B.A. government, is senior vice president of Carpenter & Associates Inc., in Austin where he lives with his wife, **Kathleen (Hopkins) '73**, B.S. nursing. She earned a graduate degree as a pediatric nurse

Mid-County Regional Club alumni and friends helped kick off Red, White & You at a reception Jan. 25 at Larry's French Market.



▲ Sherrie (Booker) Branick '81 shares a chuckle with Robert "Kayo" Harlow '73



▲ President Simmons shares with Donean Beckcom '86 and Susan (Chevis) '77 and Ron Arceneaux '77

practitioner and owns Kathleen Tacquard & Associates.

K. Marie (Hickman) Vaughn '72, B.S. elementary education, '75, M.Ed. supervision, teaches in Longview school district and a studio in Gilmer. She lives in Hallsville.

Marguerite (Ciccossante) Weatherall '72, B.A. English, is principal of The Woodlands High School Ninth Grade Campus in Conroe. She has been with CISD for 24 years. She and her husband, Bill, have lived in The Woodlands for 25 years. They have been married 33 years and have three children.

Randall A. Gould '73, B.B.A. accounting, is a senior financial manager for University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

Andrew Mehalko Jr. '73, M.B.A., is a partner and labor relations consultant for Mehalko/Zewan and lives in Fernandina Beach, Fla.

Andrew Bell '74, A.A.S. mid-management, is retired and lives in Beaumont with his wife, Hilda, also retired.

James Carl Rose '74, B.S. criminal justice, is a criminal investigator for the Jefferson County district attorney in Beaumont. He lives in Port Neches with his wife, Linda, who is vice president of SouthTrust Bank in Groves.

John Stevens Jr. '74, B.A. political science, assistant U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, has begun a one-year special assignment with the newly created U.S. Department of Justice Capital Case Unit in Washington, D.C. Stevens, who prosecuted two of the three men accused in the James Byrd capital murder case, was selected to work on some of the most high-profile death-penalty cases in the country. Stevens has served in the U.S. attorney's office almost 20 years. He plans to return to Southeast Texas upon completion of his assignment.

Rhonda (Allen) Dismukes '75, B.S. elementary education, is the director of religious education at St. Mary's Church in Beaumont. She lives there with her husband, James, an operator for Premcor.

Cheryl Ann Bogart '76, B.B.A. marketing, lives in Carrollton with her husband Clifford.

Ann (West) Cottrell '76, B.S. mass communication, has her own law practice, Ann West P.A., and lives in Little Rock, Ark.

Gerald Condon '76, A.A.S. drafting technology, is president, CEO and owner of Collision Classics in Beaumont where he lives with his wife, Jennifer. He is a board member for United Way.

Richard V. Moreno '76, B.B.A. accounting, earned a graduate degree from Houston Baptist. He is coordinator for CMS Energy's Capacity Management Marketing Operations in Houston. He lives in Hockley.

Steve Myers Hutson '77, B.S. music, earned a master's in higher education from the University of Georgia. He is the employee development consultant for the North Carolina Judicial Branch in Raleigh. He lives in Hillsborough, N.C.

Tammy (Melancon) Bell '78, A.A.S. business data processing, is branch manager of Atascadero Federal Credit Union in Arroyo Grande, Calif., where she lives with her husband, Bryan, who works for The Wallace Group in San Luis Obispo. Their son, Ian, attends Lamar.

Liz Fertitta '78, B.S. mass communications, is an account manager for BMC Software and lives in Houston.

Rebecca (Lyons) Hinshaw '78, B.A. sociology, is president of Chemax in Beaumont and lives in Houston with her husband, Rex '74, B.S. biology, who works for A.G. Edwards.

Phyllis (Ratliff) Miller '78, B.S. speech, '83, M.Ed. secondary education, earned a doctorate in institutional public relations and media management from Texas A&M, and has been associate professor of journalism at the University of Arkansas since 1991. Miller has worked as a reporter for the Beaumont Enterprise; news director of KPXE Radio in Liberty; and as a television producer, editor of football programs and media consultant with the Texas A&M Athletic Department. She lives in Fayetteville, Ark.

Paul Cafarella '79, B.S. civil engineering, retired from the Air Force as lieutenant colonel in 1999 following a 20-year career as a weapons system officer. Since his retirement, he has been a pilot for Northwestern

Airlines based in Memphis. He lives in Collierville, Tenn.

Bonnie (Daigle) Grych '79, certif. respiratory therapy, is a human resource clerk for Marlin Orientation and Assessment Unit in Marlin, Texas. She and her husband, Bruno, live in Bremond.

Joyce M. (Trahan) James '79, B.A. sociology and teaching certif., is assistant commissioner with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. She was the guest speaker at the Women of Excellence Scholarship Luncheon in Orange. She lives in Round Rock.

80s

Thomas Fain '80, B.A. music education, earned a master's in music education from Texas A&M-Commerce. He is associate director of bands at Highland Park Middle School in Dallas. He has taught band for 21 years from elementary to high school levels, and has supervised students at the university level. His bands have earned 38 First-Division ratings, four Most Outstanding Band in Class awards and numerous UIL sweepstakes awards. In 1994, he was named Who's Who Among America's Teachers. Fain published an article, *American Popular Culture: Should We Integrate It into American Education*, in the academic journal *Education* in the summer of 2004. He is pursuing a doctorate from Texas A&M-Commerce and lives in Plano.

Frank C. James Jr. '80, B.S. communication, is a Realtor for ACA realty in New Orleans, where he lives with his wife, Diane, who is a producer for WWNO Radio.

Terry (Wilson) McCray '80, B.B.A. accounting, is an accountant for Williamsburg Environmental Group and lives in Williamsburg, Va., with her husband, David, live in Austin with daughters Rebecca, 14, and Sarah, 11.

William Peery Jr. '84, B.S. computer and information sciences, earned a master's in computer science and chemistry from the University of Texas at Tyler. He has been promoted to executive vice president of Ana-Lab Corp. in Kilgore. He lives in Longview.

William Morris '80, A.A.S. drafting technology, is principal E/I designer with BP Exploration Alaska, Veco, working on the North Slope of Prudhoe Bay. He lives in Anchorage.

Greta (Verrette) Daffin '81, B.S. medical technology, is a reagent manufacturing technologist for Immucor/Gamma Inc. in Houston, where she lives.

Thad J. Angelle '82, B.B.A. general business, is vice president and commercial lending officer of Texas State Bank in Orange, where he lives with his wife, Candace (Parker) '83, A.A.S. general secretary.

Terry (Schumacher) Harris '82, B.S. elementary education, lives in Plano with her husband, Paul. He works as senior manager of property tax services for Deloitte in Irving, Texas.

Michael L. McEachem '82, B.B.A. personal administration, earned his master's degree in healthcare administration from the University of Houston at Clear Lake. He was appointed executive vice president and chief operating officer for Sisters of Charity Providence Hospitals in Columbia, S.C. He lives in Columbia with his wife, Linda and two of his three daughters.

Manuel A. Rizzotto '82, A.A.S. mid-management, has recently opened The Insurance Source in Beaumont, where he lives.

John Payton '84, physical education, was inducted into the 2004 Texas High School Basketball Hall of Fame in November. He is an assistant professor in the Department of Health and Kinesiology at Lamar. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Dolly (Dejean) '68, M.A. English.

Bonnie Jean (Moskowitz) Cohen '84, B.S. home economics, was named Round Rock school district Volunteer of the Year, where she also substitutes. She and her husband, David, live in Austin with daughters Rebecca, 14, and Sarah, 11.

William Peery Jr. '84, B.S. computer and information sciences, earned a master's in computer science and chemistry from the University of Texas at Tyler. He has been promoted to executive vice president of Ana-Lab Corp. in Kilgore. He lives in Longview.

Kim A. Kelley '85, B.S. vocal music, '93, B.B.A. personal administration, is a minister to children at Victory Church in Lakeland, Fla., where he and his wife, Betty, live.

Martin Eugene Novich '85, A.A.S. mid-management, '04, B.S. industrial technology, is a manager for Solvay Solexis in Orange. He and his wife, Sarina, live in Nederland.

Larry T. Cook '86, B.B.A. marketing, is vice-president in national sales of Nationwide Graphics. He lives in Richmond, Texas, with his wife, Sheila (Svatek) '87, B.S. elementary education, and their three children.

Keith Giblin '86, B.S. physics, began his eight-year term as U.S. magistrate for the Eastern District of Texas in October. He lives in Beaumont.

Frank Henderson '86, B.S. industrial technology, is employed with the Department of Transportation as a Pipeline Safety Specialist in Houston. He and his wife, Darlene, live in Texas City.

Wayne Moore '86, B.B.A. general business/advertising, '90, M.B.A., was appointed administrator of Christus St. Mary Hospital. He has been a member of St. Mary's team for the past 12 years and a member of the senior team for the past five years. He lives in Port Neches with his wife, Karen (Langlinais) '85, B.S. computer and information sciences, who is a computer analyst for Huntsman Corp.

Kenneth Ray '86, B.S. criminal justice, '93, M.Ed., counseling and development, is director of the King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention. He lives in Yakima, Wash.



John W. Via '86, M.E.S., earned a doctorate in engineering from Southern Methodist University in 2002. He is director of manufacturing of Alcon Manufacturing's ASPEX plant in Fort Worth, where he lives. He is also an adjunct professor at Texas Christian University, where he teaches an undergraduate course in engineering design, and at Southern Methodist University, where he

teaches a graduate course in engineering management.

Stephanie (Hollje) Bromley '87, M.Ed. secondary education, was honored as Alabama Middle Level Art Educator of the Year 2003/2004. She lives in Mobile, Ala.

Theresa Lynn Holstead '87, B.B.A. finance, is director of purchasing for PSS World Medical in Jacksonville, Fla.

Vicki Oubre '87, certif. office administration, '95, B.A.A.S., is assistant vice president of Five Point Credit Union's call center in Port Arthur. She and her husband, Stephan, live in Groves.

Dana Romell (Dillon) Archibald '88, A.A.S. dental hygiene, is a Realtor for Re/Max in Beaumont, where she lives.

Vanessa (Hadnot) Moore '88, B.B.A. business administration, is a sales analyst for 3M Co.'s Electrical Markets Division in Austin. She earned a master's in industrial/organizational psychology from the University of Central Texas in 1997. She and her husband, Jimmy, live in Round Rock.

Kenneth Lovelady '88, A.A.S. law enforcement, B.S. criminal justice, is an area manager for SBC Communications. He lives in Sugar Land.

Deborah (Harrington) Yarbrough '89, B.B.A. accounting, is chief financial officer for Horizon Casino in Vicksburg, Miss., and lives in Frierson, La.

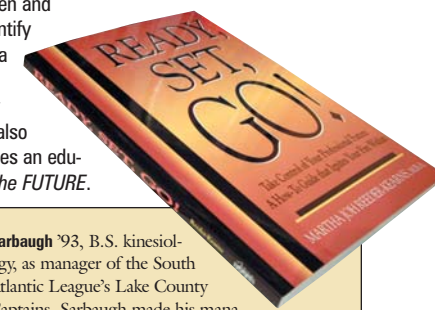
90s

Cassie Clark Balla '90, B.B.A. office administration, teaches at Silsbee High School. She lives in Silsbee.

Roy Bares '90, B.S. art education, teaches art at Monsignor Kelly Catholic High School in Beaumont and lives in Nederland.

Trent Devenzio '90, B.S. political science, earned his law degree from South Texas College of Law in 1993 and his now an attorney for Waldman, Smallwood law firm in Nederland. He was recently named Mediator of the Year for contributions during his 15 years of service. He lives in Port

Martha Joh Reeder-Kearns '94, M.B.A., is an adjunct professor at Montana State University teaching communications and marketing. She has written and published a book, *Ready, Set, Go!*, to help students identify interests and values to help them successfully choose a field of study or career, achieve goals and set themselves apart from the competition. The book is used by faculty and students at MSU and Virginia Tech. She is also executive director of Gateway Youth Group and publishes an educational newspaper for students called *PATHWAYS to the FUTURE*.



Arthur with his wife, **Ronda (Darst)** '90, B.S. secondary education, who is a special-education counselor for Nederland school district.

Sheila (Gobert) Metoyer '90, B.A. English, was certified in secondary English and reading. She received the Beaumont A&M Club 45th annual Classroom Teacher Award. Metoyer teaches sixth grade English/language arts and serves as English department chairperson and co-sponsor of National Junior Honor Society at Vincent Middle School in Beaumont, where she lives.

Mary Ann (Lynch) Guidry '91, B.S. elementary education, is a third grade teacher for Wimberley school district, where she and her husband, **Jeremy** '95, B.B.A. general business, live. He is a technical project manager for Temple Inland in Austin, and they have two children, Blake and Paige.

Paul Najera '91, B.M. music education, is director of bands for Lufkin school district. He lives in Lufkin with his wife, Johjania, who is assistant principal for Lufkin High School.

James M. Petersen '91, B.B.A. marketing, works as a pharmaceutical sales specialist for AstraZeneca in Irving. He lives in Beaumont with his wife **Sheri (Strahan)** '92, B.S. communication, who is a legal assistant for Chambers, Templeton, Cashiola and Thomas Law Firm.

Kelli M. (Cease) White '91, B.S.N. nursing, is a registered nurse at Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital in Beaumont. She lives in Lumberton with her husband, **Marc** '89, B.S. kinesiology, who is a refinery operator for ExxonMobil Corp.

Ann Allums '92, B.B.A. office administration, works for Best Friends Animal Society in Kanab, Utah, where she lives.

Eric Jon Hoeny '92, B.S. graphic design, is manager of procurement systems for Kellogg Brown & Root in Houston. He lives in Friendswood.

Rachel (Tarpley) Valles '93, B.S. biology, is a service coordinator for Helen Farabee MHMR. She lives in Graham.

In November, the Cleveland Indians appointed former Cardinal baseballer **Mike**

Sarbaugh '93, B.S. kinesiology, as manager of the South Atlantic League's Lake County Captains. Sarbaugh made his managerial debut at short-season Mahoning Valley last season and guided the Scrappers to the New York-Penn League championship. The 2005 season will be Sarbaugh's 16th in the Indians organization and his 17th overall in professional baseball. He was originally signed as a non-drafted free agent by the Milwaukee Brewers in 1989. Sarbaugh and his wife Nicole have two sons—Michael, 4, and Matthew, 2,—and a daughter, Marin, who was born in September. They live in Sinking Spring, Pa.

Rhett M. Cody '94, B.B.A. marketing, is a mortgage lending officer at Wells Fargo Bank in Beaumont, where he lives.

Blaine M. Goins '94, B.A. political science, earned his law degree from the University of Houston in 1992. He owns his own firm, The Law Office of Blaine M. Goins in Orange, and lives in Mauriceville with his wife, **Melissa (Matlock)** '97, B.S. chemistry/biology, who is a controller for Modern Manufacturing in Beaumont.

Michael Shane Comeaux '95, B.S. kinesiology, is athletic director and head coach for Deweyville school district. He lives in Orange with his wife, **Keely (Ladd)** '99, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, who is a kindergarten teacher with the same district.

Bargen Lingan '95, B.S. electrical engineering, is senior electrical engineer with CB&I/Howe Baker Engineers in Houston. He and his wife, **Than (Nguyen)** '99, B.S. nursing, had their second child, a boy, Brandyn, October 21, 2004. Their daughter, Amanda, celebrated her third birthday March 28.

Janet Kay (Stewart) Thrash '95, B.S. psychology, lives in Beaumont with her husband, Charles.

Brenda (Morgan) Cantu '96, B.S. computer science, is a programmer and analyst for Huntsman Chemical in Port Neches. She lives in Bridge City.

Michael DeMarco '96, B.B.A. management and general business, and his wife, Rebecca, just purchased their first home in Pearland.

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privileges, invitations to special events, access to recreational facilities and discounts to local and national merchants.

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Class Notes

Lt. Col. Thomas Robichau '77, B.B.A. marketing, has served the Air Force for 25 years. Beginning his career as a C-130 navigator, he is now battlestaff director at Tanker Airlift Control Center at headquarters Air Mobility Command. In this position, he manages airlift and air refueling missions to Afghanistan and Iraq. In 2002, he worked closely with **Mark McClelland** '72, B.A. political science, '77, M.A. political science, while he was chief of the air mobility division at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, where he managed all cargo and air refueling requirements for the war in Afghanistan and the southern no-fly zone in Iraq. McClelland was chief of the joint movement center, deciding if U.S. and coalition cargo should move by land, sea or air. McClelland is now a tax-assessor in Cleveland, Texas, and a member of the Air Force Reserves.



Peggye (Stanton) McDonald '96, B.A.A.S., '02, M.Ed. supervision. She works for Austin school district as an instructional specialist and lives in Austin with her husband, **Ariel** '76, certif. plate welding, who works for Lower Colorado River Authority. Their son, Cpl. Stanton Morse, is deploying to Iraq with the Marines.

Gloria (Davis) Turner '96, B.S. criminal justice, is the chief juvenile probation officer for Chambers County in Anahuac, where she lives.

Elaine Akins '97, B.S. sociology, '00, M.Ed. counseling and development, is primary therapist at Talbot Recovery Campus in Atlanta, the nation's leading addiction treatment facility specializing in the treatment of physicians and licensed medical care providers. She lives in Fayetteville.

Jennifer Lee (Granger) Colbert '97, B.G.S. liberal arts, and her husband, Donice, live in Browns Mills, N.J.

Jason Davalos '97, B.S. computer information sciences, is a software delivery manager for Lockheed Martin in Houston. He lives in Sugar Land.

Shawn J. McCraw '97, B.F.A. graphic design, is creative director for the southwest region for Hewitt. He lives in Austin with his wife, **Christina (Hobbs)** '95, B.S. communication, who works for AstraZeneca.

James P. Brimberry '98, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a supply chain analyst for ExxonMobil in Fairfax, Va. He and his wife, Katherine, live in Gainesville, Va.

Shelly Ford '98, B.S. health, is an account executive for the Dallas Stars Hockey Club. She lives in Carrollton, Texas.

Alicia Kay (Lewis) Hall '98, B.S. criminal justice, earned a law degree from South Texas College of Law in Houston. She is an attorney at Chambers, Templeton, Cashiola & Thomas L.L.P. in Beaumont. She and her husband, Michael, are expecting their first child in July.

Marcus Hazip '98, B.S. communication, is a systems administration trainer for FujiFilm Medical Systems in Houston. He is pursuing an M.B.A. with a specialization in technology management. He lives in The Woodlands with his wife, **Jill (Chandler)** '97, B.S. psychology. She earned a master's in professional counseling from Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Mo., in 2002. They welcomed their first child in January.

Kristi Nicole Sanchez '98, B.A.A.S. general studies, teaches in Liberty school district, where she also lives.

Jason Paul Viator '98, B.B.A. management information systems, is manager of network operations for Wal-Mart Stores Inc. He is pursuing a master's in management informa-

tion systems from the University of Arkansas. He lives in Centerton.

Jennifer Anne Bossley '99, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is a teacher for the High Island school district.

Bryce Alan Darby '99, B.S. chemical engineering, is a quality control and shipping manager for Chemical Lime in Marble Falls. He lives in Leander.

Bryan E. McEachern '99, B.A. French, is an attorney for Beggs McEachern in Kountze, Texas. He lives in Port Neches with his wife, **Jennifer (Carter)** '00, B.S. criminal justice, who earned a law degree from the University of Houston in 2003. She recently joined Orgain Bell & Tucker L.L.P. in Silsbee.

Christine (Biddle) Hickman '99, B.B.A. accounting, is a staff accountant for Wathen, DeShong & Juncker L.L.P. in Beaumont, where she lives with her husband Hiawatha, who is a teacher and football coach at Silsbee High School.

Joseph Alan Johnston Jr. '99, B.S. chemical engineering, is a principal engineer for Hostetler Engineering Co. in Houston, where he lives.

00s

Andrea (Martines) Clary '00, B.S. family and consumer sciences, is a health care service coordinator for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. She lives in Houston with her husband, **Fischer Colt Clary** '01, B.B.A. general business, who is a sales representative for PRN Medical Services. Their first child, Jackson, was born July 24, 2004.

Benjamin Burnett '00, B.B.A. marketing, is an associate company manager for Nina Lannan Associates in New York. He participated in a two-year apprentice program for Broadway company managers and was accepted into the Union for Company Managers on Broadway. He lives in New York.

Reuben A. Johnston '00, B.S. electrical engineering/computer science, is a digital embedded systems design engineer for the Department of Defense in Baltimore, Md. He and his wife, Lorena, who works for IKEA, live in Baltimore.

Jenny Ann Richardson '00, B.S. communication, is a teacher and head volleyball

coach for Aldine school district. In 2003, she was named 21-5A Volleyball Coach of the Year as first-year head coach at MacArthur High School. She lives in Spring.

Veronica M. Woodle '00, B.S. criminal justice, is a force protection officer for Chenega Integrated in Fort Polk, La., and lives in Deridder, La.

Rachel Dyan Hebert '01, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, started working for the Beaumont school district in 1984. Fifteen years later, she became the district's first Hispanic principal. She lives in Nederland.

Laura D. Howell '01, B.S. kinesiology, is a teacher and coach for Lumberton school district and lives in Beaumont.

Windee A. Killough '01, B.S. kinesiology, is an athletic trainer at Bastrop High School. She lives in Temple, is planning her wedding on April 8, 2006.

Devyn Alicia (Lusk) Mitchell '01, M.E.M., '04, M.B.A., is a senior process engineer for MeadWestvaco in Beaumont, where she lives with her husband, **Ryan** '04, M.B.A., who is an analytical chemist for ExxonMobil.

Rishikesh Manohar Sawant '01, M.E. civil engineering, is a design engineer for H. Wilden & Associates in Allentown, Pa. He lives in Alburris, Pa., with his wife Gauri Winod Karve, who is a teaching assistant at Lehigh University and is pursuing a doctorate in economics.

Jamie Denise (Arthur) Wilson '01, B.S. psychology, '03, M.S. community psychology, is a caseworker for the Texas Youth Commission in Beaumont. She and her husband, Anthony, live in Port Arthur.

Paula Cappadonna '02, B.B.A. accounting, was recently promoted to chief financial officer of Neches Huntsman Federal Credit Union in Port Neches. She lives in Groves.

Jonathan W. Crisman '02, B.B.A. management, is a branch manager for Praxair Healthcare Services in Conroe, where he lives.

Kelly (Mathews) Fuhlman '02, B.S. communication, is a high school coordinator for DeVry University in Irving, Texas, and lives in Corinth.

Nicole Marie (Dengler) Martin '02, B.B.A. accounting, is a reimbursement accountant at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Beaumont. She lives in Groves with her husband, **Clinton** '02, B.B.A. management information systems, '04, M.B.A., who is general manager of Aquila Golf/Bayou Din Golf Course.

Jeremiah B. Piette '02, B.B.A. general business, works as an assistant operations manager for IFCO Systems, Pallet Services Division, in Houston. He lives in Humble.

Karen Lynn (Cochrum) Pilgrim '02, B.B.A. general business/industrial engineering, is an administrative assistant at Premcor Refining in Port Arthur. She is also a supervisor at the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network

in Galveston, which is a non-profit volunteer-based organization that works to rescue, rehabilitate and release sick and injured dolphins, whales and manatees that strand along the Texas coast. She lives in Hampshire with her husband, Thomas.

Ryan R. Byrne '03, B.B.A. marketing, attended Wesleyan School of Law and is group coordinator for Frisco Rough Riders. He lives in Frisco.

Lindsay Michelle Feagin '03, B.B.A. general business/advertising, is a paralegal with Kacal, Adams & Law P.C. in Houston, where she lives.

Scott Ryan Knowles '03, B.B.A. management, is a senior sales executive at Marcus Evans. He lives in Houston.

Cheri Amethyst (Coon) Nahha '03, B.S. communication, is an office administrator for Resource Staffing. She and her husband, Ahmad, live in Houston.

Safil Dilip Shilotri '03, M.E. industrial engineering, is a HVAC designer at Air Comfort Inc. in Beaumont, where he lives.

Charles David Paul '03, M.S. criminal justice, is a case manager at the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Beaumont, where he lives with his wife, Pamela, who is a laboratory supervisor at Southeast Texas OB/GYN. They have three children, Sydney Grace, MacKenzie and Jacob.

Bobby Neil Smith '03, B.B.A. accounting, is a staff accountant at Buchannon, Clarke, Schlader, LLP in Dallas where he lives.

Harish K. Vadada '03, M.E. electrical engineering, is a radio frequency engineer for PetroCom in New Orleans. He lives in Baton Rouge.

Leslie Rene (Dubose) White '03, B.S. general studies, is a property manager at Extra Space Storage in Rockwall, where she lives with her husband, Jeremy.

Angela Kay Woodford '03, B.S. family and consumer sciences, is a child protective specialist at the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. She lives in Webster.

Christopher N. Barry '04, B.B.A. business management, is inventory control coordinator for Christ St. Elizabeth Hospital in Beaumont, where he lives.

Dolores (Cantu) Gatica '04, B.A. criminal justice, opened a Compro Tax Latino in Beaumont with her mother and is pursuing a master's in criminal justice at Lamar. She and her husband, Irving, live in Beaumont.

Shante (Scott) Phillips '04, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is a teacher in the Beaumont school district. Her husband, **Jon** '03, B.A. general business, is a sales representative with SBC. The couple married November 27, 2004, and lives in Beaumont.

Marcus Kyle Ray '04, B.S. computer and information sciences, is an implementation services representative for Real Page Inc. in Carrollton, Texas. He lives in Dallas.

Chad Srader '04, B.A. criminal justice, is the district executive for Boy Scouts of America. He lives in Beaumont.

Casey Lynn Tucker '04, B.A.A.S. liberal arts, works for Wells Fargo Bank in Beaumont, where she lives.

Clint Walters '04, B.B.A. finance, has been appointed branch manager of Mobil Oil Federal Credit Union's new office on Major Dr. in Beaumont.

We will miss...

Ernest Wilson Lanier '48, B.S. biology, died Nov. 20, 2004. In 1943, he enlisted in the Air Force and served in India. He later decided to study medicine and earned his medical degree from Southwestern Medical School in Dallas in 1953. In 1954, he established his family practice in Groves, and in 1957, he and other medical colleagues founded Park Place Hospital. He is survived by his children Jackie, Norman and Michael; stepsons Bobby and Jeff; and sister Mattie.

James A. "Jim" Green '61, B.S. secondary education, died Nov. 13, 2004. A Port Arthur native, Green taught public school and worked for Travelers Insurance and Boeing. He lived in Houston and founded Houston Medical Records. Survivors include his wife, Eleanor, and daughters Sue Ellen Osborn and Erin Anderson.

Anthony George Fontana Jr. '62, B.B.A. general business, died Dec. 23, 2004. A Beaumont native who lived for many years in Houston, Fontana was an Air Force veteran and retired from City Central Couriers in Houston. Survivors include his daughter, Shea Blackburn; sister, Janie Hankins; and brother, John.

Carroll Wayne Conn Jr. '69, M.B.A. business administration, died Dec. 1, 2004. After earning a B.B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin in 1951 and serving in Korea, Conn returned to Conn Appliances, the company his father had founded. He became president and later chairman of the board of Conn Appliances until he retired in 1998. He was a lifelong proponent of education at all levels and served on the board of regents for the Lamar University System from 1989 until 1993. He established the Conn Chair for Gifted Education in Honor of Dorothy Chapman Stafford and Mattie Lou Conn within Lamar's College of Education and Human Development. Conn was an inaugural inductee into the College of Business' Hall of Fame and was president of the Lamar University Foundation, as well as recipient of Lamar's Distinguished Alumnus Award. His community interests, philanthropic commitments and honors were numerous and eclectic. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy Anne; and daughters, Carolyn Ferritta, Susan Conn, and Elizabeth Waddill.

Mary Lorraine Cloos Jefferson '74, B.S. psychology, died Nov. 24, 2004. Born in Chicago, she was graduated from Northwestern University and became a resident of Groves in 1959. She retired from the Texas Department of Human Resources. Survivors include sons Dick, Alan and Bill; sister, Elaine Williams; and brother, Ken.

Cynthia Elizondo '75, B.S. psychology, died Dec. 14, 2004, in Houston. The Port Arthur native worked as a critical care registered nurse at Clear Lake Regional Hospital in Clear Lake and Christus St. Mary's Hospital in Port Arthur. Survivors include her parents, Johnny and Eppie, her brothers Tom and Steve, and her sisters Gloria, Mary and Cathy.

Ivan Jones '79, B.S. health physical education, died Dec. 1, 2004. A Fort Worth native, he was a linebacker for the Cardinals. He began his career as a teacher and coach at Charlton-Pollard High School. Before accepting the post as Port Arthur Memorial High School's first principal, he served as assistant principal at West Brook High School in Beaumont. He had 23 years experience with the Beaumont school district and

retired from the Port Arthur school district in April 2004.

Betty Louise Cagle '90, B.S. elementary education, died Oct. 24, 2004. After her sons were grown, she returned to school, and, at Lamar, she was a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Theta Kappa honor societies. A resident of Bridge City, she worked in the Port Arthur and Buna school districts to educate mentally challenged students. Survivors include her brother, Elderidge "Bill" Newsome of Vidor and three sons, Tim, David and Steven.

L. Sherman Harper '95, M.S. deaf studies/habilitation, died Dec. 3, 2004. He was graduated from Virginia's School for the Deaf and Blind in 1970 and earned a bachelor's in business management from Gallaudet University. After working to design and build ski lodges for the Richard Hess Construction Co. in Colorado, he taught building trades at Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf in Big Spring and was a leader in the Deaf community. Survivors include his mother, Elizabeth; brother, Thomas; and sister, Helen Harper-Rebok.

Friends of Lamar

Bruce Allred, 67, died Jan. 2, 2005, in his home in Beaumont. Allred was an active member of Trinity United Methodist Church. On Feb. 15, 1969, he acquired his first two Dairy Queen franchises - one in Beaumont and the other in Port Neches. As founder of Golden Triangle Dairy Queen Inc., he owned and operated more than 35 Southeast Texas restaurants, employing more than 500 people. Allred served as president of the Young Men's Business League and director of the Better Business Bureau, Beaumont Chamber of Commerce and Boy's Haven. He was a lifetime member of the Lamar Cardinal Club and was responsible for bringing Children's Miracle Network to Southeast Texas. Survivors include his wife, Jan, and daughters, Brenda and Patricia.

Edna Mary Payne Beachell, 84, died Oct. 13, 2004 in Pearland. She taught nursing at Lamar from 1968 to 1983 and was a member of the Lamar University Teachers Alumni Club. She is survived by her husband, Henry M. Beachell of Pearland; son, Kenneth Terrell of Lubbock; and daughter Ann Singleton of Colorado Springs, Colo.

Ruth Sinclair Kaigler Goode, 80, a longtime patron of the arts at Lamar, died Dec. 11, 2004, in Beaumont. Ruth taught piano and theory for more than 40 years and was well known in the community as an accompanist and performer. Her husband of 54 years, Rex Goode, was an architect and director of campus planning at Lamar from 1975 through 1986. The Goodes were charter members of the Lamar Friends of the Arts. In 2000, they were inducted into the Lamar Theatre Wall of Fame. Memorial contributions may be made to the Lamar University Department of Music, Theatre & Dance, P.O. Box 10011, Beaumont, Texas 77710.

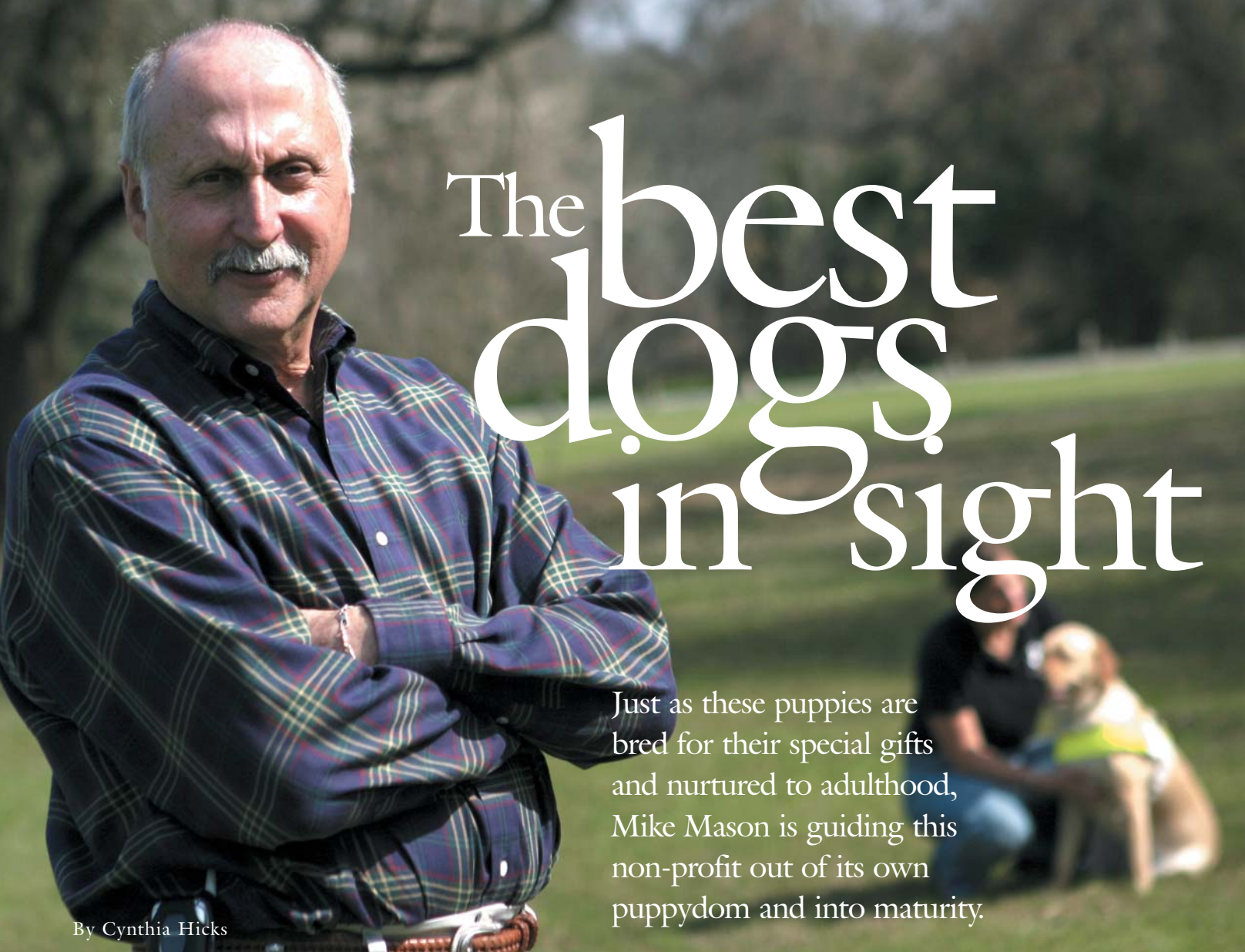


Ronald Lee "Ron" Hicks '61, B.A. government, retired after a 34-year career in government service, working for the Senate and the Department of the Treasury. He is the parish administrator at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C. He and his wife, **Jonnie Sue (Guntner)** '58, have lived in Austin, Houston, San Diego, San Francisco and are now in Arlington, Va. She is also retired from a career as a retail florist. They are both members of the Altar Guild of the Washington National Cathedral, she on the Flower Guild and he on the Linen and Silver Guild. Both were involved in preparations for President Ronald Reagan's state funeral. The couple has one son, two daughters and six grandchildren. Since 1900, the Altar Guild / Flower Guild of Washington National Cathedral has provided support for the preparation of 1,500 regularly scheduled worship services each year. More than 100 volunteers offer their time and skill for weekly services, special festivals, and for other important events throughout the year.

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The best dogs in sight

Just as these puppies are bred for their special gifts and nurtured to adulthood, Mike Mason is guiding this non-profit out of its own puppydom and into maturity.

By Cynthia Hicks

When Mike Mason '67, '77 took his first walk, blindfolded, with a guide dog, he became an extension of that dog, growing dependent on her eyes and judgment. That beneficial codependency is lived out today as Guide Dogs of Texas gains a skillful manager dedicated to expanding services to help visually impaired Texans and as Mason escapes the boredom of retirement – yet again.

His second retirement came after a post as director of development and communications for a congregation of Benedictine Sisters, and that was hard on the heels of a 30-year career with the Dept. of Public Welfare. Mason decided “this is just not for me,” left leisure life behind and went back to work, this time for the guide dog training school.

Earlier, as a regional director in public welfare, he had spent much of his career working with all levels of disability, so when he found out about Guide Dogs of Texas, that experience paired with his love of dogs seemed tailor-made.

He began as a volunteer, publishing the organization's newsletter with a copy of *Publisher for Dummies* at his side.

This wasn't the first time he had found himself seeking a new challenge. It was similar to his first day on the job using his sociology degree. Upon graduating in 1967, he was drafted by the Navy and began four years of service. During his last year, he remembered

“getting ready to get out and wondering what in the hell am I gonna do with a sociology degree.” He decided to volunteer. Taking advantage of a Navy training program in his last six months of duty, he went to the local public welfare office and offered his services. From the first day, he carried a caseload of child welfare and adult social service cases.

Out of that came a career that spanned three decades. He moved back to Beaumont, earned his master's in public administration in 1977 and then moved to Austin in 1979, becoming a division administrator until his first retirement in 1997. In May 1998, he returned to work as a regional director for aged and disabled services for San Antonio and Austin, covering central and south Texas. After that 20-month stint, he took the job at the monastery and learned a whole set of new skills for communications and fundraising.

In a way, he and Guide Dogs of Texas are growing together – honing his acquired fundraising ability to help the organization as it experiences growing pains. He became executive director last May.

Though founded in 1989, Guide Dogs has only been placing dogs since 1998. They hired their first trainer in 1997, and he used his apartment for the training annex. When the first client came in 1998, they had to rent a motel room for the client to stay in.

Since that first client-dog team, they have placed 16 dogs. Six

people are on the waiting list; four people are awaiting interviews, with several applications in process. Today, they have an office and a nearby training annex, essentially a small home with wall-to-wall dog crates and room to train only one client at a time.

The facilities are woefully inadequate, Mason attests, especially considering the number of visually impaired people whose lives could be enhanced by a guide dog. Texas' Division of Blind Services reports an estimated 515,000 people in Texas are visually impaired. Mason says, “We estimate, conservatively, that 2,000 Texans could qualify and use a guide dog, and we don't even think that 25 percent of those people either have a guide dog or are in the application process.”

Applicants must be 17 years old, legally blind and Texas residents. The trainers, Mason says, do everything from sending applications, screening applications, conducting interviews and, of course, training the dogs and the clients and performing after-care visits.

Guide Dogs of Texas follows the training philosophy first developed in the United Kingdom. We spend more time matching the client to the dog,” Mason says. “We do not operate on a first-come, first-serve basis. Let's say you apply for a guide dog, and you may or may not have a child or a spouse, you may

work, you may be tall or short, or unsteady on your feet. All that comes into play about what kind of dog you're matched to, both physical characteristics and temperament. You may be fifth on the list, but the next dog coming out of graduation is the dog that most meets your needs.”

They also train one-on-one at the annex for at least two weeks, if not three. The trainer then returns home with the client to train on the client's already established routes. Clients have to be physically able to work and care for a dog. “You don't have to be able to walk everyday,” Mike says, “but you have to be able to work that dog; otherwise, it becomes a fat, lazy companion that we've put about \$35,000 into.” Guide Dogs only charges a client one dollar for a dog, and that only because it is a contractual arrangement.

It's required that clients are long cane trained, so “when we train at a client's home,” Mike says, “we reteach those routes because it's a little different than using a cane. The dog's going to tell you when you get to a curb or a dip or when there's a tree overhead.” The dog is trained to take the client around the obstacle, being careful not to move into traffic.

Their clients are as varied as any population. “We have a dog placed with a woman whose husband has Alzheimer's. She is his caregiver. We have people with children, and that is a unique situation in terms of the temperament of the dog. We have a masseuse in north Texas whose dog goes to work with him every day. We have teachers, students, musicians,” Mason said. But all have one thing in common: their lives are a little easier and richer for having a guide dog.

Without Guide Dogs of Texas, the closest school is 700 miles away in Palmetto, Fla. Others are in Kansas; Phoenix, Ariz.; San Rafael, Calif.; and The Seeing Eye Inc. in New Jersey, the oldest school in the U.S. and the one that trademarked the name “seeing eye dog.” Mason says they purchase their puppies from either a school in

New York or one in Vancouver, B.C., because they have breeding stock of dogs who have produced puppies that have a much higher success rate than your average lab or golden populations. Only labrador retrievers, golden retrievers or crosses of labs and goldens are used. They are taking a look at locally bred dogs just because of economics. “The last group of four puppies cost us almost \$2,600,” Mason said. “Since we are a small school and don't have this huge selection of dogs, for us to lose a dog to health or temperament is a big deal.”

Guide Dogs of Texas' commitment to after-care visits also sets them apart. For the working life of the dog – about 10 years because of stress on the animal – staff visit teams once each year. Dogs are approaching three years old by the time they are placed.

Even for clients who have moved out of state, Guide Dogs continues the after-care visits. “It does increase our costs,” Mason says, “but we make that commitment, that we will follow-up with our dogs.”

His life's work shows a love for helping people solve problems.

A Port Neches graduate, Mason was an active member of his class at Lamar: marching band, symphony band, and Blue Key. “I was a Pike. I was a member of the student senate

and the sociology club, so I really enjoyed my college experience. Nicky Lampson and I were classmates, and Pikes at that time were the big politicians on campus. I learned a lot about elective office and leadership skills.”

Himself diagnosed last June with lung cancer, Mason has lost his mother, an aunt and a brother to the disease. “After my brother died in December, at my next physical, I told the doctor I wanted a chest X-ray, and sure enough it showed up . . . my uncle has just undergone radiation and surgery at M.D. Anderson, and I have a cousin with inoperable lung cancer . . . I was exposed to massive amounts of second-hand smoke.”

It's been a life-changing experience in terms of his attitude and outlook. “I never tell anyone to be careful or don't smoke. I say do whatever makes you happy, but look at your family history.

“The biggest change is that the simple things in life are what's important – relationships, family, friends,” he said. Those are precious commodities that you could lose in the snap of a finger. The other part was just realizing that death is part of life. I get inspiration from seeing the children at Children's Hospital in Houston. I think, you know, if those children can be strong, I certainly can handle it.”

Raising the funds for a new building is now Mason's most critical challenge. “We desperately need the building. The current office isn't a conducive place to have public meetings or fundraising meetings. We don't have adequate dog training facilities, and we need to expand our services. We would like to get at least six to eight dogs out a year.” They placed four dogs in 2003 and four in 2004, and will have already placed four dogs this year by May.

He's optimistic, challenged and happy with his retirement reprieve. He's enjoying his role of paving the way for Guide Dogs of Texas to keep producing the best guide dogs in sight.

“We estimate, conservatively, that 2,000 Texans could qualify and use a guide dog.”

LEE OUTZ

Homecoming



REVIEW:
A fantastic musical ride
By Lela Davis

Jimmy Simmons & Friends, translated, meant a stage full of top music educators and professional musicians, each one a master of his own sound. They brought down the rafters at Lamar's revered McDonald Gym Feb. 25 and gave its metamorphosis to a new recreation center a fantastic musical ride toward success.

Simmons' baton pulled from those friends the sweetest whisper of a simple riff to the almost impossible brilliance of an entire section, all in the good name of jazz. He coerced such over-the-top music from John Calderon '98 on guitar and from Charles Prause and Freddie Titus '83, '86 on piano that the strings and the keyboard sang after the songs were over.

Prause not only wore the white pants, he wore them right; he sat at the keyboard like every jazzman since time began.

Sharon Montgomery '75, who opened with *I Got It Bad and That Ain't Good*, is some kind of red-haired jazz voice. She can belt out a song; cry out a song; wring out a song. All good. You love them all because in one way or another, love's what jazz is all about. Her *When I Fall in Love* said it all.

Billy McQueen, senior music major, rattled the drums on *In the Still of the Night* and Travis Harris '90, band director-musician from Denton, described *My Beautiful Love* on the trombone. Lanny Marshall '99, retired from the U.S. Air Force Band, also added to the Friends on trombone.



(A) Becky Barksdale '84 of Los Angeles, guitar and vocals.
(B) Sharon Montgomery '75 of Houston, vocals.
(C) John Calderon '98 of Houston, guitar
(D) Band leader Jimmy Simmons, saxophone.
(E) Don Rollins '83 of Dickson, Tenn., Mike Smith '72 of Lumberton and Jim Boone '64, '74 of Colmesneil, saxophones.
(F) Byron Balentine '79, left, and John Stevens preside over the live, remote broadcast of Jimmy Simmons & Friends on Lamar public radio KVLU.
(G) Eileen (Hall) Law '87 and Dana Melancon enjoy the music and the ambiance at the concert.



Saxophonist Don Rollins '83 joined the concert from Tennessee. Rollins, Grammy-winning composer of *It's Five O'Clock Somewhere*, recently signed a new publishing contract with Warner/Chappell Music in Nashville.

The red and white stage trembled with the excitement of *Pennsylvania 6-5000* played with all the bells and whistles of the Big-Band era.

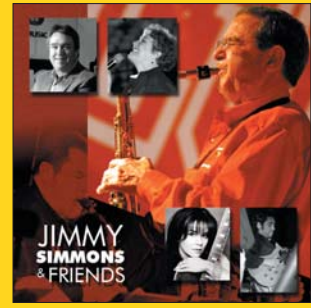
The room, also red and white, shook just a little when Becky Barksdale '84 of Los Angeles played guitar and sang with unbridled enthusiasm.

Don't Get Around Much Anymore followed by some stormy blues and a great *Satin Doll* by Titus on the piano.

One of the highlights was David Jernigan '90, Port Neches Middle School band director, playing *I'm Getting Sentimental Over You*.

The amazing excellence of the evening grew from the melding of top musical educators and musicians from across the country with the baton of Dr. Jimmy Simmons, a jazz performer who has music in his soul and who feels his jazz-ism as deeply as he feels his leadership at Lamar University.

Editor's note: Lela Davis '41 of Beaumont is a veteran journalist, now retired, who was entertainment editor of The Beaumont Enterprise for 30 years.



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(H) Assistant registrar Judy (Carr) Ford '96 and her husband, Terry, were among a large contingent of Lamar faculty and staff enjoying the evening.
(I) Gene '61, '80 and Elizabeth Arnold give a swinging salute to McDonald Gym.
(J) Susan (Williams) Simmons '68, Nick Lampson '68, '74 and Debbie (Marrell) Bishop '72 share memories of McDonald Gym.
(K) Anne Fisher Winslow '89, seated in foreground, enjoys the Jimmy Simmons & Friends concert, joined by her daughters, Caroline (Winslow) Munroe, left, and Kathleen (Winslow) Morgan, right, with Leslie Brown standing behind them, and Patrick and Stephanie Quirk, far right.
(L) Robert Duty '69, center, visits with engineering faculty members Victor Zaloom, left, and Hsing-wei Chu.
(M) Don LaBiche, regent Kent Adams and Joe Domino '75, from left, join hundreds of other Lamar alumni and friends attending the Jimmy Simmons & Friends concert.

Homecoming



A

From food fest to Jimmy Simmons & Friends concert, students and alumni celebrated homecoming with food, music and court action. With more than 5,000 Red, White and You signs blanketing Southeast Texas and beyond, it was evident that the region was showing its Cardinal pride. Friday night, Jimmy Simmons & Friends rocked a packed house in the McDonald Gym. Before the big homecoming game, Lamar faculty and staff hosted more than 4,000 students and their families during its annual open house. And, alumni toured the campus, including Cardinal Village. The day's events ended with a double-header basketball game with the men and women's teams facing Sam Houston in the Montagne.

(A) From left, All in the Presentation owners Michelle Phelan and Lindsay Bennett join Janey (Nosek) Phelan '67 at Jimmy Simmons & Friends. They were the creative team responsible for the evening's artful ambience. (Brandon Gouthier/The Examiner)



B

(B) Charles -76 and Frances (Wimberly) Alberto '56, '74 and Floyd '57 and Wanda (Cruse) Landrey '56, '71 from left, join other alumni and friends of Lamar at the Red, White & You After Hours reception Feb. 22 at Poblano Grill.

(C) Carol Ann (Citrano) '72 and Donnie Chirafis '69 show their Cardinal Spirit at Red, White & You After Hours.

(D) Bhasker Yalamanchili '02, and his wife, Radha, enjoy the Poblano Grill reception.



C



D



E

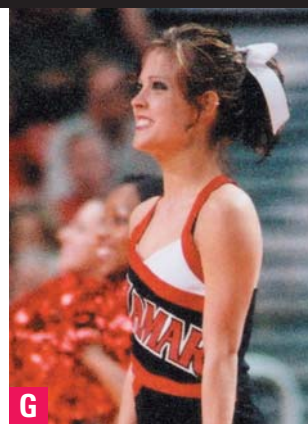
(E) President Simmons celebrates Red, White & You with his friends Gerald Farha, left, and John Hawa at the alumni reception at Poblano Grill.

(F) Community volunteers show their Cardinal spirit at a Jan. 24 kickoff luncheon hosted by Lamar University First Lady Susan (Williams) Simmons '68. Pictured, from left, are Paula (Tate) O'Neal '69, '79, Patti McSpadden, Simmons and Camille Mouton, front row; Janice (Bennett) Trammell '85, '94, Paula (Russian) Lovoi '68, '93 and Suzye Doblin, middle row; and Judie (Reimers) Bennett '67, Becky (Dickson) Mason '71, Lindsay Bennett, Betty Greenberg, Dinah Bensen, Peter Leaf, Paige Windham, Linda (Embs) LeBlanc '75 and Janey (Nosek) Phelan '67, back row.



G

F



G



H



I



J

(G) Spirit Team member Amber Quebedeaux cheers on the Cardinals.

(H) Student fans express their enthusiasm with the "LU" sign.

(I) Aimee Weldon, left, and Amy Valastro roll their way across the court in the "human hamster ball" competition at halftime.

(J) Diztorsha Jefferson and Ikem Airsukwu reigned as Homecoming queen and king 2005, shown here during their introduction at the Homecoming game.



K

(K) Nashid Beard is on the offensive during fast-paced Homecoming basketball action.



L

(L) With a game-high 25 points, LaToya Carson led the Lady Cardinals to a 59-53 Homecoming win over Sam Houston.



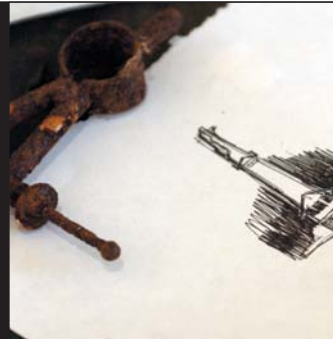
M

(M) Art Simpson, director of recreational sports takes a shot during the faculty staff vs. students game during the week of Homecoming.



N

(N) Blake Whittle goes for the goal as the Cardinals take on the Sam Houston Bearkats.



“This monument design is a documentation of absence of a time past and a lost way of life, the absence of those who inhabited the buildings and built the industrial and social structures that we now inhabit. The monument is a memorial to that which has passed away and is lost. It is a funerary monument.”

— Inscription, *Black Gold and Blue Collars*, master’s thesis exhibition by Laura Lee Burchfield Scott.



By Louise Wood

The inspiration began with her grandfather. Back from serving in Germany during World War I, he made his way to the refineries of Southeast Texas. He made a good life and passed the tradition on to his children.

The lifestyle and culture born of the petrochemical industry are as much a part of this region as Cajuns and crawfish. As gumbo native to the soil or served in a bowl. A hard life but a good life for generations, including Port Neches native Laura Lee Burchfield Scott, ’97, ’04.

Today, this daughter and granddaughter of refinery workers is carrying out a one-woman campaign to build a monument to those workers and the legacy their toils represented. The result is *Black Gold and Blue Collars*, Scott’s Lamar graduate thesis and proposal for a public monument.

“It’s about connecting the past and the future,” said Scott, a wisp of a woman with an immense artistic talent and, now, a monumental dream.

Her grandfather, Charles Freeman, was born in 1889 and grew up in Lufkin. Returning from the war, he came to Port Neches to work on the docks of the Texas Oil and Refining Co. There, he lived in dormitories near the office buildings that became the focus of the monument.

“That was really my first interest in those buildings,” Scott said. “We used to drive past those buildings, and Mom would say, ‘Oh, that’s where Paw lived.’ There was always a special connection for me with my grandfather.

“I realized a lot of other people felt that connection and that it might mean something to them too. That is why I thought they were worth saving. They were important landmarks.”

Soon after the discovery of oil at Spindletop, petrochemical industry pioneers established Texas Oil and Refining on the Neches River at Grigsby’s Bluff – which soon grew to become the city of Port Neches while the company became Texaco.

Scott believes the monument – celebrating the centennial of the petrochemical industry in Port Neches – would find a perfect home on the banks of the Neches in Port Neches Park.

She has taken pieces of buildings that are now history, existing only in memory, and recreated aspects – “facades, corners, doors and windows to make this monument.”

“I was first motivated when they started tearing these buildings down,” she said. “It was almost like going back for weekly visits to an aged parent in a nursing home. I knew that any day there were going to be gone, but I never knew when. So I went back and visited often. When my sister happened to see that one

building was completely gone, I grabbed a camera and started taking pictures.

“One corner was all that was left. When I looked up at that corner and the way the braces supporting it were framed against the sky, I thought, ‘This is the monument. This is what I want to focus on.’ I knew that ruined corner would represent the past and what we had lost.”

Scott made her first model with little pieces of paper, progressing from 5-inch to 15-inch to 45-inch models, the last created for the thesis exhibition and constructed by her friend Sam Daleo. She raised the corner skyward. “It will be 60 feet tall,” she said.

“I used the facades of the two buildings that were already torn down to create two sides of the monument. Those facades represent the past, and the blank facades represent the future because it’s a blank slate. We don’t know what will be written there.”

The destruction shares space with an uplifting symbol: “A phoenix rising out of rubble or ashes or ruins,” Scott says. “I intended this to be a representation of the past, the present and the future. People walking past and interacting with that space will share in the experience.”

Refinery life is fraught with difficulties: workplace illness and injury and the effects of strikes and shift work on family life. Scott’s father, Dale Ray Burchfield, a lab technician at the former Ameripol Synpol rubber plant, died of lung cancer and a brain tumor caused by asbestosis. The ruins in her monument symbolize the downside of refinery life.

“It’s hard for a family, with a dad sleeping during the day and everybody having to be quiet and all of our schedules revolving around shift work,” Scott said. “Yet, at the same time, refinery work gave us a lifestyle we couldn’t have had otherwise. Our schools are some of the best in the state because of the refinery support. I wanted to represent the whole picture.”

Her father followed his brother, J.D. Burchfield, to Port Neches where he, too, got a refinery job. “By the time I turned 3, we moved into a brand-new house in Port Neches,” Scott said. “It was such a nice place, and I still remember how proud my family was of it.”

Her artistic inclinations began in childhood. “Mom says I used to doodle on my school papers and hand them in with all these little pictures around the borders. When I talked on the phone, I had to have a scratch pad – and I still do – to doodle and draw. If I ran out of paper, I’d draw on the woodwork. My mother talks to this day about having to refinish that woodwork.”

Scott took private art lessons and studied art when she was a senior in high school. She also took journalism and edited the yearbook.

After graduation, she enrolled in summer school at Lamar. She got married and finished three years toward a degree before having her first child. She aspired to a career as an elementary school teacher. “I was interested in art,” she said, “but felt like art was kind of selfish, and I wanted to do something that was more of a service to others.”

Her husband’s career as a minister took her away from home for more than 20 years and caused a long pause in her educational aspirations. Her world revolved around volunteer work and Bible classes. Then the couple divorced, and she found herself with two daughters to support. “I had never had a job in all my adult life,” she said. “It was a real struggle.”

“I was interested in art,” she said, “but felt like art was kind of selfish, and I wanted to do something that was more of a service to others.”

Back in Southeast Texas, she returned to Lamar, needing a year or two to complete her degree. “To realize I could go back to school and receive financial help was a blessing,” she said.

Scott had another life-changing experience: a semester as a work-study student in the Dishman Art Gallery. “When I saw what went on there and in the art department, I knew I had done the wrong thing years ago by not studying art. I thought, ‘Well, here I am. I’m 40. I have financial support. When am I going to have this chance again?’ Lamar gave me the chance to do what I’ve always loved. I changed my major, and it took me another four years to get through.”

Earning her bachelor’s degree in studio art in 1997, Scott taught for a year at Kountze High School. With a scholarship and support from Jerry Newman, she returned to pursue a master’s degree. She finished the course work, but her thesis was far from complete. She returned to the classroom full time and now teaches art at Beaumont Central High School.

An undergraduate assignment led Scott to the drawings that inspired the monument. “Painting and drawing are really my specialties,” she said.

The city of Port Neches has expressed interest in the monument. A committee is reviewing proposals from firms hoping to develop the city’s park and riverfront, gathering ideas from residents, city officials and others, said City Manager Randy Kimler. After the firm is selected in late May, he said, it will accept projects to include in the park’s master plan.

Scott collected trappings from the refinery – window sills, tools, lampshades, tables, metal

works, all included in exhibits last December at Lamar and this March at the Effie and Wilton Hebert Public Library in Port Neches.

Lynne Lokensgard was her supervising professor, “encouraging me and putting up with all kinds of difficulties,” she said. Meredith “Butch” Jack also lent support: “He told me it was a project that needed to be built.”

While Scott was completing her own Lamar degrees, she watched proudly as her daughter, Emily, graduated in 1999 with a degree in social work and her younger daughter, Leah, began work toward a business degree. Emily and Scott’s granddaughter, Caitlyn, live in New Jersey, where Emily is a social worker.

Scott’s mother, Johnnye Burchfield, still lives in Port Neches, in the same house Scott moved into when she was 3. “She’s kept it a beautiful place, and I don’t think she’ll ever, ever move from there.”

What does she think about her daughter’s project? “She told me if I didn’t finish this, her life would never be the same again. She’s really proud of it, and now she wants to see it built.

“I hope it can be built. There are a lot of ways the riverfront can be developed, but this is peculiarly and particularly about Port Neches. It really applies to our place in the world.”

Scott knew her labor of love wouldn’t be easy. In fact, Newman first advised her against it. “He was right,” she said. “It’s been bigger than I am. But when he came to my reception, he said he thought it was a really good project. I told him: ‘It was more than I should have tried to do. But I had a passion for it.’”



George Beverley takes the spotlight at toast/roast in his honor.

George Beverley has always had a fascination with radio and a talent for music. The two intertwined to become a career for Beverley, whose soothing voice, vast knowledge of the classics and winning management style led Lamar public radio KVLU to more than 30 years of success.

Beverley traded his microphone for travel, volunteerism and more time for his own enjoyment of music when he retired Feb. 28 as station manager. He had been with KVLU since it went on the air in 1974.

"There were people along the way whom I'll always remember," he said. "These 31 years have really flown by. It's been a great job."

More than 100 people attended a retirement dinner in his honor Feb. 21. "George is due a debt of gratitude not just from

Classic career: Beverley signs off

Lamar but also from the community for all he has done to maintain and enhance public radio," said Russ Schultz, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication.

Little did the musically inclined lad from Ohio know he would one day become part of an adventure in broadcasting on Texas' Gulf Coast.

"I always had a fascination with radio," Beverley said. "I had a little set-up in my basement in Columbus when I was a little boy. I had little strips of tape. I didn't even have a reel, so I'd run them through the tape recorder, and those were my 'spots.' I'd put on a record show. It was all very primitive."

Meanwhile, he won the state competition in solo piano, then headed to Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where he earned bachelors' degrees in arts and music in 1970. He took a break to work for Steinway & Sons in Germany, where he studied at the Goethe Institute. He returned to Miami of Ohio to complete his a master's degree in 1973.

Later that year, he accepted a position as staff accompanist in Lamar's music department.

As soon as Beverley learned Lamar planned a radio station, he wasted no time in contacting the station. He was hired as

classical music coordinator and began hosting *Evening Classics* when KVLU signed on in the spring of 1974. Beverley served as station manager off and on since 1979, including the 12 years before his retirement.

He regards the station's growth as his most satisfying accomplishment. And, he said, "We've received more recognition as a viable entity in the community."

For 30 years, Beverley served as advisor to the Eta Mu Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia national music fraternity. He taught classes in music appreciation, music theory, humanities and public speaking.

Thousands of parishioners know Beverley best as organist/pianist at St. Jude Catholic Church, where he has shared his talents since 1989. He plans to continue in those duties. Travel is a big item on his agenda. He also plans to do volunteer work, promising: "I'll be checking on KVLU in the future."

One of his successors certainly hopes so. "Indeed, I have plans for Mr. Beverley," Byron Balentine said. "He has too much musical expertise for it not to be used. He knows more about classical music than anyone I've ever met. So we'll see if we can't get him to do a weekly show for us."

Arkansas at Fayetteville, Colorado State University, Reed College in Oregon, Carnegie-Mellon University and the University of Texas at El Paso.

Crumley grew up in South Texas, but, he said, "I live in Montana because I can't stand the humidity."

What's the hardest part of his job? "Just being there. Putting yourself in a little room by yourself for five hours a day, talking to the cat."

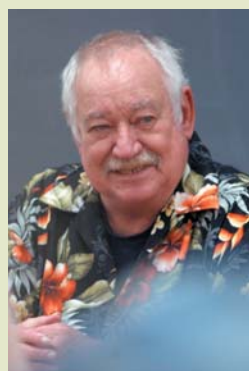
What's his favorite part of writing? "When it's cooking and you don't have to think about it. When you get up on that motorcycle of language and turn it on, there's nothing like it."

Crumley: Real joy is in the writing

"I have no secrets," James Crumley declared during a Feb. 22 visit to Lamar.

Then the acclaimed detective writer proceeded to reveal several secrets of his success to a classroom of students and guests.

"The real joy is not in publishing. It's how you feel about what you do," he said. "The real joy is when you finish the book, and it moves you so much that you want to recreate that experience. That's where the real fun is."



James Crumley

Crumley added: "It's not enough to be talented. You also have to have a little bit of luck. You have to catch somebody's eye."

Over the past 40 years, Crumley has written almost a dozen books. After a question-and-answer session, he read from his latest novel, *The Right Madness*, due for publication in May. His 1978 novel, *The Last*

Good Kiss, has been called "the greatest detective novel ever written."

"I was an academic tramp for a while," he said, referring to his years teaching at the university level, including the University of



Dynamic duo defines KVLU's future

Veteran staff members Byron Balentine '79 and Melanie Dishman '88 assumed duties March 1 as co-managers of Lamar public radio KVLU.

"This is an exciting time for KVLU and Lamar," said Russ Schultz, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication. "Byron and Melanie have a vision of where they'd like to see the station. They complement one another."

Balentine has been with KVLU since 1978, most recently as assistant station manager and program director. Dishman joined the station's staff in 1994 as director of development.

As station manager for operations, Balentine handles day-to-day operations and oversees personnel and budgets. As station manager for advancement, Dishman oversees underwriting and membership, Schultz said, "as well external opportunities as we try to move KVLU beyond the campus to become an even greater part of the community."

Schultz stressed the managers' strengths. "Byron has a great knowledge of the technical side of radio. He knows what makes a radio – and a radio station – tick.

"Melanie brings a great knowledge of the community and the ability to bring people together. Under her leadership, KVLU will explore new ways to grow the membership and find new sources of underwriting."

Balentine and Dishman look forward to their new responsibilities. "I'm excited about the possibilities our partnership will create," Balentine said. "I think this is going to put us in good shape for changes that are bound to happen in radio in general and KVLU specifically."

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity

to take development to a new level and to assume other responsibilities at the station," Dishman said, stressing that advancement encompasses "the many resources available to the station: fund-raising, special events, anything having to do with the image of the station or with raising awareness about public radio."

Balentine graduated from Lamar in 1979 with a degree in political science. His interest in broadcasting began when he was a child, he said. "I interviewed people who came to the house with the end of a jump rope. I am also told I stood on the coffee table and performed."

He collects old-time radio shows and commercials – he has 600 hours of them – as well as antique radio equipment, including vintage microphones.

After graduating from Lamar in 1988 with a degree in speech communication, Dishman worked for an advertising agency and as director of promotions for a local television station. She began her KVLU career after several years in programs and promotions with Lamar's Division of Continuing Education.

"I never dreamed I'd end up in radio. I wanted to be an actress," she said. Her early aspirations carry over to Dishman's movie reviews, broadcast on KVLU and published in a local newspaper.

Balentine stressed: "We're a new management team, but we're still KVLU. We want to continue building on what has made KVLU successful in the past. We want to improve upon it, but with the same goal we've always had: to provide the best in alternative programming – classical, jazz, folk, news and everything else."



Kurt Dyrhaug, Andrea Karnes

'Strength, command, aesthetics' propel Dyrhaug to Dishman prize

A towering sculpture in cast iron and cypress – praised as "a beautiful pairing of space and materials" – earned Lamar faculty member Kurt Dyrhaug first place in the 2005 Dishman Competition.

Juror Andrea Karnes, curator of the Modern Art Museum in Fort Worth, awarded second place to Sandy Trammel of The Woodlands and third place to Janet Chaffee Petersen of Mansfield.

Lamar graduate student Sylvia Weir of Beaumont earned honorable mention for her fiber creation, "Butternut in Blue." Lamar student Jacob Miller of Nederland and graduate Susan Swanson '03 of Port Neches were finalists in the competition. Winners were announced at a reception Feb. 4 in the Dishman Art Museum, whose interim director, Meredith Palumbo, curated the exhibition.

Karnes said three qualities made Dyrhaug's sculpture, *Sensor Device III*, the best in show: conceptual strength, command of the material and aesthetic value. "This is a beautiful piece, a beautiful pairing of space and materials," Karnes said. "It conveys sort of a comfort-discomfort thing. Its materials have an element of danger."

Dyrhaug, a resident of Beaumont, is the second Lamar artist to win the competition since it began in 1990, and Dyrhaug's colleague Meredith "Butch" Jack, also a sculptor, won first prize.

While working in Minnesota before coming to Lamar, Dyrhaug said, he explored machines used in agriculture. "Although my current work still references these tool forms, it also explores my experiences living in Southeast Texas," he said. "The nautical and petrochemical industries of the Gulf Coast has influenced my new form and content.

"My sculpture evokes the form and

Sylvia Weir with art department chair Donna Meeks and her fibers teacher, associate professor Ann Matlock.



function of these implements, providing new associations of meaning. This work explores the mechanical devices used to alter the landscape. The purpose of these devices interests me with their ability to cultivate as well as scar the land. Reconstructing forms of this nature alludes to a variety of interpretations and potential applications based on the relationships of scale and materials."

Juror Karnes told patrons: "I was thrilled to see the show. I like the mix of representation and abstraction and the diversity of the media."

Of Weir, she: "I was glad to see she is working in fiber. From a distance, she's very representational, but, up close, you see the stitch work and the patchwork and little abstract pieces within the larger piece."

The work reflects the relationship between George Custer and Isaac Washington, West Point classmates and later, on opposite sides of the Civil War.

"Custer has the duty of capturing his former classmate," Weir said. "The two panels picture them first in order and then in disarray. Friends suddenly were enemies."

ArtNotes

The Department of Art celebrated the 25th anniversary of its annual iron pour March 4. The event – *Hot Pig Iron 2005* – also marked the inauguration of a new furnace built by faculty members **Meredith "Butch" Jack** and **Kurt Dyrhaug** and their students



Heriberto Sanches Jr. woos Lauren Milner in *Die Fledermaus*.

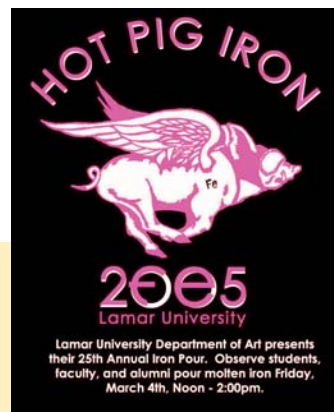
were students **Lauren Milner** of Lumberton; **Heriberto Sanches Jr.**, Leander; **Brad Huckaby**, Orange; **Sherrie Ellis** and **Justin Sanders**, Nederland; **Mary Cronin**, Baytown; and **Craig Escamilla**, **Mandy Kimble** and **Michelle Campbell**, all of Beaumont, joined by faculty members **Angela Pickering** and **Montes**. . . .

Original chamber music by faculty member **Nick Rissman** created an interactive experience for music-lovers March 6 as part of *The Tea Room & The Arts* series at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas. Joining Rissman, an associate professor of music, was baritone **Justin Sanders**, a music major from Nederland. The concert featured an interactive video of McCoy's Mountain, for piano and marimba, featuring Rissman and musicians from the Philadelphia Orchestra. . . . Also this spring at the art museum, Lamar's New Dance Ensemble presented *Shakespeare's Women of Character: An Afternoon of*



Nick Rissman

Shakespeare's Women of Character: An Afternoon of



Modern Dance, choreographed by **Alice Howes**, instructor of dance. Performing were **Nicole Daigle**, **Emily Lockard**, **Yatara McGrew**, **Amanda Marriott** and **April**

Robbins, all of Beaumont, and **Melanie Bohacek** of Houston. *The Tea Room & The Arts* will continue May 8 with Lamar Chamber Winds. The series is a



James Neathery and Kristin Sheppard in *The Little Prince*.

collaboration of the College of Fine Arts and Communication and the Art Museum of Southeast Texas, with support from the Southeast Texas Arts Council. . . . Lamar Theatre entertained thousands of Southeast Texas school children Feb. 28-March 4 with performances of *The Little Prince* in the University Theatre. Public performances were March 5 and 6. The play by Rick Cummins and John Scoullar is adapted from the book by Antoine de Saint-Exupery. **D.J. Riley** of Quincy, Mass., directed. Cast members were **James Neathery** of Vidor; **Kristin Sheppard** and **Mark Mahan**, Port Neches; **Jackie LeBoeuf**, Lumberton; **Chris Freeman**, Houston; **Kate Killian**, Denton; **Robin Focken**, Sour Lake; **Amber Springer-Lanning**, Beaumont; and **Crystal May**, Silsbee. . . . Award-winning novelist and newspaperman **Ron Franscell** read from his work and talked about writing Nov. 9. A veteran newspaperman, Franscell is managing editor of The Beaumont Enterprise. Before coming to the Enterprise, he was a senior writer and columnist for the Denver Post. His novels include *Angel Fire* and *The Deadline*.

Cagle cuts a slice of Hollywood in Beaumont, Houston



CHRIS CASTILLO

They were surrounded by the gadgets of movie magic – high-tech digital camera, non-linear editing suites and more – but it wasn't the stuff of movie-making that had their attention. It was the man.

All eyes were on Wyatt Cagle '03 as he addressed the students in Lamar's television studio one recent Saturday afternoon. Only a few years removed from being a Lamar student himself, Cagle already has developed a reputation as a can-do wizard of indie movie-making.

Their mission, Cagle relayed, was to create an eye-opening presentation for the awards program at the Spindletop/Lamar University Film Festival April 15 to 17. For the students, it would be an opportunity to showcase developing talents before industry veterans.

For Cagle, it was just another busy day. He had arrived in Beaumont at 5 a.m. to work on a film, but he gladly took time to meet with the students, then jumped in a car with film partner Gordon Williams to shoot yet another film project. The duo is making a documentary about the Beaumont race riots.

Free time is valuable to Cagle, whose movie *The Breakdance Kid* was an official selection at the Austin Film Festival – a premier film festival in Texas. The 23-year-old has worn many hats on film sets, including director and editor. Cagle was director of photography on *The Breakdance Kid*, a comedy shot in a documentary style. The tagline for this '80s-era film is "A tale of love, ambition and parachute pants."

"It's a huge thing to be shown at the Austin Film Festival," Cagle said.

Despite a tight shooting schedule and limited budget, Cagle had the freedom to shoot the film the way he saw it. "The director trusted me to make, visually, the best possible version of the script I could," Cagle said. "It was one of the best experiences of my life."

Working on an independent film project is very different from a commercial or studio film shoot, he said. "People are not there for the money, and, for most of them, it is not

their full-time job. It is a passion."

As an editor for Houston's Wild Blue Pictures, Cagle assists in both production and post-production for television commercials, corporate videos and feature films. Most recently, he was among the Wild Blue editors working on *Mr. Hell*, an indie horror film shot in Houston.

Cagle recently worked a project for the Houston Advertising Federation's ADDY Awards program, where he filmed several prominent Houston advertising executives sitting down to get tattoos. Wild Blue employees digitally added a tattoo on each executive's arm to highlight the award categories. The theme: "Wear your art on your sleeve."

Off the clock, Cagle directed and edited *Gemini*, a short film written by Williams. Many scenes were shot on the Lamar campus. The *Gemini* project caught the eye of several people with Austin's South By Southwest Film Festival, in part because of how Cagle and Williams packaged the project. The pair, who got local talent to create music for the film, is marketing the movie on DVD with a companion music CD.

"In movies, the score is as vital as any other component," Cagle said. "Like a good script, good visuals, a good story and sound, the music can carry a scene to a whole new level. I think in *Gemini* that's the case."

Cagle enjoys spinning a yarn.

"I love telling stories. The ability to move people with a tale of romance or adventure is very powerful. It is difficult, but very rewarding."

Although it can be terrifying to sit back and watch his film with an audience, he said, it's incredible when the audience laughs at jokes and responds to the characters. "I guess it is all about connecting with other people. That's what I love about this art form."

—CC



Homecoming 2005

**Class of 1955 Reunion, Feb. 26,
University Reception Center of the
Mary and John Gray Library**

▼ Mary and Don C. Coleman and Victor L. "Vick" Kelly Jr. enjoy their 50-year reunion during Homecoming in the University Reception Center.



▼ Members of the Class of 1955 pose for a group portrait at their reunion. Pictured from left are, front row, Mary Jo (Lampson) Ford, Victor L. "Vick" Kelly Jr., Vivian Kelly Crabtree and Wendell Bean and, back row, Harold J. Whitehead, Don C. Coleman, J.D. Wallace, Willie Eugene "Chick" Collins, Joseph M. Larkin also '51, George E. McDuffie, Jimmy E. Booker also '56 and Betty A. Miller also '82.



▲ Engineering alumnus Don Lyle -63, left, joins Dean Jack Hopper, standing, and Stephen '64 and Klair Grace, for a reunion luncheon before the Homecoming game.

**College of Engineering Reunion,
Feb. 26, Cardinal Club Room of
Montagne Center**

▶ Lloyd '85 and Amie Real traveled from Johnson, Tenn., for the engineering reunion.

