From the President

On Dec. 22, the Montagne Center will witness the smiles and cheers of family and friends as scores of LU’s seniors receive hard-won diplomas. Amid the well-deserved pomp and circumstances, these students will have a heightened sense of accomplishment as they celebrate this crowning achievement — despite the interruption of Hurricane Rita. They, like their university, have shown incredible resilience and tenacity.

The arena is also the epicenter of players’ and fans’ excitement as the Cardinals’ men’s and women’s basketball teams continue their season on the boards.

In the wake of Hurricane Rita’s blow to Southwest Texas, some 800 Lamar students found the interruption in their college pursuit substantial enough to prevent their continuation with the fall semester. We are working hard to help these students return for the spring semester to get their college careers back on track.

One exciting development for all returning students will be the grand opening of the new dining hall. It is a beautiful, well-designed facility that promises to further enrich Lamar’s campus experience.

Meanwhile, work continues on the greatly expanded, state-of-the-art Sports Recreation Center, the capstone of our recent university life enhancements.

The university could not take advantage of such enhancement opportunities without the support of Lamar’s alumni and friends. You continue to make a real difference in the life of the university. Your support — time, talent and treasure — make special opportunities possible for today’s students. I encourage you to participate in Lamar University’s annual fund. I thank you for your generous continued support.

With Cardinal Pride,

James M. Simmons
President
Lamar University

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Calendar poet . . . course toward equality . . . on the marquee . . .

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The role of technology in the aftermath of a natural disaster and the various communication methods used by faculty and students was the subject of a paper presented in October at the ITU/MIN 2005 World Conference in Vancouver, B.C.

Jenny Penland, who holds a joint appointment with the College of Education and Human Development and College of Arts and Sciences, and Des Rice, associate professor of educational leadership in the College of Education and Human Development, presented the paper titled “A Canopy of Change for the 21st Century Educator.”

Through blogs, e-mails and the news media, students and faculty kept each other informed, demonstrating society’s dependency on technology as well as the crucial role that communication plays in daily life.

RTI International is one of five companies awarded the STREAMS contract by the U.S. EPA Office of Research and Development as well as EPA program offices and other federal agencies. The program will support efforts to do research to evaluate technologies for EPA Superfund cleanup,” Ho said.

“Researchers at these universities will do research to evaluate technologies for EPA Superfund cleanup,” Ho said.

The Lamar center’s involvement in the program is about 15 percent of the total grant, or about $3.5 million per year, said center director T.C. Ho. The center will administer research portions of the grant, distributing the work among its nine university members.

“The majority of the EPA contract will be focused on remediation, and RTI is expert at that,” Ho said, “but research support for the effort will fall to the universities who are members of the Gulf Coast Hazardous Substance Research Center.”

Member institutions are Lamar University, Louisiana State University, Mississippi State University, Rice University, Texas A&M University, University of Alabama, University of Central Florida, University of Houston and University of Texas at Austin.

“Researchers at these universities will do research to evaluate technologies for EPA Superfund cleanup,” Ho said.

The program will support efforts to fight pollution and restore ecosystems. RTI International is one of five companies awarded the STREAMS contract by the U.S. EPA Office of Research and Development.

This five-year contract will allow RTI to provide support to the EPA’s Office of Research and Development as well as EPA program offices and other federal agencies. The program will be managed by ERM’s National Risk Management Research Laboratory in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The contract will support the development and evaluation of technologies, processes and tools to prevent or reduce pollution of air, land and water, and to restore ecosystems.

The Career Center in the Galloway Building is a busy place. Already during the fall 2005 semester, recruiters from 79 companies have recruited students on campus. From AFLAC to Winter & Associates, the list includes media, government, education, technology, health, business, industry and more.

Robert Yuan, chair of the civil engineering department, is overseeing the project, and Andrew Green ’54, founder of Composite Technology Inc., is a volunteer consultant.

The project began with a two-wheel hand-cycle, using two smaller wheels for balance. Eventually it evolved into a three-wheel hand-cycle specifically designed for paraplegics.

“These are very talented, very innovative students,” Yuan said. “They design it. We just supervised them,” Yuan said. “These students learned a lot.” They used software to analyze their data and tools in the lab to test their prototypes, adapting their design to best serve riders, he said.

The students are making modifications based on feedback from Rupakus and Freeland. Eventually, Yuan hopes the students will patent the cycle. After modifications are complete, a model cycle will be manufactured with composites, which will be very lightweight and very durable, Yuan said.

At the podium
Mattress Mack shares business acumen
James “Mattress Mack” McIngvale, owner of Gallery Furniture in Houston, started the business in 1983, with “$5,000 and a dream.” He and his wife, Linda, portrayed that investment into the single most successful furniture store in the United States.

McIngvale addressed budding entrepreneurs on campus as part of the Entrepreneurship Executive Lecture Series Dec. 6, sharing how hard work, customer service, grassroots marketing, quality and sound management philosophies grow the business.

President Bush and Clinton asked the McIngvales to lead the Houston-area response to the tsunami relief effort. The couple reprised their role after the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina, focusing on job placement, education and housing in the Houston area for displaced people from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

Every college student approaching graduation knows that job one is finding one. The transition from student status to career presents many new challenges, but, thankfully for Lamar University students, the LU Career Center staff is ready to help.

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The recruiting business has been particularly brisk for engineering graduates, said Teresa Simpson, coordinator of recruiting, career development and placement at Lamar.

Since fall 2004, 72 companies have recruited engineering majors through the career center. Representatives from eight companies have interviewed engineering students on campus this fall: BP, ExxonMobil, GE, Halliburton, Lyondell, MeadwestVaco, National Instruments and TOTAL Petrochemicals.

“We are seeing a lot more interest in our graduates, thanks in large part to the brilliant and aggressive promotion of Lamar and our students by the Career Center staff,” said J.C. Hopper, dean of the College of Engineering.

“They work closely with us,” Thomas, who directs our co-op program and our chairs, and faculty get the word to our students. Then the company recruiters see a large turn-out of quality students when they interview.”

Three mechanical engineering seniors watched in anticipation as Tom Rupakus took the prototype of their hand cycle out for a test ride on a November afternoon. Rupakus, of Dickinson, and Beaumont resident Todd Freeland are paraplegics. After Rupakus’ test ride on campus, students A.J. Jackson and Seth Irwin watched in anticipation as Tom Rupakus took the prototype of their hand cycle out for a test ride on a November afternoon.

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Assessing the costs of Rita

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst was joined by Senate Finance Committee Chairman Steve Ogden and Senate Finance Committee members Senator Tommy Williams and Senator Kyle Anet on a visit to the Lamar University campus Nov. 15 where they were briefed by President James Simmons and key staff on the hurricane damage to Lamar and the on-going recovery.

The following day, the Senate Finance Committee held a hearing on budget issues concerning Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the John Gray Center where they heard testimony from state leaders on storm-related costs to state agencies as well as testimony from local government, industry and the public.

Dr. James Simmons reported on the hurricane damage and restoration of the campus.

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, Senator Steve Ogden and Senator Tommy Williams observe restoration work at the library.
Engineering students gain a hand through Presidential Scholarships

Students’ needs recognized no matter their discipline

and operated 35 Southeast Texas restaurants that employed more than 500 people. A belief that people who work to attend school make the best employees led him to pay tuition and book costs for employees who pursued degrees at Lamar. Allred lived by the credo that you have to “put back into the community what you take from it.” Besides being active in many civic organizations, he was a lifetime member of the Cardinal Club. The scholarship honors him and the principles by which he lived.

Former student and family friend, Isabel Ibby Morian has a life-long love of the arts and wishes to make a difference in the lives of young artists. She has established The Ibbys Morian Scholarship in the College of Fine Arts and Communication. "Ibby Morian is the personification of the Lamar spirit," said David E. Warden, professor of art and chair of the Department of Fine Arts. The endowed scholarship is named in memory of Ibby’s dedication and hard work in building an educational foundation marked by excellence for Lamar computer science students. The endowment’s creation, unknown to Ibby, was revealed to her during a reception at the Dishman Art Museum in September. Ibby earned a degree in mathematics from Lamar in 1985 and a doctorate in computer sciences from Purdue University. He was the first faculty member in computer sciences at Lamar to hold a doctorate and accepted a position in 1975 as associate professor of computer science in the mathematics department. Two years later, he became director of the newly created computer science program. He then advanced to several positions, executive vice president for finance and operations, vice chancellor for finance for the Lamar University System and deputy chancellor.

After 20 years of service, he left Lamar to join Conn Appliances Inc., where he is president and chief operating officer.

F rom Beaumont to Midland and Arkansas to Oklahoma, Lamar University’s Superintendents Academy has shaped the future of school districts and state education for the better. The academy, launched in 1993, is an intensive training program aimed at creating better leaders and proactive educators. About 400 superintendents from Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Alabama have graduated from the program.

“The academy’s original objective was to help superintendents become receptive to change and more aggressive change agents,” said Bob Thompson, executive director of the Center for Educational Leadership, which oversees the academy. “One thing alumni tell us is they feel more comfortable with change.”

A major focus of the academy is to give school leaders insights into education beyond their experience through workshops and training with business leaders. Attendees participate in leadership training in San Antonio and at Columbia University in New York, where they tour an inner-city school.

In sessions at Lamar, students work in teams, discussing real-world solutions to educational problems and stay in contact via e-mail, developing a support system with their peers.

The academy, a component of Lamar’s Center for Educational Leadership, takes a year to complete. Superintendents attend with a grant from the Texas Education Agency. Administration is competitive, with scholarships, valued at $10,000, covering books, fees, travel and out-of-state travel associated with the academy. The center also spearheads the Principals Academy, developed for principals to hone their decision-making skills.

Ibby Morian and Bob Thompson

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Ibby Morian and Bob Thompson

Doug Nicks, superintendent for Midland school district, said leaders learned to look beyond their district’s resources. During one exercise, superintendents pondered how they would react if budget cuts left them with no additional funds for facilities. “Those mind-expanding, developmental activities were very thought provoking,” he said. “I think it opened our thought process to what education might become.”

And possibly the most important lesson for superintendents was to stay focused on their ultimate goal: the success of their students. “The main thing is doing what is right for the students,” Hargrove said.

Little Cypress-Mauriceville Superintendent Pauline Hargrove said the academy was the best staff development program she has ever participated in. By looking at issues as a team, synergy developed, and the group used critical thinking skills to tackle educational roadblocks, she said.

In addition, academy organizers work diligently to ensure the information they present is cutting edge, Hargrove said.  "And possibly the most important lesson for superintendents was to stay focused on their ultimate goal: the success of their students. “The main thing is doing what is right for the students,” Hargrove said."

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One of the world’s leading experts on tsunamis learned to love the ocean— in all its glory and ferocity— as a boy on the beach of Bolivar Peninsula. Today, he is director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL) in Seattle, Wash.

Eddie Bernard remembers the fishing trips he took with his father. “That’s where I developed my fascination with waves and decided I would become an oceanographer,” he said. He recalls a crabbing trip when he was... 

Riding the waves

The many minor rumblings of the earth rarely penetrate our awareness until we are struck by their startling power. For Eddie Bernard ’69, those subtle ebbs, flows and eruptions held fascination because he, more than most, knows the life-saving value of prediction in reducing the untold devastation and human suffering that can result.

Bernard wanted to explore the undercurrents beneath that link. That voyage took him from Lamar to Texas A&M, as a graduate student, to Hawaii, where he began his pioneering life’s work in tsunami research, and eventually to Seattle, Wash., where he currently lives.

After graduation from Lamar, Bernard hunted for oil as a geophysicist with Pan American Petroleum Company— “I tried it for three months and was bored to death, quite frankly” — before beginning graduate study at Texas A&M. “I wanted to get out and see the world, get on ships and travel,” he said. In 1970, he received a commission with NOAA Corps as an officer and spent the first three years aboard the NOAA Research Vessel RESEARCHER. After his tour with the National Ocean Survey, he applied for a research position with NOAA’s Joint Tsunami Research Effort in Honolulu. He earned a doctorate in physical oceanography from Texas A&M in... 

By Cynthia Hicks

Global reach of the December 26, 2004 Sumatra Tsunami

Global reach of the December 26, 2004 Sumatra Tsunami

It gives you a special feeling when you’re not only creating new knowledge, but also applying this knowledge for humanitarian reasons. That’s a combination that really appeals to me.”

—EDDIE BERNARD

Everybody stretched out on mattresses, and we drank from straws. It certainly stimulated interest in mirrors and optics.”

Eddie met Shirley Fielder ’70 before a speech he was to give while campaigning for student body president. “I was standing outside the old gymnasium going over some notes. I was a little concerned because I was a Greek talking to independents about voting for me. Shirley, one of the independents, saw me as she approached the gym and said, ‘Don’t be nervous, we’re all friends here.’ That evening turned out to be a real challenge. Little did I know that she was my opponent’s campaign manager who later orchestrated his victory. Since our marriage, I like to say, ‘I lost the election, but I won the girl.’” Shirley later became a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority and earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education. The couple have one daughter, Beth, who graduated from the University of Washington in 2000. They recently celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary.

In 1982 Bernard became director of PMEL, leading a staff of 175 scientists, engineers and technicians. During his 24-year tenure, he has helped design a system of earthquake and tsunami monitoring and warning systems. Bernard has served as the United Nations’ chief scientist for the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and as a member of the International Decade for Ocean Exploration.

Bernard wants to continue his work in the Pacific Ocean and beyond, and he has recently been working on a project to develop a tsunami warning system for the Arctic. He believes that his work is not only important for the safety of people in the region, but also for the preservation of the natural environment. “We need to do everything we can to protect the oceans and the animals that live in them,” he said.

Bernard has been recognized for his contributions to the field of tsunami research with numerous awards and honors, including the National Medal of Science. He is currently a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Philosophical Society.

Bernard is also a strong advocate for education and outreach. He has been involved in many programs and initiatives to promote science education, including serving as a mentor for young students and helping to develop educational materials for classrooms.

Bernard’s work has had a significant impact on the field of tsunami research and has helped to save countless lives. His dedication to his work and his commitment to improving the safety of people in the region have made him a true hero in the battle against tsunamis.
It’s just one of these fields that’s emerging with huge implications for the pharmaceutical industry and, perhaps, the world at large. The cycle of life on the seafloor has several implications for energy programs. Sulfuric acid is a bad actor here on land, but down on the seafloor sulfuric acid is a source of food. There are worms that live on the sulfur. We may find that these microbes have properties that can make the drugs of the future more effective. This is the life that exists in the seafloor, where the ocean interface - a theme throughout PMEL's research. Bernard sees physics and chemistry meeting in the effort to coexist with the environment. We have one planet, and if we don’t take care of it, we don’t understand it, then we could be inadvertently harming it.

My biggest problem facing oceanography is the lack of data. We have lots of models and lots of theories, but we have few precise facts that we can actually help us understand what’s going on in the ocean.
Bill Scott ’70 and his brother, Dick ’75, went into business with $3,500 and a pickup truck in 1975. In April 2005, they sold about 65 percent of their business, Trans-Global Solutions Inc. to Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, L.P. for approximately $245 million.

The seven bulk terminal operations the Scotts sold to Kinder Morgan were projected to handle about 10 million tons of petroleum coke in 2005. The sale of the operations in Jefferson County at the Port of Beaumont, ExxonMobil and Premcor, and in the Houston area at the Port of Houston and the TGS Deepwater Terminal on the Houston Ship Channel, have, in a way, brought the hard-charging pair full circle.

Both brothers are former football players for Thomas Jefferson High School. “It was fun growing up in Port Arthur,” Dick said. “It was amazing how the local plant folks would turn out to be the fathers of the kids we played football with. We had lots of good support from the community when we were getting started in business.”

One of the fledgling company’s first jobs was for Joe Brousard II at the Beaumont Rice Mill where Dick and Bill supervised the work force directly. It wasn’t until their second year in business that they were able to hire supervisors.

“When I graduated from Harvard on the Neches (Lamar) in 1975, I was putting my accounting degree to good use writing payroll checks out of our pickup truck,” Dick, who is president of the company said. “Our accounting professor at Lamar, Richmond Bennett, helped the two set up our first books.

Bill, who is chairman and chief executive officer of the company, followed a different course at Lamar, his eyes set on law school. “In the 1960’s (a degree in) government was a good vehicle (to get into law school), and there were a lot of people who studied political sciences and then went into law,” he said.

During his college years, Bill worked for a railroad construction and engineering business associated with the Kansas City Southern Railroad, and Dick worked there summers while in high school. “We started out laying and spiking crossties in the railroad construction business, we maintained that business, and we still operate it today,” Bill said.

“I guess the pinnacle of being in the railroad business is to run your own railroad,” Dick said.

Railroading was a key element of their business from the outset. “We started out maintaining the tracks for local industries,” Bill said. “In the 1960s it was a good vehicle to get into law school, and there were a lot of people who studied political sciences and then went into law,” he said.

Today, the brothers have ample opportunity to fulfill that passion since Trans-Global runs the Austin Area Terminal Railroad (AATR), a short-line headquartered in Round Rock. The 154-mile line runs from Austin to Georgetown and from Llano to Giddings where it connects with Union Pacific Railroad. The short-line transports many products, primarily aggregates including crushed limestone and gravel. This business accounts for 25 to 30 percent of the Scotts’ remaining business. In addition, Trans-Global operates Austin Steam Trains, which run excursion trips on the line between Austin and Burnet. In 2004, Austin voters approved regular passenger service on the line to begin in 2007.

“While there is a certain romance to the rails, the reality is, ‘There is nothing easy about railroading. It’s either hot, cold, or wet, and everything is heavy,’ Dick said.

“When I graduated from Harvard on the Neches (Lamar) in 1975, I was putting my accounting degree to good use writing payroll checks out of our pickup truck.” — DICK SCOTT
Trans-Global made the move to Kinder Morgan.

“Even after we said the bulk side of the business, we still have more than 400 employees. It’s still a pretty good-sized business,” Dick said.

And it has been a good business, but not without its seasons.

“Our business has had ups and downs,” Dick said. “We had many trials and tribulations, as almost everybody does in a business without outside investment.”

At first, just borrowing money was a hard sell. After being turned down for a loan by a bank they had patronized for years, First Security Bank in Beaumont came through with their first $50,000 loan. Dick had worked there part time while a student at Lamar. “Russ Libournis said, ‘Shoot, I’ll help you,’ and the rest is history. We did business with them for a long, long time,” Dick said.

In that downturn, diversification proved invaluable. “We had parts of our business that went away, but we reorganized and branched out into different things.”

The rail business has “always been a dependable cash flow” and helped pull them through that difficult time. But it was on the waterfront where Trans-Global went from bust to boom.

“We had a fantastic work force,” Bill said. “Engineering, plant operations, manufacturing and construction of the conveyor systems – there was no part of the bulk-handling business we operated that we didn’t control.”

Bo-Mac Contractors Ltd., a company owned by Lamar alumnus Jerry Reese ’66, built the dock for the Scotts at ExxonMobil in Beaumont and Shell Oil at Deer Park. “Jerry and his team were always great to work with,” Bill said. “We could depend on them to provide the dock structures on time and on budget.”

Through the years, the brothers have invested heavily in waterfront real estate and now own more than 1,000 acres with over a mile of waterfront in Jefferson County alone. For recreation, Bill operates the Star 5 game ranch on the James River near Mason, and Dick heads to properties near the Hill Country meccas of Wimberley and Dripping Springs.

Both brothers’ wives are Lamar alumnae. Dick’s wife, Rose (Modica) Scott, graduated with a history degree in 1972, and Bill’s wife, Gay (Duckworth) Scott, graduated with a B.B.A. in accounting in 1980.

The Scotts have been a part of the Southeast Texas communities since 1957, when they moved from Fort Worth just in time to experience Hurricane Audrey. “I think my mom and dad and everyone in the family was wondering what in the world we’d gotten into,” Dick said.

The business was always a family affair, with their mother, Nita Scott, involved with the administration of the business from the start and their father, DeWitt, helping to provide guidance. “Our business has had ups and downs, but it’s still a pretty good-sized business,” Dick said.

In 2003, the company built a bulk terminal facility, TGS Deepwater. This facility handled petcoke for Shell Oil on land Trans-Global owned the Houston Ship Channel between the Deepwater refinery and the bridge on Beltway 8. Today, Kinder Morgan handles 2.4 million tons per year at the Deepwater facility. Dick said.

Trans-Global had become a vertically integrated transportation provider, furnishing in many cases a full range of services between the refinery producers and the overseas consumers. Trans-Global operated a fleet of trucks, rail cars, barges and a ship to move these products from the refineries and producers to and from the port facilities.

“Within a very short time, we had a fantastic work force,” Bill said. “Engineering, plant operations, manufacturing and construction of the conveyor systems – there was no part of the bulk-handling business we operated that we didn’t control.”

Executive Chef Michael Bonangeli of San Antonio, assisted here by Geno Roussin, makes culinary magic at the La Dolce Vita event.

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Lamar University geology professor Roger Cooper and his wife and fellow geologist, Dee Ann ’97, recently made the first find of a Cretaceous Era fossil squid with preserved soft body parts in the United States. Shortly after his first remarkable discovery, Roger found a second, larger fossil squid in the same Boquillas Formation in Big Bend National Park. The fossils are estimated to be 89 million years old.

“I remember the four of us standing there in the shade of the truck and someone saying ‘We’re about to become famous,’” Dee Ann said of the moment they and their research team, including Lamar University geology professor J.B. and Margaret S. Stevens, realized they had an exceptional fossil in their hands.

“The importance of soft body parts is that it helps us understand how the animal behaved and lived,” Roger said. For soft tissues to become fossilized, the animal must be covered rapidly by material that shields it from bacteria and scavengers.

Dee Ann, who fulfilled her master’s thesis with guidance from J. B. Stevens, has made numerous research and teaching visits to the area since the mid-1990s. Her work included several mini-session field trips for Lamar students when she was an adjunct instructor.

It seems a little unfair that it would be her husband who made the spectacular finds, Dee Ann laughs. He too, is a little incredulous. After 25 years specializing in economic geology and igneous rocks, he has received considerable ribbing from his “soft-rock” colleagues over his “soft-rock” finds. He credits his good fortune in bringing a new set of experienced eyes to the research project.

Renowned paleontologist W. A. Cobban of the U.S. Geological Survey confirmed the significance of his find.

The couple visited Cobban in Colorado for five days in September. With more than 56 years of experience at the USGS, Cobban curates an extensive collection of invertebrate fossils that fills several acres of storage in Colorado.

“Bill was extremely helpful to both of us and incredibly patient in answering my many questions,” Roger said. “Both of us learned a tremendous amount.”

The significance of the squid finds were also confirmed by Kirk Johnson, chief curator and chair of the Department of Earth Sciences of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, and Neil Landman of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

Roger made another exciting fossil find in the same area: the second known discovery of the vertebrae of a elopid fish. The fossil was identified by Ken Carpenter, chief preparator and curator of vertebrate paleontology of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. It is one of only a few known specimens of this fossil fish from 1941 in upper cretaceous rocks northeast of Dallas, some 500 miles away from the Coopers’ find in the Trans-Pecos region.

Dee Ann, along with J.B. and Margaret Stevens, has been studying the Boquillas Formation since the early 1990s, researching the strata for evidence of climatic changes. During these studies, she became interested in the fauna evident in the top of the lower portion of the formation. It is then that Roger made his recent discoveries.

“I was encouraged to go out and look at this area in 1979,” Roger said, “but it wasn’t until about three years ago that I made my first survey of the area and saw the potential to map the fossil-bearing strata over great distances.”

During the fall semester of 2004 and last summer, he worked to update the geologic maps of Big Bend National Park, a project last undertaken in the 1960s. New surveys made with modern tools such as Global Positioning Satellite technology will provide the National Park Service and geological survey with an improved geologic history and understanding of the park.

Together with the Stevenses, Roger Cooper has pursued the work in 2004 on development leave from the university. He received a Research Enhancement Grant from Lamar for 2005-2006 to help fund the research with other support from the park service and geological survey.

The fossils remain in the couple’s hands while they work on scientific papers for submission to the Journal of Paleontology and other scholarly publications. These papers will include descriptive articles on the two squid finds and the fish, as well as a paper on the fauna assemblage – or animal community – which now numbers more than a dozen identified species.

The detail evident in the fossil is remarkable. “If you look closely, you can even see the squid’s eye,” Dee Ann said.

And you can bet that when the couple returns to Big Bend in the future, they will keep a sharp eye out for more remarkable stones with stories to tell.
By Amanda Rowell

T
ough quoted by Warren G. Harding in 1920, few other phrases could describe the current state of the country. And while heroic heroes are rarely welcome, heroes always are. They are out there, healing, restoring and making negative situations seem much more positive. Patti Moss, assistant professor nursing, and Robert Smith ’76, assistant emergency management coordinator for the city of Beaumont, are such heroes. They are always the first to be there in an emergency – from confirming that individuals receive the care they require to transportation to hospitals or, in some cases, evacuation – Moss and Smith, along with a project team, created the Disaster Planning for the Special Needs Population Project. “This project began as a result of nursing research conducted after an extended power outage from an ice storm in January 1997,” said Moss. “...”

“America’s present need is not heroics, but healing; not nostrums but normalcy; not revolution, but restoration.” — Warren G. Harding

The project has provided a model for technology that can aid in the exchange of crucial information between public safety and health agencies involved in disaster planning and individuals with special needs. Those individuals may complete a form, available in an information packet and online, to provide their physical location and medical needs such as oxygen requirements, medications, mobility and medical history. A software program imports the data into a mapping program. Mapping the data allows emergency personnel to view an area and see where special-needs individuals are located. The model developed is in the form of a CD with key links to websites such as www.disasterresearch.us, which provides the form for special-needs patients to complete for assistance. The packets have been distributed by mail and to churches and area agencies, such as Meals on Wheels, Home Health and Area Agency on Aging.

The CD was created as a simple point-and-click interface and is designed to run on PC or Mac, said Smith. “The CD is a catalyst in recognizing the lack of an adequate disaster plan for the special-needs population, particularly the elderly. The CD will facilitate a more rapid response and evacuation procedure for any city,” he said.

Smith said that the database been fully operational, they would have been able to have buses, ambulances or emergency personnel go by each residence to check on individuals and to assist in the evacuation. “It will take support from the state to implement it statewide. Implementation will require communications and cooperation from each region,” he said.

Smith also says for the database to be manageable, the definition of special needs population should be clearly defined as “only those who are medically fragile or physically or mentally challenged.”

“We had people self-defining themselves as special needs due to the fact that they were out of gas or had no car,” he said.

In May 2005, the team initiated contacts with local church representatives who are interested in developing a model to help churches assist the special-needs members of their congregations. “Plans include the development of a CD,” said Moss, “as well as a community workshop for local pastors and church leaders to assist them in implementing this model.” The project was produced at a sixth-grade level, pilot-tested and adjusted for comprehensibility and readability for the elderly.

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Moss and Smith say one of the most impressive things they accomplished during Rita was they were able to use military aircraft to move about 8,000 people from the Southeast Texas Regional Airport after the majority of Beaumont’s emergency vehicles were in Houston, where the storm was originally expected to hit. “We also used Beaumont school district buses to evacuate people from our city who did not fall in the category of special needs,” said Smith.

Under normal circumstances, the use of ambulances, wheel-chaired-accessible vans and air-conditioned buses would be used to transport individuals by land.

Moss says a collaborative nursing approach was used in the development of the project outcomes. The project team joined with emergency and nursing units to plan their approach. Texas Nurses Association representative became involved during the process to facilitate public-policy change regarding open records for special-needs population.

As a result of this legislative initiative, Texas Government Code 418.75: Certain Information Confidential was signed into legislation. After two years of trying to facilitate a change, the records are now accessible to the public.

“The cost of the project for the last seven years has been approximately $27,400,” said Moss. “Funding was provided by Lamar University, Entergy and Christus St. Mary Hospital.”

Jordan Moskoff, assistant director of adult emergency services, said he worked with Moss in San Augustine, where she had created a medical clinic to aide evacuees and local residents. “I found Ms. Moss to be not only a medical backbone of the region, but also the most knowledgable leader regarding the needs of the community,” Moskoff said. “In addition to caring for patients in the makeshift clinic, she also went out to survey the residents and evacuees in the community to determine need and tend to their well being.”

The program has plans to respond to future natural disasters, and its project team is working hard to perfect it, implement it statewide and translate the program packets into Spanish.

“Those who care for special-needs populations now have access to a visionary community resource,” said Moss. “Overall, the project has established a new standard of care that mandates the inclusion and consideration of special-needs populations.”
Shepherd learned her lessons through tragedy and survival through her faith. In 1986, Shepherd and her husband, Paul '78, along with 19-month-old Laura, spent the Christmas holidays in Beaumont with family. The day after Christmas, Shepherd and her mother took Laura with them to go shopping at Parkdale Mall.

The ride home from the mall changed their lives. They collided, going almost 60 mph, with a minivan at the intersection of Texas 105 and Keith Road. It was a very slow process. There were long periods when her eyes were open like 24 hours, then she would close her eyes maybe two weeks," she said about her daughter.

Laura never recovered to become an average child or teenager, but she is the love of her family and friends. "Laura is severely damaged, but she still enjoys life," Shepherd said. Though Laura is paralyzed and bedridden, she communicates with her tongue and participates in family life.

Laura had a skull fracture and was taken to St. Elizabeth Hospital in Beaumont, where she stayed in a coma for a couple of months. Then, the Shepherds flew her ... closer to home. There, doctors later told her Laura was in a vegetative state and would never regain consciousness.

Laura is severely damaged, but she still enjoys life," Shepherd said. Though Laura is paralyzed and bedridden, she communicates with her tongue and participates in family life.

"I lived closer to my college than I did to my high school," she said. While at Lamar, she met Paul Shepherd, whose father, Jim Shepherd was a physics professor. She graduated in 1979 with one of the first bachelor of fine arts degrees. Her degree focused on art, music and drama. She had a passion for art, music and drama. She became an inspirational speaker in addition to a writer and is the founder of the Advanced Writers and Speakers Association.

The Potluck Club comes from a lifetime of observing people, attending church and trying to be a good Christian. "My dad and my mother are both wonderful story-tellers," Shepherd said. "We would just stand there and laugh at the silliness of life in the hospital," she said.

That sense of observation has brought the small town of Summit View to its feet. Though the book has been out only a few months, readers are buying it, talking about it and forming their own Potluck Clubs. Shepherd and Everson have a Potluck Club Website (potluckclub.com), where fans can find study guides to help them understand the characters and the lessons they learn.

The book has a bonus. Besides offering humorous stories, it provides the recipes for Golden's breakfast casserole, Lizzie's cinnamon rolls and other foods that are a prayer, of course, of the Potluck Club.

And the adventures won't end. Another edition of the Potluck Club is set to be published in 2006, and Shepherd said she and Everson will soon begin writing the third installment for 2007.
The portrait of Marvin Hayes ‘63 is a creation of many colors. The strokes on the canvas began with a small town in Mississippi, a World War II shipyard in Orange and a tiny house in Hamshire where, to the great benefit of the art world during the next 50 years, two people saw talent in the dirt-poor kid, the star of the six-man football team who could run the 100 yards in 10.2 seconds.

Thanks to a high school English teacher and an accountant with artistic talent, the sketch began of an extraordinary life and career. Hayes worked his way through Lamar University hitchhiking 25 miles a day to do so. His talent earned him a scholarship to graduate school at Columbia University. He became a successful illustrator, whose work appeared in a veritable who’s who of the magazine publishing world before he went on to a career in fine art and international fame in one-man exhibitions, museums and private collections.

Hayes’ 1977 masterwork, God’s Images, illustrates the Bible through 53 etchings, with text by poet-novelist James Dickey. The impressive volume sold more than 100,000 copies, attracting glowing reviews from The New York Times and The New Yorker and comparison to William Blake. In 1985, the Vatican Museums in Rome exhibited the works, which remain in the Vatican collection. A complete set of the etchings is a treasured part of the Dishman Art Museum’s permanent collection.

For almost 43 years, Hayes has been affiliated with the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, where fortuitous circumstances led him soon after he arrived at Columbia. Today, he works in the education, drawings and prints, media, and objects conservation departments.

His friends, colleagues and collaborators span the art world from artist David Stern to musician Dave Brubeck and actors Eli Wallach and Anne Jackson. He helped celebrate Wallach’s 90th birthday Dec. 7 by archiving the actor’s photo collection and compiling a library of his 103 films.

Hayes has received dozens of humanitarian awards for endeavors ranging from the arts to health care. In 1983, Lamar honored him as a distinguished alumnus.

“I’m proud of the gift God gave me – to paint. That gives me the most pleasure,” Hayes says.

Though he spent his early years amid the bayous and rice fields of Southeast Texas, Hayes settled into the city. Manhattan inhabited him, even for the more than two decades he made Connecticut his home. Away from the city, he served as a caregiver and as a community activist.

Hayes was born in Canton, Miss., and, before he was 2, his family moved to Orange, where his father, Aubrey, was stationed with the Navy during World War II. Shortly after the war, he moved to Hamshire with his parents and older brother, Aubrey J. His mother, Myrtle, was a nurse, and he says, “I think she delivered all the babies in Hamshire.”

There, the seeds of Hayes’ art were planted. “There wasn’t much art in Hamshire, but there was one artist – I always called him Mr. Bennett. He saw that I was an artist. He was an accountant for the rice dryer there, but he was also a wonderful painter and taught me how to paint. I was poor as dirt, and he took me to the Beaumont Art League for drawing classes.”

Another inspiration was Juanta Martin of Saratoga, his high-school English teacher. Hayes said. “I was not terrific in English – I was dyslexic – but she recognized I was a good artist, and she encouraged me in that,” he said.

Hayes was athletic – big, tall and fast – and played all the positions – offensive and defensive – on Hamshire’s six-man football team. His senior year, the team was undefeated and won in the top level of competition. He was named to the All-Region team.

Legendary coach Bear Bryant recruited him to play for Texas A&M, and he well remembers the day Bryant and an assistant paid a visit to the Hayes home.

“We had a very small house, and my mother made dinner for them: fried wild rabbit, cream gravy and hot biscuits. I remember they ate four dozen hot biscuits between them. There were only 200 or 300 people in Hamshire, and, when they went to leave, all of them were on our lawn.”

Hayes received a scholarship to A&M, but, after one season on the football team, he saw his college athletic career cut short when his mother became ill. He returned home to care for his mother.
mother and become the family breadwinner.

“... to have an operation, and, because she had diabetes, it took her more than a year to recover. And of course we had to pay for the operation too.”

Hayes stayed out of school for a semester, then received a scholarship to Lamar and a job offer from Lamb Printing. “I had done some freelance work – menu covers – for the Beaumont Country Club. They saw them, and they asked me to come to work for them.”

Hayes had a stellar collegiate career, serving as president of Kappa Alpha, the honor society for all students. His advisor, Myrtle Ken, edited the society’s international magazine, and he was the student editor. “I was the art editor of everything,” he says.

Nonetheless, Hayes says, “I remember being called ‘trailer trash.’ At the time, I had a friend who had bought a really beautiful trailer, and I thought it was a compliment. That’s how dumb I was. I was off the farm.” Only years later did he realize the term was derogatory.

Nonetheless, Hayes says, “I think it was the pantry to the original apartment, with one move to America’s artistic epicenter. “I couldn’t wait to get there,” he says. “I remember being called ‘trailer trash.’ At the time, I had a friend who had bought a really beautiful trailer, and I thought it was a compliment. That’s how dumb I was. I was off the farm.”

He lived in Wilton, Conn., from 1965 to 1991, when he returned to New York City. Honored as a humanitarian in Connecticut and in New York, Hayes received the 2003 Award for Contributions to the Community from the Media Department. He was honored by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2000, and his work is included in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Hayes’ work has been exhibited in more than 100 solo and group shows in the United States, Europe and South America and as sought-after acquisitions in museums and private collections.

Guthi raysal Hayes’ picture of the event, a monumental endeavor that, because of its biblical significance, is sure to endure as an important legacy. Its creation began when representatives of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art, with the assistance of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Smithsonian, National Portrait Gallery, Brooklyn, Bibliothèque Nationale and New York Public Library. Among his collectors have been Louis Auchincloss, Jacqueline Onassis, David Rockefeller, Barbara Walters and Anwar Sadat.

For the Metropolis Museum, Hayes produced a 360-degree, virtual-reality panorama of the Guggenheim, an 11-year restoration project, and assisted Carmen Bambach, curator of drawings and prints, in digitizing the 15th- to 18th-century Italian and Spanish drawing collection of more than 8,000 objects – the Met’s largest collection. He worked on Leonard da Vinci and Peter Paul Rubens drawings shows, among others. He trades news of the Met and preserves it on DVD for the museum library and the staff members involved.

Hayes has lectured and given seminars and workshops at Yale, Harvard and Columbia universities, the Model School of Design and Carnegie Institute, as well as the Met and Lamar. A member of the Microsoft Windows development team, he was an early proponent and innovator of digital imaging and an exponent in scanning, color calibration and large-format printing.


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Wendy J. Hicks (Blanco) ’85, B.B.A. accounting, retired as owner and operator of Circle T Ranch in Beaumont.

Richard H. Valley ’74, B.S. music, is director of community programs for the Rural Development-Alaska after having served as assistant director of community and business programs. He lives in Palmer, Ala.

The Rev. David D. Placette ’66, B.S. secondary education, is retired and lives in Port Arthur. He and his wife, Nancy, live in Port Arthur with their two children, Keith and Claire.

Scott J. Ryal ’75, B.S. chemical engineering, is employed as a chemical engineer for Texas Technical University. He lives in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Kelly W. Gerland ’78, B.S. music, is an assistant professor of music at Texas Southern University. She lives in Houston.

Laurence Binder ’69, B.A. speech, is now a postal service mail processor. He lives in Spring. 

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Robert W. Arnold ’00, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a project engineer for ExxonMobil in Beaumont, where he lives.

Leo J. Nolan ’97, B.B.A. general business, is a planning analyst for the South County Water Authority. He grows wine grapes in Beaumont.}

Heather (Ruff) McAdoo ’99, M.Ed. speech communications, is marketing manager for Albert at Bay Suite Hotel in Ottawa, Ontario, where she and her husband, Benoit, live.

Donald J. McKinnon ’89, A.A.S. nursing, is a nursing supervisor for the Austin Regional Clinic. He lives in Austin with his wife, Jennifer.

Lauren L. Callender ’95, B.A. English, is a news and lifestyle editor at the Johnson City Advocate. She will graduate in April 2007.

Heather J. Billings ’05, M.S. applied arts and sciences, was elected as the 2005 Citizen of Year in Lumberton for her volunteer work with families in Hardin County. She lives in Lumberton.

Robert V.ADVANCED ’00, B.S. finance, is a financial analyst at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Houston. He lives there with his wife, Sarah, and daughter, Ayla, age 5.

Steve S. Bihlmaier ’96, B.S. political science, is a systems analyst for the U.S. Army Reserve, assigned to Fort Hood, Texas. He is married to his wife, Lisa.

Richie H. Broussard ’93, B.S. family and consumer sciences, is a special education teacher at Lamar University. He and his wife, Joanna, live in Beaumont.

Angela M. Dugay ’90, B.S. chemistry, is a master's degree student in science education at Lamar University. She lives in Orange.

Michael E. Kissel ’89, B.S. chemical engineering, is a certified public auditor in May 2005 and is a C.P.A. for PricewaterhouseCoopers in Houston, where she lives.

Lance A. Broussard ’07, B.S. chemical engineering, is a project engineer for Total Petrochemicals and lives in Deer Park.

Robert M. Hobbs ’96, B.A.A.S. business administration, is principal of Beaumont Independent School District. He oversees fund-raising and volunteer relations for all university programs in Travis state. He lives in Austin.

Lauren M. Callender ’97, B.S. community health education, is an assistant professor at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, where she teaches in the School of Public Health.

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To host A Dinner and Twelve Strangers

Call (409) 880-6221
Or email alumni@lamar.edu

We will miss...

Larry ’77 and Nancy Beaulieu, back row left, recently hosted A Dinner and Twelve Strangers for communication management, died Sept. 3, 2005. He lived in Houston for 43 years after graduating from Lamar and was a retired data processing manager for Wing Corporation after 26 years of service. Survivors include his wife, Sharon; son, Scott; and daughter, Suzi Danton.

Robert F. Wolcott ’61, B.S. elementary education, died Dec. 31, 2005. He retired from Texaco Inc. and was a longtime supporter of Lamar, especially through scholarships in the College of Engineering. Survivors include her daughter, Hattie McKinley.

Benjamin F. Wilkes ’37, A.A.S. general studies, died Aug. 25, 2005. He was a security branch chief for 32 years and lived in Houston. Survivors include his mother, Melba; wife, Wanda; daughter, Melissa; and son, Mike.

Jack E. Treaster, ’72, English, died Oct. 11, 2005. She began her teaching career during World War II in San Angelo before teaching English at Thomas Jefferson High School for many years. She retired in 1976 and moved to Georgetown and, later, to Austin. Survivors include her daughters, Claire, Carly and Ben.

Kathleen (Thomas) Bridges ’69, B.A. English, died Aug. 29, 2005. She attended the Julliard School of Music where she earned her master of music degree and continued her studies at the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester. She served as second lieutenant in the Army during World War II. Survivors include her wife, Helen.

Raymond K. Vassar ’46, B.S. electrical engineering, died Aug. 21, 2005. He worked as a first-line supervisor at the Du Pont Sabine River Works in Orange, N.J., and later worked as a security branch chief for NASA for 32 years and lived in Houston. Survivors include his wife, Melissa; sons, Tommy G. and Rafael; daughter, Francine; son-in-law, Frank Carpenter; Jay Carpenter and Sam Carpenter; and daughter, Charlene Carpenter.

Kathryn Ann (Engberg) Balslev ’74, M.Ed. elementary education, died Aug. 21, 2005. She retired after teaching in Houston and was a member of The Daughters of The American Revolution and of Grace Presbyterian Church. Survivors include her husband, Jack; daughter, Charlotte McCleland; and son, Jack Wells.

Nellie (Shuttlesworth) Horton ’59, B.B.A. business administration, died Aug. 27, 2005. She served in the Navy from 1949 until 1958 and later worked as a schoolteacher in Austin for 35 years. She retired from Austin Independent School District in 1984. Survivors include her daughters, Cecilia, Clare and Peg.

Dominick ’75, president and chief executive officer of Entergy Texas. “We discussed issues such as career advancement, business ethics and the role of education in one’s success,” Domino said. Students always enjoy a good meal, and the career tips provide even more nutrition. “The dinner was great, and the food was excellent,” (Mrs. Beaulieu’s ... you, as a student, have this opportunity to meet with someone who is in your field, sign up for A Dinner and 12 Strangers.”

Faculty, Staff and Friends

John A. Auburn, ’82, died Aug. 25, 2005. He retired in 1983 after serving as a professor of mechanical engineering with Lamar University for 29 years, the University of Texas at Austin for two years and Tulane University for one year. He was also an avid world traveler. He is survived by his wife, Priscilla.

Dock B. DeMent, ’91, died July 23, 2005. He taught math for 20 years for Lamar University until he retired in 1977. He lived in Beaumont. Survivors include his wife, Frances; son, Crit DeMent; and four sisters.

Alice (Studer) Vincent, ’95, died Oct. 24, 2005. She worked in the Mary and John Gray Library until she retired in 1982. She was a charter member of Study Club for more than 50 years. She was married to her husband, Albert, long-time volunteer assistant coach at Lamar, for 65 years before his death in December 2000. Survivors include her daughters, Frances and her son, Albert.

Robert E. Velasco, ’59, B.S. secondary education, died Oct. 2, 2005. He worked for Lamar University in the public information office during the 1970s and as a journalist during World War II and the Korean War. He lived with his wife, Marilyn, in Beaumont for 40 years and spent most of his professional career working at the Beaumont Enterprises. He was active in the Press Club of Southeast Texas. Survivors include his sons, James and John, and daughters, Jean Sells, Susan Anew and Mary Hall. Donations in his name may be made to the Press Club of Southeast Texas Memorial Scholarship, c/o Lamar University Foundation, PO. Box 11500, Beaumont, Texas 77710.
The seasoned return:
Cardinal baseball preview

By Daucy Crizer

The 2005 season ended on a bittersweet note for Head Coach Jim Gilligan and the Lamar Cardinals. With its 9-3 win over Southeastern Louisiana, Lamar advanced to the Southland Conference Tournament Championship game. It also gave Gilligan his 1,000th career coaching win, making him the 32nd coach in NCAA history to reach the milestone.

The Cardinals lost, however, 4-1 to Texas-San Antonio in the championship game, giving the Roadrunners the league's automatic bid to an NCAA Regional. Lamar did not receive an at-large bid, which ended a streak of three straight post-season appearances. Lamar posted a 38-23 record last season and finished second in the SLC standings with a 16-11 mark. It is the fifth straight season that the Cardinals have posted at least 37 wins.

Despite the disappointing end to last season, there is plenty for the SLC standings with a 16-11 mark. It is the fifth straight season that the Cardinals have posted at least 37 wins.

Junior All-American catcher Michael Ambort headlines the list of Lamar faithful to be excited about for the 2006 season. Lamar returns 18 letterwinners, six position starters and five of its top seven pitchers from last year's squad.

A native of Rockville Center, N.Y., Ambort was named SLC hit-returning players. He led the team in hitting with a .336 batting average and set a new single-season school record with nine triples. He batted .381 with six runs scored and six RBI to earn SLC all-tournament honors.

A pair of veteran left-handers highlights the returnees to the Cardinal pitching staff. Macfarland, a native of Marlboro, N.Y., worked his way into the starting rotation by the end of the season. He posted a 3.31 earned run average last season. He appeared in 18 games, starting 15, and struck out 66 and walked 32 in a team-best 98 innings pitched. He limited opponents to a .238 batting average.

Gordon, a native of Baytown, posted a 4-7 record with a 3.95 ERA in 20 appearances, making 14 starts. He struck out 102, which ranks as the seventh best single-season total in school history with 43 walks in 80.1 innings pitched. He also served as Ambort’s backup at catcher. Henderson, a senior from Beaumont, hit .231 with 14 doubles, four home runs and 27 RBI.

The Cardinals return two-thirds of their outfield in senior Matt Ebarb, a native of Jasper, hit .295 with 17 runs scored, six doubles and 13 RBI. He also serves as Ambort’s backup at catcher. Henderson, a senior from Beaumont, hit .231 with 14 doubles, four home runs and 27 RBI.

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The 24-player roster represented the United States at the 2005 CONCEBE Regional Olympic Qualifying Tournament in Phoenix, Ariz., Nov. 15-19. The roster was made up of professionals, non-college letterwinners, the 30 Major League baseball organizations. This is the sixth time U.S. Baseball has utilized Major League affiliated professional players for international competition, following the 1999 Pan-Am Games, 2000 Olympic Games, 2001 World Cup, 2003 Olympic Qualifier, and 2005 World Cup.

The U.S. A team posted a 5-0 record to win the CONCEBE Olympic Regional Qualifying Tournament and advanced, along with Canada, Nicaragua and Panama, to the CONCEBE Olympic Regional Qualifying Tournament in Havana, Cuba. In August 2006. In that event, the four teams representing CONCEBE will compete against the top four regional qualifiers from both the Caribbean and South American regions for two bids to the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China. The third and fourth place finishers in Cuba will advance to a secondary Olympic qualifying event to be held in 2007.

The Cardinals are sophomores Tim Erickson, a native of Sour Lake, and Allen Harrington of Groves and senior Chuckie Platt of Santa Fe. Erickson was named to the Collegiate Baseball/Louisville Slugger Freshman All-America Team. He was named honorable mention All-SLC. Also back for the Cardinals are sophomore Brian Sanches, who was a three-year letter-winner on Lamar’s baseball team, named to the USA Baseball Regional Olympic Qualifying Team Roster, announced USA Baseball.

Also back for the Cardinals are sophomores Tim Erickson, a native of Sour Lake, and Allen Harrington of Groves and senior Chuckie Platt of Santa Fe. Erickson was named to the Collegiate Baseball/Louisville Slugger Freshman All-America Team. In addition to all these returning players, the Cardinals coaching staff assembled another outstanding recruiting class that has Lamar poised for a run at the conference championship.

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Cardinal hoops

Lamar, which returns nine letterwinners and four starters from last year’s 18-11 squad, was picked to finish second in the 2005-06 Southland Conference Preseason Coaches Poll. The Cardinals return more than 60 percent of their scoring and 83 percent of their rebounding from last year. They ranked seventh in the N.C.A.A. last season at 80.6 points per game and also ranked 38th in steals (8.8) and 40th in blocked shots (4.6).

Headlining the return of returning players is senior forward Alan Daniels, who earned all-region honors for his performance at the regional meet, finishing 17th and 18th respectively. The underclassmen who make up the majority of the team left behind the seniors who helped push Lamar to the front of the SLC pack will be a year older and wiser. Clark and Waru will add to the solid foundation they have built.

“I had a positive attitude coming into this season because I knew how hard I had worked over the summer,” Graham said. “I had some really nice times in the races I ran in New Zealand . . . I knew I was fit and ready for the season.”

In the conference meet, Graham ran the 6,000-meter course in 21:55, and was followed by fellow freshman Marie Monteau (Anahuac) who covered the course in a time of 22:15. Amanda King, a junior from Taunton, New Zealand, was fourth, Jacqueline Johnson, a senior from Iowa, was sixth, and Natasha Williams, a senior from Nederland, placed 11th. Amber Prather, a sophomore from Houtzdon, finished 31st and Clark-Koakel, a sophomore from Anamosa, La., 31st.

Seniors John and Williams and juniors King and Prather played major roles in making sure the conference title stayed in Lamar’s hands. John and King also earned all-region honors for their performance at the regional meet, finishing 17th and 18th respectively. “The underclassmen do a great job of pushing the team in the right direction,” he said. “They are the ones who show the underclassmen what it takes to be successful.”

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A course toward equality

Fifty years before Tiger Woods won his 10th major tournament in the PGA, six amateur black golfers won a major victory of their own. Those golfers used the court system to fight for the right to play at Beaumont’s municipal golf course, establishing legal precedent along the way. Robert Robertson ‘65, an adjunct instructor in History at Lamar, tells their story in a new book, Fair Ways: Six Black Golfers Win Civil Rights Rights.

Beaumont, Texas, published by Texas A&M University Press. Using public case papers, public records, newspapers and oral histories, Robertson re-creates the scene in Beaumont on the eve of desegregation, showing how the most unlikely persons can have a major impact on the important events of our lives.

JOHN BOLES
William P. Hobby Professor of History, Lamar University

The revised lineup began with the holiday choir concert Dec. 13 and going to rave reviews for 15 years. And it wasn’t about to let the inharmonious hand of Hurricane Rita keep the acclaimed off-campus talent showcase from making beautiful music for Southeast Texans.

Le Grand Ball 2006 – Toast of the Arts – will honor businessman Frank Massina for his contributions to Lamar. Massina is president of Massina’s Liquor Inc. The Ball is scheduled March 25, with an art auction and reception from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Dishman Art Museum and dining, and entertainment from 8 p.m. to midnight in the Montagne Center. The annual gala benefits students in the College of Fine Arts and Communication. Call (409) 880-8137 for reservations. . .

“From the ribbon-cutting in 1905 at the humble nickelodeon in Pittsburgh, which was featuring The Great Train Robbery, to the high-tech and high-detailed, computer-generated epics of today, motion pictures have affected the lives of countless millions in America and throughout the world,” Rivers said.

He will show clips from “classics and rarities,” including The Great Train Robbery, The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari, Rashomon, HorseFeathers, Casablanca, Vertigo. “That should give everyone a good sampling of the different styles of U.S. and world cinema and some of the ways in which films have had meaning for different peoples in different eras,” Rivers said. “The audience will see not only films they are familiar with, but also films from 1902 and 1903 that blew you away with their creativity, unimaginable for such an early era.”

The lecture is open to the public without charge.
The goal is clear: provide the highest quality learning environment possible to prepare students who are not only ready to meet the future, but destined to shape it.

Each generation of students is the future of Southeast Texas. Your generosity is vital. Private funding allows Lamar University to recruit a stronger, more diverse student body, to expand its distinguished faculty ranks, to enhance its nationally recognized academic offerings and to develop innovative new programs.

The following pages acknowledge donors who have made contributions to Lamar University, the Lamar University Foundation and the Office of Alumni Affairs between September 1, 2004, and August 31, 2005. Amounts listed are cumulative, donors’ gifts to the Cardinal Club, Friends of the Arts, KVLU and other affiliated organizations have been combined for this report.

Your tax-deductible donation to Lamar’s Annual Giving Campaign equips Lamar with essential resources to advance their mission as they arise and enables the university to seize unexpected opportunities. Investing in the 2006-07 Annual Giving Campaign will continue to raise the achievement of Lamar’s highest levels of academic excellence.

Thank you for helping make dreams come true.
P\n
laned giving sparks a thoughtful process to arrange a major gift to a charitable organization such as Lamar University or its foundation. There is a special satisfaction in making a gift to a cause that has become particularly meaningful to you.

Perhaps you are a graduate of Lamar and hold a special place in your heart for the university. Or, you perhaps know the importance of education and feel a strong bond with the university in its important mission to educate students from diverse areas of the state, nation and world.

For most individuals, a gift that helps an educational institution makes a difference in the lives of students is very special. In the most meaningful way possible, a planned gift to Lamar University celebrates your lifetime and your wish to share its rewards with this and future generations.

A planned gift involves the use of a financial or legal document such as a will, a life insurance policy, a trust or an annuity. Although most planned gifts are arranged now and received at some future time, planned giving also includes major outright gifts of cash and other possessions. Planned gifts are usually made from assets, but they may also be paid from current income, as are life insurance premiums.

A planned gift can often mean benefits to you such as income tax savings. A gift can sometimes be structured so that the donor retains the income or the use of the gift for his or her lifetime, or can provide a charitable gift now and still provide for grandchildren in the future.

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Your planned gift will affect future generations on our students, faculty and researchers, all of whom carry forth the vision of excellence that is the hallmark of our founders and supporters.

Lamar University Advancement
P.O. Box 10011
Beaumont, TX 77711
409-880-8422
advancement@hal.lamar.edu
Ralph Wooster

A Report On Giving

SEPTEMBER 1, 2004, TO AUGUST 31, 2005

In Memoriam

Between September 1, 2004, and August 31, 2005, donations were received in memory of the following alumni and friends of Lamar University. If you would like to contribute in the memory of someone in this special way, please send your contribution to Lamar University, P.O. Box 10011, Beaumont, Texas 77710. We will notify the families of your thoughtful generosity.

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At that time, Lamar Tech, as it was then called, had an enrollment of nearly 4,000 students, many of whom were attending classes in the evening hours. As a new instructor, I was assigned two evening classes, one at Lamar had ever seen me, and, although I grew up in Baytown only 70 miles away, I had never seen Lamar. Fifty years ago, I arrived in Beaumont to take a position as instructor of History at Lamar State College of Technology. I had just completed two years of military service, 18 months of which were with the Historical Division of the United States Army in Germany. My employment at Lamar had been completed by mail while I was still overseas. I had another job offer at what is today the University of Central Arkansas at Conway but was encouraged by my major professor at the University of Texas to accept the Lamar position. It’s a decision I have never regretted.

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Don’t miss this opportunity to reunite with friends and classmates for Homecoming 2006. This year, we celebrate the golden anniversary of the Class of 1956 and reunite alumni who were involved in the social fraternities and sororities at Lamar University. Reunion events for all alumni and individual reuniting groups will be held during the weekend.

From new residence halls to recent and ongoing renovations — this is a unique opportunity for alumni to see the many exciting and energizing changes to the campus of their memory.

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