

CARDINAL Cadence

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OCTOBER 2006

ASL makes a splash

pg. 14

World vision
pg. 22

Legend and
miracles
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From the President

During the graduation ceremonies recently, I was taken by the quality of young men and women graduating from Lamar. I wish it were possible for each of you to stand at my shoulder as I greet these graduates. There is a vibrancy that radiates from each of them. They go from this place armed with a fine education. I am most thankful for them, for the parade of possibility that crosses the Montagne Center platform each December, May and August.

Not many days later, another parade of eager young faces appeared on our campus. This time, tassels were replaced with overstuffed boxes of belongings, and sometimes parents were in tow as they found their new home-away-from-home in Cardinal Village. These eager young men and women are embarking on a new era in their personal journey — college life. A new academic year has begun.

What a year it promises to be. Cardinal Village is full to the brim (with more students in Brooks Hall) and nearby housing is full as well. That is why we have put forward plans to build more student housing, and, if approval is received, we will be breaking ground for a fourth phase of Cardinal Village in the coming year.

This fall, we're setting another record on campus — our first year with five doctoral programs, including the university's first Ph.D. (chemical engineering). Each of our doctoral-level programs is supported by a breadth and depth of experience in our colleges — they are both tribute to and a result of our excellence.

In other academic news, Lamar has set another milestone with the beginning of the bachelor's degree in American Sign Language — the first such degree offered in Texas.

Congratulations are in order to our chemical engineering department — ranked No. 1 last year in the number of master's degrees granted. With 55 graduates, Lamar outpaced MIT, Yale, Michigan and Georgia Tech.

Construction continues on campus. The Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center — truly a state-of-the-art complex — will open in the spring, and construction on a new academic building — the old dining hall — will prepare it to house communication programs and several student support services.

Another exciting development is the establishment of the Office of Sponsored Programs Administration. With the mission of "concept to completion" support for scholarship and research at the university, this new office has the potential to increase grant-supported research many-fold — enriching all areas of the university.

I am humbled each year when I see the support you give to the annual fund. Your generosity does so much to help students achieve an outstanding education at Lamar University. I trust you will respond again to the opportunity to make a difference when you receive your copy of the annual fund appeal in the mail in the coming weeks. We are a team — students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni and friends. Together we are making a difference. Thank you!

With Cardinal Pride,

James M. Simmons
James M. Simmons
President
Lamar University



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Cadence The Staff

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Brian Sattler, Executive Editor, Director of Public Relations

Cynthia Hicks '89, '93, Editor, Publication Specialist

Larry Acker, Assistant Director, Writer

Chris Castillo, Marketing Specialist, Writer

Louise Wood, Media Specialist, Writer

Contributors:

Daucy Crizer, Drew Lacey, Susan McNicholl, Amanda Rowell, *writing*
Michelle Cate, Allen Pearson, Rohn Wenner, *photography*

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Changes of address may be sent to:
University Advancement,
P.O. Box 10011, Beaumont, Texas 77710, or by
email: mona.halvorsen@lamar.edu

Division of University Advancement

Camille Mouton, Vice President

Janice Trammell '85, '93, Director of Development

Mona Halvorsen '95, Director of Advancement Services

Loraine Thibodeaux, Director, University Reception Centers

P.O. Box 10011
Beaumont, Texas 77710
(409) 880-8419 or fax (409) 880-8409
email: advancement@hal.lamar.edu

Lamar University Alumni Office

When visiting campus, you're invited to stop by the Alumni Office at the John Gray Center, Building B, 855 Florida, Suite 102.

Juan Zabala, Director of Alumni Affairs

LU Alumni Office
P.O. Box 10005
Beaumont, Texas 77710
(409) 880-8921, or (800) 298-4839
Email: alumni@lamar.edu
www.lamar.edu/alumni

Lamar University Foundation

Janice Trammell, Executive Director
Lamar University Foundation
P.O. Box 11500
Beaumont, Texas 77710
(409) 880-2117
Email: foundation@lamar.edu

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CARDINAL CADENCE | 1

Chemical engineering stands first in nation

In the most recent issue of Chemical & Engineering News, Lamar University was ranked first in the nation for the number of master's-level chemical engineers in 2004-2005.

Lamar's numbers topped those of Illinois Institute of Technology and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Lamar awarded 52 master's degrees in chemical engineering, while IIT granted 45 and MIT granted 29.

The department's production remains strong. During the same period in 2005-2006, the department granted 30 bachelor's degrees, 40 master's degrees and had one graduate earn the doctor of engineering (D.E.) degree.

Growth in the program is attributed to new courses in process simulation that give graduates an advantage when seeking employment, said Kuyen Li, chair of the Department of Chemical Engineering.



MASTER'S DEGREE
IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
2004 - 2005

"In addition, the momentum which the administration has instilled in the university, the reputation of our program, and graduate school scholarships have each contributed to attract new graduate students," Li said. The success of graduates in finding employment in the chemical industry is the strongest factor, he said.

Lamar's success in producing master's-level graduates in chemical engineering is certain to be a good source of incoming students for the university's new Ph.D. program in chemical engineering. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the program in July 2005, and the first candidates began study in fall 2005.

Also in July, Gov. Rick Perry signed a bill authorizing Lamar to issue \$4.6 million in revenue bonds to renovate the 55-year-old Lucas Engineering Building.

Commencement brings honors



Tina Bunnell, Kevin Smith, April Boudoin, Worachate Buahame

Lamar conferred more than 660 degrees to graduates from 14 countries, 15 states outside Texas and 89 Texas cities during spring commencement. Six students attained perfect 4.0 grade-point averages to become co-recipients of the Plummer Award, honoring them as the top academic graduates in Lamar's class of May 2006: April Boudoin of Port Neches, accounting; Worachate Buahame of Beaumont, electrical engineering; Tina Bunnell of Nederland, accounting; Belen Espiritu of Nederland, finance; Kevin Smith of Humble, chemical engineering; and Andrey Tetuyev of Orange, finance and economics. At the Toast to Leadership banquet in April, Brandan Still of Beaumont received the Robert Kemble Award as outstanding senior man; Divya Verma, a native of Teresina, Brazil, now living in Orange, received the Bess Gentry Award as outstanding senior woman; and Stephanie Kelsey of Angleton received the Ann Shaw Award for exemplary leadership.

Movers and shakers

Congratulations to six retirees, who represent more than 150 total years of teaching excellence: **Stephen Hodges**, associate professor of art; **Barbara Mathis**, professor of music; **John Pearson**, associate professor of management information systems; **Richard Price**, associate professor of mathematics; **Chester Runnels**, associate professor of biology; and **Owana Sexton**, clinical instructor in nursing . . . District 4 of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education recognized work submitted by the public relations department and alumni affairs offices in the Division of University Advancement with two awards in the five-state communication competition: a writing collection by media specialist **Louise Wood** and the Red, White & You/Jimmy Simmons & Friends campaign . . . **Marta Valenzuela** has stepped into the role of assistant director of student activities after



five years as a graphic technician in the Setzer Student Center . . . **Larry Acker** is assistant director of public relations for the Division of University Advancement. He has served as director of public relations at Langston University and Wiley College and brings 10 years of experience with him . . . **Chris Castillo**, marketing specialist in the office of public relations, received the 2006 Julie & Ben Rogers Community Service Award. Castillo volunteers with the Bridges to Life faith-based prison ministry and the Jefferson County Crime Victims' Coalition, Triangle AIDS Network and Press Club of Southeast Texas, among other organizations. He also serves as a volunteer at state and federal prisons. He is co-founder of the Spindletop/Lamar University Film Festival.

Audiology students earn right to wear white



The white lab coat, worn as a badge of knowledge and authority in the clinical setting, was central to the ceremony June 17 when Lamar presented coats to its inaugural class of audiology doctoral students. The traditional rite of passage among third-year students symbolizes the transition from the classroom to clinical training. The recipients are Janet Weinert of Corpus Christi, Crystal Wiggins of Port Arthur, Heather Lawson of Groves and Evelyn Williams of Lake Charles.

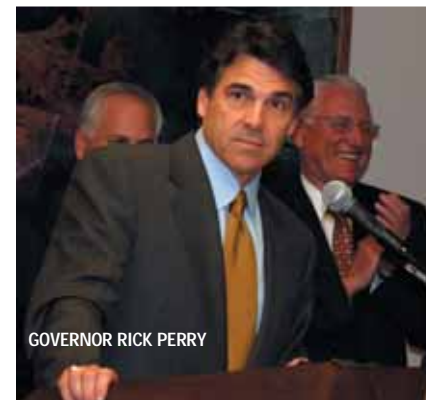
Faculty honors

The Lamar Honors Council honored **Dale Ortego**, Regents' Professor of Chemistry, as Honors Professor of the Year.

Ortego has been a faculty member since 1968 . . . Ten faculty have received 2006-2007 Research Enhancement Grants: **Paul Bernazzani**, chemistry and physics; **Daniel Chen**, chemical engineering; **Joseph Kruger**, earth and space sciences; **Sidney Lin**, chemical engineering; **Jiangjiang "Jane" Liu**, computer science; **Ray Robertson**, sociology, social work and criminal justice; **Pamela Saur**, English and modern languages; **Selahattin Sayil**, electrical engineering; **Jim Westgate**, earth and space sciences; and **Steven Zani**, English and modern languages . . . **Terri Davis**, assistant professor of political science, received the 2006 Liberty Bell Award, presented by the Jefferson County Bar Association for her lifetime commitment to principles of the U.S. Constitution. Davis serves each summer as a Summer Scholar for the Arizona Legal Foundation, the State Bar of Texas "We the People" program and the Hatton W. Sumners Institute . . . ScienceDirect, a web-based worldwide digital library, recently selected three Lamar scholarly research articles for its Top 25, presented in a special section of the web site at www.sciencedirect.com. Author of two of the articles is **David Cocke**, Jack M. Gill Chair in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, and the third was published by **Shyam Shukla**, professor of chemistry, and **Ken Dorris**, associate professor of chemistry. ScienceDirect is a division of Elsevier.



associate professor of chemistry. ScienceDirect is a division of Elsevier.



GOVERNOR RICK PERRY

Rita hits enrollment, campus springs back

The fall semester began with a few empty seats on campus resulting from fallout of Hurricane Rita, officials said. First-day enrollment headcount was 9,566 students, down from 10,230 students on the same day in fall 2005, a 6.5 percent decrease.

"The drop was anticipated," said Kevin Smith, senior associate provost at the university. "These students who have not returned are primarily from the local region, students whose lives were disrupted by the hurricane."

Housing shortages and more stringent admission policies are also factors in the dip in enrollment, Smith said.

By the 20th class day, headcount had climbed to 9,906, down 6 percent from the previous fall's 10,523. Semester credit hours were down 5.3 percent from the previous year.

Even so, the number of full-time students, those taking 12 hours or more, has increased by 2,000 over the past six years—from 4,800 to 6,800. That trend is reflected in the smaller drop seen in the number of semester credit hours.

"Students are enrolling sooner than ever before," said President James Simmons, during the annual convocation, "and that's a very good sign."

Cardinal Village filled up at least a month before the first day of classes, and more than 200 students moved into the remodeled Brooks Hall. The Village at Lamar, a new independent housing complex on MLK Jr. Parkway, was also near capacity when classes began.

The university is seeking approval to construct additional student housing to support its growing success in attracting students from beyond the local region, Simmons said. In addition, the anticipated opening of the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center in spring 2007, the new dining hall and continued campus renovations are expected to bolster the university's recruiting successes.



PRESIDENT JAMES SIMMONS

Girls get WIRED

Girls WIRED for Computer Science brought almost 30 young women in middle school through high school to campus for a summer camp with the goal of preparing them to take their places in a profession under-represented by women. WIRED stands for Lamar's Women in REsearch Development, which sponsored the three sessions. The camp engaged the girls in hands-on learning labs in programming robots, computer hardware and designing Web pages. The group is seeking funding to design future, similar camps that would be open to the public.

State approves funds for hurricane recovery

House Bill 63, signed in May, gave \$34 million to pay for repairs to Texas State University System campuses in Southeast Texas after Hurricane Rita. Lamar University received \$25.7 million of those funds. "It was an ugly-looking thing to see that stadium full of water and the roof off the coliseum and all the damage that was done to this university, the equipment inside the buildings that were devastated," Gov. Rick Perry said. About 80 percent of campus buildings sustained substantial damage. "The fact that students were able to complete the fall semester despite what Hurricane Rita did and that as much progress as has been made in the rebuilding effort is a real tribute to your leadership," Perry said of President James Simmons.

At the podium

As speaker for the spring Academic Lecture Series, **Laurie Garrett** discussed the science behind new threats to public health and the political background that shapes the debate. She is one of America’s premier authorities on healthcare and disease prevention and author of two best-sellers: *The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World Out of Balance* and *Betrayal of Trust: The Collapse of Global Public Health*. She is the only person to have won the top three awards in American journalism, including the Pulitzer Prize.



The College of Business’s ExxonMobil Executive in Residence series welcomed speaker **Lori Ryerkerk**, ExxonMobil Beaumont Refinery manager, this spring. She hosted a faculty colloquium and also met with graduate business students. Gov. Rick Perry recently appointed her to the Environmental Flows Advisory Committee.



Chemical process control pioneer **Charles Cutler** ’61 gave the spring’s All College of Engineering Lecture, exploring “What you need to know to advance in industry.” As president and CEO of Cutler Technology Corp, he has developed process control software with a unique “what-if” function that allows for safe experimentation and training with live data at simulation speeds of up to 100 times real time. His company is headquartered in San Antonio . . . Hurricane researcher **Nicholas Coch** discussed Super Hurricanes in a lecture May 4 sponsored by Sigma XI, the Lamar chapter of the Scientific Research Society.



Cheryl Thompson-Draper spoke at the invitation of the Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies as part of its Entrepreneurship Lecture Series April 4. Retired CEO, chairman of the board and owner of Warren Electric Group Ltd., she served three terms as commissioner of the Port of Houston Authority and is now CEO, president and co-owner of Cypress Pony Land Co. Ltd., an industrial, commercial and residential investment and property management company.



Making class count

Patricia Williams of Groves earned first place in the 2006 Student Entrepreneur of the Year competition sponsored by The Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies. The freshman elementary education major began a jewelry design business eight years ago, Patsy’s Hemp Creations . . . The **University Press** won first place among non-daily college and university newspapers at this year’s Headliners Excellence in Journalism Awards sponsored by the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors . . . More than 400 students interviewed with 65 school districts during the Educator Career Fair in April. Another fair is scheduled Nov. 2 . . . Senior pre-med major **Lindsey Cauthen** completed a highly selective internship this summer at St. Jude’s Hospital in Memphis . . . Fourteen Lamar music students received recognition, including first place, from the Greater Houston Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing this past spring. Scholarship recipient **Phillip Gay** of Beaumont won the first place in the Sophomore Men Division. His voice instructor is **Angela Pickering** . . . Senior music major **Hayley Bakker**, along with **Abdelrahman Mohammed** of Karnoy, Sudan, and members of the local chapter of Amnesty International sponsored a lecture on the history and context of the Sudan conflict. Bakker, an Australian native and member of the tennis team, is president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes . . . Phi Kappa Phi initiated 86 students and one faculty member, **Keith Needham**, instructor of English, into the national honor society, the nation’s oldest and most selective all-discipline society . . . Sigma Theta Tau International inducted 15 nursing students into the nursing honor society . . . **Joy Bernhardt**, a senior management major from Houston, has been named a McGowan Scholar, an award conceived and funded by William G. McGowan, the late founder of MCI Communications, to recognize management students who exhibit extraordinary leadership . . . Junior broadcast journalism major **Jessica Guidry** of Nederland interned for Radio America this summer in Washington, D.C. . . . This



PATRICIA WILLIAMS



JESSICA GUIDRY



CODY PASTORELLA

August, **Cody Pastorella**, a senior communication major from Nederland, became editor of the award-winning University Press after two years as sports editor and a total of three on staff. The editorial team includes **Justin Sanchez**, managing editor, senior, Port Neches; **Jennifer Moore**, features editor, senior, Orange; **Aimee Weldon**, sports editor, senior, Bridge City; and **Nicki Evans**, photo editor, senior, Anahuac . . . The Lamar Student Education Association (LSEA) and advisor **Lula Henry** earned top honors at the annual Texas State Teachers Association Student Programs State Convention. Fifteen members of the Lamar group attended the meeting, placing first or second in five of seven statewide award categories. Henry, associate professor of professional pedagogy, was named Advisor of the Year, and **Shamieka Dotson**, president of LSEA, received the Local Student Leader Award . . . **Chris Richmond**, a mathematics major from Mauriceville, is the first of assistant professor Kumer Das’ students to pass the Society of Actuaries exam. Entry into and advancement within the profession requires passing a series of examinations. Recently, the Society of Actuaries approved two Lamar courses for credit from the society: corporate finance and economics.

Society awards research: pedaling produces clean water

David Cocke, Jack M. Gill Chair in Chemistry and Physics, will receive the Extraction and Processing Technology Award from the Minerals, Metals and Materials Society next February. The award honors his outstanding work in extractive metallurgy and related sciences. His papers, co-authored with Jose Parga, Jesus Valenzuela, Mehmet Kesmez, Jewel Gomes, Hector Moreno and Ventura Valverde on “Arsenic Removal by Electrocoagulation Technology in the Comarca Lagunera Mexico,” were selected by the society from all papers published during the year. The society’s membership includes metallurgical and materials engineers, scientists, researchers, educators and administrators from more than 70 countries on six continents. Cocke’s research into electrocoagulation holds promise for many of the world’s nations facing growing water pollution problems. Using a bicycle-powered water treatment plant and the electrocoagulation process, the researchers produced 10 liters of clean water with only 20 minutes of pedaling. Countries with arsenic-contaminated ground and surface water are particularly interested in the technology. The device can produce five cubic meters of clean water at a cost of one cent, Cocke said.



Humane Society’s Donna Jones and Cindy Meyers with Keith Needham and four-legged friends.

Pins for pups raises funds

The Humane Society of Southeast Texas benefited from more than \$5,000 in funds raised during “Pins for Pups,” a campaign organized by students of the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities and area high schools. They obtained pledges from Lamar faculty and staff and from relatives and friends in a bid to respond to the society’s needs, many resulting from Hurricane Rita losses, said Keith Needham, faculty instructor of English and liaison to the academy.



Aimme Cloutier, an 11th-grade student at Woodville High School, looks into the model of a human ear in the Edna Horn Gay Learning Center at Lamar University. It was one of many hand-on tasks students participated in during the Nightingale Experience this summer.

Future nurses to follow in Nightingale footsteps

The Department of Nursing hosted 40 students from 15 area high schools during its Nightingale Experience in June. The two-day program gives students a first-hand look at the hospital setting and job opportunities from obstetrics to surgery and critical care to emergency. Co-sponsors are Christus St. Elizabeth and Christus St. Mary hospitals. Lamar nursing instructors work closely with area school counselors to identify high school sophomores who are interested in nursing careers.



Math teachers from Beaumont and Port Arthur—all Lamar graduates—were among educators participating in the Lamar conference. Pictured, from left, are Lori Redeau '03; Mohsen Rezaie '89; Mekko Minix, '94; Widad Abedelwahab '03, '05; and Kamaria Armstrong '04

Teachers learn best classroom practices

Teachers from around the state came to campus for professional development in mathematics classroom practices for instructing students whose native languages are not English. The Departments of Mathematics and Professional Pedagogy hosted 16 high school teachers in July as part of the Texas State University System Mathematics for English Language Learners Initiative. Since 2004, Lamar has been implementing a Texas Education Agency grant exceeding \$500,000 to develop best practices for the field.

Conception to completion

by Louise Wood

LU RATCHETS UP SUPPORT FOR SPONSORED PROGRAMS

Every research project – from its birth as an idea through infancy to full flower – needs someone to nurture it toward success. Donald Cotten, administrative dynamo and veteran educator, has stepped into that role to secure the necessity of any research endeavor – money – by helping Lamar’s faculty maneuver proposals, ideas, facilities, relationships and funding sources to give each project its best chance of success.

Cotten will be Lamar’s first executive director of the new Office of Sponsored Programs Administration, leading efforts to boost the university’s research and scholarship programs, which have the potential to increase exponentially as beneficiaries of targeted attention.

Cotten’s career spans almost four decades, beginning in the science classroom and extending to technology, research, strategic planning, leadership and program support. He comes to Lamar with a highly successful track record in competing for external support from private and public sectors, said Stephen Doblin, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

The office Cotten will head is designed to provide “conception-to-completion” assistance for Lamar University faculty members as they develop proposals seeking external support for their research and teaching initiatives, Doblin said. Cotten was selected as a result of a nationwide search.

“The result was an unexpected and tremendously fortuitous opportunity, finding a person with exceptional experience, success and work ethic who will work with our faculty to expand Lamar University’s competitiveness in the research arena much more rapidly than we had anticipated,” Doblin said.

Cotten reports directly to engineering college dean Jack Hopper, who has assumed interim duties in the newly created position of associate provost for research. Hopper will continue half time as dean of the

college, reporting to Doblin in both roles. Meanwhile, Victor Zaloom, professor and chair of the Department of Industrial Engineering, has been named interim associate dean of the College of Engineering, a new position.

“I am confident that under Dr. Hopper’s and Dr. Cotten’s leadership, Lamar University research will reach new levels of accomplishment and productivity,” Doblin said.

Cotten previously served as vice president for research and economic development at the University of Southern Mississippi, which is a Carnegie research-extensive university and where Cotten established the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Doblin said. Under his leadership from 1997 to 2002, external funding increased from \$19 million per year to an estimated \$70 million per year in four years, the greatest increase in the institution’s history.

Cotten also established the Office of Research and Technology Transfer at Arkansas State University, where he served as associate vice chancellor for research and technology transfer and professor of biological sciences. There, he formulated and managed its congressional priorities and networks, resulting in \$11 million in funding to support education and research enterprises.

Since retiring several years ago, Cotten has worked as a consultant and as director of technology transfer for Radiance Technologies in Huntsville, Ala. In that capacity, he worked briefly with Lamar’s College of Engineering to identify potential funding opportunities. In the process, Doblin said, “He became excited about Lamar’s growth and what we are doing in research and economic development.”

Cotten said: “The Lamar family is committed to ensuring the university continues to sustain and strengthen its programs. It is truly exciting to be a part of a team that is implementing an infrastructure that will enhance the ability of the university community to compete for extramural resources.

“Success in the world of competitive funding provides resources that complement instructional efforts, research and service activities which are critical to the university. In many instances people focus on the funds that come through the competitive enterprise,” but, Cotten said, it is just as important to point out the quality of the faculty, staff and/or programs that made those awards possible.

“The university has long and successfully pursued external fund-



ing for the faculty’s teaching and research efforts,” Doblin said, attracting support from a variety of federal, state and private entities, including the National Science Foundation; U.S. Departments of Education, Energy and Defense; Environmental Protection Agency, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Education Agency, Houston Endowment, Meadows Foundation and Educational Advancement Foundation, to name a few.

“As is common in many moderately sized regional universities, our research support infrastructure has been

housed in the College of Graduate Studies,” said Doblin. “As we intensify our efforts and provide more timely and effective support to our faculty, we must take the next, natural step and create a separate office dedicated to those purposes.”

Officially established May 1, the new office is the first step in the development of a Faculty Center for Teaching and Research, which the Lamar Faculty Senate has designed and requested and to which the administration is committed, Doblin said.

Cotten holds a doctor of education from West Virginia University, with curriculum and instruction his major subject area, and master of science and bachelor of science degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi, both with emphases on biology.

He was at Southern Mississippi for 24 years, beginning as a professor of science education. He also taught and chaired the science division at Copiah-Lincoln Junior College, Wesson, Miss., and was an adjunct faculty member at West Virginia University.

Cotten lists his areas of expertise as interpersonal/networking skills; executive leadership and supervision; facilitating external funding growth; financial management of awarded grants; business operations management; grants compliance; strategic and tactical planning, government liaison, strategic partnerships and alliances; managing intellectual property; and curricula development.

Hopper said: “After working with me as a consultant on the structure and staffing for the new organization, Don became excited about being a part of what we all envision as a tremendous opportunity to make significant advances in research and scholarly activity at Lamar University. These efforts will help fulfill the community’s vision of Lamar’s leadership in economic development in Southeast Texas.”

Sharing the spirit of the law



BRIAN SATTLER

by Larry Acker “Students like to know the person they’re listening to is not just grounded in theory, but in practice and application,” says Frank Cavaliere. “They like ‘war stories’, but more than war stories, they like to know that you’ve tested what you’re teaching. And sometimes, you say, ‘The textbook says this, but, in reality, you do this.’ It lets them know that you’re not just parroting what the textbook says.”

Cavaliere, a lawyer and professor of business law at Lamar, has been in the trenches and has practiced what he now teaches. He was awarded the 2006 University Professor Award in a ceremony April 13. The professorship

is awarded for life to recognize a senior faculty member for distinguished teaching and exemplary service to the university. Lamar president James Simmons presented Cavaliere the most prestigious academic award the university can bestow.

Cavaliere was born in New York City and later spent five years in the Navy where he rose to the rank of lieutenant. His last duty station upon returning from serving on an ammunition ship in Vietnam was at the naval reserve station in Orange. He earned a bachelor’s degree in economics at Brooklyn College and earned a second degree in accounting at Lamar before attending the University of Texas Law School in Austin. He practiced law in Dallas and Beaumont for several years prior to joining the Lamar faculty in 1985.

“I am in my 22nd year at Lamar and still feel as though I have the same energy and the same passion for teaching and research as I did when I was just beginning my teaching career,” he said. “Lamar University is a great institution, better than most, because you are rewarded for your efforts.”

The award-winning professor uses all types of media to involve students and make class sessions as interesting and interactive as possible. One tool in which he fervently believes is the computer, through the use of the Internet. He created and maintains a website called *The Web-Wise Lawyer* (www.webwiselawyer.com) and encourages his students to use the Internet for research and study. Even before the advent of the World Wide Web, lawyers had access to proprietary databases filled with legal opinions and specific case studies for research and trial preparation. There are literally thousands of web sites offering free resources for lawyers. He is quick to point out, however, that sometimes you have to open the hard copy of a legal journal to verify your web-based research.

Cavaliere brings a real-world approach to his classes, urging his students to seek the spirit of the law rather than considering law a science. He draws their attention to the ambiguities of the law and gives real-life examples of how the law is interpreted differently from lawyer to lawyer and from one judge to the next.

“When you try a case in court and the judge makes a ruling that is subsequently overruled by two of the three judges at the appellate level, you effectively have two judges who ruled one way and two judges who ruled the opposite way,” he said. “And if the case should go further to the Supreme Court and you get a 5 - 4 ruling, you ultimately have a total of six judges who interpreted the law one way and seven who have a different interpretation.”

In his earliest days of teaching, he was interested in franchise law because it was a relatively new and exciting field. These days, however, he enjoys exploring the fiduciary relationships between corporations and shareholders and the abuses that occur in the corporate environment and in the mutual funds market. Another interest is employment law. Cavaliere created a new course dealing with

“I have the same energy and the same passion for teaching and research as I did when I was just beginning my teaching career.”

— FRANK CAVALIERE

employment law that is required for all students majoring in human resources management. He developed the course to examine the changing work environment as a means of presenting a more up-to-date way to reflect the changing trends in employment in the United States. “The textbooks we were using at the time had a chapter or two about the various forms of discrimination and harassment,” he said. “They dealt mostly with the relationships between unions and management. However, now that unions are no longer as powerful and the majority of employees are not union workers, it became important to shift the focus of the course to the types of workplace activities that were seeing the most litigation, such as the various forms of discrimination and harassment. Curriculum dealing with labor unions and management has now been relegated to a few chapters.”

Cavaliere is a prolific writer and author, having published more than 30 refereed papers and publications and written more than 75 columns titled *Web-Wise Lawyer* for The Practical Lawyer magazine, a column dealing with innovative ways legal professionals can use the Internet in their practices. He has

served on numerous campus committees, including the Faculty Senate, Faculty Salary Equity Committee, University Promotion and Tenure Committee, and serves as a pre-law advisor for students interested in attending law school. He is currently conducting research with several colleagues for publication. Cavaliere believes publishing research is a great asset to the college and the university.

Henry Venta, dean of the College of Business, summarized Cavaliere’s teaching prowess by writing, “Frank Cavaliere is a role model for both his students and faculty across the university. The prestigious University Professor Award is intended to recognize a widely respected senior faculty scholar who first and foremost has an exemplary record of teaching excellence and innovation. Frank’s credentials in these categories are superb. His classes are among the most interactive, stimu-

lating and technologically infused offered at Lamar University. National audiences of legal professionals have now recognized these same qualities.”

Cavaliere and his wife, Manor, have three children, Clayton, a management information

systems graduate of Lamar; Courtney, a graduate of Louisiana Scholars College at Northwestern University, who recently earned a master’s degree in journalism at the University of Texas at Austin; and Carrie, a Lamar psychology graduate now pursuing her master’s degree in psychology here.

Cavaliere offered this insight about his teaching career: “Winning awards and being recognized for your efforts is certainly rewarding; however, submitting your intellectual work product to your peers and to students who are evaluating you as a teacher and a scholar gives you a special feeling of validation.”

This year marked the 35th annual presentation of these prestigious awards. Sixty-four senior faculty members have been honored with the Regents’ or University Professor Award, and 164 faculty members have been awarded the Regents’ or University Merit Award since 1972.



Bahrim, Garcia-Novelli, Fraccastoro

University Merit Award Winners

» **Bogdana Bahrim**
Assistant Professor – Chemistry and Physics

Bahrim is a five-year faculty member, an active scholar, researcher and grant writer. She serves as an undergraduate advisor and member of many departmental, college and university committees.

“Bogdana Bahrim has done a commendable job . . . She is an excellent example of the ‘teacher-scholar’ we all strive to be.”
– Brenda Nichols, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

» **Katherine Fraccastoro**
Assistant Professor – Marketing and Management

A seven-year veteran of the Lamar faculty, Fraccastoro is the faculty advisor to Beta Gamma Sigma business honor society and Lamar’s student chapter of the American Advertising Federation. She has published four articles in refereed journals and co-authored five refereed proceedings papers.

“Fraccastoro . . . epitomizes Lamar University’s commitment to teaching and being a student-friendly university.”
– K.C. Sen, chair, Department of Management and Marketing

» **Eduardo Garcia-Novelli**
Assistant Professor – Music, Theatre and Dance

In his fifth year at Lamar, Garcia-Novelli directs the Lamar A Cappella Choir, Grand Chorus and Cardinal Singers. He was selected as conducting fellow for the 26th Annual Canadian Conducting Symposium and as conductor-in-residence for the National Young People’s Choir of Argentina.

“Garcia-Novelli is a conductor, educator and scholar. His choice of repertoire in performance reveals a thoughtful educator as well as a dedicated professional musician.”
– Harry Bulow, chair of the Department of Music, Theatre & Dance



RICHARD WOOTEN

“Nothing compares to it, the feeling of weightlessness,” said Richard Wooten.

Wooten, a physics major from Dayton, was one of five students from Lamar University to experience zero gravity aboard NASA’s Weightless Wonder in July as part of the space agency’s Reduced Gravity Student Flight Opportunity Program.

The students conceived, designed, built and flew an experiment aboard NASA’s C-9B aircraft. The flights were the sixth time Lamar University has been represented in the competitive national program and the seventh time LU students have gone weightless since 1995, when students flew in a state-level program.

“The whole process – from developing our experiment to doing the paperwork – was very educational,” Wooten said. “Getting everything ready under the pressure to meet deadlines and critique was most valuable. With most experiments you have opportunity to try again and again, but, here, there were just two flights to get it right.”

The reduced-gravity aircraft generally flies 30 parabolic maneuvers over the Gulf of Mexico, providing about 25 seconds of microgravity (0G) as the plane starts to “nose over” the top of the parabola to descend toward Earth.

Chase Williams, an electrical engineering and physics major from Lumberton, worked on the project for about 10 months. “No matter how many times you’ve been told about the experience of microgravity, nothing can prepare you for

that first parabola.”

The students spent the week prior to the flight at Ellington Field south of Houston preparing for the experience by completing altitude chamber and physiological training, attending briefings and taking tours of the facilities.

Flying for Lamar were Wooten; Williams; Michael Hennigan, a physics major from Beaumont; and Jonathan Sterling, a mechanical engineering and physics major from Sour Lake. Linsey Lewis, an education major from Orange, served as alternate for Lamar’s team, but, having prepared for the

flight, was able to fill in on a student team from New Mexico State University.

“I enjoyed every minute,” she said of her time aloft. She’ll have plenty of opportunity to share her experience in the future as she takes her minor in space sciences into the classroom.

Jared Mills, a general studies major from Beaumont, and Erica Williams, a political science major from Winnie, served as ground crew for the team. George Irwin, associate professor of physics, and Jim Jordan, professor and chair of the earth and space sciences department, are faculty advisors for the team.

Wooten and Hennigan’s flight was only the 13th flight where no students experienced the airsickness that has earned the aircraft the ribald nickname the “vomit comet.” As such, their flight was designated a “no kill” in the program’s parlance, earning the students recognition for their intestinal fortitude and a photographic record that will remain on the wall of the program office.

The LU team performed experiments to measure the electromagnetic responses from powders consisting of magnetized and non-magnetized particles subject to alternating current – and direct current – applied fields under reduced gravity. They also investigated the G-force dependence of magnetic resonance-like behavior in the magnetized particle sample, based on measurement of the effect in 1-G conditions.

Irwin said the student team’s goals for the flight had been “very ambitious” as it is difficult to do anything on the aircraft. “Our data is not complete, but it is pretty good data,” Irwin said. “The data seems to confirm our overall hypothesis, but we will be doing more analysis in the weeks ahead.”

“Five of the students are seeking minors in space science and are planning careers in the field after graduation,” Jordan said.

Sterling said the experience gave him a renewed interest in a space-related career. “I had the opportunity to see things most people never see at NASA and experience things a lot of people never experience,” he said.

Hanging from the rafters of the Ellington Field hangar that houses the immaculate C-9B and other NASA aircraft are flags of a number of universities, including the red and white of Lamar. The flag had “gone missing” after Lamar’s last student flight, only to be rediscovered there in July, Jordan said.

More significant “from the standpoint of JSC and NASA are the courses in microgravity we offer,” he said. Those new courses are indications that the vision of education evidenced in the NASA program are seeing results that will inspire scientific exploration and discovery for generations to come, Jordan said.

“We got it done – finished and flown – that’s what matters,” Sterling said. “It was a blast!”



MICHAEL HENNIGAN



CHASE WILLIAMS



LINSEY LEWIS

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NASA REDUCED GRAVITY RESEARCH PROGRAM.

GOING 'ZERO G' FOR SCIENCE

by Brian Sattler

New ASL degree makes a splash

By Larry Acker

Hard-working faculty, a visionary department chair and a pressing need within both the hearing and deaf communities combine to create a rather exclusive cadre – American Sign Language degree candidates.

Lamar University's deaf education programs are nationally recognized and now their collective cap holds an unusual feather—the Bachelor of Arts in American Sign Language—the only such program in the state of Texas and one of only four in the nation.

The new degree accompanies another beneficial change. The Texas State University System Board of Regents has

approved the separation of the Department of Communication Disorders and Deaf Education into two entities to better serve students and the community.

The reorganization has created the Department of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education, which will include deaf education programs and the new American Sign Language (ASL) program. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

approved the creation of the new program to begin with the fall 2006 semester.

The department has been working to secure this degree program for four years to address a critical shortage of well trained deaf education teachers and ASL interpreters throughout the nation. According to the American Sign Language Teachers Association, ASL is one of the most widely used languages in the United

States. Census data collected in 2004 indicates the deaf population in the U.S. to be approximately 10 percent.

"Attaining approval for this program is a real coup for the university," said Russ Schultz, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication. "When you consider Lamar has one of the finest deaf education programs in the country, it is appropriate that we lead in establishing a program that will provide teachers and translators for the deaf community, not only in our region, but also the state and the nation."

Students entering the program who aspire to be teachers or interpreters will learn the advanced subtleties of communicating correctly and will develop a complete competency in ASL. Prospective teachers will also participate in the traditional teacher education program and will be prepared to take the state-mandated licensure examination for teacher certification.

"ASL is a true language of its own and as such has vast complexities and subtle nuances much like any foreign language," said Tony Martin, department chair for Deaf Studies and Deaf Education. "You can become conversant in conversational ASL rather quickly but to really be able to function within the deaf community requires more sophistication and mastery of the language. To be fully competent to teach ASL requires a great deal of training."

The deaf education program has been serving deaf individuals on and off campus in the southeast Texas region since the early '70s. Deaf education students are placed in schools and classrooms to work with deaf education teachers. Texas is one of many states that recognize ASL as a for-

eign language, and many high schools offer ASL as a foreign language option. Martin expects the new ASL program to grow rapidly during the next few semesters.

The second entity created by the reorganization is the Department of Speech and Hearing Science, which will include the master's program in speech-language pathology and the doctoral program in audiology. Both programs recently received continued accreditation through 2012 by the Council on Academic

"It is important for our constituents and prospective students to know the programs are accredited, especially the audiology program because it is one of only four such programs in Texas."

– RUSS A. SCHULTZ

Accreditation (CAA) through the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). The CAA is recognized as a national accrediting body by the U.S. Department of Education.

According to Martin, continued accreditation of the programs is critical for the students and the university because ASHA is the national overseer for all speech-language pathology and audiology programs with regard to curriculum, facilities and faculty. Students graduating from ASHA-accredited programs go through a much briefer licensing process upon completing the program. Lamar University itself is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and when there is a national accrediting body in a particular field of study, SACS strong-

ly recommends programs be accredited by that body as well.

"Reaccreditation of the speech-language pathology and audiology programs acknowledges the quality of these programs," Schultz said. "It is important for our constituents and prospective students to know the programs are accredited, especially the audiology program because it is one of only four such programs in Texas."

Submitting to the accreditation process and a site visit is voluntary, and the requirements are very stringent, focusing on all areas of each program, such as curriculum, student enrollment, student admission standards, student retention, placement and post-graduation tracking. The site visit also reviews areas such as faculty credentials, the types of research in which the faculty is engaged, program facilities, office space, testing resources and faculty

workloads. The CAA audit team is comprised of individuals from CAA-accredited programs and practitioners who are employed full-time in non-academic settings. The team includes seven members who represent the profession of speech-language pathology and six members who represent the profession of audiology.

Many opportunities exist for students to acquire practical experience in a clinical setting in Houston, Lake Charles, San Antonio, Biloxi and Shreveport. Community outreach is also an important component of the curriculum. Lamar students and researchers serve deaf individuals from Beaumont and the surrounding area by performing diagnostic testing and advising patients on hearing aid selection as well as group and individual therapy.





Lovin' every minute of it



ALLEN PEARSON

On report date to Lamar’s football camp in August of 1965, Bill Lucas took one look around and figured he might be in a tad over his head. A freshman from Navasota, Lucas stood 5 feet 8 and weighed 136 pounds.

Lucas’ first question to Bobby Gunn centered on whether Lamar’s athletic trainer could suggest any weight-inducing or strength-enhancing supplements he might take to enable him to catch up—so to speak—with his new and larger teammates.

“Mother Goose, as everyone called Bobby because he took care of all of us like we were his own children, glared back at me with those squinty eyes of his, and his face started getting redder than I could imagine,” said Lucas while recalling that scene from more than 40 years ago. “He told me that if I would just eat like a madman and work like a madman, I would be able to do whatever I wanted to do.”

Gunn shot straight with his advice. Not only did Lucas adopt a madman attitude in excelling in football and track and field at Lamar during the next four years, but he also went on to a successful professional career much more magnified by his diverse talents.

While he spent more than 30 years in law-enforcement, Lucas has also dabbled in such madman roles as rodeo clown and movie stuntman. Today, he is helping devise Texas’ homeland security plans. His favorite hobby these days is one of the state’s more dangerous sports—javelina-hunting.

So, it should be no surprise that the now-59-year-old Lucas spent much of his law-enforcement career staring danger in the face as an undercover narcotics agent, once surviving hours of intense questioning from suspicious drug dealers while a pistol was held to his head. In somewhat less-intense times, he put in stints as a Department of Public Safety patrolman, bodyguard to Texas Govs. Bill Clements and Mark White and chief of police back home in Navasota.

Lucas, who eventually completed his degree in criminal justice at Sam Houston State, got his first stab at undercover work while still a Lamar student in 1970.

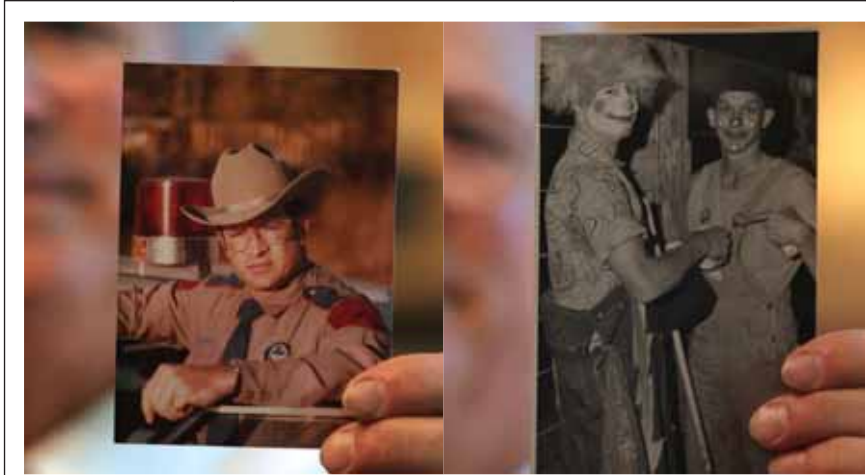
“A football player told me that a man had approached him about working for him in the summertime growing marijuana in the Brazos River bottom,” recalled Lucas. “The man told the player that he could make lots of money.

“I immediately told the player that he could waste his athletic career and maybe even his life by doing something stupid like that. I also called people within the Beaumont Police

Department and informed them.”

Within days, Lucas was re-contacted by the Beaumont Police Department, and the wheels were put into motion to give him speed-up training on becoming an undercover operative.

“Going undercover is nothing like having an eight-hour-a-day job,” said Lucas. “You don’t have weekends off; you can’t go home; you can’t be with your friends; you can’t tell a soul what you’re involved in. Once, I spent almost three days while getting only about three hours of sleep. I had to arrange late-night meetings in remote areas such as oilfields to deliver evidence and give reports to my supervisors, and I had to



make dead certain that I was not being followed.

“When you go undercover pretending to be a user to get closer to your targets, you have to simulate taking drugs, but you can’t let yourself get under the affect of those drugs. One slipup and you could get killed.”

Such a slipup occurred after Lucas got deeply undercover on his first assignment.

“One of the dealers I was getting close to found out from a secretary friend of his that she thought I had some connection to the Beaumont Police Department,” said Lucas. “That dealer and another one had me in a chair for about four or five hours that night, questioning me with a gun stuck to the side of my head.

“I finally convinced them that I was a user and not a cop, and I bought more drugs from them that night. Later, I sent all of them to the penitentiary for a long, long time.”

No one outside of law enforcement, Lucas says, can fathom what it takes and what it’s like to be an undercover agent.

“Being a narcotics agent and going deep, deep undercover are two totally different games,” said Lucas. “People can’t imagine the pressure and the stress. Sometimes it takes months and months down there to get your work done and get enough goods to lead to successful prosecutions and convictions.

“The reward comes in being able to get the bad guys off the streets, but the downside is the toll it takes on an individual. First, you have to be single. No one married would put a family through what I had to go through in those days.

“Your life depends on your ability to act. If you

don’t get it right, you may be dead. It’s not like you’re going to get a second chance to read your lines. You have to stay 10 steps ahead of those guys, or one day you may step out of your house and one of them may blow you down, or you may crank up your car and it’ll blow up on you. You’re looking over your shoulder every waking minute.

“The guys who are serious drug dealers know they’re going to get 15 (years) or 20-to-life if they get caught, so if they get paranoid about me, they won’t think twice about killing me. I may be the only man who can testify against them, and they know dead men can’t tell tales.”

The almost certain possibility of that happening precipitated Lucas’ sudden exit from undercover work.

“When I first went into law enforcement, I did so with the attitude that if I wasn’t in it to help people, I was in the wrong business. That’s still my attitude today.”

— BILL LUCAS

“One day, an informant called the DPS narcotics office in Houston and told them some drug dealers were getting ready to kill Bill Lucas,” said Lucas. “This was before cell-phone times, but as soon as the Houston office could get word to me, my instructions were to get out and get out now.

“That’s exactly what I did.”

Lucas’ forced leave of absence from the TDPS in the mid-1970s led him to Hawaii, where he worked first for an old Navasota friend as an assistant manager at a steak-and-lobster restaurant and later for a delivery service. Eventually, Lucas caught on as a stuntman for Universal Studios, which had a crew in Hawaii to film *The Castaway Cowboy*, starring James Garner, Vera Miles and Robert Culp.

“I was mainly diving off waterfalls and falling off horses,” laughed Lucas. “I remember writing home once telling my parents it was the first time I ever got paid for falling off a horse instead of staying on one.

“The main thing, though, was that I got to see how a Hollywood studio worked from the inside out, and it was a wonderful experience. I also met Spencer Tracy’s personal stuntman — Ervin Neal — and later spent time with him in Los Angeles. The Hollywood scene was beautiful and wonderful, and so, too, were the people. He (Neal) encouraged me to stay involved in movies, but I decided it was about time to get back to Texas.”

Long before Lucas earned a few bucks for falling off horses, he picked up even fewer by fighting off horses and bulls while working as a rodeo clown.

“I started clowning at small rodeos when I was about 15 and continued doing it into my mid-20s,” said Lucas. “It was a way to get a little spending money.”

While making as little as \$30 per performance and never more than \$150, it was also a way for Lucas to get a few broken ribs, to get trampled, to get a broken

sternum, to get slammed into a fence and to get several concussions.

“I loved every minute of it,” grinned Lucas with a mischievous glint in his eyes. “I would’ve done it forever if I could’ve made some decent money doing it. I finally came to the realization, though, that what was a broken-down, 45-year-old rodeo clown going to do for money?”

Not long after Lucas rejoined the DPS as a patrolman, he applied for a position as bodyguard for the Texas governor.

“In my interview, I told them I figured it would be right down my alley since I had fought bulls off people for a living,” said Lucas. “All I would be doing as a bodyguard was the same thing – protecting people.”

In 1979, the DPS reassigned Lucas to a governor’s bodyguard position, and he served in it for 12 years during Clements’ two terms and White’s one.

“I got to know the Clements family and the White family very well, and the entire experience was wonderful,” said Lucas.

“Just like in undercover work, you have to constantly be prepared and be on your toes, but there are also many upsides to the job. I got to meet so many of the nation’s top political leaders. I spent an hour with Henry Kissinger one day while the governor was detained in an important meeting.”

After Ann Richards was inaugurated as Texas governor in 1991, Lucas was reassigned by the DPS to its warrants division in the Houston region, and he eventually returned to his Grimes County home as a patrolman in 1996. A little more than a year later, however, Lucas’ career took another turn when he became Navasota’s chief of police.

“When I met with the townspeople about possibly coming to work for them, I told them the town meant more to me than a stepping stone to a bigger place,” said Lucas. “I loved my hometown, and I wanted to work hard to help make it a better place for people to live.



ALLEN PEARSON

“I loved the police work, but the downside to it was the politics that are a part of it. The saddest part was that I knew more people in the cemeteries than I knew in the town. That’s a part of growing older in a small town that is forever changing.”

In the five years since he left the Navasota Police Department, Lucas has concentrated on helping protect all of the state’s citizens in his position with the National Response and Rescue Training Center for Texas.

“We do everything from firefighting training to disaster training, to disaster-emergency training, to helping communities set up plans for hurricane evacuations, terrorist-oriented attacks or things like that,” said Lucas. “I love it because I get to work with so many intelligent and interesting people throughout the state. At the same time, I get to visit with some of my old law enforcement friends.

“My primary focus is on the law-enforcement measures that will need to be enacted in the event of any of these disasters or emergencies. We are there to help the people of Texas in any way we can.

“When I first went into law enforcement, I did so with the attitude that if I wasn’t in it to help people, I was in the wrong business. That’s still my attitude today.”



▼ Marty and Revon Craig anticipate adding to their art collection at Le Grand Bal.

▲ Judy and James Black enjoy the Dishman Art Museum art auction and reception at Le Grand Bal.

▲ A living statue was the star attraction greeting guests as they entered the Montagne Center for Le Grand Bal, *A Toast to the Arts*. The event captured the rustic elegance of Italy’s Tuscan region.

▼ Le Grand Bal honoree Frank Messina ‘71 makes a grand entrance, accompanied, appropriately, by Big Red and members of the Lamar Spirit Team. Messina was honored for his support of the arts, athletics and the university in general.

▲ James Phelan, left, and Beaumont Police Chief Frank Coffin are among patrons supporting the College of Fine Arts and Communication at Le Grand Bal.

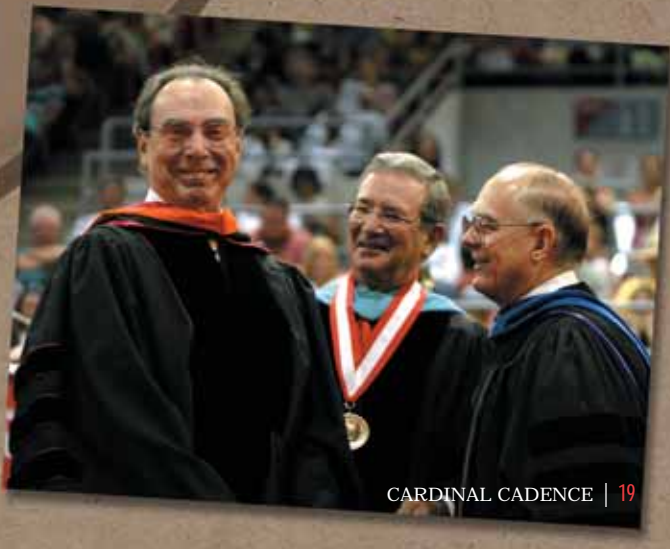


▲ Dr. Tamerla Chavis ‘83, a Beaumont neurosurgeon and distinguished young alumnus, addresses May 2005 graduates as the keynote speaker at commencement May 13.



▲ Richard Price receives congratulations from his daughter, DeLisa (Price) Fuselier ‘00, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, after he was honored in April as one of Lamar’s 2005-2006 retirees.

▲ Dr. Don Lyle -63 proudly receives regalia accompanying the honorary doctor of humane letters he received at spring commencement. President James Simmons and Jack Hopper, dean of engineering, are doing the honors.



HONORABLE PROFESSIONS

by Brian Sattler



BRIAN SATTLER

Land. Oil. Cattle. This trinity of Texas icons has played a major role in the life of Dr. C.R. “Dick” Sherron ’62.

Sherron raises cattle in Jefferson and Duval counties and is corporate medical director for Trinity Industries, a \$2.5 billion diversified industrial company headquartered in Dallas.

He is president of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, a position filled in the past by such Lone Star notables as Gov. Dolph Briscoe Jr.; the King Ranch’s Robert Kleberg Sr., creator of the Santa Gertrudis cattle breed; and King Ranch heir Richard Kleberg Sr., U.S. representative from 1931 to 1944.

Through the years, Sherron has proved he has the mettle to succeed in medicine, the military and management.

He was born in Livingston, but his family moved many times during his youth as his father’s work for Gulf Oil took him to new areas of oilfield development in Texas and Louisiana. During those years, the family’s interest in cattle was never far away, and, as a boy, he was active in caring for them.

Sherron attended Beaumont High School and worked the family’s cattle in Raywood and Batson. At 15, Sherron took money earned as a roughneck to purchase 21 head of crossbred cattle of his own. He managed the herd throughout his high school and college years.

He attended Lamar his freshman year, then transferred to the University of Texas at Austin. When Hurricane Carla made landfall between Port O’Connor and Port Lavaca on Sept. 11, 1961, its

impact on the oil industry meant a lot of recovery work for Sherron’s father. “I knew I would be needed to take care of the cattle, so I came home to Beaumont,” Sherron said.

While home, he assessed the benefits of continuing his schooling at Lamar. “Lamar had a great pre-med program under Dean Edwin Hayes,” he said. “At the time, Lamar had the second-highest acceptance rate into medical school of any state-supported school.” Sherron found he could complete his pre-med program in three years, stay in the cattle business, and live at home where “mom was an awfully good cook.”

After he graduated Lamar, Sherron sold his herd to pay for the ring he slipped on the finger of sweetheart Ella Mays, who attended Lamar from 1960 to 1961. That sale also helped finance his start at UT Medical Branch in Galveston. When he completed his studies and residency, Sherron was a board-certified family practitioner.

Later, Sherron served three years in the Army, including a tour of duty in Vietnam, where he received the Army Commendation Medal and Bronze Star. As a battalion surgeon for 3rd Corps during the Tet Offensive, he treated the U.S. commander in Vietnam, Gen. Creighton Abrams Jr., for a minor burn. “I was just a captain, but he was very gracious,” Sherron said.

After completing his military service, Sherron joined a practice in the Lake Jackson-Freeport area. Three years later, he returned to Beaumont and established his own practice. Sherron bought land and began ranching again, and his Brahman-influenced cattle proved a must for heat, humidity, insect and parasite resistance in Southeast Texas. Through the decades, the family property has been expanded several times, and another ranch was acquired in Duval County.

Sherron became the chief of staff at St. Elizabeth and Beaumont Medical Surgical hospitals. “That was a pretty big honor for a family practitioner,” Sherron said. There, he chaired scores of committees and oversaw many projects, including the creation of the walk-in StatCare clinic. He established Beaumont Family Practice Associates, oversaw a contract with the county for inmate care and created a mobile wellness program that provided exams in plants from Corpus

Christi to New Orleans.

In 1995, the hospital sought to expand services and bought his businesses. Sherron continued as a primary care medical director for five years, helping develop clinics in Jasper, Kirbyville, Winnie, Fannett and Lumberton, and helped forge stronger coordinated care relationships between the clinics and regional hospitals.

Today, Sherron brings his medical acumen to bear on challenges facing the 20,000-employee-strong Trinity Industries.

Active in the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association for more than three decades, and elected a director in 1993, Sherron became president in March 2005.

His contributions to health care extend far beyond the region. A former chairman of the Texas Animal Health Commission, Sherron was a member of the original working group that helped USDA and the beef industry develop firewalls to protect both people and cattle from exposure to bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow disease.

Sherron’s medical background has made him a valued member of the Secretary of Agriculture’s Advisory Committee for Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases and the Tuberculosis Committee of the U.S. Animal Health Association. He is also a former member of the Texas Beef Council and National Cattlemen’s Beef Association and has chaired NCBA’s Human Nutrition Research Committee.

Perpetually a proponent of quality, Sherron blends his knowledge of medical science with industry savvy wrought by years of hard work. He is quick to point out the importance of a high-protein diet to America’s aging population who face the reality of sarcopenia, or loss of muscle mass, as they age. Sherron’s concern is that today’s low-protein, high-carbohydrate diets may exacerbate this natural process, leaving tomorrow’s elderly with less muscle for strength and balance, which leads to increased potential for disability.

What about the concerns of fat? “The industry has developed 29 cuts of beef that have only 1 gram more fat than skinless, tasteless chicken breast, with a lot more protein value,” Sherron said. “I understand the concerns about bad fats, but what we need is balance. If you eat a modified high-protein

“If you rest,
you’ll rust,
and I don’t
want to
get rusty.”

— DICK SHERRON



diet, you can maintain muscle mass, strength and agility much longer than Americans are doing today.”

Today, Sherron helps guide the association as it addresses a myriad of issues affecting Texas’ cattle industry and the state’s farmers and ranchers. Those issues include urban sprawl, private property rights, water rights, transportation challenges, liability, economics, estate taxes, international trade, bioterrorism, animal health and more. While those issues can seem as big as the Texas sky, and political winds can change as suddenly as the weather, Sherron takes a long-term view. “For many of these ranchers, the land is almost a sacrament,” he said. “They want to pass that heritage on to the next generation.”

For Sherron and Ella, future generations mean their four children – Scott Sherron, a cardiologist in Beaumont; Colleen Jackson; Gretchen Bjerke; and Paige Andrews – and 13 grandchildren.

At the time of the interview, Sherron was preparing for a three-week, association-sponsored trip to New Zealand to learn first hand about the nation’s beef industry.

“If you rest, you’ll rust,” Sherron said. “And I don’t want to get rusty.”

“I love Lamar, and I love UT,” Sherron said.

That is why his herd always sports at least one longhorn “so those Aggies can see them when they drive by,” he said.

“I have been extremely blessed in life to have had a quality education, a wonderful family, the honor of serving the most wonderful country in the world and two honorable professions: healing the sick and feeding the hungry.”



World vision

From tsunami-devastated Sri Lanka to an international women's conference in ultra-modern Abu Dhabi, two Lamar students experienced global volunteerism – and the many possibilities to be found in crossing borders of all kinds.

by Louise Wood

Half a world away from home and a gulf away from war, they rode camels, feasted at an exotic desert extravaganza and heard from sheikhs and scientists, ambassadors and economists, heads of state and human rights advocates.

Most important, they experienced the shattering of myths and long-held perceptions.

Their destination was Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates – 8,210 miles, an ocean and several time zones from Beaumont.

Ali Girard of Hamshire, who graduated summa cum laude in May 2006 with degrees in biology and psychology, and Stephanie Kelsey of Angleton, who will earn her nursing degree this December, joined 1,200 delegates to the second international Conference on Women as Global Leaders. Nicki Michalski, assistant professor of communication, accompanied them.

Instead of spending their spring break at the mall, movies or basking in the sun, they basked in a different sort of enlightenment among a handful of Texas college students gaining acceptance to the

highly selective conference. “I was reminded how wrong stereotypes about different cultures can be,” Kelsey said.

At the invitation of conference organizers, Girard and Kelsey participated in a panel, “Learning Across Borders: International Service Learning,” presenting a paper on their experiences in summer 2005 as volunteers in Sri Lanka in the aftermath of that country's devastating tsunami. “Global Volunteerism in Sri Lanka: Educating Today's Students and Tomorrow's Leaders” was their topic.

“It was a very, very big honor,” Girard said. “This really put Lamar on the map.”

“One of the most important things is that with the situation in Iraq and, before that, in Iran and Lebanon, when we think Middle East, we think war. We think of bombs going off. We think devastation,” Michalski said. “Abu Dhabi – and the United Arab Emirates – is growing. It's completely modern. It's beautiful. Someone told me 22 percent of the construction cranes in the world are in the UAE because they have that much construction going on. I felt completely safe.”

Leaders from around the world addressed the assembly. Heading



Stephanie Kelsey, Ali Girard



Nicki Michalski, left with students

the list was Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, minister of higher education and scientific research and president of Zayed University, which hosted the conference. Other speakers included Queen Rania Al-Abdullah, queen of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; Mary Robinson, former United Nations high commissioner for human rights; Cherie Booth, noted British attorney and human rights advocate and wife of Prime Minister Tony Blair; Sheikhha Lubna Al Qassima, UAE minister of economy; Rola Dashti, chairperson of the Kuwait Economic Society and a leader for women's suffrage; Asha Magi Elmi of Somalia, founder of Save Somali Women and Children; Pia Beckmann, lord mayor of Wurzburg, Germany; and Ambassador Barbara Bodine (ret.),

senior fellow, The Belfer Center of Science and International Affairs, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. From close to home, the group heard from Texan Linda Ellerbee, award-winning journalist and television producer.

Delegates hailed from 87 countries, including Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cameroon, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, India, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Malaysia, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leon, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden and the United Kingdom, as well as the United States. Although the conference was international and the primary language of the UAE is Arabic, English was the official language of the event.

From Texas, only Lamar, Baylor and St. Edward's universities were represented. The roster included American universities from coast to coast.

According to its president, Zayed University hosted the conference “as an expression of global vision, as well as a reflection of its position as a regional leader in the education and training of women . . . the university aims at building bridges that unite women students from around the world for a noteworthy cause.”

The trip took 16 hours – Beaumont to Houston to Miami to London to the destination, situated between Saudia Arabia and

Oman and across the Persian Gulf from Iraq and Iran.

Arriving a day before the conference officially began, Michalski and the students had time for a half-day safari, including a camel ride and an activity known as “dune bashing” in which they glided through the desert dunes on boards. They tried on full traditional garb for the safari, but opted for western dress – three-quarter to full-length sleeves and either slacks or a full-length skirt were a must.

At the desert extravaganza, they dined on exotic fare, which was to be a preview of culinary experiences to come: hummus every day, plus tabouli and lots of lamb, rice and vegetables. Girard said she missed the fresh fruit when she got home.

Michalski recalls: “The first day we got there, Ali and Stephanie looked around and went, ‘Wow, this is so different from Sri Lanka,’ where they were dealing with devastation and poverty and death. And now they're staying in this gorgeous hotel – the conference was in the Emirates Palace. You walk in and there's this huge dome, marble tile and a mosaic floor. There's gold everywhere. They were thinking, ‘How can the world have such extremes?’ It brought home to you how different things can be.”

Other aspects of the city also caught the students' attention.

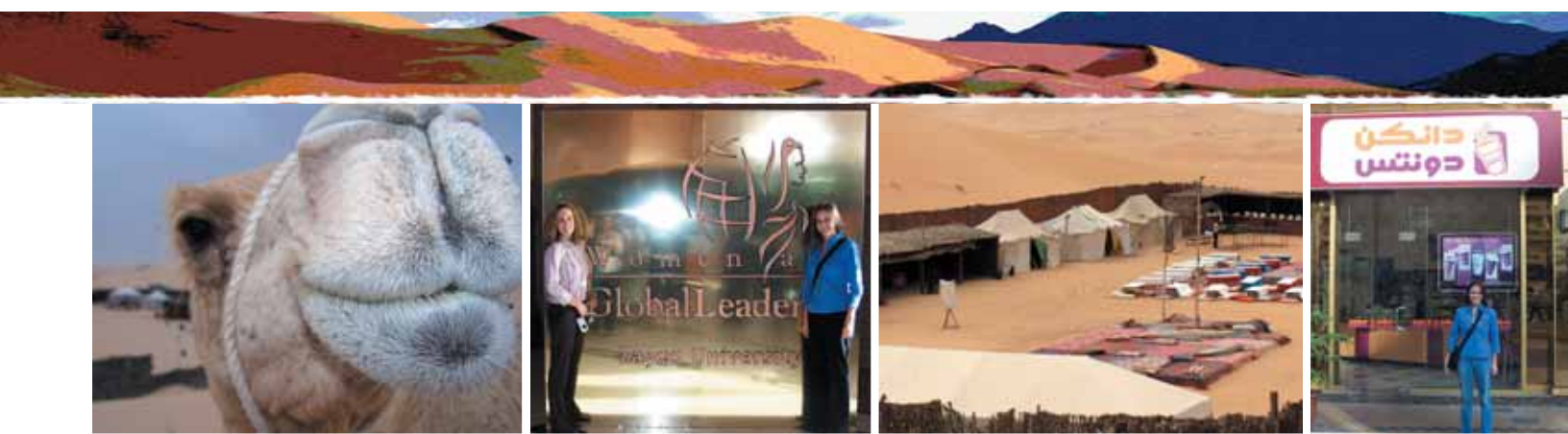
“I didn't think it would be so modern. There is a Baskin-Robbins a Dunkin' Donuts and a KFC. I was not expecting that at all. And the people were very friendly, very eager to help you,” Girard said. “In talking to people who live there, one of the things they're most proud of is that they have so many immigrants from so many different nations – and they live in peace.

“I think my favorite thing about the conference was all the different people I met,” she said. “We met a group of girls who lived in Thailand but went to school in Japan, and they also did tsunami volunteer work.”

Kelsey echoed that sentiment: “I really enjoyed having the opportunity to meet with students from all over the world and exchange ideas and stories.”

One day, Girard and Kelsey got on the elevator in their hotel, and some women from Australia asked where they were from. “We

PHOTOS COURTESY OF STEPHANIE KELSEY, NICKI MICHALSKI AND ALI GIRARD



told them Lamar University,” Girard said. “A man standing in the back of the elevator said, ‘Lamar!’ It turned out he was from Beaumont and working in Abu Dhabi. It puts things in perspective about how small the world is.”

Said Kelsey: “I grew up watching Nick News (on Nickelodeon), so I was excited to have the opportunity to hear an address by Linda Ellerbee. During Cherie Booth’s speech at lunch, Ellerbee ran up to me and asked me how to find the restroom. She’s from Houston and seems to know a Texan when she sees one.”

The trip changed their perception of Arabic women, the three agreed. On a culture walk, Girard and Michalski strolled alongside Islamic women. “They are very outspoken,” Girard said. “Because of the way they dress, our media often portrays them as being rather reserved, which is certainly not the case. They will tell you exactly how they feel. One of the most important things they wanted us to do was return to our country with the message: ‘Our men don’t make us do this. We are our own people.’”

“Before traveling to the Middle East, I had always felt that the Muslim veil (Hijab) was a symbol of women’s oppression and servitude,” Kelsey said. “After speaking with women from many different Muslim countries, I realized that wearing the veil is the women’s choice – they reveal themselves only to special people in their lives, like their husbands and children.”

“The big thing I came away with is that these women are vibrant, smart. They love life,” Michalski said. “They see the veiling as the choice they make. In fact, someone made the comment that the rest of the world believes American women are oppressed by men because of the over-sexualization in our society.”

The path to Abu Dhabi began when Girard and Kelsey met during the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life, in which they participated on the Honors Student Association team. They found they had mutual interests, which led them to the international volunteer projects as well as leadership roles in the association.

“Stephanie and I had always wanted to go overseas as volunteers, and we were looking through the Internet one day and came across the Global Crossroads website,” Girard said. “The tsunami had just happened, so we chose Sri Lanka where we did reconstruction on weekends, taught English at a school in the rural area of the jungle and worked in an orphanage.”

Donna Birdwell, director of the University Honors Program and professor of anthropology, was instrumental in the students’ journeys.

“Lamar made Sri Lanka possible, and it made this (conference) possible, and we are very grateful,” Girard said.

“I had always wanted to volunteer abroad, but never believed I

could until I was encouraged by Dr. Birdwell,” said Kelsey. “The Honors Program provided the inspiration, guidance and financial support for our trips to Sri Lanka and Abu Dhabi. Dr. Birdwell has been with us every step of the way.”

Kevin Dodson, assistant director of the honors program, brought the conference to the students’ attention. “We sat down to see how we could formulate a paper from our experience in Sri Lanka,” Girard said. “We decided to make it an inspiration to other students, for them to take back to their schools and show people you can volunteer on a global scale.”

Birdwell vowed: “We are going to get this done.” And that she did, with support from Stephen Doblin, provost and vice president for academic affairs; Brenda Nichols, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; and Russ Schultz, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication.

“Our study examined the possibilities available for undergraduate students to participate in service programs around the globe,” Kelsey said. “In Sri Lanka, we made every effort to increase the visibility of women as leaders. Our goal was to empower and encourage women, and others, revealing the multiple possibilities of crossing borders – of all sorts – and encountering other cultures. While there, we witnessed genuine devastation but embraced a new culture.”

After graduating in December, Kelsey will pursue her doctorate in nursing practice and a career as a family nurse practitioner. “I would also like to write for a health magazine, do legal consulting, teach at the college level and write children’s health and wellness books,” she said.

Inspired by her mother, a registered nurse, and her grandmother, who was a certified nurses’ assistant, Girard attends University of Texas Medical School in Houston. Her dream is to become a pediatrician and open a small family practice “so I can watch my patients grow up.” She would also like to travel overseas and become involved in Doctors Without Borders.

Michalski said she felt a sense of pride in the students’ representation at the conference.

“They did a great job,” she said. “I, of course, went to their panel. On the way home – and this made me so happy on their behalf – someone on the plane had been to the conference, recognized them and came over and told them how much she enjoyed their presentation.

“The conference was incredible,” Michalski said. “Being with all these amazing women was an empowering experience, but it also made you think. If we can stop looking at all the differences and look at what we have in common, just think what we could accomplish.”

class notes

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 cynthia.hicks@lamar.edu

or call (409) 880-8421.

50s

Harley M. Courtney '55, B.B.A. accounting, lives in Arlington with his wife, Anne. He is retired and travels full time.

Dr. Bruns A. Watts Jr. '57, B.S. biology, is a retired anesthesiologist and lives in Arlington with his wife, Claudette.

Donald Eastham '59, B.S. chemical engineering, retired in 1999 as a DuPont Engineering Fellow after working for Neches Butane for three years and DuPont for 36 years. He had assignments in research and development, process design, and management and earned four patents, making several key technical developments in DuPont titanium pigments. He and his wife, Amy, live in Victoria.

Frankie (Compton) Schexnayder '59, B.S. home economics, was a one-act play director at Sabine Pass High School for more than 20 years, bringing the drama team to state many times during those years. The school's auditorium was recently named in her honor after it was destroyed in Hurricane Rita and rebuilt on ABC's "Extreme Home Makeover." She lives in Spring.

60s

James W. Hulme '60, B.A. English, is a department chair in the Pasadena school district. He lives there with his wife, Bernadette. They have three children and six grandchildren.

Donald Hopkins '61, B.B.A. accounting, retired after 45 years as founder and president of Hopkins, Alexander & Co. Inc., an accounting firm in Houston, where he and his wife, Barbara, live.

Wesley C. Spivey '62, B.B.A. management, is retired from Huntsman and lives in Port Neches with his wife, **Sandra (Irby)** '63, B.A. education, who taught in the Port Neches school district and is now retired.

James E. Mullally '63, B.S. commercial arts, recently moved to Montgomery, Texas, after 18 years in New Jersey. He lives there with his wife, **Valerie (LeMaire)** '63, B.S. elementary education.

George M. Boyum '65, B.B.A. marketing, is executive vice president of American PromoPrint in Richmond. He lives there with his wife, Judy LaLonde, who is president of the company.

Samuel D. Catalina '65, B.B.A. marketing, is retired and lives in Redondo Beach, Calif., with his wife, Yvonne.

Gerald W. Jordan '65, B.S. industrial engineering, and his wife, **Gay (Cooksey)** '66, B.A. English, live in Blountville, Tenn.

Jerry W. Bloomfield '67, B.S. sociology, is chaplain at Lighted Pathways Hospice and lives in Waxahachie with his wife, JoAnne.

Don Dutton '68, B.S. government, serves on the board of bar commissioners for the State Bar of New Mexico. He earned his law degree from the University of Houston and graduated from the John F. Kennedy School's Senior Executive Fellows Program at Harvard University. He and his wife, Ladonnah, live in Ruidoso.

Charles B. Carroll '69, B.S. biology, '71, M.Ed. counseling and develop-

ment, is a retired teacher and lives in Beaumont with his wife, Catherine.

Leslie E. McMahan '69, B.S. civil engineering, retired from the Port Arthur Public Works Department in 2004 after 35 years of service. He now works in the Public Works Department in Alamo Heights, but maintains his home in Port Arthur, where he lives with his wife, Linda.

Professor of music **Benjamin Woods** '69, B.S. music-instrumental, has been selected the J. Lorin Mason Distinguished Professor for 2005-06 at Francis Marion University in recognition of his teaching, professional service and scholarly activities. He and his wife, Sherry, live in Florence, S.C. The couple has two children, Christopher and Adrienne.

70s

Ronald R. Beaumont '70, B.S. electrical engineering, earned his master's degree in electrical engineering from Stanford University in 1973. He is CEO of Hypercube LLC in Lancaster and lives in Grandview with his wife, Linda, who is president of Beaumont Ranch LLC.

Larry L. Mills '70, B.B.A. accounting, is vice president of Funchess, Mills, White & Co. accounting firm in Beaumont, where he lives with his wife, Mary Ann.

Maureen E. Harrop '71, B.S. government, is president of the training company Claridis Inc., which she opened in 1997 after spending more than 15 years teaching college courses on customer service, leadership, supervision and human resource management. Her career in hospitality included management positions in human resources and training. She has published several articles on the topic of the non-English-speaking work force and lives in Tempe, Ariz.

David R. Jaschke '71, A.A.S. data processing, is a programmer analyst at FiServ Financial Systems in Houston. He lives there with his wife, Loretta, an administrative assistant at Air Liquide.

Harry K. Rupp III '71, B.S. sociology, is retired from International Chemical, where he was president and CEO. He lives at his farm in Romayor with his wife, **Betty (Cromer)** '68, home economics.

Thomas Gimble '72, B.B.A. accounting, earned his M.B.A. from the University of Texas at San Antonio, served in the Army and was awarded a Purple Heart for wounds suffered in the Vietnam War. He joined the Defense Audit Service in 1976 and has held a variety of jobs in the inspector general's office. He is currently principal deputy inspector general for the Department of Defense and lives in Virginia, with his wife, Betty.

Robert L. Hillin '72, B.S. environmental science, is retired and lives in Buna with his wife, Melinda.

Michel K. Koester '72, B.S. elementary education, is an administrative assistant at the Washington Group International Inc. in Houston, where he lives.

Darrell W. Bush '73, A.A.S. police science, is chief of police for the Nederland Police Department. He lives in Nederland with his wife, Sheila.

Thomas H. Dearing '73, B.S. industrial engineering, '78, M.E. engineering, earned his M.B.A. from LeTourneau University in 1998. He is president of Thermal Designs Inc. in Houston and lives in Baytown with his wife, **Ramona (Brunet)** '78, B.B.A. office administration. She teaches in the Barbers Hill school district in Mount Belvieu.

Charlie Auvermann '74, B.S. oceanographic technology, is the editor and publisher of the Dawson Community News and the economic development director for Dawson County. He lives there with his wife, Bindy.

Janet (Kirkland) Born '74, B.S. home economics, is a pre-school teacher and office manager for St. Paul Lutheran Church in Edna. She lives in Vanderbilt with her husband, Cliff, who owns Precision Machine Works.



President James Simmons and First Lady Susan Simmons '68 visit with Bill '62 and Antoinette Childs at the couple's ranch near Kerrville this past summer.

ANNOUNCING

Homecoming 2007



Mark your calendars for Homecoming 2007. The events planned promise an unusually special homecoming weekend for alumni and reunion groups who revisit campus – a campus much changed as a result of an energetic rebuilding and renovating campaign. So make plans now to come back, tour old haunts – and what may become new favorites – reconnect with classmates and reminisce.



Reunions

- Class of 1957
- Choral Groups and Bands Alumni (*Marching Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Pep Band, Symphonic Band, Cardinal Singers, A Cappella Choir, Grand Choir, Concert Choir*)
- Sigma Phi Epsilon Alumni

Homecoming Events

- Open House
- Campus and Facility Tours
- Lunch on the Quad
- Cardinals' final home basketball game of the season
- Lamar Classic Baseball Tournament
- and much, much more

Reuniting groups will also have individual group events, including: Class of 1957 Lunch with the President Choral and Bands Alumni Reception

Watch the next issue of Cadence and the alumni website for a schedule of events and more details.

(409) 880-8921
(800) 298-4839
www.lamar.edu/alumni

Louisa Flores '74, B.B.A. accounting, is director of accounting for Hunting Energy Services in Houston, where she lives.

Jo Anne (Sellers) Huber '74, B.A. history, '80, M.A. history, is the first Texan to lead the National Association of Academic Advising as the organization's president. She is senior academic advisor for the Department of Government at University of Texas-

Austin. She and her husband, Stephen '76, B.B.A. general business, live in Austin.

David J. Newsum '74, B.B.A. general business, is a purchasing agent at MeadWestvaco in Silsbee and lives in Evadale.

Bill Pennington '74, B.B.A. accounting, is executive vice president and chief financial officer of Teton Energy

Corp., an independent Rocky Mountain oil and natural gas producer. From 1994 to 2004, he was president, chief financial officer and director of Inland Resources Inc. in Denver. He and his wife, Catherine, live in Littleton, Colo.

Richard Rafes '74, B.S. political science, earned his doctorate from North Texas University and his law degree from the University of Houston. After acting as senior vice president for administration at the University of North Texas in Denton, he was recently named president of East Central University. He lives in Ada, Okla., with his wife, Tommye.

Mueen Ud-Din Dar '75, M.B.A. business administration, is chief of industries for the government of Pakistan, and lives in Bristow, Va.

The Liberty Vindicator has appointed 30-year journalism veteran Jerry Gaulding '76, B.S. communication, managing editor. He has edited daily newspapers in Orange and in Sulphur and Minden, La., and weeklies in Orange and Lumberton.

David B. LeBlanc '76, B.B.A. accounting, is chairman of Integra Hospital Management in Plano. He lives there with his wife, Hedy (Mayer) '74, B.B.A. accounting, who also works for the company.

Joseph S. Sloan '77, B.B.A. marketing, works in real estate appraisals and lives in Spring with his wife, Joan (Delafosse) '77, B.S. elementary education. She is program coordinator of health occupations at Montgomery College.

Timothy A. Goebel '78, B.S. chemical engineering, is a senior staff engineer for Citgo Petroleum Corp. in Lake Charles, La. He lives in Nederland with his wife, Rose.

Deborah (Musgrove) Pickett '78, B.S. elementary education, is a teacher for Windham school district and lives in Liberty with her husband, Benjamin. In 2001, Region 4 chose her as Liberty school district's Elementary Teacher of the Year, and she received the same award in 2006 for her work in the Hightower Unit for the Windham school district and Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Rhonda L. Shannon '78, B.S. medical technology, earned her medical degree from the University of Houston and was recently elected chief of staff of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston. She lives there with her husband, Ted '79, B.B.A. management, who is manager of Houston Industries.

Robert L. Wright Jr. '78, B.S. mass communication, is an adult education specialist at North Harris College in Houston. He lives in Baytown with his wife, Cynthia.

Bruce W. Busmire '79, B.B.A. accounting, earned his M.B.A. from Northwest University in 1990 and was recently named vice president and chief accounting officer for Anadarko Petroleum Corp. in Spring. He lives in Houston with his wife, Patty.

80s

Thomas A. Fain Jr. '80, B.S. music, is director of bands in the Garland school district and lives in Plano with his wife, Anita, a computer programmer for Southwest Airlines in Dallas.

Sandra (Mearlon) Geter '81, B.S. criminal justice, is a surveyor at the Department of Aging and Disability Services in Beaumont, where she lives.

Don Hollier '81, B.B.A. finance, is a self-employed auditor and lives in Sugar Land with his wife, Mary.

Herbert T. Mulder '81, B.S. electrical engineering, is a reliability engineer for Lyondell Chemical Co. in La Porte. He lives in Richmond with his wife, Teresa.

Brian R. Allison '82, B.S. chemical engineering, is business project manager for Cabot Corp. in Koenigstein, Germany. He lives there with his wife, Barbara (Kluttz) '83, B.S. education.

Mary (Bleuel) Jones '82, B.B.A. accounting, is a C.P.A. with Laurence Blackburn Meek Maxey in Beaumont, where she also lives. She is president of the Southeast Texas Chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Rosalynde (Daroe) Carter '83, B.S. secondary education, '87, M.Ed. counseling and development, is a

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retired counselor and lives at Crystal Beach with her husband, Tom '55, B.S. chemistry, who is retired from Temple Inland in Orange.

Jan M. O'Daniell '83, B.S. secondary education, earned her master's degree in Christian education from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1998. She is owner of GlassSurvivor and lives in La Porte with her husband, Michael, a civil engineer for Dashiell Corp. in Houston.

Terry L. Williams '83, B.B.A. management, earned his M.B.A. in 1987 and is district sales manager for Daimler Chrysler Corp. He lives in Houston with his wife, Dorothy.

Thomas M. Eldred '84, B.S. industrial engineering, is an information technology chief for the Texas Air National Guard and lives in Port Neches.

Howard W. Roberson '84, A.A.S. diesel mechanics, is a telecommunications technician for New Edge Networks in Vancouver, Wash., and lives in La Center, Wash.

Dennis D. Williams '84, B.S. kinesiology, earned his master's degree from Stephen F. Austin State University and was recently named principal of Nacogdoches High School. He lives in Kilgore with his wife, Ruth.

Richelle E. Brewster '85, A.A.S. mid-management, lives in Phoenix, Ariz., where she works for Amerprise, an American Express affiliate.

Westwood school district in Palestine has appointed Sherry (Kirkendall) Griffin '85, B.B.A. general business-law, superintendent. She earned a master's degree from Stephen F. Austin State University in 1993 and her doctorate from Texas A&M University in 2000, both in educational administration, and has been assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction in Livingston. She and her husband, Ben, who is city manager for Tomball, have one son, Tucker.

Donna J. Gunter '85, B.S. communication disorders, became a certified tele-class teacher in 2000 and owns Online Business Coaching Co. She was named a Young Careerist in 1996 by Northern Berkshire Business and Professional Women and lives in Orange.

The Pride of the Hornets Band of Athens High School, will march under the direction of Rusty Lay '85, B.M. music education, '88, M.M.E. music education, former director of bands for Jasper school district. Under his direction, the JHS band was a four-year winner of the UIL AAA Sweepstakes Award for marching and sight reading. He and his wife, Susan (Loggins) '84, certif. office administration, live in Athens.

Lucie (Aldridge) Fralicks '86, B.S. music, '87, B.A. psychology, is an advertising account manager for the Prism Media Group in Carrollton. She lives in Lantana with her husband, Kevin, who is director of athletic development for the University of North Texas.

William "Bill" Hurt '86, B.S. physics, earned his master's degree in electro-optics from the University of Houston in 1990 and is the safety and health director for Flint Hills Resources LP in Corpus Christi. He lives there with his wife, Jerri (Strickland) '86, B.S. home economics.

Lance W. Kocherhans '86, B.S. biology, is key account executive of Abbott Diagnostics in South Jordan, Utah, where he lives with his wife, Jill.

Ann C. Witte '86, B.M. piano performance, earned her law degree from the University of Houston and is an attorney at Davis Oretsky P.C. in Houston. She lives there with her husband, Michael, who works for Brocade.

Donna (Peterson) Bruney '87, B.B.A. marketing, is an administrative assistant at Absolute in Beaumont and lives in Nederland.

Bridge City State Bank has named Scott Hale '87, B.B.A. general business-advertising, senior vice president. He and his wife, Kim, live in Fannett with their two children.

Virginia (Spears) Haynes '87, B.S. elementary education, is a retired teacher for Woodville school district and earned her master's degree in Christian education and certificate of leadership in women's ministry from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. She lives in Woodville and is teaching seminary extension classes and writing for the Tyler County Booster.

Karen R. Land '87, B.S. criminal justice, is a child support officer for the Office of the Attorney General in Fort Worth, where she lives.

Steven D. Norman '87, B.B.A. general business, is a contract manager for the Texas Workforce Commission in Austin, where he lives.

Gregory Pier '87, B.S. computer science, earned his master's degree in public administration at Texas Southern University in 2000. He is assistant director of court operations for the city of Houston Municipal Courts. He has been married for 10 years, has two daughters and lives in Pearland.

Deborah (Olive) Voyles '87, B.B.A. marketing, is president of Voyles Enterprises in Sugar Land and lives in Richmond with her husband, Leonard.

James D. Cunningham '88, B.S. computer science, works for Hewlett Packard and lives in Cypress with his wife, Jo (Loftin) '85, B.S. elementary education. She works for Crest Community School.

Patricia (Charles) Fontenot '88, B.S. psychology, is a client services manager for the South East Texas Regional Planning Commission in Beaumont and lives in Port Arthur.

Chris Gonzales '88, A.A.S. mid-management, is safety supervisor for Lucite International. The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission recently nominated him for the Don Kelly Award, recognizing him for his community service as fire chief of Jefferson County Emergency Services District No. 1. He and his wife, Cindy (Stehle) '98, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, live in Beaumont.

Lori (Peschel) Likins '88, B.B.A. marketing, is a contract administrator for Mimix Broadband in Houston and lives there with her husband, Ralph '86, A.A.S. business data processing. He is operations manager for Linens-N-Things.

Betty L. McCall '88, B.S. sociology, earned her Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University in 2004 and is assistant professor of sociology at Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pa., where

WHITE STAR LINE





Sigma Nu 50th Anniversary 2007
Kollege Klub encouraged to attend

Friday April 20
Evening Social
Location TBD

Saturday April 21
Golf Tournament
Location TBD

Banquet and White Star Formal
Black tie optional
Beaumont Plaza Holiday Inn

Sunday April 22
Brunch

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IN AN UPCOMING MAILING

Contact
Chris Graham '90
(409) 757-3533 or
cwg454@hotmail.com

she lives. She recently won the Junior Faculty Teaching Award for excellence in teaching.

Naresha S. Perry '88, B.S. criminal justice, is CEO, publisher and author at Better Day Publishing LLC in Houston, where she lives.

Executive director of the Capland Center, a speech, language and hearing facility, for 11 years, **Carol (Patteson) Hebert '89**, B.S. communication disorders, '90, M.S. audiology/speech-language pathology, is now executive director of the South County branch of the United Way. She also has been an adjunct speech pathology instructor for Lamar. She and her husband, **Michael '95**, B.B.A. management information systems, '06, M.B.A., who works for Dow Jones & Co., live in Nederland.

Andrew M. Hopkins '89, B.B.A. accounting, is a certified public accountant for England & Co. in Houston, where he lives.

Molly (Latham) Lee '89, B.S. nursing, earned her master's degree from the University of South Alabama in 1994

and is a nurse practitioner for Banner Occupational Health in Phoenix, Ariz. She lives there with her husband, Charles, a senior developer for AVNET.

Dariel R. Newman '89, B.S. nursing, earned his master of divinity degree from Southern Methodist University in 2003 and is an associate pastor at the First United Methodist Church in Pearland. He lives there with his wife, **Jo Lynn (Blanchard) '86**, B.S. elementary education, who is a teacher for the Pearland school district.

90s

Paul Blakelock '90, B.S. economics, recently completed his doctorate in political science at the University of Houston and teaches political science at Kingwood College and the University of Houston. He lives in Kingwood with his wife, **Sherry (Brown) '89**, B.B.A. office administration.

Anthony B. Holmes '91, B.B.A. finance, was recently promoted to human resources manager for Stewart & Stevenson LLC in Houston. He lives

in Fresno with his wife, Tawanna; daughter, Peyton; and son, Dante'.

Deborah (English) Cabell '91, B.F.A. studio art, is owner of Cabell Publishing in Beaumont and lives there with her husband, David, who owns Cabell Real Estate.

Ford Park entertainment complex has named **Charlie Gardner '91**, B.G.S. liberal arts, as its general manager. He served as event services director from December 2002 until June 2005 when he became general manager of Five Flags Center in Dubuque, Iowa. He lives in Beaumont.

Pierre Olivier '91, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is the service manager at Star Graphics in Beaumont and lives in Warren.

Raymond E. Smith '91, M.E.M. engineering management, is a former adjunct instructor of industrial engineering at Lamar and is business unit manager for energy products with the Ameriforge Group in Houston. He and his wife, Sarah, have four daughters and live in Pearland.

Dimitar Rangelov '92, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a mechanical engineer for Ford Motor Co. in Sterling Heights, Mich. He lives in Macomb with his wife, Lisa.

Mark A. Bankston '93, B.A. English, earned his law degree from South Texas College of Law in 1997. He is senior attorney at Johnson, DeLuca, Kennedy & Kurisky in Houston and lives in Sugar Land.

Darice (Jackson) Farris '93, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is director of human resources at the Paramount EMS Consulting Group and lives in Lumberton with her husband, John.

Paul Gautier '93, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is vice president of investment banking at RiverStone Wealth Management in Austin. He lives there with his wife, Carol, a curriculum specialist for Round Rock school district.

Debra (Hamilton) King '93, B.B.A. general business, is an administrator at Spring Creek Nursing and Rehabilitation in Beaumont, where she lives.

Anita L. Riddle '93, M.E.M. engineering management, is the U.S. manu-

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facturing procurement manager for ExxonMobil in Fairfax, Va. She lives there with her husband, Steven, who also works for ExxonMobil, and their daughters, Sierra and Christine.

Reah (Wilson) Trest '93, B.B.A. marketing, is the event director for the Coronado Club in Houston and lives in Coldspring with her husband, Greg.

Scottie D. Casey '94, B.B.A. marketing, is a federal training liaison for the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services in Austin, where he lives.

Stratford (Gutmann) Fallon '94, B.S. communication disorders, '97, M.S. audiology, earned her doctorate in audiology in 2006 and is a practicing audiologist. She lives in Charlotte, N.C., with her husband, **Andrew '97**, M.S. audiology, who is also an audiologist.

Glenda (Ardoin) Gims '94, B.B.A. personnel administration, is director of human resources for North Forest school district in Houston. She lives there with her husband, **Norther '91**, B.B.A. general business-law, '94, B.B.A. finance, who is operations manager for First Investors.

James E. McMillan '94, B.B.A. accounting, is a controller for Doty and Associates in Norcross, Ga., and lives in Atlanta with his wife, Tammy.

Benard L. Wright '94, B.S. political science, is a licensed realtor and loan consultant for Wright Real Estate Services in Houston. He lives there with his wife, Paula, who works for Baylor College of Medicine.

Rochelle (Bottley) Anderson '95, B.S. criminal justice, lives in Charlotte, N.C., with her husband, Keith.

Timothy Allen Gasaway '95, B.S. political science, earned his law degree from the Texas Tech School of Law in 1999 and has his own firm, the Law Office of Timothy A. Gasaway, in Houston, where he lives.

Amy M. Sherman '95, B.S. social work, earned her master of social work degree from the University of Houston and worked for eight years with the social work department at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. She was accepted to King's College in London to study

medical ethics and law, and recently completed her degree. She now works for Macmillan Cancer Support in London.

Tatia (Trusty) Landry '96, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is assistant principal at Vincent Middle School in the Beaumont school district, where she lives.

Jennifer (Dobbs) Manriquez '96, B.B.A. management, is chief financial officer for Southern Avionics Co. and is chapter advisor for the LU chapter of Alpha Delta Pi. She and her husband, Patrick, have two sons, Jackson and Parker, and live in Beaumont.

Tonya R. Andris '97, B.S. sociology, is desk editor for the Huntsville Item and lives in Conroe.

Frank Domino '97, B.S. environmental science, earned his law degree from South Texas College of Law and is an attorney with MehaffyWeber PC in Beaumont. His wife, **Tamara (Glaze) Domino '98**, B.S. family and consumer sciences-nutrition and dietetics, is a registered dietician for Memorial Hermann Baptist Beaumont Hospital. The couple lives in Lumberton.

Melinda (Kibodeaux) James '97, B.S. criminal justice, earned her law degree from South Texas College of Law in Houston in 2004. She is owner and president of Melinda James & Co. Inc. in Beaumont, where she lives.

Sarah (Crisman) Kirksey '97, B.S. environmental science, was among six appointees named by Gov. Rick Perry to the On-Site Wastewater Treatment Research Council, the state board overseeing wastewater facilities. She is an environmental investigator for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. She and her husband, **Joseph '99**, B.S. environmental science, live in Beaumont.

Reginald D. Williams '97, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, lives in Humble with his wife, **Nicole (Douresseau) '96**, B.S. general studies.

Emily (Everett) Allen '98, B.S. political science, '04, M.Ed. education, is a special education teacher at Pine Forest Elementary in Vidor. She lives in Bridge City with her husband, Raymond, who is an account manager



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for Wilson. They had their first child, son, Aaron Christopher, in January.

Gini (Ard) Barton '97, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is a teacher for the Silsbee school district and lives there with her husband, **Robert '90**, B.S. graphic design. He is an art teacher for the district and they have two children, Mindi and Bobby.

Gerald J. Gipson '98, M.S. biology, is an entymologist for the Department of Agriculture in Stoneville, Miss. He lives in Greenville with his wife, Caron.

Tondelyn (Donatto) Johnson '98, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is a teacher in the Houston school district. She lives in Pearland with her husband, **Curley '99**, B.S. general studies.

Allison (Deshotel) Meguess '98, B.B.A. management, is human resources director for Auto-Chlor Services in Jefferson, La. She lives in Slidell, La., with her husband, **Christopher '98**, B.B.A. accounting, who is a controller for the Hospital Corporation of America's Delta Division. They have two sons, John and Thomas.

Chad Gonzales '99, B.S. psychology, has authored the book *Fearless: Living Life the Way God Intended*. He is a graduate of RHEMA Bible Training Center. He and his wife, Lacy, live in College Station and are launching Lighthouse Bible Church. The couple has appeared on TBN's "Praise the Lord" program.

Sandesh C. Hegde '99, M.S. chemical engineering, works for Wellington Management in Boston, Mass. He lives there with his wife, Roshni.

Adam L. Ramirez '99, B.S. nursing, is a registered nurse at Methodist Willowbrook Hospital in Houston and lives there with his wife, Vanessa, a charge nurse at the same hospital.

Sharon (Hill) Rush '99, B.S. family and consumer sciences, is owner and manager of Sharon's Heavenly Angels in Port Neches, where she lives.

John T. Salles '99, B.S. music education, is a choir teacher for the Dallas school district and lives in Garland with his wife, Jana, an engineer for Raytheon.

Wende Tian '99, M.S. chemistry, is programming manager for Teva NeuroScience in Horsham, Pa. He lives in Princeton, N.J., with his wife, Hongyan, a research associate at Princeton University.

Lore R. Webb '99, B.S. sociology, is a claim representative for State Farm and lives in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

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David "Austin" Black '00, B.S. mechanical engineering, is project lead for Oceaneering Space Systems in Houston and lives in Seabrook.

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Wendy (Woodall) Gray '00, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, lives in Nederland with her husband, Robert '92, B.S. environmental science. He is an environmental technician at Invista.

Charles Hughes '00, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is senior wholesale executive for Entergy in Beaumont. He lives in Lumberton with his wife, Carol (Taeuber) '84, B.B.A. general business, who is a business service officer for the Texas Department of Human Services.

Duaine P. Harris Sr. '01, B.S. sociology, is a special education teacher and coach for the Beaumont school district, where he lives.

Russell W. January '01, B.S. sociology, is a case manager for Therapeutic Family Life in Orange. He lives there with his wife, Lillie (Preston) '85, B.A. sociology, '94, M.Ed. counseling and development.

Joseph Kunick '01, B.S. psychology, earned his doctor of dental surgery degree from Marquette University and opened his own dental practice in July

2006. He lives in Grafton, Wis., with his wife, Helen (Sharp) '02, B.A. English, and their daughter, Zoe.

Hasib S. Choudhury '02, M.E. chemical engineering, is a process engineer at Lafarge and lives in Beaumont.

Texas A&M University has awarded Alisa Hicklin '02, B.S. political science, the 2006 Kuntz Prize, recognizing her as the best graduate student at the university based on her academic performance, publications, service and character. She earned her doctorate in political science from Texas A&M. This August, she accepted a position as assistant professor of political science at the University of Oklahoma.

Tammy L. Humphrey '02, B.S. computer science, is a gold technical support representative for Dell in Round Rock and lives in Austin.

Ryan D. Ross '02, B.S. electrical engineering, is an instrument design engineer for Richard Design Services Ltd. in Nederland. He lives in Port Neches with his wife, Kara.

Mandy (Arnold) Brown '03, B.S. math, is a teacher for the Austin school district and lives in Cedar Park with her husband, Sampie '04, B.S. electrical engineering.

Demetria (Lazard) Howard '03, B.S. communication, is a seventh-grade English teacher for Fort Bend school district. She earned her master of arts degree in sociology from Texas Southern University in May 2006 and lives in Houston.

Warrant officer Nicholas J. Patxot '03, B.B.A. management information systems, recently graduated from the Army Flight School at Fort Rucker, Ala. The OH-58D Kiowa Warrior pilot, reported to the 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment at Fort Carson, Colo.

Bobby N. Smith '03, B.B.A. accounting, is an internal auditor for GameStop Inc. in Grapevine and lives in Irving.

Krishan Verma '03, M.B.A. business administration, is a marine surveyor for the Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration. He lives in Orange and has a daughter, Divya.

John L. West '03, B.S. criminal justice, recently returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom and will go before the Officer Candidate Selection Board in November in Giessen, Germany, where he is now stationed.

Mindy (Grayson) Chapa '04, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is a pre-kindergarten teacher for Anderson-Shapiro Elementary School and was named the 2006 Teacher of the Year. She lives in College Station with her husband, Xavier '03, B.S. industrial technology, who is a systems administrator for Texas A&M.

Elliott C. Clark '04, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a maintenance engineer for Lyondell Chemical Co. in Pasadena and lives in Houston.

Mary (Pickell) Davis '04, B.S. civil engineering, is a structural engineer for Mustang Engineering in Houston. She lives in League City with her husband, Jonathan '03, B.S. civil engineering, who is a construction engineer for Centex Properties in Galveston.

Patrick H. Gurski '04, B.S. communication, is legislative director for the Texas House of Representatives and lives in Austin.

Clyde "Chip" Heslep III '04, B.S. industrial technology, earned his master's degree in industrial distribution from Texas A&M in 2006 and is activity coordinator for DuPont Performance Elastomers in Beaumont. He lives there with his wife, Jennifer (Bates) '02, B.S. nursing, who works as a registered nurse for Gentiva Health Services.

Charles C. Johnson '04, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a design engineer at Baker Oil Tools and lives in League City.

Prabhakar S. Naralasetti '04, M.S. chemical engineering, is marketing manager for Supreme Soft in Vienna, Va. He lives in McLean with his wife, Sudha.

Shante (Scott) Phillips '04, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is a teacher for Beaumont school district and lives there with her husband, Scott '03, B.B.A. general business, who is a sales representative for SBC. They had their first child, Lathan Jon, in April 2006.

Sabrina (Brown) Randle '04, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, authored her first book titled *Jesus Has a Cousin*. She lives in Orange with her husband, Cardell.

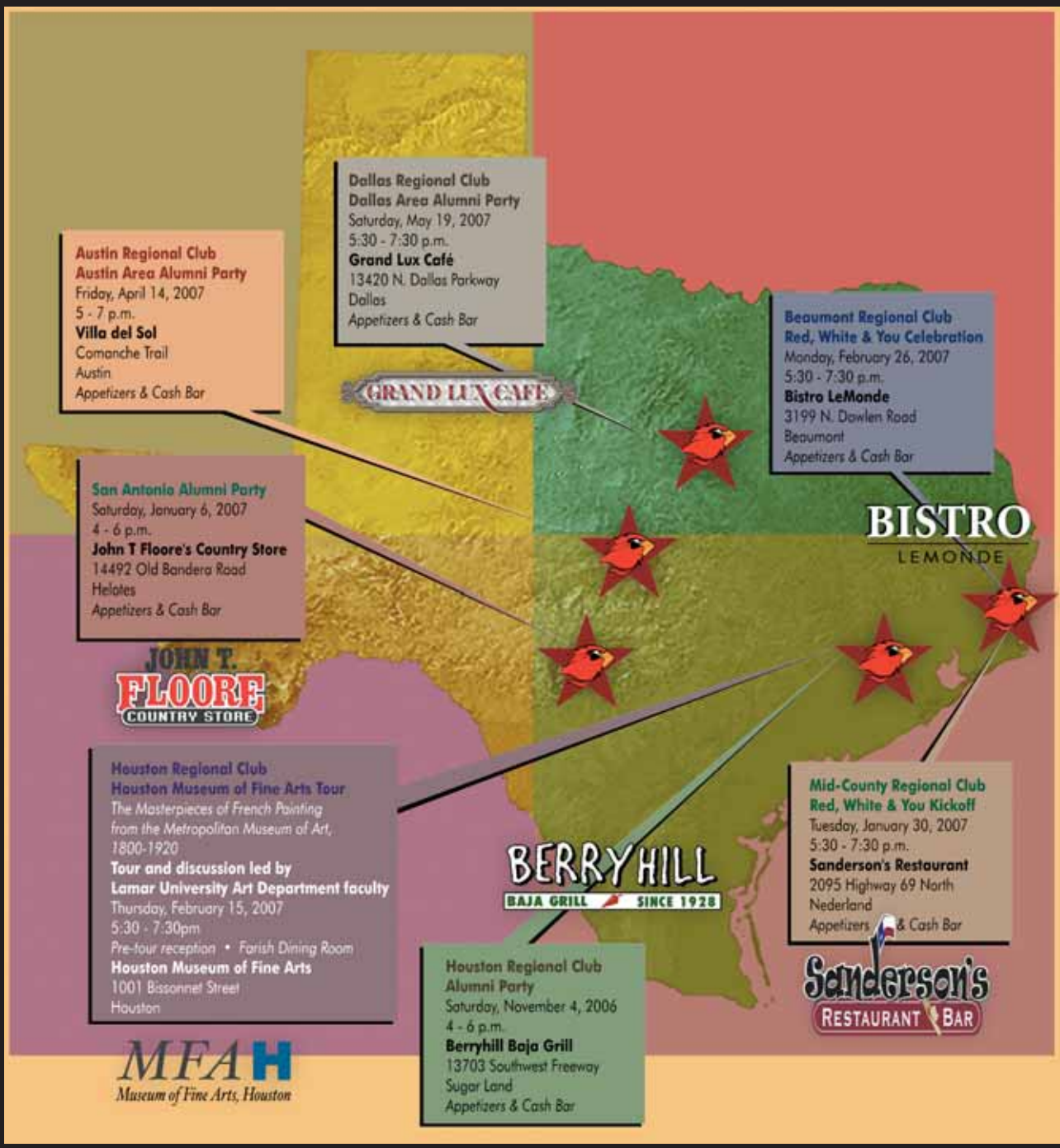
John-Paul M. Schmidt '04, B.S. chemical engineering, is an engineer for Beacon Maritime in Orange and lives in Beaumont with his wife, Jalinda.

Sarah A. Stephenson '04, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is a teacher for Goose Creek consolidated school district and lives in Baytown.

Becky (Vickery) Thomason '04, B.S. criminal justice, '05, M.S. applied criminology, is an internal auditor for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Huntsville, where she lives.

Lindsay (LeMaster) White '04, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is a kindergarten teacher at St. Norbert School and lives in Deerfield, Ill., with her husband, Kolby.

Felicia (Alexander) Branch '05, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is



a teacher's assistant for the Beaumont school district and lives in Port Arthur with her husband, Ray, a supervisor at Hydrochem Industrial Services.

Elton T. Conn '05, B.S. chemical engineering, is a process engineer for Lyondell Chemical Co. and lives in Houston.

Nakiska (Collins) Crumedy '05, B.S. social work, is a child protective services specialist with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. She lives in Jasper with husband, Andre '01, B.S. kinesiology, who is a teacher in Hempstead school district.

Douglas P. Dean Jr. '05, B.S. political science, is a veteran who has served in Afghanistan. He lives in Mauriceville with his wife, Jennifer.

Whitney N. Evans '05, B.S. communication, is assistant general manager for American Campus Communities and lives in Weatherford.

Jennifer (Sparks) Lowrance '05, B.S. communication, is a news reporter for KOLE Fox News Radio in Beaumont. She lives there with her husband, Kevin, who is an adjuster for Allstate in Houston.

Daric Rogers '05, B.S. communication, is an animal control officer for the city of Bedford and was accepted

to the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University where he plans to pursue a master's degree in divinity in the fall. He lives in Euless with his wife, Andrea (Clawson) '02, B.S. communication, who is executive assistant of sales and marketing at the Grand Hyatt DFW.

Dedria K. Tanton '05, B.S. social work, is a juvenile probation officer for Hardin County Juvenile Probation in Kountze and lives in Rye.

Callixta Innocent '06, B.S. psychology, is a qualified mental health provider for Spindletop MHMR in Beaumont and lives in Nederland.

Tine (Nero) Joseph '06, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a supervisor for Time Warner Communication in Port Arthur. She lives there with her husband, Damon, a staff sergeant in the Army.

CORRECTIONS

Mark Thomas Simmons '75, B.A. government, is sales manager for Groth Corp. in Stafford. He and his wife, Renee, live in The Woodlands.

Lori (Hood) Holt '79, A.A.S. dental hygiene, is a dental hygienist for Dr. Neeley-Nemeth. She and her husband, David, who is president of Silicone Services, live in Austin.

Cardinal Bound

These events are for you, so come out and catch up: hear the latest news about your alma mater, see classmates you may have lost touch with and maybe make a few new friends. Here are your Regional Club events . . . Coming to a town near you!

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(409) 880-8921 or (800) 298-4839 to

share ideas about events your classmates might enjoy.

We will miss...

Alumni

Retired Rear Admiral **Corwin Guy Mendenhall Jr.** '32, a decorated Navy veteran and author of two World War II submarine history books, died July 7, 2006. He was 89. The father of three was described as one of the greatest captains in World War II. During his 20 years of service, he rose from the rank of gunnery officer to commander of the destroyer Warrington. He later was assigned to manage a \$50 million nuclear weapons testing project at Eniwetok Atoll in the western Pacific during the Cold War. He was awarded three Silver Stars, a Bronze star, a Navy Commendation and 13 battle stars. The 1932 South Park High School graduate was valedictorian of his graduating class in Annapolis and retired from the Navy in 1959. He later used his storytelling skills to author two books, *Submarine Diary: The Silent Stalking of Japan* and *Sea Stories*. Survivors include his wife, Ruth; sons, Rick and Corwin; and daughter, Suzanne.

Shirley (Ingraham) Combest '41, A.A.S. general studies, died June 19, 2006. She was active in numerous garden clubs, was a charter member of the Minglewood Garden Club and the Beaumont Council of Garden Clubs. She became a master flower and show judge, and was an active member of Trinity United Methodist Church. Survivors include her five children.

Lillian B. Sledge '42, A.A. arts, died May 27, 2006. A longtime resident of Fort Worth, she was born the youngest of nine children and grew up in Beaumont. She served as student body officer for two years while at Lamar, as well as president of the Revelers Social Club, graduating with honors. Survivors include her husband, Sam; daughters, Sherri Pulliam and Sally Sledge; sons, Brad and Steve; and three grandsons.

Samuel J. Salim Sr., -49, died July 17, 2006. He attended Lamar College on a football scholarship, where he studied electrical engineering and machine theory. He went on to play football at North Texas State University on another scholarship, and then went to work for Mobil Oil for the next 38 years. In 1976, he was inducted into the Lamar Cardinal Hall of Honor. Survivors include his wife, Martha, and sons, Samuel Salim Jr. and Nicholas.

Jack L. Bihm '56, B.S. geology, died July 29, 2006. After graduating, he went to work at Texaco for 25 years, during which time he and his family lived in New Orleans, Houston, Tulsa and Denver, where he and his wife retired. Survivors include his wife, Mary, and five children.

Carl Lohmann '58, B.S. secondary education, died May 27, 2006. A resident of Beaumont for 55 years, he was a rancher and was deeply involved with the arts, serving as a docent at the McFaddin-Ward House Museum and the Beaumont Heritage Society. He was a lifetime member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, the Port Arthur Lion's Club, Independent Cattleman's Association, and the past president of Aberdeen Angus Association. Survivors include his two children, Sarajane and Brad.

Gene A. Hebert '59, B.S. physical education, died May 9, 2006. He retired in 1998 from Edison Middle School in the Port Arthur school district after a long teaching career. He served in the Army from 1959-1962 and was a member of Central Baptist Church of Port Arthur. Survivors include his wife of 44 years, Carol; daughter, Amy; and son, Randy.

Ruby (Taylor) Jordan '60, B.S. elementary education, died July 7, 2006. Born in Brownwood, she grew up in San Augustine. She was a teacher at Eugene Field Elementary School, active member of Trinity United Methodist Church and member of Delta Kappa Gamma. Survivors include her husband of 69 years, John, and daughters, Lynn and Karen.

Stuart Kinard '60, B.A. economics, died June 6, 2006, in Houston. He was student body president in 1959, later becoming recognized nationwide as a superb trial lawyer. He was author of *Kinard's DWI Manual*, a resource book used throughout the state, as well as numerous articles on criminal law. He served as adjunct professor at the University of Houston Law Center, and, in 1980, opened an office in Austin with his wife, Jeanette, as his law partner. Survivors include his mother, Marguerite; his brother, Brent; his daughter, Lisa; and his former wife, Jeanette.

Ralph W. Moyers '62, B.B.A. accounting, died July 9, 2005. He worked at Price Waterhouse and lived in

Oklahoma City, Okla. A member of Kappa Alpha Order fraternity, he served the organization as historian. He is survived by his wife, Gracie '61, B.S. elementary education.

Robert G. Phelps '62, B.S. biology, died July 16, 2006. He earned his master's degree from North Texas State University and taught at Mobile College and the University of South Alabama in Mobile before returning to Texas to earn his Ph.D. in entomology from Texas A&M. He was a biology lab coordinator at Sam Houston State University prior to opening Professional Pest Control in 1976, which he operated until his retirement in 2000. Survivors include his wife of 43 years, Sammie, and daughters, Ruth, Kathleen and Rachel.

Marilyn Davis Georgas '63, M.A. English, died Aug. 13, 2006, at her home. Born in 1931 in Jacksonville, she graduated from Pearland High School in 1947 and married Paul Georgas in 1949, later moving to Silsbee. She earned a B.A. degree from Sam Houston State University and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Texas in Austin. For 35 years, she was professor of English at Lamar. She sang with the Chancel Choir of First University Methodist Church of Silsbee, and her main civic work was for the Silsbee Public Library. Survivors include her husband of 57 years, Paul, and sons, Carey and Rob.

Robert W. Kettrick '63, B.B.A. management, died April 15, 2006. He earned his master of divinity degree from Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University and was a retired Disciples of Christ minister. He was also director of the Rusk Cherokee County Mental Retardation Workshop and served numerous other organizations and charities. He was a member of First Christian Church of Jacksonville, where he lived. Survivors include his wife of 43 years, Jan, and sons, Robert and David.

John "Jack" Ganger '65, B.B.A. accounting, died July 5, 2006. He moved to Texas in 1958, after serving in the Army from 1948 to 1951 in Austria. He was administrative manager and chief purchasing agent for Atlantic Richfield BP and retired from FINA in 1984. He was a member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Nederland. Survivors include his wife, Phyllis; daughers, Cathy, Janet, and

Carol; and stepson, Rick.

Martha (Gressett) Ishee '68, certif. nursing, died May 30, 2006. The youngest of 14 children, she moved to Nederland in 1958 and worked at Mid-Jefferson Hospital for nine years in the ICU unit, after earning her certification. She was a member of First Baptist Church in Nederland. Survivors include her husband of 51 years, Wilmer, and sons, Wilmer Ishee Jr. and Olen.

William G. Bost '69, B.A. history, died Oct. 4, 2005. Born in San Antonio, he retired from the Army as a much-decorated major with more than 20 years of active duty. He was a business administrator at First Baptist Church and was an instructor and tutor at the Fort Hood Learning Center of Central Texas College. A Texas master naturalist, he was an assistant scoutmaster and a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. He lived in Killeen. Survivors include his wife, Cathy; son, Andrew; daughter, Amy; and sister, Linda.

Jackie W. Gulley '69, B.S. mechanical engineering, died May 18, 2006. Upon graduating from Lamar, he began his career with IBM in Houston, later moving with the company to Boca Raton, Fla., to work in its research and development division. He retired to pursue interests in computers, country-western dancing and spending time in his yard. Survivors include his father Dixie Gulley; step-mother, Ruth Gulley; and sister, Patricia Aaron.

Dorothy (Merwin) Summerlin '69, B.A. English, '71, M.A. English, died June 13, 2006. She was a member of the Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ in Austin, after she moved there in 1973. She and her husband were lifelong supporters of Christian missions and Christian education. In 1995, she was recognized by 21st Century Christian Magazine as Christian Woman of the Year. Survivors include six children.

Kathryn (Lessassier) Rucker '72, B.S. elementary education, died July 4, 2006. She taught school for 20 years, mostly in the Beaumont area and was a member of the Westgate Memorial Baptist Church. Survivors include her husband, Don, and sons, Casey and Chris.

Brenda (Glaze) Howell '73, B.S. elementary education, died July 3, 2006. She

taught for eight years in San Antonio and Nederland before becoming a homemaker. She was a past president of the American Heart Association and an active member of the American Cancer Society. Survivors include her husband, Lanny; daughter, Jenna; and sons, Lance and Micah.

Carolyn Hancock '75, B.S. elementary education, died June 12, 2006. She was an administrative assistant with the Beaumont District of the Texas Conference, of the United Methodist Church, and she was a longtime member of the First United Methodist Church of Groves. Survivors include her mother, Naoma, and son, Frank.

Jean Goodwin '76, LVN program, died Jan. 13, 2005. Born in Port Arthur, she married **Stephen Goodwin** '77, B.S. geology, and was a homemaker and member of Oak Street Baptist Church in Graham. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Teresa. Survivors include her husband, Stephen; daughter, Angie; son, Mark; sister, Sharon; and three brothers, James, Mike and Tim Rowe.

Edna (Keith) Nelson '78, B.F.A. art, died May 21, 2006. She earned her degree in her mid-'60s when she returned to complete her studies. She was a longtime member of the Beaumont Art Museum and loved to paint and teach art. Survivors include seven children.

Bryce Dixon '82, B.B.A. marketing, died May 24, 2006, at home in Canton, Mich. He was born in Orange and in 1994 moved to Michigan, where he was finance manager for Ford Motor Credit. He was a member of St. Michael Lutheran Church, where he also taught Sunday school. Survivors include his wife, Betty; sons, Nicholas and Jonathan; and parents, Albert and Irene Dixon.

Judith (Bowman) Gunter '83, B.A. history, died May 19, 2006. After her husband's death in 1982, she earned her bachelor's and master's degree in library science from Sam Houston State University. She became the director of the Jefferson County Library in Port Hadlock, Wash., and held the position for 13 years until she retired in 2000. She remained involved with the library and also pursued interests in traveling and acting. Survivors include her daughter, Debra, and sons, Greg, Randy and Tony.

Joe D. Allen '91, B.S. sociology, died June 30, 2006. He was a pharmaceutical sales representative with Johnson & Johnson for 16 years, a lifelong area resident and avid golfer. Survivors include his parents, "Kitty" and Joe Allen, and sisters, Lisa and Jo Beth.

Betsy (Craigue) Vaglica '92, B.S. mathematics, died July 7, 2006. Vaglica was a 1992 Plummer Award recipient. She was an adjunct instructor of business statistics at Lamar, and most recently, a homemaker. She enjoyed water sports, snow skiing and aerobics and was a math tutor. Survivors include her husband, Joe; daughter, Brianna; son, Max; and father, Bill.

Susan "Gail" Barnett '95, B.B.A. management, died May 15, 2006. She worked for Memorial Hermann Baptist Beaumont Hospital as assistant director of materials management, until she was diagnosed with a rare form of multiple sclerosis. Before her disability, she enjoyed sports and music, singing in a duet known as Country Silk. Survivors include her parents, Dorothy and Don Mouton and John and Pat Riddle, and four brothers and sisters.

Tony A. Lostracco Jr. '04, M.S. theater, died July 6, 2006. He taught theater and speech at the junior high, high school and collegiate levels for 20 years. He was a sought-after judge for one-act play contests, clinics and workshops. Survivors include his mother, Kathy Lostracco; stepfather, Howard Austin; father, Tony; stepmother, Theresa; and sister, Terri Raftar.

Faculty, Staff and Friends

A native of El Reno, Okla., but a 53-year Nederland resident, **Orvelle Kay Brown** died Aug. 24, 2006. She was coordinator of student services and had 34 years of service with Lamar. She was a member of Fellowship Baptist Church. Survivors include her daughters, Dawna and Megan.

Born in 1953, **Patricia Kay Frost** died June 20, 2006. She worked in Lamar's University Print Shop for 30 years. She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard, and father, Ed. Survivors include her mother, Anne LaForge, and daughter, Jennifer.

Susan J. Huber, 67, died June 22, 2006. She graduated from South Park High School in Beaumont and worked

in the Lamar University records department for more than 20 years. She loved to cook and was an avid reader. Survivors include her sons, James and David, and daughter, Sharon.

Katherine Beck Lefler died May 1, 2006, in Houston. She was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., Dec. 28, 1909, and married M.L. "Buddy" Lefler Jr. in 1943, moving with him to Beaumont at the end of World War II and helping him with their land and building business. She and Buddy established the Bessie and M.L. Lefler Sr. Scholarship at Lamar in 1978. Her husband and her brothers, George and Ralph, preceded her in death. Survivors include her nieces, Kathie and Jane.

Vivien Liddell died Aug. 20, 2006, in Lumberton. She was born June 7, 1911, in Bay City but grew up with Babe Didrikson Zaharias and played baseball one summer for the Coca Cola league. Her brothers, Billy and Cecil, and her sister, Mildred, preceded her in death.

A former president of the Lamar University Foundation and the Cardinal Club, **James L.C. McFaddin Jr.** died July 31, 2006. A Beaumont native born in 1930, McFaddin served the army in counterintelligence during the Korean War. An active member of Trinity United Methodist Church, he also served on the boards of Lon Morris Junior College, the Moody Retirement Center and the Mamie McFaddin Ward Heritage Foundation. He was preceded in death by his wife of 45 years, Margaret, and daughter, Mary Ellen. Survivors include his daughter, Carroll, and son, Michael.

A longtime supporter of Friends of the Arts, **Juanita Phelps**, 86, died April 12, 2005. She dedicated her time and talent to the community through arts and humanities organizations, leading the Beaumont Music Commission as president for 12 years, participating in the Beaumont Civic Opera and serving on the board of directors and as trustee of the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs. She also served on the board of Texas Association of Mental Health. Her husband, Russell R. Phelps, preceded her in death and contributed to Lamar's campus through engineering work on a number of campus buildings.

E. Lee Self, 79, died July 18, 2006. A resident of Beaumont since 1959, he graduated from Northwestern State College in 1950 with a B.A. in music and taught six years in Arcadia, La. He then returned to NSC in Natchitoches, La., where he received his M.B.A. in business before earning his Ph.D. from Louisiana State University in 1959. He spent 32 years at Lamar in the College of Education and Human Development, and was active in many professional organizations. He was a Navy veteran, having served in World War II. Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Alma.

Opal Wells, 86, died July 6, 2006. She was a licensed vocational nurse in Lamar's health department until she retired. She was a native of New Orleans and longtime resident of Beaumont. Survivors include her son, Howard.

Jason P. Wright, 20, died June 15, 2006. He was a student at Lamar, studying engineering and anticipating induction to Sigma Phi Delta fraternity. He was a supervisor at Poseidon Pools and a lifeguard. Survivors include his parents, Sharon and Paul, and sister, Stacey.

Attorney, former district judge and former state representative **Judge J.C. "Zeke" Zbranek**, 76, of Devers, died Aug. 4, 2006. He was a member of the Lamar University board of regents from 1973 to 1979. Born in 1930 in Crosby, he moved to the Hull-Daisetta area and later earned a B.A. from the University of Texas. He served in the Navy as a lieutenant from 1952 to 1954 aboard the USS Carmick during the Korean War. After returning home, he earned the Democratic nomination to the Texas House of Representatives in 1954, serving until 1960. He graduated from the University of Texas Law School and practiced law for 30 years. He served on the bench in Liberty until his retirement in 2002. Survivors include his wife of 47 years, Nelda; daughter, Felicia; and sons, Zeb and Zack.

Five earn honor

As entrepreneurs, advocates, executives, civic leaders and mentors, these five individuals have one thing in common: their achievements honor their alma mater.

Distinguished alumni of 2006 are Phil Drayer '67, Wayne Reaud '71 and the late Robert Swerdlow '70, '71. Sarah Joseph '84 will receive the Distinguished Young Alumna award, and Milt Wing '54 will be recognized as the university's first-ever Distinguished Alumnus for University Service.

Although the honorees took different career paths, their education at Lamar helped them obtain success in their chosen fields.

PHIL DRAYER

At 22, Phil Drayer wondered how he would fare in the job market in 1967 with a bachelors' degree in electrical engineering from Lamar. He soon accepted a position as a systems design engineer with Teledyne Systems where he designed electronics for helicopter heads up displays and logic for the first high speed digital computer used in navigation for military aircraft.

"I was always impressed by the education I got at Lamar Tech. Lamar equipped me to go head-to-head with people from Cal Tech, MIT and Berkeley," Drayer said. "After six months, they were all coming to me for answers."

Later at Texas Instruments, he led a team that transformed semiconductor technology from military to commercial application.

In 1980, he launched EPI Technologies to manufacture semiconductor products for many of the emerging industry's leading producers. In 1990, he returned to Teledyne as president charged with restructuring the business globally. He rescued Teledyne's floundering semiconductor companies to create TelCom Semiconductor. As CEO, the company became profitable from the first quarter of operation and was among the top performing venture investments when it was purchased by Microchip in 2000.

He began his third business venture in 2003, Kalydus Asset Advisors, which provides investment opportunities in the technology sector.

Drayer currently chairs Lamar's Engineering Advisory Council and is a trustee of the Lamar University Foundation. In 2005, Gov. Rick Perry appointed Drayer to the executive committee responsible for the state's \$200 million Emerging Technology Fund. In 2002, Forbes Magazine recognized him as CEO of one of the Top 100 small companies in America.

SARAH JOSEPH

Sarah (Pickens) Joseph, who earned a bachelor's degree in communications from Lamar in 1984, is in her 12th season with the Houston Rockets and her eighth as director of community relations. Joseph oversees all aspects of the Houston Rockets and Comets community initiatives, including service programs, fund-raising, charitable partnerships and events, and youth outreach programs. She works with players to develop individualized programs for personal involvement in the Houston community.

Joseph said her time spent at Lamar "were some of the best years of my life. I not only developed life-long relationships, but I also received a first-class education." Many treasured memories involve sorority service projects with Alpha Kappa Alpha, she said. After graduation, Joseph worked for KTRK, Houston's ABC affiliate, where she honed her communication and public relations skills.

Since joining the Rockets in 1994, Joseph has spearheaded a number of major initiatives, including launch of the first Tux & Tennes Charity Gala, which has raised more than \$3 million dollars for charity, and initiation of "Hopefest," a three-day event that helped more than 2,500 people who took shelter in Houston following Hurricane Katrina. Her most recent Rockets initiative involves working with leaders in the Houston school district to help students improve test scores.

Under Joseph's guidance, the Rockets community service efforts have achieved local and national recognition, including the Leadership Houston Award and the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame Pro Team Community Award.

Joseph also serves on the board of directors of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston, Houston's Ensemble Theatre and the Texas Gulf Coast Make-A-Wish Foundation.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Friday, Oct. 27, 2006
John Gray Center
855 E. Florida
Reservations: (409) 880-8921 or
www.lamar.edu/alumni.

The Lamar University Distinguished Alumni committee selects the award recipients. The awards recognize alumni who have distinguished themselves in their careers or life's work. The awards also honor alumni who work in community service and young alumni who have distinguished themselves early in their careers.



WAYNE REAUD

WAYNE REAUD

Honoree Wayne Reaud, '71, earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Lamar. Reaud is a trial lawyer and founder of the law firm of Reaud, Morgan & Quinn. For more than 30 years, he has represented clients in significant cases involving personal injury, product and premises liability, toxic tort and business litigation.

Reaud has handled mass tort litigation involving asbestos premises liability claims and was a class counsel in Cimino vs. Celotex Corp., which was the largest asbestos product liability class action lawsuit in the history of Texas. He also represented the State of Texas in its landmark litigation against the tobacco industry.

Reaud was a two-term regent of the Lamar University System and served as a trustee of the John Gray Institute.

He is chairman of the board of the Beaumont Foundation of America, a member of the board of director and chairman of the Compensation Committee of Huntsman Corp. and is president and director of the Reaud Charitable Foundation. He is a life fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation and a fellow of the International Society of Barristers. In addition, Reaud is a former chair of the Lawyer-Client Conciliation Committee.

Reaud is a former regent and president of the Southeast Texas Trial Lawyers Association; served on the District 3A Grievance Committee; was secretary of the Jefferson County Bar Association; and was a director of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association.

Listed in the Best Lawyers in America, he was chosen as the most distinguished alumnus of Texas Tech University Law School in 1998.



ROBERT SWERDLOW

ROBERT SWERDLOW

The late Robert Swerdlow received a degree in marketing from Lamar in 1970 and earned the master of business administration a year later. He left LU to earn a Ph.D. at the University of Arkansas, and briefly taught as an assistant professor at Stephen F. Austin University. Swerdlow served Lamar University's College of Business in many capacities, from assistant professor through associate dean. He also served as interim dean of the college twice during his career.

Marleen Swerdlow recalled how Lamar officials convinced her husband, Robert, to leave Drake University, where he was teaching marketing. He saw C. Robert Kemble, former LU president and chancellor, and W.L. Pate at the Drake Relays—an event involving many schools, including Lamar. At that time, Kemble asked Swerdlow if he wanted to teach at his alma mater, she said, but he turned Kemble down. Later, the chair of Lamar's marketing

department phoned Swerdlow to offer him a job. Again, he refused. He got another call in the winter, when snow was piled high enough to reach his second-story office. At that point, she said, her husband decided it was time to return to Texas. "He knew that department head was watching the weather report," she said. The couple worked together until he passed away in 2003.

He served on 20 thesis committees and authored more than 60 articles on a wide range of business topics, contributing to the body of knowledge that will guide future business education. Gov. George Bush appointed him to chair the Texas Council on Purchasing from People with Disabilities, a position he held from 1995-2001. Among his other commitments was service with United Way, Rotary, the Young Men's Business League and the Beaumont Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Swerdlow was inducted into the College of Business Hall of Fame in memory of the indelible mark he left within the college and in the lives of his students.



MILT WING

MILT WING

Milton Wing worked almost full-time throughout his college career at Lamar, but nevertheless earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry in only four years. He immediately went to work at DOW Chemical in Freeport and became technical director for the Texas division research branch engaged in product and process research, earning a total of 17 U.S. patents for process improvements and new inventions.

His sense of responsibility to his alma mater never wavered. He was an active recruiter of young talent for DOW Chemical for 20 years, recruiting approximately 145 Lamar chemists and engineers. In 1983, he encouraged DOW employees who were Lamar graduates to form the Brazoria County Alumni Chapter, the inaugural Lamar University alumni club. In 1984, Wing was named an honorary member of the engineering faculty, and, after retiring from DOW in 1985, he joined the chemical engineering faculty.

His memories of his time as a student are fond. "I met my wife, Mary Nita, at Lamar Tech, and we dated—at the expense of my differential equation class. We were married my junior year. Her support has molded many facets of my life," Wing said. He also praises his professors. They "knew who you were and did their best to bring out the best you had to give."

Wing was instrumental in obtaining an Environmental Protection Agency grant to begin the Gulf Coast Hazardous Substance Research Center at Lamar and has continued working on behalf of Lamar students by encouraging investment that has led to 10 scholarships awarded annually to engineering students.

Ahead of the game



By Drew Lacey

THOMAS ATLEE

After helping the Lamar Cardinals to the 2002 Southland Conference baseball tournament championship, Thomas Atlee and Micah Hoffpauir ventured to the ranks of professional baseball, but have not strayed too far from one another during their careers.

Playing professional baseball is what Hoffpauir always wanted to do growing up. A success as a college player, he's now just one step away from making his dream come true.

Atlee's road to professional baseball, however, appeared to be at an end after high school. He spent his freshman year at College Station but not as a member of the Texas A&M baseball team. He thought he had left his playing days behind. But the dream and the drive didn't die, so he transferred to Lamar University where he spent the next three seasons hurling for the Cardinals.

Atlee and Hoffpauir made an impression on pro scouts during their time at Lamar, enough so that the Chicago Cubs selected the Cardinal teammates in the 2002 amateur draft. Hoffpauir was selected in the 13th round, and Atlee was taken in the 19th round. Since that time, both have continued the steady climb toward the big leagues.

Moving on from the college game to the pros usually means moving on from college teammates, but not always. Former Cardinals Bruce Aven and Kevin Millar, who were teammates in 1992 and 93, were reunited as teammates with the Florida Marlins in 1999.

Although they haven't always been on the same team during the last four years, Atlee and Hoffpauir have played together off and on in the Cubs minor league system. The two were most recently reunited as teammates with the triple A Iowa Cubs.



MICAH HOFFPAUIR

Those teammate experiences have helped them, both on the field and away from the diamond.

"It's been a lot of fun because you know what to expect out of a guy when you go out on the field," Hoffpauir said. "Other guys might not know what he may or may not be throwing in certain situations, but I can step out there and know that Thomas is going to throw a slider in a certain situation, and I can be prepared for it. On that end of the spectrum, it's really neat because you're almost ahead of the game.

"Having someone you know really well, that you've been around—it's a lot of fun. To have someone you played college ball with, that went through all the stuff we did in college, is fun."

Atlee echoed the sentiments of Hoffpauir, saying the comfort level they have with each other on the field gives him one less thing to think about on the mound.

"If the infielder fields a ball and makes a throw to first, it's going to get caught. I don't care if they bounce it over there, roll it over there or throw it five feet over his head; Micah is going to catch it. He's been making professional quality plays as long as I've known him, so, in that aspect, it's great having him over there. He's also a great hitter, which he proved, in a pitcher's ball park, at Lamar. Also the fact that we came up together since college is a good feeling because you know you have a friend on your side."

Several players from Lamar University have transitioned their college games into the pros, with the likes of Millar, Jerald Clark, and Aven. Most recently, Clay Hensley, Randy Williams and Brian Sanches have made their way onto the big stage.

The success of former Lamar baseball players on a professional

level is due in large part to their days as Cardinals. Both Atlee and Hoffpauir said their playing experience at Lamar helped them transition to where they are today.

"All I knew how to do when I got to Lamar was throw hard," Atlee said. "Coach Gilligan taught me my arm action and really taught me how to pitch. I owe him a lot of credit because I don't think I'd be where I am now without him. Lamar is definitely a great building ground for getting guys to the next level, and that's due to the great coaching."

Hoffpauir said Lamar baseball made the move to the pros a smooth transition because the approaches to the game are very similar.

"When I went into Lamar, I didn't look at it as a college program with the way Gilligan ran things," he said. "He ran it in a similar manner to how a professional team runs their practice. You had to work, but it wasn't a dictatorship. If you had something to say, you could always go talk to Coach Gilligan, Coach (Jim) Ricklefsen and Coach (Scott) Hatten, which made it a very enjoyable atmosphere. The fact that they turn out so many pro ball players is a real testament to the coaching staff and the players they get in there."

With the major leagues just a step away, they both know their dream of making it to the next level can become a reality. If one of them makes it, they'll hope to be reunited again in Chicago.

"It's not something you can dwell on," Atlee said. "You think about it of course, but you can't let it consume you. Whenever somebody gets called up, it's a reminder that you really are that close. If you continue to perform, you are going to get that opportunity as well."

ALL-SLC TEAMS

First-Team

Collin DeLome, outfielder, sophomore, Buna
Will Henderson, designated hitter, senior, Beaumont
William Delage, left-handed pitcher, senior, Nederland

Second-Team

Dan Hernandez, first baseman, junior, San Carlos, Calif.
C.J. Ebarb, catcher, senior, Jasper

Third-Team

Erik Kanaby, outfielder, junior, Houston
Scott Meyer, right-handed pitcher, sophomore, Orange

FIRST-YEAR PLAYER DRAFTEES 2006 MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Junior **Steve Macfarland**, ninth round, Pittsburgh Pirates
Senior **William Delage**, 14th round, Cleveland Indians
Junior **Michael Ambort**, 18th round, Oakland A's
Senior **Chuckie Platt**, 23rd round, Chicago Cubs
Junior **Derrick Gordon**, 26th round, Oakland A's
Senior **C.J. Ebarb**, 41st round, Toronto Blue Jays

Get the stats at lamarcardinals.com



COLLIN DeLOME

Next step: The majors

Sophomore Collin DeLome had a break out season, helping Lamar University post a 35-23 overall record and a 19-11 mark in Southland Conference play. The Cardinals, who have won 35 or more games in six straight seasons, finished fourth in the league standings and were one game away from playing in the SLC Tournament championship game, which was played at newly renovated Vincent-Beck Stadium.

DeLome led the team in hitting with a .376 batting average with 57 runs scored, 16 doubles, six triples, 11 home runs and 56 runs batted in. His .633 slugging percentage was tops on the team, and he led all outfielders with seven assists. He already ranks as the school's career triples leader with 15.

A junior from Buna, DeLome was named Southland Conference Hitter of the Year and Player of the Year, as well as being named first-team All-SLC. He is the first Lamar player to be named SLC player of the year, which the league began awarding in 1988, and is just the third Cardinal to earn hitter of the year accolades, joining Jerald Clark (1984) and Michael Ambort (2005).



JEFF BLATNICK

DAWIE VAN DER WALT

Fairways lush for Cardinals:

LU golfers rank in nation's Top 10

Led by a total team effort, the Lamar men's golf team completed its best season in two decades, ending it on a high by tying for ninth place at the NCAA championships. The Cardinals won their all-time best 20th Southland Conference championship, advanced to the NCAA Central Regional for the sixth straight season, where they placed fifth, and qualified for the NCAA Championships—for the first time since 1986—where they finished among the Top 10 in the nation.

In winning its fourth SLC title in six years, Lamar posted a 54-hole score of 871, nine strokes better than Texas-San Antonio. Sophomore Casey Clendenon led the Cardinals with a second-place finish with a 54-hole score of 2-under par 214, one stroke behind medalist John Elizondo of UTSA. Junior Dusty Smith tied for seventh place at 3-over 219, and sophomore Dawie Van Der Walt placed 11th at 220.

Van Der Walt placed third at the NCAA Central Regional at Sand Ridge Golf Club in Chardon, Ohio, which was hosted by Cleveland State. He posted a 54-hole score of 3-under par 210. Smith tied for 15th place with a 54-hole score of 217. The Cardinals placed fifth in the 27-team field to advance to the NCAA Championships. The Top 10 teams from each of the three regions qualify for the championships.

A native of Cape Town, South Africa, Van Der Walt placed fourth to pace the Cardinals at the NCAA Championship, which was hosted by the University of Portland at Crosswater Golf Club in Sunriver, Ore. He opened the championships with a pair of 2-under 70s and shot a final round 5-under par 67 to post a 54-hole score of 7-under par 281. Smith tied for 10th place for the Cardinals at 2-under par 71-68-73-74—286.

Van Der Walt's four-day total of 281 is the best 72-hole score by a Cardinal golfer in NCAA Championship play, surpassing the 289 turned in by Trevor Dodds in 1985. Dodds went on to play on the PGA Tour.

Lamar finished in a tie for ninth place with the University of Washington with a 72-hole total of 292-283-290-293—1158, one-stroke behind UCLA and Clemson who tied for seventh place. The Cardinals posted the best finish by a Texas university as Texas A&M placed 14th and Texas Tech failed to make the cut to the final round.

The Cardinals placed five golfers on All-SLC teams, led by Clendenon, who was named SLC player of the year and first-team All-SLC. Smith, Van Der Walt and Oliver Bekker joined Clendenon on the first-team. Justin Harding was named third-team All-SLC and Bekker was named SLC freshman of the year and earned honorable mention All-American honors from *Golfweek* magazine. Van Der Walt earned second team PING All-American honors and Smith was named honorable mention PING All-American. Brad McMakin was named SLC coach of the year for the fifth time in eight years (1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2006).

Lamar, which was ranked No. 22 in the final regular season GCAA/Bridgestone Coaches Top 25 poll, finished the season ranked eighth in Golfstat collegiate rankings and 18th in Golfweek/Sagarin Performance Index.

White heads golf program

Brian White '89, who has served the last six seasons as assistant golf coach, is now head coach of both Lamar's men's and women's golf programs, announced athletics director Billy Tubbs.



Central Regional appearances and SLC titles in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2006. The Cardinals advanced to the NCAA Championships this season for the first time since 1986, finishing in a tie for ninth place.

White played golf at Lamar from 1986-89, while earning a bachelor of business administration degree in economics. He played professionally from 1990-96 and was the head professional at Beaumont Country Club from 1998-2004.

"I'm very excited about the job," White said. "We have a great program and great kids, and we look forward to competing and winning more championships."

After 10 years at the helm of Lamar University golf program, Brad McMakin announced his resignation to become the 13th head coach at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

McMakin recently completed his 10th season at Lamar by leading the Cardinals to a ninth-place finish at the 2006 NCAA Golf Championships, the highest finish of any Texas school. Last season, Lamar won an NCAA-best seven tournaments in 13 events and placed two golfers among the Top 10 individual finishers at the NCAA Championships, as well as having three golfers named All-American.

"I've had a super career here," McMakin said.

"I'm very fortunate to have had the opportunity to start my career here at Lamar. Working under athletic director Billy Tubbs for the last several years and university president Jimmy Simmons has been great. They have helped us compete on a national level."

Casey Cain, who was a four-year letterwinner at Lamar from 2002-05, will replace White as assistant coach with primary emphasis on the women's program. She was a three-time, first-team All-SLC performer for the Lady Cardinals (2003-05) and was a second-team selection as a freshman in 2002. The Lumberton native is one of only two golfers in SLC history to be named first-team All-SLC three times.

Cain, who received a bachelor's degree in psychology in 2005 and is pursuing a master's degree in psychology, helped Lamar win its first-ever SLC title in 2003 and its second SLC crown in 2005.



Sooner success story

Athletic director and former head basketball coach Billy Tubbs joined

the 2006 class of inductees into the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame. Tubbs, who was head basketball coach at the University of Oklahoma for 14 years, accompanied OU football great Keith Jackson, golfer Bob Dickson and auto racing pioneer Jack Zink at the ceremony Aug. 21 in Oklahoma City. "Tubbs' up tempo 'Billy Ball' style of play is credited for pulling OU basketball out of obscurity and changing the face of Big Eight basketball," said Lynne Draper, president of the Jim Thorpe Association, which manages the Hall of Fame. In 31 years as a head coach, Tubbs compiled a 641-340 (.653) career record, with his wins ranking him 34th all-time in NCAA history. He guided 12 teams to NCAA Tournaments, six NIT appearances, eight conference championships, three conference tournament championships and 18 seasons with 20 or more wins.

Support Cardinal athletes

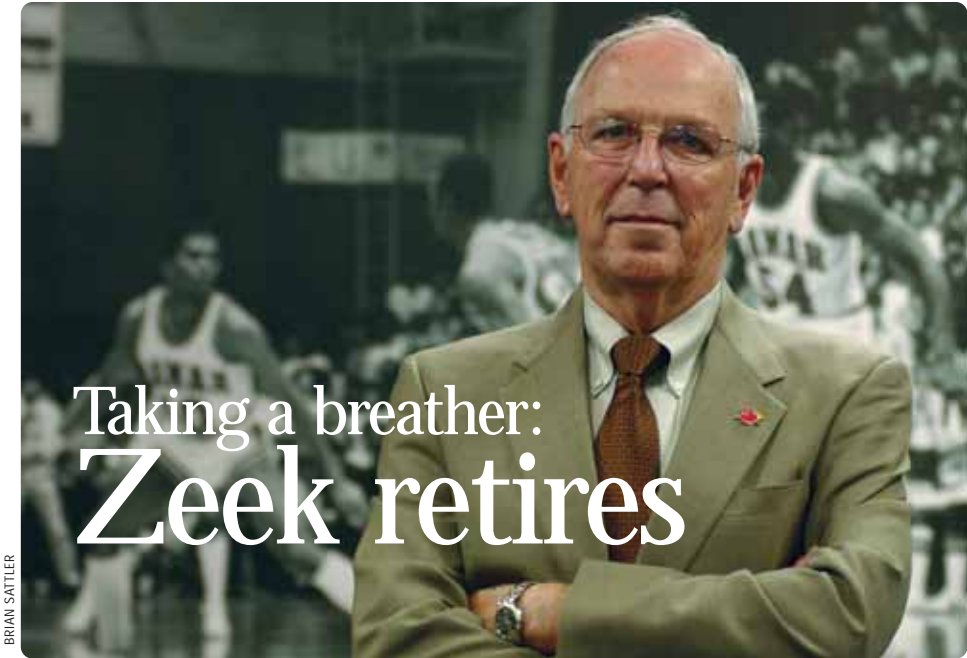
Founded in 1969, the Cardinal Club was established to help Lamar University keep its



promise of providing a world-class education and an athletic program of the highest caliber. For 37 years, Cardinal Club members have been instrumental in helping Lamar keep that promise. Through its annual membership drive and fund-raisers, the Cardinal Club provides scholarship opportunities to the student-athletes of Lamar University, allowing those athletes access to a quality education and an athletic experience like no other. The role of the

Cardinal Club is vital to the University as no state funds are available to support the nearly \$1,000,000 in athlete scholarships that are awarded each year.

For more information on the Cardinal Club and how you can join, please visit lamarcardinals.com or, call the Lamar Athletic Development Office at (409) 880-2319.



BRIAN SATTLER

Taking a breather: Zeek retires

With more than 35 years service to Lamar, Senior Associate Athletics Director Paul Zeek retired Aug. 31. Wellwishers gathered for a retirement party to thank him for his service to Lamar’s student-athletes.

Zeek came to Lamar in 1971 as the athletic trainer. In addition to his training duties, he also headed the training program that sent numerous graduates into athletic training jobs in the professional, collegiate and high school ranks.

Zeek reminisced about his No.1 source of professional pride: “Seeing the student trainers I’ve had over the years go out and succeed . . . in taking care of young people who get involved in athletics. After that, it’s the student athletes I was able to help grow up while they were here.”

Among the most memorable events for Zeek are the football team’s win over Baylor in Waco during the 1981 season, the Cardinals’ run to the Sweet 16 in 1980, 22 track and field championships, the volleyball team’s reaching the NCAA Tournament, numerous conference championships and NCAA Regional tournaments by the men’s golf program and the many trips to Austin for baseball NCAA Regionals.

In 35 years, Zeek built friendships that have made his job enjoyable, but none more so than Dr. James Shuffield, who was the athletic department’s team physician.

“If not for Dr. Shuffield, I’m not sure what would have happened,” Zeek said.

“When I came here, he made life great for me. He told me when I got here, if I would teach him sports medicine, he would teach me orthopedics.

“He got me involved with going to Texas Medical Association meetings, and I ended up getting on the sports medicine committee. I stayed on that committee until I was grandfathered out. I made a lot of beneficial contacts.”

In 1990, Zeek transitioned into athletic administration as the school’s first compliance director. The longer he stayed in administration, the more responsibility he accumulated to the point where he handled not only compliance, but also the day-to-day operations of the athletics department.

In 1981, the National Athletic Trainers Association recognized Zeek as National Trainer of the Year, and, in 1989, he was inducted into the NATA Hall of Fame. He was a 1998 inductee into the Cardinal Hall of Honor for his service as the athletic trainer from 1971-90.

Zeek and his wife, Phyllis, have two daughters, Karen Hartzler ’85 of Boerne and Leanne Jackson ’90 of Arlington. Having purchased a home in Boerne close to Karen and his two grandchildren, Zeek’s not sure what lies ahead.

“I’ve spent the last 45 years with other people making my schedule,” Zeek said. “This is the first time I can look forward to no one making a schedule for me.”

Tracksters pick up titles

The Lamar University track program wrapped up a successful season with a solid performance at the Southland Conference Outdoor Championships, held at the University of Texas-Arlington in May.

The Cardinals collected four individual championships at the SLC meet and sent six runners to the NCAA Regional Track Meet in Austin.

The first championship of the meet saw Amanda King blow out the field in the women’s 3,000-meter steeplechase. King shattered the Southland Conference championship record by 21 seconds and set a new stadium record, running a 10:31.46. The previous record was 10:52.92 set by Rebecca Johansson of Texas-Arlington in 2001. King’s time was also a new Lamar University record, breaking her own time of 10:44.54 set at the Ty Terrell Relays.

Renee Graham earned a spot at the regional meet with her second-place performance in the 3,000-meter steeple, running a 10:52.06 for second place. Her time also broke the SLC championship 3,000-meter steeplechase record.

Clerc Koenck picked up the second title of the meet by winning the 1,500-meter run with a time of 4:36.60. She pulled ahead of the field with 200 meters to go and held off a late charge by Texas State’s Yulia Stashkiv for the title.

Immediately following Koenck’s championship performance, Danny Shaw captured the 1,500-meter crown in the men’s competition with a time of 3:57.65. Shaw and UT-Arlington’s Jacob Cedertun pulled away from the pack in the final 400 meters, and Shaw outlasted Cedertun to the finish line for the victory. Shaw’s title was the only individual title for the Lamar men’s team.

For the final individual championship for Lamar, Chinelo Nwobu successfully defended her title in the women’s 400-meter dash, running a 54.10. The 400 was a closely contested race, as Nwobu edged out Tiffany Singleton of Sam Houston, Katrina Roundtree of Stephen F. Austin and teammate Toni Sylvester for the championship.



JENNIFER REYNOLDS

AMANDA KING

All-Sports Banquet honors athletes

Lamar University seniors **William Delage** and **Audrea Samuel** took home the top honors as the male and female student-athletes of the year, and junior **Amanda King** received the Babe Zaharias/John Gray Award at the annual All-Sports Banquet.

A four-year letterman, Delage was 9-4 with a 3.12 earned run average and three complete-games in 17 starts. He struck out 102 batters in 109 2/3 innings pitched and limited opponents to a .251 batting average. He finished his career as the school’s career leader in strikeouts (271) and games started (51), and he ranks third in innings pitched (330 2/3), fourth in wins (26) and sixth in ERA (2.89).

Delage, a native of Nederland, is a three-time all-conference selection and was named to the Collegiate Baseball/Louisville Slugger Freshman All-America team. He helped Lamar win the 2003 and 2004 SLC regular-season titles and advance to NCAA Regionals in 2003 and 2004.



JENNIFER REYNOLDS

AUDREA SAMUEL

A four-year letterwinner, Samuel finished her career among the Top 10 in school history in scoring, rebounding and blocked shots. She ranks sixth on the school’s scoring list with 1,135 points, becoming the eighth player in school history to score 1,000 career points.

A Beaumont native, Samuel grabbed 558 career rebounds, which ranks sixth all-time, and her 125 career blocked shots ranks second all-time. She led the team with 49 blocked shots this season, which ranks as the fifth-best single-season total in school history. She led the team and the SLC in free-throw shooting at 88.2 percent, which ranked as the eighth best single-season total in school history.

Mary and John Gray Awards. Graduating seniors with the highest grade point averages: **Kevin Smith** of the men’s basketball team and

SLC schedule at 9-1 at No. 1 singles.

Martinez also teamed up with Tara Shelander of Beaumont to earn automatic All-SLC first-team doubles accolades at the No. 1 position by going 10-0 in SLC play. It is the second straight year the pair has garnered first-team honors. The duo posted a 19-1 record on the year and was 41-3 over the last two years.

In addition to the honors collected by Andrea Martinez and Shelander, Pamela Martinez was named SLC Newcomer of the Year after posting 7-3 record in league play. The junior from the Dominican Republic transferred from Laredo Community College and has posted a 12-7 record on the year.

The Cardinal men fell in the opening round of the tournament, dropping a 4-0 decision to UT-Arlington.

The Cardinals finished the season with a 3-16 overall record and a 1-4 mark in SLC play. Leading the way for the men was Filip Kanczula, a sophomore transfer from Wroclaw, Poland, who was named SLC newcomer of the year after posting a 4-2 mark in league play.



JENNIFER REYNOLDS

ANDREA MARTINEZ

A Rather sweet weekend

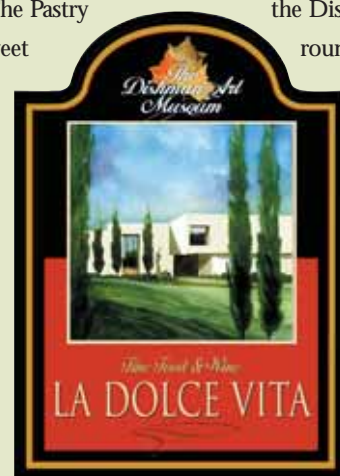
La Dolce Vita will host The Pastry Queen this fall, and a sweet culinary experience is sure to result. Beaumont native Rebecca Rather will be the featured chef Oct. 20 and 21 when the weekend of fine wine and haute cuisine returns to Lamar University. She also is an author and owner of Rather Sweet Bakery & Café in Fredericksburg.



REBECCA RATHER

the Dishman Art Museum. To those who love fine food and a little vino, the weekend brings a vintner dinner, cooking demonstration and wine pairing. For the first time, all three events will be in the Dishman Art Museum.

La Dolce Vita will begin with a dinner at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 20, as Rather presents *Vino Magnifico*, a gourmet meal in six courses, each served with a specially selected wine. Guests will dine in



It's the third year for *La Dolce Vita* ("the sweet life") – the major annual event benefiting

the Dishman Art Museum, surrounded by works by Lamar faculty artists. The evening will begin with a reception and silent auction. Another first will be the addition of a brief live auction during the dessert course, offering travel and entertainment packages.

On Saturday, Oct. 21, Rather will present a cooking demonstration and tasting, *Bella Cucina*, from 11 to 12:30 p.m. in the Dishman lecture hall, featuring her favorite dessert recipes. Its theme is "Holiday Treats With the Pastry Queen." A wine pairing, *Buena Sera*, is scheduled from 5 to 8 p.m. in the museum, offering samples of gourmet cuisine with wines to complement the selections.

Rather is the author of *The Pastry Queen: Royally Good Recipes from the Texas Hill Country's Rather Sweet Bakery & Café*. Signed copies of the book will be on sale before the dinner and the cooking demonstration.

La Dolce Vita is the centerpiece of a campaign to create an endowment that will ensure continuation and enhancement of the museum's collections and educational programs.

Tickets are \$175 per person for the vintner dinner; \$45 each for the cooking demonstration and the wine pairing; or \$80 for both cooking school and the wine pairing. Reservations are required and may be made by calling (409) 880-8959.



A writer and a Scholar

Jim Sanderson, professor of English and an award-winning novelist, is the 2005-2006 University Scholar, the recipient of Lamar's top award recognizing research and creative activity.

Sanderson, a faculty member since 1989 and Lamar's writing director, accepted the prestigious award at a reception hosted by the Office of Research.

"Wow. This has been some semester," Sanderson said in accepting the award April 20. "In January, I became writing director. Now I'm getting this, and in another month I'm getting married. I need to catch my breath."

Sanderson has been described as a scholar versed in the literature and landscape of Texas — "a rare talent who writes books you can't wait to read and whose characters you are eager to meet again."

His books span the literary spectrum from essays and short stories to a crime fiction trilogy following an intriguing band of colorful characters from West Texas to Sanderson's native San Antonio and back—and on to an intricately researched work of historical fiction. One more novel is completed, and another is in the works, including an extension of the trilogy that began in 1998.

"Dr. Sanderson is a prolific and widely respected short-story writer, novelist and critic," said Joe Nordgren, chair of Lamar's Department of English and Modern Languages. "His prodigious scholarly activity over the past five years is astounding."

Sanderson plans to use the grant that accompanies the award to take time off for projects now underway. Previous leaves, along with a publisher's contest award, made possible the publication of his first novel, *El Camino del Rio*. Its sequels, *Safe Delivery* and *La Mordida* were soon to follow—all earning rave reviews. Sanderson is continuing that series with *San Antonio de Bexar* for University of New Mexico Press. In 2001, he researched and published *Nevin's History: A Novel of Texas*.

Turns of phrase win applause



Buna High School junior Amanda Seaman accepted a prestigious writing award at Lamar, received a round of applause and attended a lunch in her honor hosted by the Department of English and Modern Languages. Then she and her dad were off to the softball diamond at Coldspring High, where she was starting pitcher for a varsity match-up between the Lady Cougars and the Lady Trojans.

More applause was in store for Alaniz Vasquez, a pre-mechanical engineering major from Orange, who took time off from his job as a mechanic to attend the ceremony. While working full time and commuting from Orange, Vasquez

tries to take three classes per semester, he said. Seaman and Vasquez were among four students honored as winners of the 2005 Lamar-Longman Composition Awards. Also honored were Annie Dishman of Beaumont, a student at Beaumont Kelly High School, and Melanie Almufti, an interdisciplinary studies major from Groves.

Michael Soria, senior English specialist with Pearson-Longman Publishers, traveled from San Antonio to present the awards April 7. "A high school student and someone who

took off work to be here — I think it's amazing," Soria said.

The award, which includes a \$250 prize, recognized Seaman's essay titled *One of a Kind*, written for English instructor Keith Needham's English 1301 class.

Vasquez's winning essay is *Discovering the*

"I believe these awards are praise of our entire writing program. I encourage the winners and all writing students to continue with their writing, no matter their major."

— JIM SANDERSON

Dance in 'A Rose for Emily.' His instructor Cecil Johnson, lecturer in English, read from the essay, based on a William Faulkner short story.

Dishman won for her essay titled *Face Off*. Department chair Joe Nordgren, professor of English, was her instructor. Almufti won for her essay, *The Flower That Never Blooms*. Holly Carey, lecturer in English, was her instructor.

The winning essays will be published in *Pulse*, Lamar's literary magazine. Their essays

were selected as the best of about 2,500 papers, Nordgren said.

The awards presentation was staged in a distance-learning lab in the Education Building and beamed live to a classroom in Buna. While completing her junior year at Buna High, Seaman is co-enrolled at Lamar, earning dual credit for high school English and college composition.



Michael Soria, Alaniz Vasquez, Amanda Seaman and Joe Nordgren

Besides building award-winning phrases, Vasquez has spent many years rebuilding engines as a mechanic. He also plays drums, guitar, bass and other instruments. Vasquez is married and the father of a 13-year-old son. The family is active in Orange Community Players.

"I believe these awards are praise of our entire writing program," said Jim Sanderson, professor of English and Lamar writing director. "I encourage the winners and all writing students to continue with their writing, no matter their major."

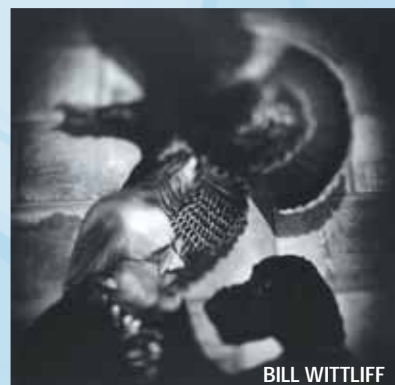
Longman representative Sorio agreed: "I want to give the award winners a little advice: Writing is a process that doesn't stop when you're a freshman in college. It is a continual process. There are financial rewards, and there are other rewards within yourself that you will receive throughout your lifetime."

Spinfest attracts *Lonesome Dove* screenwriter & other acclaimed filmmakers

The Spindletop/Lamar University Film Festival will host Austin screenwriter Bill Wittliff during the seventh installment of the event Nov. 10-12.

Wittliff is the screenwriter of *The Perfect Storm*, *Legends of the Fall*, *Lonesome Dove*, *Honeysuckle Rose* and *Black Beauty*. Wittliff wrote, directed and produced the “Red Headed Stranger” and wrote and produced *Raggedy Man* and *Barbarosa*. His films have starred Robert Duvall, Tommy Lee Jones, Brad Pitt, Anthony Hopkins, George Clooney, Mark Wahlberg, Diane Lane, Willie Nelson, Sissy Spacek, Sam Shepard, Kiefer Sutherland and many other noted actors.

“Mr. Wittliff is Texas’ native son of cinema, with over 30 writing, directing and producing credits to his name,” said Jason Miller, festival director. Winners of Lamar’s film competition will be invited to a workshop with Wittliff. The workshop will have limited seating. “This is a one-of-a-kind opportunity



BILL WITTLIFF

for up-and-coming filmmakers to meet with a living legend. This year’s best-in-show winner in the high school division also will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Lamar University to study film.”

Wittliff also plans to screen a yet—undetermined film at the festival.

Other speakers include Greg Rhem, manager of documentary acquisitions for HBO, and Joe Landsdale, who wrote the original

story *Bubba Ho-Tep*. Landsdale’s story was later made into a film starring Ossie Davis and Bruce Campbell.

The festival also will bring award-winning documentary filmmaker Jacob Young to Beaumont to screen his cult film *Dancing Outlaw*, for which he received an Emmy and a national award from the American Film Institute. Young was lead producer for two seasons of the internationally acclaimed documentary series *Different Drummer*, which aired on BBC and public television. He is known for writing, shooting and editing his own projects.

Up-and-coming filmmakers scheduled for the festival include Fanny Veliz, a resident of California, who wrote, directed and starred in the short film *3 Some* and *Shortstop*. Both were winners at the SXSW film festival.

For more information, visit www.spinfest.org or call (409) 880-7222.

Filmmaker documents “intimate portrait” of photographer Keith Carter

A Certain Alchemy, a documentary about noted photographer Keith Carter ’70, will premiere at the Spindletop/Lamar University Film Festival.

Carter, an internationally exhibited photographer and Lamar professor, is the subject of the first in a documentary series that presents a comprehensive study of the world’s most influential photographers. Filmmaker John Spellos will also be a guest at the film festival Nov. 10-12 at Lamar.

Spellos, who has not screened the film at festivals, said the hour-long documentary highlights Carter’s artistic techniques and philosophy. In addition, the film showcases Carter in his element, behind the camera, as he explains his unique photographic technique and motivation for selecting his subjects.

“It will give viewers a rare insight into Keith’s body of work,” said Spellos. “This is just the first in a series we hope will really

illuminate for people the working lives of great photographers.”

Spellos follows Carter as he walks the streets of Mexico with his camera, seeking subjects to photograph and approaching strangers he hopes to use as models. The finished documentary available on DVD, will include an in-depth photo commentary and a segment on how Carter tones or “tints” his images.

“I’m thrilled about everything that’s happening,” Carter said.

Carter has lived in Beaumont since early childhood. After taking over his mother’s portrait business in the early 1980s, Carter also began producing more personal images of small Texas towns, landscapes, portraits, still lifes and interiors in black and white rather than the color his commercial work often demanded. These images have resulted in nine books, hundreds of exhibitions and



John Spellos, Keith Carter

representation by galleries throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Carter, a 1970 graduate of Lamar, holds the Homer Wallis Chair in Visual and Performing Arts at Lamar University.

Carter has had more than 70 solo exhibitions and has published monographs of his black and white photographs, including *From Uncertain To Blue*, 1988; *The Blue Man*, 1990; *Mojo*, 1992; *Heaven of Animals*, 1995; and

Bones, 1996. A mid-career survey, *Keith Carter Photographs—Twenty Five Years* was published in 1997. Both *Holding Venus* and *Ezekiel’s Horse* were released in 2000.

His photographs are in permanent collections across the country, including the George Eastman House, the Museum of Fine Arts of Houston, The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Wittliff Collection of Southwestern and Mexican Photography at Texas State University.

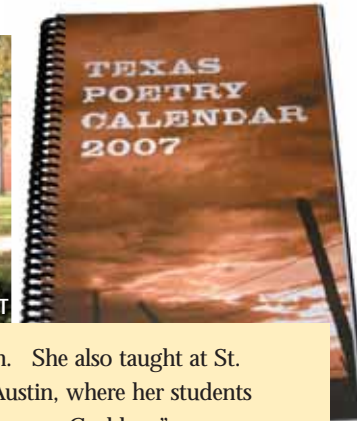
In 1998, Carter received two of the highest honors given to honor Lamar faculty—the University Professor Award and the Distinguished Faculty Lecturer Award. He is the recipient of two National Endowment for the Arts Regional Survey Grants and the Lange-Taylor Prize from the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University. In 1997, Carter was the subject of an arts profile on the national network television program, *CBS Sunday Morning*.

More information about the festival is available by visiting www.spinfest.org.

ArtsNotes



PATRICK WRIGHT



Poetry by **Patrick Wright**, lecturer in English, was selected for publication in the third edition of *Langdon Review of The Arts in Texas*. In connection with the publication, Wright participated in a workshop and presentation at the Langdon Weekend Sept. 6-9 in Granbury, hosted by Tarleton State University, which publishes the *Review*. Wright spoke on *Zen and the Art of Poetry: Poems of Experience and Enlightenment*. The selections illustrate how oriental philosophy influences modern poems to manifest stark imagery and epiphany, Wright said, thereby recreating the experience in the reader. The *Review* includes 10 poems and an essay by Wright, along with a biography and photograph. He read the poems during his presentation . . . Another literary honor has also come Wright’s way: For the second year, a poem by Wright will appear in the Texas Poetry Calendar, published by Dos Gatos Press of Austin. The 2007 edition will feature *Night Drive* to accompany the calendar for Feb. 4-10 . . . Also featured in *Langdon Review* is **Jerry Craven**, who joined the Lamar faculty this fall as adjunct instructor of English. He also made a presentation during the Langdon Weekend. Craven retired from West Texas A&M which honored him as professor emeritus . . .

When **Laurie Lynn Drummond** looked for a college job, she found the highest-paying position was as a dishwasher. She lasted three days – luckily for the literary world.

Instead, she joined the campus security patrol and then became a dispatcher. Today, she combines a law enforcement background with writing talent. Drummond, winner of the Texas Institute of Letters 2004 Jesse Jones Award for fiction, shared her experiences and read from her work March 21 and 22 at Lamar. She won the award for her first book, *Anything You Say Can and Will Be Used Against You*, stories revolving around female officers in Louisiana, where she worked for Louisiana State University and Baton Rouge police departments while earning her master of fine arts. Drummond now is an assistant professor and director of fiction in the Creative Writing Program at



LAURIE LYNN DRUMMOND

the University of Oregon. She also taught at St. Edward’s University in Austin, where her students nicknamed her “The Grammar Goddess.” . . . **Catherine Tufariello**, winner of the national 2006 Poets’ Prize, read from her work March 8 at Lamar. Tufariello won the prize for her first book, *Keeping My Name*. It is awarded annually by a committee of 22 poets, including **R.S. “Sam” Gwynn**, professor of English at Lamar, who serves as chair of the prize committee. A resident of Valparaiso, Ind., Tufariello has taught at the University of Miami and Valparaiso University . . . From larger-than-life photographs to a series of paintings smaller than salad plates, the 2006 Faculty Exhibition in the Dishman Art Museum is a visual display of talent and diversity. The display continues through Oct. 26, featuring works by

Linnis Blanton, Greg Busceme, Keith Carter, Ray Daniel, Kurt Dyrhaug, Xenia Fedorchanko, Meredith Jack, Jamie Paul Kessler, Rose Matthis, Ann Matlock, Donna Meeks and Prince Thomas . . . After a successful business career, **Richard Ashley** returned to Lamar to pursue a degree in studio art. This May, he graduated summa cum laude. His senior thesis showcased a formidable installation that dominated floor space in the Dishman Art Museum’s lower gallery . . . Local performers took a bite of the Big Apple June 6 for the 14th annual LU-llaby of Broadway, a show-tune extravaganza that is the primary fund-raiser for theatre scholarships. Honored with stars on Lamar Theatre’s Wall of Fame during the New York-themed performance were **Catherine Armstrong, Ann Jones and Les Warren**.



Untitled lithograph by Xenia Fedorchanko



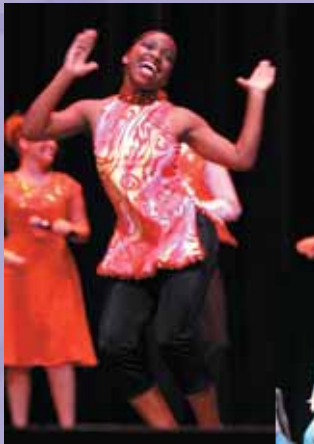
RICHARD ASHLEY

► Kyndal Williams and fellow dancers explore their feline side to the tune of *Macavity the Mystery Cat*.



Another opening, another show . . .

The Gershwins met the Beatles, and the girls from *Grease* met the mystery cat. Favorites from the Broadway stage made beautiful music alongside bebop—and all that jazz. And, on a poignant note, there was a tribute to the late, great Ray Charles. The Cardinal Singers and Lamar Dance Company brought down the curtain on the 16th season of *Lamarissimo!* April 25 in a show-biz sensation of singular songs and sizzling dances spanning eight decades.



► A women's chorus brought down the house with *Beauty School Dropout* from *Grease*.

◄ Thalisha Sadler lights up the stage at *Lamarissimo!*



► Jacqueline Basden creates choreographic magic as she dances to sounds of the Cardinal Singers.



PHOTOS BY ROHN WENNER

► High-energy moves by the Lamar Dance Company provide on-stage excitement at the *Lamarissimo!* performance.

. . . and another exciting season for *Lamarissimo!*

It's 17 years young and still growing, reaching and making ever more beautiful music for Southeast Texas audiences.

Bravissimo to *Lamarissimo!* Undeterred by a destructive diva named Rita, the show went on, playing to enthusiastic applause in a different venue—the historic Jefferson Theatre—because of damage to the Julie Rogers Theatre. As the rebound from the hurricane continues, *Lamarissimo!* prepares for its 17th season.

Again, the series has rearranged its lineup, opening Nov. 7 with the Lamar Jazz Band and continuing Dec. 1 with the Holiday Choir Concert — Lamar's Yuletide

gift to the community as well as a celebration of the season. The series resumes in spring 2007 with Faculty Artists, March 6; Wind Ensemble and Concert Band, March 22; and Cardinal Singers and Lamar Dance Company, April 26. All performances begin at 7:30 p.m.

"We're still recovering, but all the dates are secure in the Jefferson Theatre," said Harry Bulow, chair of the Department of Music, Theatre & Dance. The season is still, to some extent, reflective of difficulties with Rita. Because of various factors, the lineup is being rearranged.

"But I think it's going to be an exciting

season," Bulow said. "We always think of *Lamarissimo!* as a semi-professional concert series, and this season will be better than ever."

Concert sponsors, in order of performances, are Bo-Mac Contractors Ltd., J K Chevrolet, American Valve & Hydrant, ExxonMobil and Entergy Texas.

Season tickets, priced at \$35 for adults and \$18 for students, may be purchased in the Department of Music, Theatre & Dance, phone (409) 880-8144. The season tickets include admission to all five *Lamarissimo!* concerts.

Nov. 7 Lamar Jazz Band	Dec. 1 Holiday Choir Concert	March 6 Faculty Artists	March 22 Wind Ensemble and Concert Band	April 26 Cardinal Singers and Lamar Dance Company
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* New scholarships benefit students



ALICIA BONURA



ASHLEY BROWN

Family and friends have established two scholarships in the memory of Alicia Bonura and Ashley Brown, the West Brook High School soccer players who died in a March school bus accident. The **Alicia Bonura Memorial**

Scholarship in Engineering and the **Ashley Brown Memorial Scholarship in Soccer** will be available for award in fall 2007.

Friends and family members wanted these two young women to be remembered in perpetuity, and the endowments make that possible.

John Via III '86, vice president and general manager of Alcon's Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Operations in Fort Worth, has established the **Yaws-Via Scholarship in Chemical**



CARL YAWS

Engineering in honor of professor of chemical engineering Carl Yaws, who is a patent-holder and author of 27 books. Yaws' engineering experience spans process evaluation, research, development and design for Exxon, Ethyl and Texas Instruments. A resulting product, Paveway Silicon, of his process development work resides with the Smithsonian Institute because of its unique purity and electrical properties. Via earned a master's degree in engineering science from Lamar and has 22 years of engineering and management experience in the pharmaceutical and manufacturing industries.

Ed and Tommy Jean Garner have established the **Tommy Jean and Harry Edward Garner Scholarship in Business** to help young people gain an education that will help them to enjoy life the way the couple has. Ed, a Beaumont native, played clarinet in the band and worked as a janitor for South Park High to pay his tuition. He earned an accounting degree from the University of Texas after serving in the Air Corps during WWII and married his accounting classmate, Tommy Jean Armstrong. They spend their retirement traveling, as well as fishing and gardening at their home in Woodville.



To commemorate their 50-year reunion in 2006, classmates established the **Class of 1956 Scholarship** in honor of 1956 alumni and their dedication to their alma mater. The scholarship is open to all majors.

Land Manor was a pioneering program to assist individuals suffering mental illness, substance-related challenges and other kinds of abuse. The **Archie Land Good Heart Scholarship** for students majoring in social work was established in a bequest from Archie James Land Jr., executive director of Land Manor Inc., which operated several halfway houses in Beaumont. In the face of later funding cuts, he fought passionately to maintain services for his clients. In life, he existed to help those less blessed than he. In death, his work continues. His staff called him, "Archie Land, the man who made a difference."

Through their generosity and careful management, the more than 300 members of the **Southeast Texas Chapter of the Texas Society of CPAs** have endowed a scholarship in accounting in the group's name.

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers Sabine Section has established two scholarships, funded at \$15,000 each: **The Otto Brown Memorial Scholarship in Mechanical Engineering** and the **Ernest Holdredge Memorial**



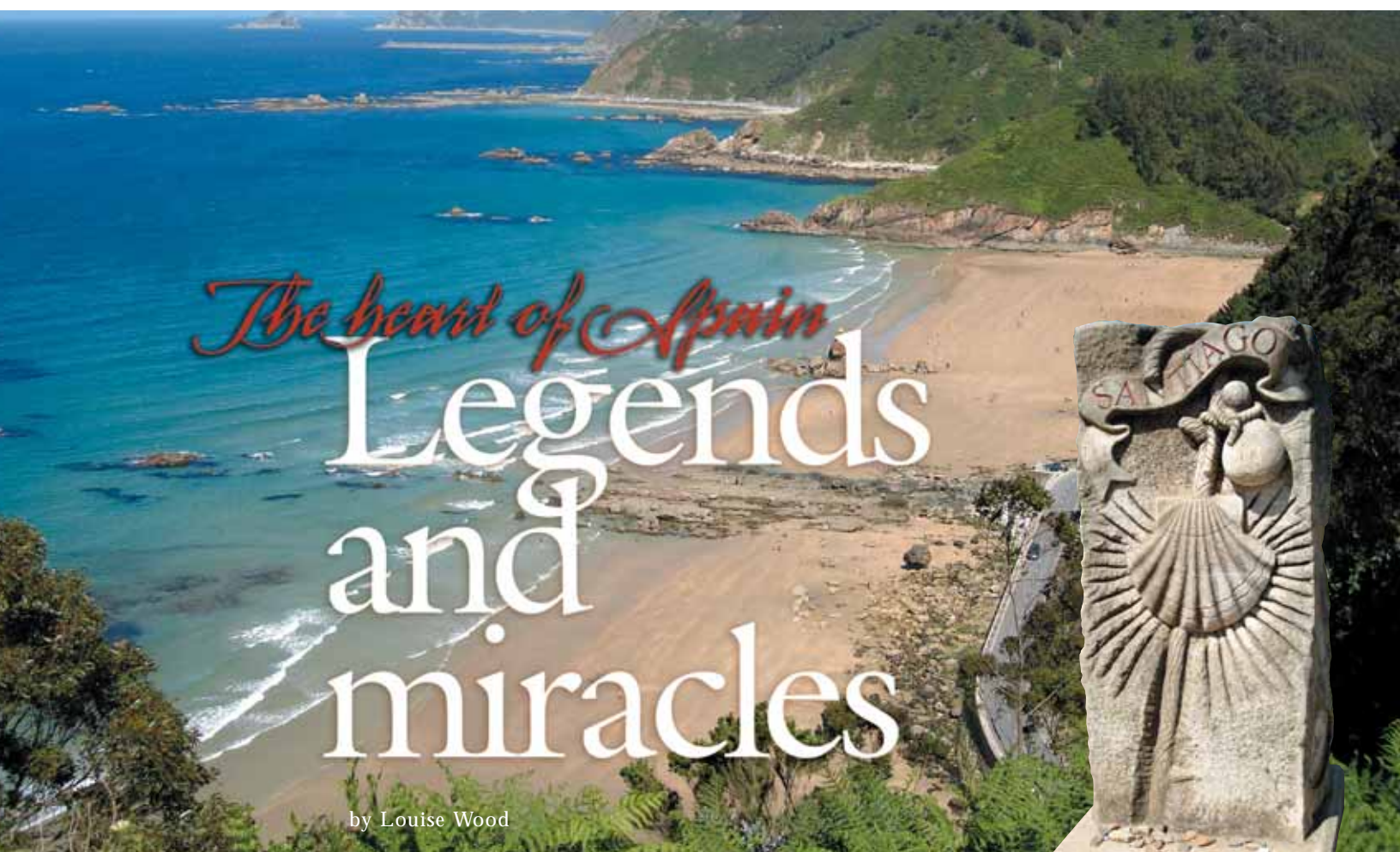
MALUR SRINIVASAN, WALTER ALMON AND DEAN JACK HOPPER

Scholarship in Mechanical Engineering. The scholarships honor Holdredge, who was the first chair of the mechanical engineering department, and Brown, the third department chair.

Martha Salim '72, B.S. elementary education, has established the **Samuel J. Salim Sr. Memorial Scholarship** in memory of her husband. Born in 1928 in Beaumont, Samuel Salim Sr. '49 began attending Lamar College in 1947 on a football scholarship, playing tackle and guard. His teammates nicknamed him "Sabu." Salim earned All-American honors in 1948 and 1949 and was inducted into the Cardinal Hall of Honor in 1976. At Lamar, he majored in electrical and machine theory and then attended North Texas University, also receiving a football scholarship.

Nieces and nephews of the late Charles A. Partin have established the **Charles A. Partin Scholarship** in Economics to honor the longtime chair of the Department of Economics.

Partin served as a professor of economics at Lamar beginning in 1964 and as department chair from 1966 until 1984. He earned his master's degree and Ph.D., both in economics, from the University of Texas, in 1947 and 1961, respectively. The scholarship will enable future students of economics to benefit from Partin's dedication in that field of study. Establishing the scholarship were Denise Brooks, David Callens, Alfred Day and Janis Rogers.



The heart of Spain Legends and miracles

by Louise Wood

Spain's Camino de Santiago is no ordinary road, having been polished by the feet of pilgrims, knights and saints during its 1,100-year history. Christine Bridges-Esser is a pilgrim on that pathway – a 509-mile journey over dirt, a little asphalt and a history so rich and resonant, it is known as a roadway of legends and miracles. Its ultimate destination: the tomb of the apostle St. James.

It is also an odyssey of the soul for Bridges-Esser, associate professor of Spanish who, though American-born, says she has been Spanish in her heart all her life.

"In Spain they say to me, 'Where did you meet your American husband?'" When I tell them I am an American, they say, 'But we thought you were from here,' and I say, "In my heart, I am."

For Bridges-Esser, the pilgrimage is a time-honored blend of scholarly research and amazing experiences – shared by her husband, James Esser, University Professor of psychology. The most recent of their five pilgrimages was May through July.

"The first few years, we would walk stages of the Camino, then the next year go back to where we stopped and, from there, walk more stages," she said. "This year we did the entire Camino from St. Jean Pied de Port, France, to Santiago de Compostela and then did another stage of the northern route. Along the way, we met a man in his 70s who had done the Camino in stages for the past 10 years. This year, he was doing the last stage and was finally going to make it into Santiago."

Bridges-Esser will make that journey come alive this fall when she presents the 2006 Distinguished Faculty Lecture. She is the 20th recipient of the honor – one of the highest accorded a Lamar faculty member.

"Legends and Miracles: The Pilgrimage Route to Santiago de Compostela" will be the topic of her lecture, to be presented at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 16 in the University Theatre and sponsored by ExxonMobil. A reception in the Dishman Art Museum is planned afterward.



CHRISTINE BRIDGES-ESSER

"You name it. Each 100 kilometers has a different menu, different traditions, music, culture, history, language. We've happened upon festivals where we were invited to eat free fresh grilled sardines and drink free cider, dance traditional dances and just have a great time talking to the people."

— CHRISTINE BRIDGES-ESSER



Bridges-Esser's global perspective and interest in Spain comes naturally. Because her father was in the Navy, she has spent much of her life traveling the world. Born in New York City, she attended grade school in Italy, spent her high-school years in Japan and later studied in Spain and the United States.

Bridges-Esser earned her doctor of philosophy from Vanderbilt University and her master's and bachelor's degrees from the University of Texas at El Paso. She is working with James Esser on a book to be titled *A Prospect for Peace in the Basque Country*. Bridges-Esser has a number of lectures and presentations to her credit and is widely published in professional journals. She is also active on campus, having been elected to serve as 2006-2007 vice president of the Faculty Senate, of which she has been a member since 1996.

A resident of Beaumont and a faculty member since 1994, Bridges-Esser has been the recipient of many grants and awards, including the University Merit Award. She has led in a number of teaching innovations and been instrumental in course development. In the classroom, she focuses primarily on teaching Spanish, as well as Spain's literature, civilization and culture. The lecture will add another dimension to her career.

"The Camino de Santiago is 772 kilometers (509 miles) long, mostly of dirt and, sometimes, asphalt," Bridges-Esser wrote in her lecture proposal. "It was originally a Celtic road and later the road to the Roman road to finis terrae, or end of the earth. It is a road composed of Roman bridges and forest trails; it crosses mountain ranges and cow



pastures, past Romanesque churches of the 9th century and spectacular Gothic cathedrals. It passes through many small towns in Spain that look no different than they have for a thousand years – and great modern cities. It houses the castles of the Knights Templar, the last known location of the Holy Grail, and ancient monasteries, which contain important relics such as the largest piece of the cross of Jesus.

"It is a road of legends and miracles. This 1,100-year-old road has been polished by the feet of saints, sinners and everyone in between. It is a mixture of physical challenge and spirituality and serves as a starting point to learn about the religious and historical roots of Europe."

The road has great political, social and religious importance, Bridges-Esser said: "Political because this road forged a bond between non-Islamic Spain and Christian Europe at the time of the Crusades; social because of the trade and art that flourished along the trade route it created; and religious because this is the road of piety," traversed by St. Anthony, St. Francis and others.

It also was the road of salvation, or civic expiation, she said, because medieval judges sentenced convicts to walk the Camino in lieu of prison. Camino de Santiago continues to be influential, Bridges-Esser said, every year attracting people of all ages from all over the world to walk the Camino. This fall, her lecture audience will join that group.

Through images, she said, "I will show not only the beauty of the landscape, but also every major style of art and architecture, from medieval to modern times. Along the way, I

will insert legends, traditions, historical information and anecdotes. I will show landmarks, castles . . . and the church where the Holy Grail was last known to be, and pictures of the cross of Jesus."

Bridges-Esser finds it almost impossible to single out her most memorable moment from the five years and 2,500 miles she has traveled. But, she says: "When you get to Santiago and climb the steps, upon entering the cathedral there is a marble column. Pilgrims from the year 864 have placed their hand upon one spot in that column – that means St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony and millions of pilgrims have left deep finger impressions in the mar-

ble, and it forms a hand. Placing your hand in the holes is like stepping back to the year 864 and touching all those who have come before you on the road as if you were one group of humanity. After five times, it still gets me. I don't know of anyone else that I have seen wearing the backpack, grubby, hot, and humble, who does not tear up at this point.

"Jim and I plan on doing this as long as our little ol' legs and feet will still be able to shuffle along. There are hundreds of people in their 70s and 80s along the Camino. There are also lots of grave markers to 'fallen' pilgrims – 'here lies so and so, age such and such, who had a heart attack . . . got run over . . . fell off the mountain' along the road. My friend and the owner of a beautiful hotel in Santiago told me this year that they ought to name a stage of the Camino after Jim and me – the Bridges Esser stage. I like that."

She describes the foray as "backpacks to blisters, rain and shine."

But, she says, the experience is addictive. "Every day you wake up with the excitement of seeing something beautiful, new and different, meeting new people, eating new and great food. No matter how hard the climb, every day at the end of the day you can list at least one thing that made it worth it. After the mental stress of the 21st century, you strap all of your belongings onto your back, and the only worry you have is getting to the next place . . . crossing the next mountain.

Without blow dryers, makeup, phones, cars or e-mail, you live a simple life and enjoy the beauty of the creator."



Bernini chats with producer Richard Prince on the CSI New York set.

Making the impossible happen

The impossible is not usually laden with promise, but that’s what Lark Bernini always manages to see in the machinery of making a movie.

By Cynthia Hicks



Getting a film finished takes a frenetic, neck-or-nothing pace against time, personalities and expenses that drains the energy of the participants even as

it pumps it back in. As a production coordinator cum associate producer, Lark (Wiltshire) Bernini '72 feeds off that force of energy. She's usually in the office by 6 a.m., coffee in hand, running down details and mowing down problems at full throttle.

Those thousands of minutiae are her forte: settling scheduling issues for busy actors with the Screen Actors Guild or location changes, maintaining crew lists and cast lists, managing clearances and equipment, studio liaisons or, more specifically, luckily locating a River Oaks home to furnish as quarters for chimps and their trainers during a three-month shoot for the Disney film *Rocket Man*.

That experience comes in handy for a difficult shoot in a foreign country. For

Mission Impossible III, Bernini took her organizational skills to Italy and China, navigating the intricacies of working with parallel crews. "You've got to remind yourself those people know what they're doing. They know as well as I know what I'm doing. I have to respect that, or I lose the ability to communicate in that country," she said.

With a Panavision resource in Rome, shipping and communication headaches were much reduced, but China was a different story. "We had to locate a Chinese production company and a Chinese government representative that would agree to work with us. They would go to the government and get permission for everything we had to do, and, without them, we lived or died," she said.

Her primary job was ensuring every piece of equipment made it to China intact and on time, which took months of working with shipping companies and creating extensive manifests. "A customs agent on any given day can be your best friend or your worst enemy. It was a very political learning experience," she recalls. For the return, everything had to be trucked 1,000 miles from Shanghai back to Beijing, checked and organized on pallets for a

charter flight. "We had seven automobiles and camera equipment, wardrobe, lighting equipment, special effects, automobile parts. We had thousands of pounds of equipment to get back. My greatest pride in that film is that we never lost one piece."

Those challenges have kept her engaged and exhilarated by the business. Although the mechanics for each project may be the same, the concept and people are always different with varying logistics.

"You've got this enormous animal of a movie that has a mind of its own," Bernini said, "and at the same time, though, it's got to move forward in a realistic, cost-effective way to get made in a finite amount of time. So, that's the challenge."

And she loves it. The excitement and interest that was piqued in the Lamar theater program as an undergraduate is still there, even after three decades in the industry. She played the Goldie Hawn role in *Cactus Flower* as a senior education major and Phi Delta Zeta. After graduation and a year's teaching in Conroe, she couldn't let go of the joy of acting and moved to Dallas to become a student again, this time at the

Actor's Workshop. She was an extra in *Logan's Run*, did a couple of commercials and, after two years, decided to head to Los Angeles. "I didn't know enough to be afraid," she said. "I got rid of everything that couldn't fit in my car. Within a week, I had an apartment just off the Sunset Strip for \$175 a month. A year later, through a temp agency, I got my first job in the industry."

That job was with Max Baer Jr., Jethro on the *Beverly Hillbillies*, who had a film production company. Bernini ended up being hired permanently. While working for Baer, she met her husband, Jeff, a writer who had sold a script to Baer, and other people who would become colleagues. "One assistant director called me needing a production coordinator. It was from one job to the next after that because people remembered me," she said.

Since then, Bernini has worked with a list of industry greats that make a movie buff drool: On *Only the Lonely*, "I spent a lot of time with Maureen O'Hara, and she's such a gal. She'll tell you the most fabulous stories about John Wayne and Tyrone Power. That was just a gift to be around someone like that." She's done three films with Danny Glover: "Love him. He's a smart, lovely man, kind to everyone."

She describes Johnny Depp, whom she worked with on *Nick of Time*, as "an absolute professional. He came to work every day totally prepared, does his job as economically as possible, is very nice to everyone and has a great sense of humor." On *The Replacements*, she said, "We were all in awe of Gene Hackman. He's just a wonderful, warm man. The most interesting thing about him is he has so many other interests: art, books and boats. Acting is what he does but not what he wants to talk about."

Meeting, and subsequently working for Martin Scorsese, she says, "was one of those things that you couldn't plan if you tried." A colleague of a colleague called and said, *Last Temptation of Christ*: The casting agent is coming out here, and she wants you to help out. Are you available?" Two months later, Bernini was asked to become Scorsese's assistant for the time he would be in Los Angeles for film prep. "It was just totally being in the



"It's a creature. It's got its own pulse and its own brain."

— LARK BERNINI

Bernini tours the Castle of the King of Napoli, location for many scenes in *Mission: Impossible 3*.

right place at the right time, so I worked with him for about six months. He's one of the funniest people I've ever been around. He has an intensity that if you could bottle, you could probably cure all illness. He was an education on film, and that's the thing I loved so much about Marty," she said.

Bernini feels fortunate to have worked with people "who were interested in keeping me working," such as line producer Richard Prince, with whom she's done 15 films. "Experience will get you a job, give you an edge. Maybe it's the fact that you've done two movies in a certain city, worked with a certain actor or done four movies for a certain studio. It's going to make the producer's job easier."

As a member of the Producers Guild of America, "I have had occasion to be in the same room with huge producers who everybody respects so much," Bernini said. "You can literally call someone up and ask their advice. They are very giving people . . . You can go up and shake someone's hand and say, 'I'd love to work with you.' And it happens, ya' know?"

The dichotomy inherent in the job keeps it from being boring. Most people in her line agree "it's a love-hate thing," she said. "You're



On the M:I:3 set in Shanghai, Bernini consults with Pierre Cheminat, a member of the Action Unit crew.

stressed to the max. You're tired. You're overloaded, but you're so jazzed at the same time because we love what we do. I deal with the sound department and the extras and the actors, producers, the studio, the crew. I think for me that would have to be it: watching all the pieces come together and watching the impossible happen every day."

Most recently, she completed the pilot for *Brothers and Sisters*, directed by Ken Olin, which premiered Sept. 24. "That made me tired, that one," she said. "I had a couple of 20-hour days on that thing. But that's the norm. Twelve hours is a short day, and 14 or 16 when you're shooting is normal. But we all look so good, maybe that's the secret," she laughs.

At the moment, she's anticipating work on a film Alison Eastwood is directing and her father, Clint, is producing, and producer Bill Borden of the recent *High School Musical* smash has asked her to work on the sequel.

A self-described movie snob who is harder to please the older she gets, she's awed by the mercurial quality of filmmaking. "It's a creature. It's got its own pulse and its own brain. Every day, you can watch the scene you've shot; you can hear the discussions between the director and the producer and the actors, and you don't know how it's going to turn out. A movie that you swear can't miss, something happens and it doesn't click. And something that you may have low expectations for just knocks your socks off. It's an ethereal thing."

"I don't know. Movies," she ruminates, "I don't know if I'll ever get them out of my system."



Believe in Belize



Four Lamar University students recently stepped out of their comfort zones to work with children of all ages in Chunox, a rural village in Belize. For 10 days at Camp Believe – so named to complement their motto of “Believe in you, believe in me” – their mission was to engage the children in creative playtime through music, arts and crafts and simple science to learn more about American culture while giving themselves an opportunity to explore the villagers’ culture and way of life.

The students planned each day’s activities around a specific theme: beach day, opposite day, Earth day, space day and mystery day.

Josmery Ramirez, a sophomore vocal performance major from Baytown, described beginning the first day by “singing *Baby Shark* with all the hand and body movements, and these kids thought we were absolutely crazy,” she said. “But, by the third day or so, they really started to trust us and began having fun. It was really great because they don’t get to do these things very often. They have to harvest fruits and vegetables, feed the chickens and do their chores.”

The children made masquerade masks of feathers and glitter; constructed paper pirate hats, swords and eye patches; learned the art of origami; worked puzzles; and even built and launched their own rudimentary rockets for space day.

Adapting to their new surroundings, the students were housed with a matriarch of the village, a woman by the name of Estella Santoya. They stayed in a concrete, one-room building where they slept on mattresses on the floor. The village has no running water or sewerage system and only primitive bathing facilities.

The food in the village, however, did merit praise from the travelers. Fresh fruit, fresh eggs, beans, bananas, coconuts and plenty of tortillas were the standard daily fare. Josh Bucklew, a senior chemical engineering major from Nederland, was amazed by the green oranges that were much sweeter than oranges from stores in the United States.

Donna Birdwell, director of the University Honors Program, conducted research on the village, the people and the culture in the 1970s. She has maintained her relationships with many residents of the village as well as the principal of the school in the village and has made this trip with Lamar students once before.

“Our students were terrific. They worked very hard and were dedicated to their tasks,” said Birdwell. “They did three two-hour



ASHLEY BARNES
JOSH BUCKLEW
JOSMERY RAMIREZ
DEEPTHI LINGAM

sessions every day and had from 20 to 50 kids at each session. They were very intelligent about what they did and had to do a significant amount of planning. However, they were wise enough to adapt their plans to the realities in the village.”

Belize’s economy is based on agriculture; however, more than 20 percent of the gross national product is derived from tourism, so it wasn’t all work and no play for the Lamar ambassadors. The students were able to spend two nights and one day at a modern hotel in Orange Walk, a popular Belize tourist destination. From there, they traveled to the offshore island of Lamanai to explore a few Mayan ruins.

“We took a river trip to Lamanai and saw manatees and alligators on the way,” said Bucklew. “We climbed to the top of the highest Mayan ruin called the Temple of the Rain God. We listened to the sounds of the howler monkeys in the forest below, and that was a little scary, but it was an amazing experience.”

Deepthi Lingam, a biology major from Port Arthur, and Ashley Barnes, accounting major from Longview, also made the trek. The students are members of Rotaract, a university-based service organization sponsored by the Rotary Club of Beaumont.

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