From the President

Across campus, we are seeing hard work pay off even as new initiatives hold great promise.

This spring, Lamar awarded its first-ever Ph.D. to Aditi Singh, whose dissertation on biobutanol could factor in decisions that will benefit the economy of Southeast Texas for years to come. Lamar also awarded 14 Doctor of Educational Leadership degrees to the first cohort to complete the program.

Finding their way on a different course became second nature to Lamar’s golf team, which exhibited a stunning final round in the NCAA national championship and took third place—the highest finish in Lamar’s history in any sport. Congratulations to the team and to Coach Brian White.

Access to higher education will be easier for the citizens of Hardin County with the initiation of Lamar University classes on the Lumberton High School campus Aug. 23. Our Center for Distance Education seeks to enhance educational access through many initiatives, including degree programs available entirely online.

Opportunity of another sort begins in spring 2008 as Lamar offers courses in Mandarin, the language of more than 1 billion people and the official language of China. Students will learn to speak and read Mandarin and will be introduced to the customs and culture of China in context of the language.

The Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center is now Lamar’s newest campus hot spot. Meanwhile, construction continues across campus on rooms for 500 additional students in Cardinal Village when it opens in August.

National recognition of the excellence of Lamar University’s teacher education programs came with the announcement of accreditation of the College of Education and Human Development by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

The announcement of a $1 million gift from David Bed ‘61, super lawyer and Lamar alumnus, establishes the first two fellowships ever for students at Lamar. These fellowships will help attract top-notch students to the university. Throughout the year, the support of alumni and friends helps make a university degree a reality for many students. Thank you so very much!

With Cardinal Pride,

James M. Simmons
President
Lamar University

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dev
Lumberton and Hardin County residents will soon have greater access to higher education through a joint venture between Lamar University and the Lumberton school district in which Lamar will offer college classes in the evenings at the high school.

The university will offer core curriculum courses during the fall 2007 semester with classes beginning Aug. 23. Nine courses required for most degree programs will be offered initially. Classes will continue to be offered during the spring 2008 semester, and course offerings will be expanded and rotated to include upper level classes and electives chosen to meet students’ needs.

“We recognize the 22-mile commute to Lamar University is a potential barrier to earning a degree,” said Paula Nichols, associate professor of educational leadership and director of the Center for Distance Education at Lamar. “For many individuals, this will mean access to higher education even if they enter the work force immediately after high school graduation.”

The classes will be scheduled for 6 to 8:45 p.m. one evening per week for each course taken. The schedule will follow the normal university semester schedule and is designed to be conducive for students to meet their employment and family obligations.

The initial courses to be offered include Developmental Algebra I, Public Speaking, General Geology I, U.S. History I: 1763-1877, College Algebra, General Psychology, English Composition I, Art Appreciation and Criminal Justice-Alcohol Related Crimes.

“This is a win-win for Lumberton ISD, the community and Lamar University,” said Ron Sims, superintendent of the Lumberton ISD. “This is a great opportunity not only for citizens in the area who want to start or continue their degree, but also for our high school students to begin working on degrees.” Sims said.

More than 71 percent of the Hardin County population age 25 and older have earned high school diplomas, but do not hold bachelor’s degrees. The state average for individuals with high school diplomas is 52 percent.

To assist students who wish to register for classes, a Lamar representative will be at Lumberton High School from 1-7 p.m. Monday through Thursday. For more information about registering for college courses at Lumberton High School, contact the Lamar University Center for Distance Education, (409) 880-1847, or visit www.lamar.edu.

Lamar conferred 679 degrees, including 18 doctorates, 119 master’s degrees and 541 bachelor’s degrees during spring commencement May 12. U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, delivered the keynote address. Among the “firsts” in Lamar’s history was the largest number of doctoral degrees ever awarded, the first Ph.D. (chemical engineering) ever conferred, and the first Ed.D.s in educational leadership ever given—a total of 14. The university also awarded two doctor of engineering degrees and one doctorate in deaf studies/ deaf education.

Graduates hailed from 11 countries, 12 states outside Texas and 103 cities in Texas.

New peaks alter skyline

Construction moves quickly toward ribbon-cutting for the campus’ newest residence hall, Cardinal Village IV, a $16-million expansion of Lamar’s current state-of-the-art, 1,500-bed complex by Davis Brothers Construction of Houston. It will be completed by Aug. 15, 2007, adding 500 beds to campus, bringing the Village total to more than 2,000 beds.

Cardinal Village was 100 percent full in Fall 2006, with about 120 students living in Brooks Hall. Spring occupancy is greater than 95 percent. Information on Cardinal Village is available at lamar.edu/cardinalvillage.
Students from Lamar University’s Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities and area high schools presented $15,500 to the Humane Society of Southeast Texas April 11. The students joined the effort was associate dean Richard Hargrove, who returned from retirement and brought with him a prior experience with the accreditation process. Generally speaking, graduates of an NCATE-accredited teacher preparation program are in higher demand because they are well prepared for initial licensing and advanced board certification. Lamar University offers 29 accredited licensure programs for teachers, counselors and administrators.

Founded in 1954, NCATE is the federally recognized accreditation body for institutions that prepare state-licensed educators. NCATE’s performance-based accreditation process involves peer-review of the professional education unit, based on a set of researched-based national standards. "NCATE accreditation assures us that a Lamar University certified teacher is a highly qualified teacher," Lowery-Moore said. "That person has the knowledge, the dedication and the skills to do what it takes in the classroom in Texas and throughout the nation. NCATE accreditation ensures we have met the benchmarks for best practices."

Smith added: "Of the 34 public universities in Texas, only 10 are NCATE accredited. That puts us in with some handsome company. I’m proud of our college and the effort of our faculty. I have no doubt this distinction will attract students to Lamar University."

Mason honored for five decades of leadership

President James Simmons recently dedicated the Elvis Mason Conference Room in the John Gray Center on campus in honor of Mason ’59, who began his association with Lamar University in 1956 as a freshman and immediately emerged as a campus leader, serving as freshman class president and eventually serving as student body president.

"As student body president, he led the charge to name the newest building on campus for long-time Lamar president Dr. F.L. McDonald," said President Simmons. "It was at his request and through his leadership of the students of Lamar that McDonald Gym got its name."

Mason earned a bachelor's degree in economics and was president of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and Delta Sigma Pi honor society. Lamar honored Mason in 1974 as a Distinguished Alumnus, presented him with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 1982, and inducted him into the College of Business Hall of Fame in 2003. He also served from 1975 to 1983 as a member of the Lamar University System board of regents. He had a successful career in Beaumont and Dallas in the banking industry and was the founder and managing partner of the Mason Boat Co. Mason has also been involved in many community and civic organizations, including the Dallas Citizens' Council and Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

Mason played an integral role in securing legislative support and funding to establish the John Gray Center. The newly established Elvis Mason Conference Room, formerly known to many as the Map Room, provides a venue for meetings and news conferences and is a gathering place for community alumni and campus groups.

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Ensuring the best preparation possible

The accreditation process, which took five years to complete, required faculty and officials of the college to undertake a four-year self-study, which included review of all certification programs in terms of state and NCATE standards. Leading the effort was associate dean Richard Hargrove, who returned from retirement and brought with him prior experience with the accreditation process. Generally speaking, graduates of an NCATE-accredited teacher preparation program are in higher demand because they are well prepared for initial licensing and advanced board certification. Lamar University offers 29 accredited licensure programs for teachers, counselors and administrators.

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Smith added: "Of the 34 public universities in Texas, only 10 are NCATE accredited. That puts us in with some handsome company. I’m proud of our college and the effort of our faculty. I have no doubt this distinction will attract students to Lamar University."

"It is an outward and visible sign to the community and the state of Texas that we offer a first-class teacher education program."

—KEVIN SMITH, senior associate provost
At the podium

Kemba Smith told her story of triumph and determination Feb. 7 during a program sponsored by Lamar Alum and the Satter Student Center. Smith, who was sentenced as a college student in 1994 to more than two decades in federal prison on a first-time drug conviction, is a single mother, advocate, public speaker, law student and soon-to-be author. After serving six and a half years, Smith regained her freedom after President Clinton granted her clemency and now attends law school at Howard University. She started the Kemba Smith Foundation that works to inspire and uplift young people as well as educate them about injustices within the criminal justice system.

Ben Barnes, former Texas lieutenant governor, legislator and author, discussed “The Diversity of Politics and the Future of Our Nation’s Leadership” during a Gray Library Lecture April 24. His latest book is titled A Political Life from LBJ to George W. Bush, a professor of Earth and space sciences, was presented an outstanding service award at the 110th annual meeting of the Texas Academy of Science March 1-3 at Baylor University in Waco. During his eight years of oversight of the academy’s treasury, he presented an outstanding service award at the 110th annual meeting of the Texas Academy of Science March 1-3 at Baylor University in Waco. During his eight years of oversight of the academy’s treasury, he...
The opportunity to experiment with some high-tech gear comes with the donation of a Garrett Courítesy of NASA BRIAN SATTLER assistant professor of chemistry. Bond also was one of only two students awarded a $1,000 scholarship by the south Texas section of the SPE. Paul Bernazzani, dent-elect of the Lamar University Chapter of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) was recently awarded second prize in two poster competitions. His work, "Effect of Substrate Interaction on the Melting of Thin Polyethylene Films" was conducted under the supervision of Rachel Bond, presi-
dent-elect of the SPE. The second course is designed to help students develop the students’ ability to communicate in Chinese to fulfill real-life tasks and to build on their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. In the course, students will learn a variety of Chinese expression and fur-ther explore the culture and customs of Chinese-speaking people. At the end of this course, students should be able to understand conversations with a vocabulary of more than 1,200 words. Students will be taught to comprise 200-300 sentence patterns and gain the ability to write more than 350 additional Chinese characters in simplified form.

The College of Arts and Sciences’ ability to foster international addition to Chinese language courses, the group has also recommended adding courses in Arabic and Russian, said Brenda Nichols, dean of the college. “The advisory board said to make offering Chinese the top priority,” Nichols said. “Certainly, the rise of China economically means knowing the language will create opportunities for our students.” The courses will also be available to the community as a non-credit basic. “This may open doors for people who recognize how these skills can open doors for them in business and more,” Nichols said. “There are a great many businesses in Southeast Texas that do business internationally.”

The classes will also be available to the community on a non-credit basis. “This may open doors for people who recognize how these skills can open doors for them in business and more,” Nichols said. “There are a great many businesses in Southeast Texas that do business internationally.”

The courses are a great opportuni-
ty for students who seek a unique chal-lenge, Nichols said. Adding a foreign language to a degree program can enhance a graduate’s value to future employers. The university’s Department of English and Modern Languages offers bachelor’s degrees, minors and teaching certificates in French and Spanish and a minor in German. Soon, a number of Lamar University students will be able to add themselves to the millions who speak Chinese as they gain a handle on the mysteries of Mandarin.
New scholarships benefit students

Honoring the spirit of lifelong learning, students applying to a college degree at Lamar University but needing financial assistance have even greater opportunity thanks to the generosity of the Reaud Foundation. A gift from the Reaud Foundation in the amount of $546,000 honoring Gena Reaud will be added to the Albert E. Reaud Scholarship Fund that was established by James and絹Marie Reaud to honor his father. With a new total endowment of nearly $31.1 million, the scholarship will be renamed the Albert E. and Gena Reaud Scholarship Fund.

“My husband and I have always placed a high level of importance on education. It was my desire that both of my sons succeed in life and I knew that started with a solid educational background. The fact that my family honors me, alongside my late husband, makes me both humbled and proud,” said Gena Reaud.

“The scholarship is a boost to Lamar University’s ability to help students with financial needs that are exceeding education,” said President James Simmons. “Scores of students have received opportunities for a quality education in the name of the Reaud Scholarship Fund.”

Gena Reaud established scholarships in her family’s name. She and her late husband, who were both Beaumont natives, worked as lawyers in the community. The Reaud Scholarship Fund was established in 1977. Now, Gena and Albert will be honored in their partnership of support for higher education, and even more students will have the opportunity to earn their college degree here at Lamar University.

Growing up in Southeastern Oklahoma during the Great Depression, Gena had little opportunity for education beyond high school. But she knew the value of college and encouraged her sons to pursue their education. She, herself, earned her undergraduate degree from Lamar University.

“She taught us the value of education and along with our father, we provide a potential opportunity for both of us to obtain our education,” said J. Reaud ’88, executive director for the Reaud Foundation. “The Reaud family believes we have future ‘heroes’ within our community and it is our desire to work with students to help them achieve their dreams. We encourage our students to recognize the value of higher education and also want them to understand that education can change their lives.”

As parents of four children and grandparents of nine, Lynn E. and Laura Lee Smith have witnessed first-hand the importance of a university education to the lives of young people. Through their gift, which established the Lynn E. and Laura Lee Smith Scholarship Fund, they have recognized the value of an education and hope to help students earn a bachelor of arts degree.

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Combining the tenure track with the family track is no easy feat. But Pamela Saur has navigated a sure track to academic success—so much so that she earned two of Lamar University’s highest faculty honors within less than six weeks.

Saur, professor of English and modern languages, is Lamar’s 2007 University Professor and its 2007 University Scholar. The professorship, awarded for life to recognize a senior faculty member for distinguished teaching, is the most prestigious faculty award conferred by Lamar University. The professorship is designed to honor a career of scholarship and professional achievement.

Few faculty members anywhere have been as productive as Pamela Saur, says Stephen Doblin, provost and vice president for academic affairs. “Often it is said that someone has taught the entire curriculum. Well, Pam has; in fact, she has added courses to the German curriculum, and then taught them,” Doblin said.

They lived in Iowa, then Florida, where they married Nov. 1, 1969, in Iowa City. She was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., while her father was attending graduate school at Columbia University on a fellowship. "I was lucky to be tenured at the university,“ she said. "We had been married 19 years and had lived in five states when we came to Lamar with our two young children. I am especially proud of these awards because Lamar has meant so much to our family.”

Saur’s parents were from Minnesota, but she was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., while her father was attending graduate school at Columbia University on a fellowship to study modern Austrian literature. Saur decided early on to follow in her father’s footsteps, declaring during a junior high career day that she wanted to be a professor when she grew up. "I began studying German in high school, which was a common thing to do in Iowa because about half of the people have German ancestry—we had 71 people in our German Club. After I went to college, as an English major, I learned about a program in Vienna and started taking more German. I got a double major and spent my junior year abroad in Vienna. I’ve never recovered from that. I still love Vienna and Austria and have been involved in Austrian literature more than 30 years.”

Saur earned bachelor of arts, master of arts and doctor of philosophy degrees from the University of Iowa and a master’s in education from the University of Massachusetts. She and Steve met as students at the University of Iowa. “We went to Omaha together, strictly by chance,” she recalls. “We were assigned to the same car to campaign for Eugene McCarthy in what was called the ‘Children’s Crusade.’”

"When you have one career, it’s difficult combining the tenure track with other faculty members. Among Saur’s many leadership roles at Lamar, Doblin said, one stands out as the most challenging—as chair from 1995 to 1998 of Lamar’s steering committee for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the national accrediting body for higher education. Because of Saur’s efforts, Lamar completed its last SACS reaffirmation with several, rare commendations. In 1998, the Faculty Senate unanimously endorsed a resolution expressing to Saur “for a difficult job extremely well done.”

She and her husband, Steve, assistant professor of social work, have spent most of their teaching careers at Lamar—after years of challenges in juggling the pursuit of advanced degrees with raising children and finding the right fit in collegiate environments. “We are lucky to be tenured at the same university,” she said. “We’ve been married 19 years and had lived in five states when we came to Lamar with our two young children. I am especially proud of these awards because Lamar has meant so much to our family.”

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“Dr. Saur has achieved a reputation as one of the foremost scholars in modern Austrian literature in the United States. Beyond her primary domain, Professor Saur has produced a variety of studies on topics in world literature and on the diversity of other national literatures . . . that demonstrates the amazing breadth of her research interests . . . .” —GERHARD KNAPP, professor of German and comparative literature, University of Utah

"When you have one career, it’s difficult enough, but two together is quite challenging to get all the education you need and raise your family,” Pam said.

Pamela and Steve Saur join their children and grandchildren at the University Professor Award reception: Henry Louis Saur and wife Elena (Chapman) Saur, with daughter Carlee Marie Saur of Pearland and Catherine (Saur) and Kenny Allen, with Tabitha Rose Allen of Beaumont.

The Saurs’ son, Henry ‘01, a communication graduate, is a rising executive with Enterprise Rent A Car. He and his wife, Elena (Chapman) ‘02 live in Pearland with their daughter, Carly Marie. Daughter Cathy (Saur) Allen ‘01, 04 earned a bachelor’s degree in political science and a master’s degree in public education. Taking after her father, she is a career in public service with the Social Security Administration in Port Arthur. Cathy and her husband, Kenny live in Beaumont with their daughter, Tabitha Rose. Aside from their family and campus activities, Saur enjoys regular visits to Vienna, which has now become a second home. “Every couple of years, I try to go to Austria to present a paper or study in the library. And I’m Tellin’ I don’t go to Germany. I don’t go to France. I don’t ever go to other parts of Austria. I’m very focused on Vienna, where I also love to go to plays,” Pam said.

"Dr. Saur is the model of a teacher-scholar, and Lamar University is truly fortunate to have such a distinguished scholar on the faculty,” wrote Kevin Dodson, professor of philosophy in nominating her for University Scholar. “Dr. Saur has achieved recognition as one of the leading scholars in her research field, modern Austrian literature. "In keeping with the wide range of her teaching assignments, Pam has published and presented scholarly papers on a truly impressive array of subjects in literature, language and culture.}
Jennifer Daniel
assistant professor of mathematics

B.S. from University of New Orleans, M.S. and Ph.D. from North Carolina State University. Courses include an online algebra course—with colleagues, this spring received a National Science Foundation grant to support undergraduate research. Active in professional organizations, including American Mathematical Association and the Mathematical Association of America. Faculty sponsor for the Mathematics Club. A Mu Alpha National Honor society and the Mathletic Arts Club. Volunteer for Texas Academy for Leadership in the Humanities and Math Awards.

"For me, everything is traditional, deep, passionate and enduring, as is her sapphire-dusted and inquiry-based approach in her advanced, theoretical courses.”

Jiang "Jenny" Zhou
assistant professor of mechanical engineering

Master’s from University of Wisconsin, PhD from New Mexico State University. Areas of expertise include computer networks, wireless communication and satellite/space communications. Co-principal investigator of a $500,000 grant from the Texas Air Research Center. Four times saw research enhancement grants. Mentors Lamar’s robotics teams which placed third of 40 universities in last year’s regional competition and has ranked in the upper quartile every year. has published 11 refereed articles and presented 30 peer-reviewed papers—considered high level of productivity within a short time.

"Dr. Wang has brought a wealth of knowledge, dedication and commitment to engineering education. His numerous excellent evidences of his final efforts to bring recognition to Lamar.”

Ruhai Wang
assistant professor of electrical engineering

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"Dr. Wang has brought a wealth of knowledge, dedication and commitment to engineering education. His numerous excellent evidences of his final efforts to bring recognition to Lamar.”
For several months each year, you will find Bob Jones ’73 at the helm of his power-cruising catamaran, slipping quietly down the east coast. The sun is rising on the horizon igniting millions of sparkles on the waves. He and wife, Beth, spend weeks on end traveling from port to port along the eastern seaboard. This is a lifelong dream come true for Jones, who gained a love of the ocean and boating while working on a tugboat in his hometown of Port Arthur.

Jones earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering, taking advantage of a new course concentration in environmental quality and focusing that knowledge into ... permits for construction and acting as a liaison between the company and state and federal regulatory agencies.

The San Antonio-based Valero Energy Company recently announced the completion of a 75,000-barrel-per-day expansion at its Port Arthur refinery. The $4.5 billion expansion created 2,000 new jobs and increases the capacity of the facility to 325,000 barrels per day.

Another major economic boost for the region recently announced the completion of a 75,000-barrel-per-day expansion at its Port Arthur refinery. The $4.5 billion expansion created 2,000 new jobs and increases the capacity of the facility to 325,000 barrels per day.

Golden Triangle Industrial Expansion

Business is booming for the petroleum and natural gas industry in Southeast Texas and the Gulf Coast. Six companies have announced major expansions in their Gulf Coast operations that will create more jobs and bring economic development to the area. The total cost for all projects is estimated to be a success of $35 billion with dozens of new jobs and increases in capacity.

Houston-based Motiva Enterprises has made significant progress toward expanding its refining capacity in Southeast Texas. The company has completed the initial design that includes a 325,000 barrel-per-day throughput at its Port Arthur refinery. The expansion would make the refinery the largest in the country and create 4,500 new jobs. The entire facility will now have 2,300 billion in estimated economic impact for Southeast Texas.

The San Antonio-based Valero Energy Company recently announced the completion of a 75,000-barrel-per-day expansion at its Port Arthur refinery. The $4.5 billion expansion created 2,000 new jobs and increases the capacity of the facility to 325,000 barrels per day. Another major economic boost for the region involves liquefied natural gas. The Golden Pass LNG has awarded a $1 billion contract for a two-billion cubic feet per day expansion to its Port Arthur refinery. The estimated $1 billion Port Arthur LNG project would bring more than 500 jobs to the area and could begin as early as 2007.

Another major economic boost for the region involves liquefied natural gas. The Golden Pass LNG has awarded a $1 billion contract for a two-billion cubic feet per day liquefied natural gas terminal in Sabine Pass. Golden Pass expects peak employment of more than 600 construction workers, as well as job opportunities to more than 200 local suppliers and vendors.

Serica Energy has plans to build Port Arthur LNG along the Port Arthur ship canal. When it is completed, the Port Arthur LNG facility will be the largest in the country.

Cheniere Energy has made it a priority to bring liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Southeast Texas. The company has completed the $1 billion Sabine Pass LNG project located in Cameron Parish, Louisiana.

Top Environmental Issues

But here, from the deck of the Hye Life as an environmental engineer, issues and greenhouse gases don’t intrude on the view of a golden sun gently sinking into the ocean. Jones can rest comfortably, knowing he did his part in protecting the quality of ... 2007. For that reason, it is no surprise that the Hye Life II is only the second boat in 2007.

Hye Life II

Jones has a daughter who recently completed law degree and a son who has earned an engineering degree and is pursuing an MBA.
A festive evening at Bistro LeMonde in Beaumont Feb. 26 kicked off the 2007 Red, White & You homecoming celebration. Lamar’s Office of Alumni Affairs hosted the reception and helped organize an array of activities on campus and throughout Southeast Texas—from regional club events and 50th-anniversary reunions of the Class of 1957 and Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity to reunions of geology and music alumni, the unveiling of a world-class mineral exhibit from the Houston Museum of Natural Science in the recently renovated Geology Building and induction of the first four alumni into Lamar’s Music Hall of Honor. Alumni who hadn’t been back to campus recently but returned for homecoming enjoyed not only reminiscing, but also athletic events and tours of a vastly different campus that has seen much growth in the last five years. Cardinal Spirit raised the roof of the Suter Student Center during a pep rally to mark “Get Your Red On Day” Friday, March 2.

The Cardinals met the Southeastern Louisiana Lions for basketball action Saturday, March 3, in the Montagne Center, where band and choir alumni performed. The Lamar Classic Baseball Tournament capped the weekend with games Friday, Saturday and Sunday at Vincent-Beck Stadium.

Photography by Brian Sattler, Chris Castillo, Rohn Wenner and Larry Acker
Before Lamar State College of Technology became Lamar University, before cellphones, bottled water and even backpacks were the norm on campus, the Class of 1957 witnessed racial integration, the adding of “under God” to the Pledge of Allegiance and the creation of the Interstate highway system. March 2 and 3, 2007, they gathered on campus to celebrates 50 years of memories, beginning with a reception and dinner March 2 and followed on March 3 with a campus tour, lunch with President James Simmons and a reception before the homecoming basketball game.

Lamar inducted the inaugural class of its Music Hall of Honor during homecoming activities March 2 and 3. (See related story in the Arts & Culture section.) The induction coincided with Lamar’s first reunion of music alumni, representing groups that include the Marching, Jazz, Symphonic, Concert and Pep bands; the A Cappella, Grand and Concert choirs; Cardinal Singers; and Shades of Cardinal. All gathered at a welcome party Friday, March 2, followed on Saturday by Open House; a reunion reception, the Hall of Honor luncheon, band and Choral alumni rehearsal and a pre-game gathering at the Montagne Center.

Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity celebrated their 50th anniversary during the annual King’s Ball Slack Tide event March 3 at the MCM Eleganté Hotel Ballroom.
Something old is now something new, thanks to researcher Jim Westgate and colleagues. The scientists’ research has led to the discovery of new genera and species of primates, long vanished from the earth but preserved in the fossil record. Westgate is a professor of earth and space sciences at Lamar and a research associate in the Vertebrate Paleontology Laboratory, Texas Natural Science Center, the University of Texas at Austin. He and his research colleagues, Dana Cope, professor of anthropology, College of Charleston, and Chris Beard, curator, Vertebrate Paleontology Section, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, announced their discovery at the annual meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists in Philadelphia, Pa., March 29.

Molar, pre-molar and incisor teeth from the new primate genus and three other new primate species were recovered from 42 million-year-old tropical, mangrove palm swamp deposits of the Eocene-age Laredo Formation exposed in Lake Casa Blanca International State Park in Laredo. Statistical and morphological analyses of the 50 primate specimens from the site indicate that there are three new primate genera in the fauna and a fourth primate species may be a new species of the genus Ourayia, Westgate said.

The presence of a previously unrecognized and diverse primate community on the Texas coast during late middle Eocene time is significant because, at that time, primate diversity in the northern interior of North America had diminished greatly as a result of global climatic cooling and uplifting of the Rocky Mountains, Westgate said. The tropical environment on the Texas coast appears to have allowed primates to thrive locally while their relatives in the continental interior faced near extinction.

The team is preparing detailed manuscripts describing the new Omomyid primates. Three of the primate genera are tarsier-like omomyines. The fourth genus is still being studied to determine its primate affinities, Westgate said.

The association of primate fossils with the skeletal remains of oysters, sharks, rays, giant aquatic snakes and crocodiles, along with mangrove palm fruits and pollen, indicates that the middle Eocene shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico lay 150 miles inland of its present position, Westgate said.

One of the spoils of discovering a new species is the opportunity to give it a name. The formal name of the new genera, which means “primate of the coastal lagoons,” will be released at publication time, Westgate said.

Omomyids (members of the extinct taxon Omomyidae) lived 34 to 50 million years ago during the Eocene Epoch and were one of two groups of known Eocene primates. The other, adapids, were more lemur-like. Fossils of these Eocene primates have been found in North America, Europe, Asia and Africa. The Eocene primates are the earliest known primates.

Omomyids had large eye orbits, long grasping fingers and short snouts. They weighed around one kilogram, or close to two pounds, and were likely nocturnal, with large eyes for seeing better at night. Like most modern-day primates, the omomyids used their long fingers for climbing. They had small mouths, and it is likely that insects were a part of their regular diet.

Lamar University, the University of Texas Geology Foundation, the National Geographic Society and the Geological Society of America provided funds for field excavations in Laredo.

A group of students will travel with Westgate to Utah in July to prospect late middle Eocene deposits of the Uinta Formation exposed in the Badlands of the Uinta Basin near Vernal for remains of primates and related species. A student anthropology team from the College of Charleston will join the group. Later that month, Westgate will travel to Cairnes, Australia, to present an overview of the Laredo fossil mangrove community at the International Congress for Quaternary Research. In October, Westgate, Cope and Beard will present their findings on the Laredo primate community at the annual international meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology in Austin.

The team is preparing detailed manuscripts describing the new Omomyid primates. Three of the primate genera are tarsier-like omomyines. The fourth genus is still being studied to determine its primate affinities, Westgate said.
The spacious Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center is now open and teeming with Lamar University students enjoying the many recreational sports opportunities and amenities it has to offer. The Umphrey Center is the latest—and largest—quality-of-life enhancement on the Lamar University campus.

The center opened to students on Sunday, April 15. To mark this milestone, Lamar hosted the grand opening of the Umphrey Center and the reopening of the remodeled McDonald Gym for the community on Sunday, April 22. The 2 p.m. ceremony honored the Umphrey and McDonald families.

“The Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center is not only a major facility for Lamar University, but also a signature facility for the region,” said President James Simmons. “This makes Lamar University a special destination for our students and will greatly enhance our ability to recruit and retain quality students.”

Financial support for the state-of-the-art Umphrey Center comes largely from an additional student fee assessed to all students enrolled at the university. Lamar University students voted for and passed a referendum in April 2004 approving the fee and the construction of the center.

The 129,550-square-foot building is named the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center in recognition of the largest gift in the university’s history. Sheila, and her husband, Walter, presented a $5 million gift to the university in December 2005, the largest single gift in the university’s history.

The facility encompasses the landmark McDonald Gym, with spectator seating for volleyball games. The renovated areas and new construction include 13,000 square feet of cardiovascular and free-weight training; a one-tenth-mile walking/jogging track; a 43-foot climbing wall; basketball, volleyball and badminton courts; racquetball, handball and squash courts; indoor soccer and roller hockey court; a wellness and fitness center; health food café and juice bar; lounge areas with pool tables; an outdoor putting green; and an hockey, football, video games and television.

The Umphrey Center is a vital addition to LU campus life and a significant demonstration of the university’s commitment to its students.
Sheila Umphrey is an artist, an adventurer and a much-admired presence in Southeast Texas. Sheila is an interior designer, a successful businesswoman, a community leader and philanthropist. She’s a mother of two, a grandmother of six and, for 47 years, the wife of one of America’s most respected trial lawyers. She loves riding motorcycles and has an eye for beauty—on and off the open road.

Now, Lamar University has added another legacy to the life of this remarkable woman. The Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center will enrich generations of Lamar students—as well as the community.

“This is a sincere honor for me,” Sheila Umphrey said. “I watched it go up. I’ve been so impressed. I think the building is beautiful, and it’s a real honor that I’ve got my name attached to it.”

The creation, design and significance of Lamar’s Umphrey Center holds special meaning for Umphrey because, she said, “Susan (Lamar First Lady Susan Simmons) has shown me everything that was involved in it—the whole concept from the ground up.” She was renting a movie for her granddaughter recently when she asked the clerk for help. When she saw the name on her card, she recognized it and said, “Oh, you’re Sheila Umphrey, as in ‘The Sheila.’” She said, “We just love it. We call it ‘The Sheila.’ That’s really a cool name.”

Sheila studied commercial art at Lamar, and Walter holds undergraduate and law degrees from Baylor University, which named the Sheila and Walter Umphrey Law Center in honor of both philanthropists. But the Lamar project is special, Sheila said, because “I’ve never had anything named just for me before.”

“I think of the vision Jimmy—and Susan—had when he took over the presidency and the things they’ve done for Lamar and added to Lamar,” she said. “I’ve never had anything named just for me before.”

Her landmarks include the Stedman Building, where Walter has law offices, as well as other law firms, banks, a hospital, homes, other business and, her most treasured project, the Baylor Law Center itself. She also continues to paint, exhibiting her talents in fine art.

Her outlook on life and love is unchangeable. “We’ve had a lot of fun times, a lot of adventures,” she said. “And we’re opening banks again now—we’ve got four of them to build, decorate and buy furniture for.”

When McDonald Gymnasium reopened its doors in 1958, it immediately became a campus landmark—the home of basketball, volleyball and high school sports, as well as the site of commencement ceremonies, concerts and a host of other events. Lamar athletics had offices there, entourage members from Isaac Hayes to Chuck Mangione performed there, and Billy Bob’s was in the first class that graduated there.

But the reason McDonald Gymnasium is a special place in the heart of the university community is Dr. F.L. McDonald, Lamar’s fourth president, in whose honor the building was named. He was a popular and tireless-minded president—in the president’s office from 1954 until 1967—making the longest-serving president in Lamar’s history. Presiding over Lamar during a period of rapid growth, he worked to expand the curriculum, attract the faculty to the senior college and new graduate school, and build a campus adequate for the greatly expanded institution.

As president, Dr. McDonald became affectionately known as Dr. Mac. Almost every week while he was president, the Lamar marching band awakened him from his bird watching by playing a stirring rendition of “Happy Birthday” on his front lawn.

Simpson’s talent earned him a track scholarship at Lamar University, where he ran the 800-meter dash and the mile relay, becoming a two-time conference champion and earning a bachelor’s degree in journalism. Having been active in recreational sports as a student, Simpson enjoys “making a change in people’s lives. Interpersonal sports provides the opportunity for everyone to be a part of a team. It’s a great way to build lifelong friendships,” Simpson said.

ALAN DREWSKI
Lamar University produces leaders in education

by Larry Acker

Lamar University has long been known as a leader in education, so it is not surprising that an institution with that reputation produces graduates in educational leadership. Fourteen students from the doctoral program in educational leadership graduated in May, representing the inaugural class for the program that began in 2004.

The 60-hour program was born of necessity, according to Elvis Arterbury, professor of educational leadership. Lamar offers certification programs for public and private school principals and superintendents. The doctoral program in educational leadership was created in response to specific requests pertaining to the career goals of many of the students who attended these certification programs.

“We were not able to accommodate many of our students who wanted to pursue a doctoral degree while concurrently getting their superintendent’s certification,” said Arterbury.

“We decided then to explore the possibility of developing the educational leadership degree program.”

The exploration began in 2001 while Carl Westerfield was dean of the College of Education and Human Development. During the course of a year, Westerfield, Arterbury and other faculty members developed the proposal and goals for the program. Creating the curriculum for the proposed doctoral program took a second year. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the program in 2004.

“The first cohort of graduates evidences our success in meeting our initial goals: 14 of the original 15 cohort members have completed their coursework and dissertation and graduated with the doctorate of education in May,” said Hollis Lowery-Moore, dean of the College of Education and Human Development.

“Most of our doctoral candidates have positions of leadership in schools or are accepting new positions of leadership in schools. Their new expertise and doctoral program experiences will enable these leaders to develop capacity in their education communities and create and sustain promising reforms.”

“The relationships you develop in something like a cohort program truly becomes a kind of family.” — Sandra Harris ’07

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All the graduates agreed about the strong bonds of camaraderie that form during the course of the program. The cohort structure gives each student the flexibility they are not alone and are actually working as a group toward a common goal.

“The relationships you develop in something like a cohort program truly becomes a kind of family.” — Sandra Harris ’07

Professionals who desire to attain the doctor of education degree in educational leadership must submit the appropriate application material before the end of March, and candidates are screened and accepted in April. Cohorts begin coursework during the fall semester of each year. More information is available at http://dept.lamar.edu/leadership/.

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The New Spindletop

by Larry Acker

The famous Lucas gusher erupted on Spindletop Hill in 1901 near Beaumont, sparking an oil exploration boom that brought notoriety, economic development, tremendous wealth and a surge of wildcatters and oil speculators to this small Southeast Texas town. In the last decade, Marshall, Texas has experienced a different kind of economic boom that is also bringing tremendous wealth, a flood of lawyers and significant notoriety in the form of patent litigation to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas. One of the first attorneys to take advantage of the continuing wave of intellectual property litigation was Carl Roth ’61, a Port Arthur native.

"Highway 69 was still a two-lane highway to Port Arthur with one blinking traffic light at SH 365 to Nederland. You could catch a ride to Lamar in two hours. Workers going to Beaumont," Roth said. "Back then, you didn’t have to worry too much about who was picking you up."

At that time, students could get academic advice during registration by any faculty member who had a free chair. His first semester, Roth just happened to sit next to Lamar. He credits Dawson for allowing him to take course overloads each semester to earn a bachelor’s degree in only three years. His first year was a mechanical engineering major. He credits Dawson for allowing him to take course overloads each semester to earn a bachelor’s degree in only three years.

Eventually Dawson, and instructors like Ralph Wooster, wooed him away from engineering to the liberal arts school where he earned a political science degree. At the suggestion of Dawson, Roth enrolled in law school at the University of Texas, even though he had no real desire to become a lawyer. Although he never pictured himself practicing law, Austin was an exciting place to be in the early 60s, Roth recalls. Then, in late November, one of his law professors recommended he interview with U.S. District Judge Joe Shohty in Tyler for a position as a patent attorney assistant. U.S. Attorney William Wayne Justice, whom he had met while working for Sheehy, offered Roth a position as assistant U.S. attorney in Beaumont, a position he held nearly two years when he left.

Roth was one of the first law clerks on the federal court in the United States. Marshall has become a popular place to file patent litigation because there is a federal court in the United States. Hyundai agreed to pay TI $1 billion in royalties over the next 10 years. Since then, the Roth firm has settled or won judgments totaling more than $2.4 billion for TI and is routinely retained by law firms from around the world as local counsel, and on many occasions as lead counsel.

“TI has more than 5,000 patents, and has traditionally been very aggressive in enforcing its patents against other semiconductor competitors. Roth has represented TI in more than two dozen cases in the Marshall federal court. In 1999, TI won a $25 million verdict against the Hyundia Electronics, the defendant, from selling their memory chip products in the United States. Hyundia agreed to pay TI $1.3 million in royalties over the next 10 years. Since then, the Roth firm has settled or won judgments totaling more than $2.4 billion for TI and is routinely retained by law firms from around the world as local counsel, and on many occasions as lead counsel.

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— CARL ROTH

Marshall federal court has become the hottest patent dockets in the country with virtually every major corporation in the world following TI’s lead by filing their patent disputes in Marshall. Patent lawyers can file suits in any federal court in the United States. Marshall has become a popular place to file patent litigation because there is a federal court in the United States. Hyundai agreed to pay TI $1 billion in royalties over the next 10 years. Since then, the Roth firm has settled or won judgments totaling more than $2.4 billion for TI and is routinely retained by law firms from around the world as local counsel, and on many occasions as lead counsel.

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It takes vision to change lives

By Cynthia Hicks

It was vision, a keen mind and a competitive spirit that drew David J. Beck ’61 to begin what has become one of the most elite law firms in the country—American Lawyer magazine has named Beck, Redden & Secrest L.L.P one of the Top 5 “boutique” firms in the United States—firms specializing in litigation.

He didn’t hail from a long line of lawyers or a privileged background. Rather than money or status, Beck leveraged his brain to earn success. His dad worked at the Gulf refinery in Port Arthur while his mother worked at home to raise five children. Money was tight, and a degree was most accessible by attending Lamar, “I grew up in Port Arthur, and, had it not been for Lamar, I would not have had the opportunity to earn a college degree. Lamar also gave me a great foundation for law school,” he said.

Now, Beck is taking that vision and focusing it in a new way, aiming to help intellectually curious students like himself do so. Through a gift of $1 million to the Lamar University Foundation, Beck has established the David J. Beck Fellowship for students in financial need who demonstrate financial need, who are, above all, high achievers, even more opportunity than he had as a student—opportunity to study and research in their chosen field or the educational enrichment of travel rather than being tied to an outside job, sometimes more than one, unrelated to their major.

The academic and leadership opportunities made possible by this generous investment in Lamar University will enable exceptional students, with the assistance of faculty mentors, to participate in undergraduate opportunities,” said Stephen Doblin, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

“We believe this fellowship will have a far-reaching impact and lifelong effect on the lives of student recipients and will encourage other philanthropists to consider funding leadership development opportunities,” said Camille Mouton, vice president for university advancement.

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The David J. Beck Fellowship will be awarded on a competitive basis to outstanding undergraduate scholars who demonstrate financial need. Beck Fellows will receive full academic scholarships (including tuition, books, fees, university room and board), with the additional stipend to be determined by their academic advisors. The fellowship will be awarded for one academic year but may be renewed upon successful reapplication.

Applicants will submit a proposal that includes their personal and professional goals and how the Beck Fellowship will advance those goals. Applicants will be asked to detail how they expect the opportunity afforded by the Beck Fellowship to prepare them to contribute to society.

A faculty committee, appointed by the provost, will review applications, interview candidates and make recommendations to the provost, with the final selection made by the president. Beck Fellows will be required to present a final report, which will include the ways in which the fellowship changed their lives, what was gained and how the experience meets their career plans.

The David J. Beck Fellowship will initially fund two fellows each year. The annual cost per fellow will be approximately $25,000, including up to $10,000 for summer stipends. It is this additional experience that will distinguish Beck Fellows.

“Such fellowships at Lamar apart and provide extraordinary opportunities for our young men and women,” said Kevin Smith, senior associate provost. “Being a David J. Beck Fellow will enhance their applications to graduate school and employment, and we are thrilled that our students will have this outstanding opportunity.”

Beck knows about setting objectives and attaining them. He graduated from high school on a Friday and began college classes the next Monday. He became an associate, then partner, then senior partner at Fulbright & Jaworski, one of the largest and most prominent law firms in the country. Complicity is not in his vocabulary. At the point most people are winding down toward retirement, he was gearing up, starting his own law firm in 1992 with Joe Redden Jr. and Ronald Sassett. “As my wife would say, it just seemed like I needed another mountain to climb,” he said.

He is extraordinarily proud of building the firm to its current position of nationwide respect, achieved in just 15 years. “That took a lot of hard work by a lot of good people,” he said. “It took some of the other firms that were on that list [the Top 5 boutique firms in the country] 30, 40 or 50 years.” Beck, Redden handles high-stakes litigation for corporate defendants in trouble.

He and his wife, Judy, met in high school and now raise longhorns on their Blanco ranch. Two of their three children followed in their father’s footsteps. The eldest, Lauren, is a partner with her law firm in Houston and is mother to two boys and a girl. Son Daniel is a lawyer in San Antonio, completing college and law school after a tour during the Gulf War as a Marine. Their younger daughter, Allison, earned an M.B.A. and is in real estate in Houston.

Beck is president of the American College of Trial Lawyers, the membership of which is limited to the top 1 percent of trial lawyers in the country on both sides of the docket, whether plaintiff, defendant, civil or criminal. He works with lawyers and judges throughout the United States and Canada to accomplish a two-fold mission: to get the best lawyers to work to improve the system of justice and also to foster higher ethical standards.

Beck’s work ethic brought him to the top of his game, and he expects the same in those he hires. The firm normally hires only from the Top 10 percent of a law school class. He looks for a subjective mix of strong work ethic, academic credentials and people skills. “You look for that balance. For example, somebody who’s done well academically has good people skills and earned 80 percent of their way through school, that’s a real plus.”

His expectations for Beck Fellows will be no different, and the fellowship will recognize hard work and excellence. The students who hold it will gain perspectives and experiences that will help them fully realize their character, drive and potential and will become integral to their own visions for the future.
Grady and Michael Ann Crawford have made a life of connecting people. On the surface, their work may seem vastly different, but, in reality, both have spent their working lives helping bring people together.

Both 1964 graduates of Lamar University, Grady and Michael Ann live in Baton Rouge, La., but have deep Texas roots. Originally from Longview, Grady first came to Southeast Texas as a teen helping his father’s construction business. Later, Grady and two close friends, Bob McLendon ’64 and Larry Shoemaker ’65, were attending Kilgore Junior College when they talked about giving Lamar Tech a try.

That 1960 summer, a high school senior from LaMarque was also choosing a college. Her mother’s insistence that she stay close to home and the encouragement of Delmas Hysager, an associate professor of education at Lamar and principal at French High School, first drew Michael Ann Agee to Beaumont. But it was what she found there that made her choose to become a Cardinal.

On her first visit to Lamar, “I went to the student union and I saw cute kids, and I liked it,” Michael Ann said. She soon pledged Alpha Chi Omega along with her roommates Anna Lee (Dunn) Haddox ’64 and Susan (Terry) McLendon ’64. At Susan’s suggestion, she and Grady began to date. “We liked each other from the beginning and went together all four years,” she said. The couple celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary in May. “It worked,” they agreed.

Grady completed his business management degree and she a degree in education. The newlyweds moved to the Dallas-Fort Worth area, where she took a job teaching elementary school in Grand Prairie and Grady joined American General Investments in the mortgage-banking department.

Soon, the war in Vietnam began to heat up. Michael Ann moved to Longview and taught there while Grady took military training. He would serve six years in the US Army Reserves. It was then that they decided Grady should try working in his father’s Longview-based construction business. At the time, his father was doing a lot of telecommunication construction, laying underground cable for Southwestern Bell. There, Grady gained valuable experience.

In 1973, his business connections led to a three-year contract with Bell South to help the company upgrade its services in Louisiana. The young family pushed up roots and moved south to Baton Rouge. When they arrived, the couple’s son Clay was 5, and his brother, Casey, was 1. A third boy, Trey, would be born in Baton Rouge. Michael Ann returned to school at Louisiana State University to earn a master’s degree and certification in principalship and supervision.

“One thing led to another,” Grady said. “We were very lucky.” When Grady moved to Longview, he took with him a former competitor now-business partner. “It has been a great fit,” he said. “I don’t think we’ve ever had a cross word.”

His reputation for getting the job done right led to contracts for routes from Dallas-Fort Worth to Shreveport. “We’ve worked for most all of them—Quest, Verizon, Sprint, MCI—all the providers,” Grady said. “We’ve had some excellent people—good clients, good employees.”

So far, all of the grandchildren are girls, Michael Ann said, and a delight to their grandparents. Today, Casey and Trey are making it a third-generation family business, working with their own crews. ‘They’re really hard workers, good people, pennsions, and good with employees,’ Grady said.

Michael Ann has found plenty to keep her busy since the wedding days. In particular, she is an advisor with Junior League and a member of the Philanthropic Educational Organization, an international organization with nearly 250,000 members. PEO sponsors Cottey College, a two-year, independent, liberal arts and sciences college for women in Nevada, Mo. “We do a lot of good things for women,” she said.

Michael Ann has taken up golf and enjoys spending time at the course. Asked if he is ready to join his wife in retirement, Grady said, “I still enjoy what I’m doing and plan to keep going. I always tell them to keep one old backhoe running so they can dig my grave.”

Michael Ann teaches an adult Sunday school class in the Methodist church they attend, and Grady is serving his third year on Lamar’s College of Business advisory council.

“I see the expansion and enthusiasm. It makes you proud that you went to a school that’s getting out there and trying to make things happen,” —GRADY CRAWFORD

His father’s construction business led him to contracts for routes from Dallas-Fort Worth to Shreveport. “We’ve worked for most all of them—Quest, Verizon, Sprint, MCI—all the providers,” Grady said. “We’ve had some excellent people—good clients, good employees.”

Today, the company employs about 400 people and continues to diversify with jobs including work on strategic oil sites, steel fabrication, building construction and underground cable. “It’s a little bit of everything. Well mover your grass,” he said with a chuckle. “We’re not proud people.”

While Grady’s business was connecting the cities of the south, Michael Ann’s education career was fulfilling the needs of generations of students. She taught at St. Luke’s Episcopal School for nine years, then served as principal there eight years. “Being a principal was great,” she said. “We had a lot of positive influences and parental involvement in our school, but the truth was I really liked teaching better.” So much so, in fact, that when she retired from the principalship she transferred to Episcopal Lower School and continued teaching five more years.

Then the time came that their sons Clay and Trey were ‘getting out of college and planning to get married.’ The couple had lost their oldest son, Clay, at age 17 in a swimming accident. “I decided it was time to retire for good to be able to plan weddings,” she said.

In the early 1980s, Grady’s company began to diversify with other kinds of work, including small pipeline jobs. Then, in the mid-1980s, the fiber optic business “really exploded.”

“Sprint was a new company and we got a lot of opportunities from Baton Rouge to New Orleans to Mobile to Houston,” he said. “We wound up getting those routes or doing subcontractor work for whoever was coming across because we knew the area.”
“I think the quality of education at Lamar prepared me academically to do anything.”

—RENA CLARK

credits her advisor, Richard Price, who recently retired after 35 years of teaching at Lamar, with nurturing her leadership qualities. “I was able to take flight,” she said.

“It was a wonderful experience for me.”

As an undergraduate, Clark tutored other engineering students and participated in study groups. “We were committed to one another,” she said. “We were a tight-knit community.”

Looking back on her decision to attend Lamar, she said, “I loved my education there. I’d choose Lamar again. I made lifelong friends at Lamar.” She recently returned to her alma mater to attend Price’s retirement party. She calls Price a phenomenal person, role model, advisor, and a great friend.

Clark learned her craft well, gained experience and continues to reinvent herself. A typical Southeast Texas youth, yet she was uncommonly good at math and science, so much so, in fact, that her father encouraged her to consider studying engineering when she entered college.

“It wasn’t a career path I saw a lot of blacks choosing,” she said. “At that point in my life, I didn’t know any engineers.”

She attended H-E-b High School in Beaumont’s Pear Orchard, and ranked second in her graduating class. Taking the top spot was another Lamar alumna, Dr. Tameria Chavis, who studied engineering at Lamar and today is the only female neurosurgeon in the Golden Triangle.

Today, Clark is vice president of community affairs/corporate philanthropy for The Kraft Group and the New England Patriots. “I have shaped my own path,” she said. “It’s eclectic, but it felt right.”

The youngest of three children, Clark learned about school and community pride in the neighborhood where she was raised. Her parents, Clarence and Bernice, always expected her to attend college. “I was taught I could be anything I wanted to be,” she said. “I had confidence that I could.” She graduated cum laude with a degree in mechanical engineering.

She was vice president of Lamar’s chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers her junior year and president of the organization her senior year. She

We growing up in Beaumont in the late 1970s, Rena Clark, ’84 considered herself a typical Southeast Texas youth, yet she was uncommonly good at math and science, so much so, in fact, that her father

“Being a single parent is harder than any work I’ve ever done,” she said. “I don’t have any regrets at all. I can’t think of life before Sydney. But it’s challenging. I have great support, a great church and friends.”

Clark says her current job is a perfect marriage of things important to her, including community and her passion for sports. “The position allowed her to be home at 6 p.m. on most nights and weekends. Clark met Jonathan Kraft while attending Harvard, and the two became friends. Years later, Kraft, president and chief operating officer for the Kraft Group, convinced Clark to come on board with the Kraft Group and the New England Patriots. She is responsible for team-related community affairs and outreach programs and oversees the charitable giving efforts for the Patriots Charitable Foundation, coordinating similar activities for the Kraft Group. The foundation gave $3 million plus in grants, scholarships, and in-kind gifts to non-profit organizations in New England during her first three years on the job. Clark, a huge sports fan, is now in her fourth year with the company.

“In this job, I get to impact the community in a beautiful way,” she said. Clark, who is active with many organizations, including the United Way and Junior Achievement in Boston, said the position’s stable hours was the last puzzle piece that made it possible for her to adopt.

To make sure her parents have opportunity to bond with their granddaughter, she visits Beaumont as often as possible. Clark said she is home on every major holiday, so Sydney will know her grandparents, aunt, uncle, nieces and nephews.

“I have had the opportunity, privilege and blessing to work with some incredible human beings—from Richard Price to John M. Allor to Robert Kraft,” Clark said. “For her, it has always been not only about opportunities, but also about people, she said.

“I wouldn’t trade it for anything.”

CREATED BY CARDINAL CADENCE
Three of artist Ken Mazzu’s recent oil paintings were on display Friday, May 3, 2007, during the Beaumont Art League’s Long Draw II exhibit at The Art League. His show, "616, B.I.A. studio, has been active in the regional and national art scene for several years, and has received several awards and honors for his art, including awards for best in show, best in group, and several others at art shows, exhibitions, and juried competitions for his work, mostly in realism, as he continues to produce award-winning art to local and international collectors.

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Egunjobi says he accepted clinical psychology
at www.lulu.com/joyzypbooks, or at Our Mother
of Mercy Church, where, Egunjobi says, he will be for some
time to come. "I am a priest forever and a day in the house
of God," he said. "I will forever work in the Church because
I belong to the Church." Some of Egunjobi's books are available
degree in educational leadership at Lamar or Texas Southern University's doctoral pro-
gram in counselor's education. The future is in God's hands, he said.
Egunjobi hopes to pursue a doctoral
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ALPHA TAU OMEGA CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

A scrapbook page from the 50th anniversary celebration of Alpha Tau Omega at Lamar University, containing class notes and alumni updates.

For more information, please contact Lamarpikes50@yahoo.com
and is active in a variety of legal con-
duct-related professional organizations. He lives in Hudson with his wife, Karen.

Craig (Thomas) Wight '88, B.A., France, is a national sales analyst at Continental Insur-
eance Co. in Charlotte, N.C. He recently joined the National Seniors Sales Division of the company in 2006. He lives in Denver with his wife, Mathiee, and their son, Tyler.

Chuck L. Mar '98, B.S. biology, earned his medical degree in 2004 and is a pathologist.

He lives in Fort Worth.

Jude (Andrew) Gay '93, B.A., criminal jus-
tice, is associate director of the National Financial In Houston and lives in Port Arthur.

J. Kenneth Hughes '98, B.S. criminal justice, earned his law degree from South Texas College of Law in December 2006. He is a detective with the special crime unit for the Beaumont Police Department and joined the Beaumont firm, Eimer & Gerts. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Anna. Zeal Zablan '90, A.S.S. data processing, who was promoted last December to bank officer at Wachovia.

Glen (Peter) Meza '93, B.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is distribution supervisor at Corpus Christi Electric in Agua-</p>

Cassie Raftis-Parker '98, B.S. kinesiology, is a management trainee with the IBM Corporation in Austin, Texas. She lives in Round Rock with her husband, John, and daughter, Eli, who was born in July 2006.

Jason Hughes '99, B.B.A. general studies, is a claim representative at State Farm Insurance and lives in Murfreesboro, Tenn., with her husband, Anthony. They are expecting their first baby in June.

Kathy (Hayhurst) Lowe '93, B.A. criminal justice, is an adult probation officer in Anahuac and lives in Winnie.

Jason Boutwell '96, B.A. criminal justice, received his law degree from South Texas College of Law in 1999, is a board-certified attorney in family law and is on the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. She is an attorney at her own firm in Beaumont, where she lives.

Terri McDonald '99, B.B.A. management, is a mental health counselor at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. She lives in Orange with her husband, Stephen.

Linda (Williamson) Penney '99, B.B.A. accounting, is a tax manager at the Lewin University in Beaumont and lives in Port Neches.

Kathleen (Williams) Boutwell '93, B.S. biology, earned his medical degree in 2004 and is a physician. He lives in Port Arthur.

Kevin D’Horne '94, B.B.A. management, is a technical and engineering section supervisor at ExxonMobil in Houston, where he lives.

Paul R. Hall '99, B.S. kinesiology, is a supervisor at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston and lives in Liberty with her husband, Stormie.

Jere Montgomery '85, B.S. psychology, is a professor at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas. She lives in the Houston area with her husband, Mike.

Deborah R. Rutledge '92, B.A. English, is a senior attorney at the University of Houston law school and lives in Magnolia with her husband, Michael.

Lori (Webb) Benefield '99, B.S. sociology, is a process manager at TOTAL Petrochemicals in Port Arthur. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Ginger. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Ginger. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Ginger. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Ginger.

Katherine (Scott) Vass '97, B.B.A. management, is an investment banker at WoodRock and Co. in Missouri City with his wife, Nancy.

Lauren S. Hoven '08, B.A. accounting, is an auditor with the State-Comptroller of Public Accounts in Austin and lives in Round Rock.

Stephanie Sneed '96, B.A. Family and consumer sciences, is distribution supervisor at Conroe Coca-Cola and lives in Magnolia with her husband, Eric.

Rachel (Morse) Reed '95, B.B.A. marketing, is a sales manager at Fordham College in New York. She lives in Chicago with her husband, Mike.

Anna (McCandless) Alesmith '99, B.B.A. marketing, is a manager at Fordham College in New York. She lives in Chicago with her husband, Mike.

Shelly Ann (Short) Wallace '94, B.B.A. accounting, is a consultant at Texas A&M University in December 2007. She lives in Conroe and lives in Magnolia with her husband, Tad.

Robert (Rob) West '99, B.B.A. management, is an investment banker at WoodRock and Co. in Missouri City with his wife, Nancy.

Kim (Williams) Boutwell '93, B.A. criminal justice, is an adult probation officer in Anahuac and lives in Winnie.

Lea (Smith) Holcomb '95, B.A. English, is a writer and editor at J. Sargent Russell, the publishing arm of the University of Houston. She lives in Houston with her husband, Danny, and daughter, Makenzie.

John C. Christopher '98, B.B.A. accounting, is an auditor with the State Comptroller of Public Accounts in Austin and lives in Round Rock.

Hunter Ludwig '07, Sociology '73, Criminal justice '98, Project manager during his 50th reunion.
We will miss...
Lamar University Foundation, P.O. Box 15000, Beaumont, Texas 77710

Richard Collins  ’76, B.S., mathematics, died Feb. 11, 2007. A lifelong Port Arthur resident, he worked for Gulf Oil/Sunoco World for 22 years until his retirement. Survivors include his wife, Patsy; son, Richard; daughter, Emma, stepson, Shannon Farrell; son-in-law, Eric, and daughter, situation.

Alina Tropin  ’73, M.H.S., chemistry, died March 6, 2007. She was a resident in San Antonio the past eight years before moving to Los Angeles and is a lifetime resident of Temple, Texas. Survivors include his wife, Linda, and sister, Christine.

Ron Skarbek  ’77, M.B.A. in business administration, died Jan. 6, 2007. He worked for Lamar for 34 years before retiring in 2002 as director of business development for hydrocarbons and liquids for Chevron Technology Ventures and was a strong supporter of the Lamar Auxiliary Foundation. Survivors include his ex-wives of 25 years, Janet, and Brian, and Daniel.

Leopoldo Paez Tony  ’76, oil and gas, died Feb. 10, 2007. Born in Chihuahua, he became a self-employed businessman in 1970, and was an administrative director of Baptist Hospital in Beaumont until he retired in 1996. His husband of 55 years, Dennis, preceded him in death. Survivors include his daughter, Dennis, and sisters, Arlene and Dolores.

Aubrey S. Aron  ’76, M.B.A. in business administration, died Jan. 6, 2007. He was the theme of the annual gala, hosted by the Friends of the Arts to benefit the College of Fine Arts and Communication.

Loyd Hawthorne  ’76, A.A.S. in chemistry, died Dec. 3, 2006. She was a Distinguished Professor of English literature and taught for 30 years at Lamar before retiring in 1983. A ... many years at Hockaday, a private girls’ school in Dallas. Survivors include her friend and caretaker, Judy Thomas.

Ruth (Henderson) Truncale  ’76, A.A.S., business administration, died Jan. 28, 2007. She was self-employed business-woman for more than 28 years and dedicated much of her time to the Lamar University Development Board as a chairman. Survivors include her husband, Felton; daughters, Malkia and Maraya; and sons, Jelani and Mboya.

Emilo (Emil) Shae  ’75, B.S. in chemistry, died Dec. 23, 2006. She was an accomplished ballet dancer and built a group of loyal business women with her husband of 52 years. Robert. As a child, she returned to school and later began teaching real estate classes at a law, become a real estate agent. She owned the Pilot Brokers in Beaumont and vacillously with Unity Church of Beaumont and the Church of the Radiant Science in Laskewood, Cola. She and Robert moved to Golden, Colo., after they retired, then returned to their hometown. Survivors include her children, Conover, Harg, Susan and Brad.

Richard Tropin  ’75, M.H.S., computer sciences, died Jan. 21, 2007. She was a summa cum laude graduate of a State of Texas, the Orange County Enquirer in Orange, Central Centers. In 1992, he was the chairman of the United States Olympic Commission, and also coached high school and university basketball teams. Survivors include his wife, Laurie, and sons, Jake

Hickel Thomas  ’75, B.S., criminal justice, died Jan. 26, 2007. A lifelong resident of Beaumont, he worked as a retired assistant manager of Southern Inn and Hotel. He was a member of the Army during WWII and was a three-sports letterman at Cardinal. Survivors include his daughter, Alicia Rippka.

Realities . . . revisited

Upon his return from a month-long trip to Galicia and central Spain, retired Lamar associate professor of art Phil Fitzpatrick faced the frustration of trip photos not reflecting the true vibrancy of his used he his experience as a graphic artist to enhance his favorite photographs, and the resulting artwork became his latest show, Original Photographic Realities. The 57 pieces making up the exhibit were on display Feb. 2-27 at the Dishman Art Museum. Fitzpatrick was in Spain during September 2006 as a participant in an artist-in-residence program of the Fundación Torre Piuja.

“The approach I have taken is much like that of a traditional portrait painter,” Fitzpatrick said. “I take the photograph as a basic drawing and then apply layers of tinting, lightening, coloring and texturing until the final result is reached. By applying complex mixtures of layers of color, texture and line, frequently in illigal words, the very things I would have done with, traditional tools, are bringing out the memory, imaginations and impressions.”
The Conference of College Teachers of English awarded Salisbury Shippeard, professor of English, the seventh annual Francis Hernandez Teacher-Scholar Award. The organization’s highest accolade recognizes the recipient’s lifetime achievement in teaching, scholarship and service to the profession, to other professional organizations and to his or her academic institution. The organization—in which Shippeard has held every office—awarded him an honorary membership. She is also active in the Texas College English Teachers Association, which honored her in 1997 with the o.e.d. Thomas Scholar Teacher Award, its highest recognition.

Shippeard, who has taught 27 years of his 39-year career at Lamar, retired from full-time teaching in May. She has published widely in the fields of British Renaissance and 17th-century poetry and drama, American literature, women’s literature, mythology and mythological studies. Shippeard serves more than 10 years as chair of the Department of English and Modern Languages. In 1996, the Texas International Education Consortium selected her to head the United States-Arabian American faculty team creating the core curriculum for the first private women’s university in Saudi Arabia.

She will continue to teach half-time at Lamar... J. Lee Thompson, associate professor of history is Lamar’s 2007 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer. “Partners in the Age of Global Terrorism: The U.S.-British Special Relationship in Historical Perspective” will be the topic of his lecture, sponsored by ExxonMobil and to be presented Nov. 12 in the University Theatre. A faculty member since 1998, Thompson is active as an author, scholar and researcher. “The projected lecture will broadly consider the special relationships, discussing both the challenges faced jointly since 9/11 and continuous history of both nations in the Middle East and the world,” Thompson said... Former Lamar faculty member Clay Reynolds, an award-winning novelist, scholar and critic, returned March 21 to read from his new essay collection, and his five-year career as an internationally recognized fiber artist.”

The Homer Museum’s permanent collection, are on exhibit through Aug. 3 in the Main Gallery of the museum. The collection includes 53 artist’s proofs of Hayes’ print series, Illustrations of the Bible, now in the Vatican collection and out of print. He donates the proofs to his alma mater. Hayes, now of New York City, is a world-renowned artist, illustrator and multi-media specialist. The etchings make up his 1977 masterwork, Gaël’s mages, a large volume with text by poet-novelist James Dickey. African and New Guinea tribal works from the collection are being displayed in the Upper Gallery... Ann Mattlock, associate professor of art, was among four “Internationally recognized fiber artists” featured in the 7th annual Frances Hernandez Teacher-Scholar Award. The organization’s highest accolade recognizes the recipient’s lifetime achievement in teaching, scholarship and service to the profession, to other professional organizations and to his or her academic institution. The organization—in which Shippeard has held every office—awarded him an honorary membership. She is also active in the Texas College English Teachers Association, which honored her in 1997 with the o.e.d. Thomas Scholar Teacher Award, its highest recognition.

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Sweeping speeds dominate championship

The 2007 indoor track season was punctuated with personal-best performances that shattered several Lamar University records and earned all-conference honors for men and women tracksters at the Southland Conference Indoor Championship.

The first conference championship of the indoor season was captured by Renee Graham, who brought home the title in the women’s 5,000-meter run in a time of 17:08.92. Frank Bwambale also earned all-conference honors for men and women tracksters at the Southland Conference Indoor Championship. With his time of 14:43.90, Kasagule walked away with the third-place finish in the mile run, while Koenck took second place with a personal-best time of 4:55.42.

The men’s distance medley relay team, consisting of Danny Shaw, Andy Haeggquist, Aaron Brannen and Francis Kasagule followed the Lady Cards’ performance as they edged Texas A&M-Corpus Christi for the title. The Cards won in a time of 10:07.43, grabbing the third-place finish in the overall championship since 1985.

Koenck notched her second victory of the meet with a school-record performance in the mile run, while King took second place with a personal-best time of 4:55.42.

The women’s 3,000-meter run also turned out to be a shining moment for Lamar, sweeping first, Koendorf, second, King, and third place. Graham. Not to be outdone, the Cardinal men also turned in a fine effort in the mile, as Francis Kasagule notched his first victory of the day while Danny Shaw grabbed second place. The men’s 3,000-meter run, Kasagule used a 27-second last lap to tie past Shadrack Songok of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi in a time of 8:17.33.

The Cardinals men and women combined to finish the meet with seven SLCT titles and 12 all-conference performances. Koenck finished the meet as the overall high-point scorer in the women’s division with 22.5 points, giving her the honor as the first Lamar women’s track member to finish as the top point scorer in the league’s championship meet. Kasagule earned the same distinction in the men’s division State Championship. Kasagule walked away with the third-place finish in the mile run, while Koenck took second place with a personal-best time of 4:55.42.

The conference meet was capped by Renee Graham, who brought home the title in the women’s 5,000-meter run in a time of 17:08.92. Frank Bwambale also earned all-conference honors for men and women tracksters at the Southland Conference Indoor Championship. With his time of 14:43.90, Kasagule walked away with the third-place finish in the mile run, while Koenck took second place with a personal-best time of 4:55.42.

The women’s distance medley relay team, consisting of Amanda Roccaforte, Kasagule also noted their place in the Lamar record books, each setting school records in the mile and 3,000-meter run. Despite their outstanding individual performances at the indoor championship meet, the Lady Cardinals posted a fourth-place finish, while the men’s team finished in sixth place.

Teams earn fourth in conference play

The Lamar University men’s and women’s tennis teams closed out their 2007 seasons on a high note, as they both returned to the Southland Conference tournament. Both teams finished in fourth place and won their tournament openers, before falling to top-seeded and nationally ranked foes in the tournament.

Playing the majority of the season with only five players, the women’s tennis team still managed to grab a fourth-place finish in the Southland Conference, and advanced to the conference championship. The Lady Cardinals finished the season with a 14-10 overall record, and an 8-3 mark in SLCT play.

Freehling, Kavitha Harihastu, who played the entire season at No. 1 singles, led the way for Lamar during the regular season with a 10-1 record in conference play. For her efforts this season, she was named the Southland Conference Freshman of the Year.

Also playing a big role in Lamar’s success was sophomore Maria Gutierrez and freshman Marjani Ashrefi, who had conference records of 8-3 and 9-2 respectively. Pamela Martinez, the lone senior on the team, finished the SLCT slate with a 7-2 record.

The Lamar men also had a successful season, earning the fourth spot in the Southland Conference tournament. The Cardinal men posted an overall season record of 9-3 and a 3-1 record in SLCT play.

In the first round of the SLCT tournament, the Cards claimed the doubles point and won three singles matches to post a 4-2 win over No. 5-seed Southeastern Louisiana to advance. In the second round, LU fell to No. 1 seeds Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, who were ranked among the top 40 schools in the NCAA.

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Freehling, Kavitha Harihastu, who played the entire season at No. 1 singles, led the way for Lamar during the regular season with a 10-1 record in conference play. For her efforts this season, she was named the Southland Conference Freshman of the Year.

Also playing a big role in Lamar’s success was sophomore Maria Gutierrez and freshman Marjani Ashrefi, who had conference records of 8-3 and 9-2 respectively. Pamela Martinez, the lone senior on the team, finished the SLCT slate with a 7-2 record.

The Lamar men also had a successful season, earning the fourth spot in the Southland Conference tournament. The Cardinal men posted an overall season record of 9-3 and a 3-1 record in SLCT play.

In the first round of the SLCT tournament, the Cards claimed the doubles point and won three singles matches to post a 4-2 win over No. 5-seed Southeastern Louisiana to advance. In the second round, LU fell to No. 1 seeds Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, who were ranked among the top 40 schools in the NCAA.
Six inducted into the Hall

The Lamar University Cardinal Hall of Honor, which annually recognizes former student-athletes, coaches and administrators for outstanding contribution to the university through athletics, inducted six new members in its 2006 induction class, Jan. 20.

LOUISA BERGEME—golf, 1963-65
Hometown: Rosedale, South Africa

DILLON HELD—basketball and track and field, 1962-66
Hometown: Cleveland, Texas
Stats: Helped Lamar post an 87-31 record during four-year career; claim 1963 American South Conference championship and 1962 Sun Belt Conference championships; and advanced to Mike Eight, 1963 NCAA Tournament; ranks fourth on Lamar’s all-time scoring list (1,370 points), second in assists (301), third in steals (157) and third in games played (113); three-time conference champion: high jump (1963, 1965, 1966); 1963 NCAA Championship, first team all-A.I. selection, 1963-65; led team in return yardage (1,587 yards and seven touchdowns); to set new single-season records; 1967, second all-time in school history in touchdowns (1,214); led for second in touchdown receptions (1,214) and third in receiving yardage (1,214); best game—vs. Texas-Arlington, 1966, 10 passes for 122 yards signed as a free-agent with the Cleveland Browns in 1969. He works in the traffic department of Exxon Mobil in Baytown.

J. CHERRY PAY SMITH—football and track and field, 1977-80
Hometown: Cleveland, Texas
Stats: Two-time All-Southland Conference selection, first-team 1980, second-team, 1979; outstanding defensive back; one of the best return men in school history; ranks second all-time in school history in kickoff return yardage (1,214) and third in punt return yardage (440) and one touchdown; and first in total combination return yardage (1,214); named Lamar’s “Outstanding Defensive Back,” 1979, where he ranked nationally with six interceptions; named All-SBC honors, 1977-79; 1980. He now owns and operates a fast-food chain in Terre Haute, Ill., a restaurant in Tampa, Fla., with his wife Pam.

Lamar will expand its athletic opportunities for women with the upcoming inaugural season of the women’s soccer program. This addition will take advantage of the growing popularity of soccer in Southeast Texas and highlights the continued growth and momentum the university is experiencing.

First-year coach Matthew Dillon relished the idea of being able to build a program from the ground up. He realized that dream Aug. 1, 2006, has been a one-man show in getting the soccer program up and running, ordering supplies and equipment, developing a schedule and talking with campus facility personnel on getting Cardinal Stadium set up for soccer, improving the locker room facilities, and helping with plans for building a permanent location on campus for a soccer facility.

All the while, Dillon has been putting together a recruiting class that is ranked fourth among Southland Conference schools by Soccer Buzz magazine. Dillon’s recruiting class has a decided local flavor, taking full advantage of the quality of high school and club soccer in the Golden Triangle area. He has already signed 25 student-athletes and hopes to add a few more before the start of practice in mid-August.

“Building a roster has not been a problem,” said Dillon. “We’ve got kids coming from all over the country—two from Seattle, Wash., one from Nevada, even one from Brazil. We currently have 11 student-athletes from the Southeast Texas region, one of whom earned a full academic scholarship as a Mirabeau Scholar. I am hoping to add a few more recruits from this area before the season begins.”

Dillon focused heavily on the 2007-2008 schedule, which includes Loyola-Marymount, Grambling and McNeese State, which was the SLC champion. “We host Nebraska this season, which is a perennial power. It will be a tough schedule, but one that will definitively get us ready for conference play,” Dillon said.

Lamar is scheduled to play at Cardinal Stadium for the 2007 and maybe the 2008 season.

Dillon came to Lamar after serving one year as the women’s soccer coach at University in Biloxi, Miss. He guided the Camels to the Atlantic Sun Conference tournament championship game in 2005. Three Lady Camels were named to all-conference teams, and three earned all-tournament honors.

“It’s been a pretty smooth transition for me and my family,” said Dillon, who was also an assistant coach at SMU and Central Florida prior to Campbell. “I’ve been able to get all my family moved here and aclimatized to the area. I’ve been able to get out in the community and work with one of the local soccer clubs.

“I’ve seen a number of local high school players and gone to local camps. We’re starting to see a number of local kids and soccer out in the community. I’ve met some really great people, both from the university and in the community.”

Dillon has also been impressed with the support from the administration. Because of that support and the amount of talent in the area, Dillon believes everything is in place to build a strong soccer program at Lamar.

“When you have a former coach as an athletic director (Billy Tubbs) and a president (Dr. James Simmons) who used to be a soccer referee, the support is definitely in place,” Dillon said.

Everybody on campus has been very supportive and encouraging, and looking forward to seeing what we can do here.

“The potential in this area is great, and Texas is a great state to recruit to and from. The university, with the dorms, dining hall and new recreation center, are tremendous. You can’t find better facilities for the students than we have here at Lamar.”
Beyond establishing her historic place as the first student ever to receive a Ph.D. from Lamar University, Singh became the first woman to receive a Ph.D. from Lamar. This summer, Singh became the first woman to receive a Ph.D. from Lamar University, and she has research to prove it. Singh’s objective was to determine what the impact on industry would be if local refineries start producing biobutanol, she said. The thesis involved the many inter-related aspects of development, production and distribution of the product. The companies plan to introduce biobutanol by the end of the year. “It looks like biofuel is a good idea for the industry. It’s a good idea for the region as well,” Singh said. In addition, developing biofuels would diversify the local economy. Her findings conclude that biobutanol could benefit the Southeast Texas economy and the industries involved in creating affordable, renewable energy sources to operate automobiles and other gasoline-powered machines. Her timely research emphasizes local, regional and global uses and flows of material and energy from biofuels. It takes into account the role of industry in reducing environmental burdens throughout the product’s life cycle. Currently, the world-wide manufacturing industry is developing new strategies, calling for an integrated manufacturing model that is environmentally sustainable. The goal is to perform at optimum levels in all areas,” Singh said. Her research, Singh explored how production of biobutanol might impact the gasoline market. “It looks like biobutanol is a good idea for the industry. It’s a good idea for the region as well,” Singh said. In addition, developing biofuels would diversify the local economy. As part of her thesis, she had to determine what the impact of biobutanol could be if local refineries start producing biobutanol, she said. The thesis involved the many inter-related aspects of development, production and distribution of the product. Reviewing Singh’s research, Lou said it showed that money invested in the biobutanol industry would have a positive impact on society and benefit many areas including agriculture, utilities, construction, healthcare, education and more. The total economic impact within the region would be $7.4 million for every $1 million invested in biobutanol, resulting in earnings of more than $8 million and creating an estimated 322 jobs. A conservative calculation showed that a plant could make more than $255 million annually from biobutanol product locally. That doesn’t include byproducts of production, including ethanol and acetone, which could conservatively generate another $269 million for a biobutanol plant. That would require an initial total capital investment of about $77.5 million, with total direct expenses estimated at $57.7 million and total indirect expenses at $7.8 million.

In April, DuPont and BP reported that biobutanol had proven to perform similarly to unleaded gasoline on key parameters, based on ongoing laboratory-based engine testing and limited fleet testing. BP and DuPont created a partnership in 2006 to develop biofuel. The global companies plan to create advanced biofuels that will provide improved options for expanding energy supplies and accelerate the move to renewable transportation fuels, which lower overall greenhouse gas emissions. The companies plan to introduce biobutanol by the end of the year. In her research, Singh explored how production of biobutanol might impact the gasoline market. “It looks like biofuel is a good idea for the industry. It’s a good idea for the region as well,” Singh said. In addition, developing biofuels would diversify the local economy. As part of her thesis, she had to determine what the impact of biobutanol could be if local refineries start producing biobutanol, she said. The thesis involved the many inter-related aspects of development, production and distribution of the product. Reviewing Singh’s research, Lou said it showed that money invested in the biobutanol industry would have a positive impact on society and benefit many areas including agriculture, utilities, construction, healthcare, education and more. The total economic impact within the region would be $7.4 million for every $1 million invested in biobutanol, resulting in earnings of more than $8 million and creating an estimated 322 jobs. A conservative calculation showed that a plant could make more than $255 million annually from biobutanol product locally. That doesn’t include byproducts of production, including ethanol and acetone, which could conservatively generate another $269 million for a biobutanol plant. That would require an initial total capital investment of about $77.5 million, with total direct expenses estimated at $57.7 million and total indirect expenses at $7.8 million.

Singh worked on her thesis for three years. “It gives you a great sense of achievement when you come up with your own algorithms and your own solution. It’s very satisfying,” she said. By early June, she had already received several job offers and has accepted a job with a Houston consulting firm. Singh, a 26-year-old from Mumbai, India, was president of the Lamar Student Research Organization from 2005 to 2006. She earned her master’s degree in chemical engineering at Lamar in 2004, then began work toward the doctorate. Singh obtained a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology of Bombay. There, one of her instructors suggested Lamar University as a place to pursue a master’s because he knew of Professor Carl Mailander, noted for his writings and research in thermodynamics. Yaws teaches chemical engineering and served on the advisory committee that reviewed Singh’s 250-page thesis. A prolific author and noted researcher, Yaws has written 25 books, including a number of go-to chemical engineering reference works, holds several patents and has published more than 350 scientific papers.

Making the adjustment to America wasn’t difficult for Singh, she said, because she received a lot of help from members of the Friends of India, a student organization at Lamar. The group helped her with accommodations and became acquainted with American customs. Overall, it was a smooth transition, she said. “I didn’t feel alone. They had a welcome party, so we could get to know other students,” Singh said. The group also helped keep homesickness at bay. “They were always there any time of the day or night.” During her time at Lamar, she served as vice president and later public relations officer for the Friends of India. Singh’s graduate research has appeared in four publications, and she has presented her findings at several conferences. Obtaining a Ph.D. was part of her long-range plan, she said. Being the first at LU to do so is a plus, “I am so happy. Not only am I the first person to get a Ph.D. (from Lamar), but I am also the first woman to get a Ph.D.,” she said. “I am proud of that fact.”

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Lamar University saved its best for last as the Cardinals fired a 5-under-par 275 in the final round to post a school-best third-place finish at the 2007 NCAA Golf Championships. Virginia Commonwealth University hosted the tournament on the Gold Course at Golden Horseshoe Golf Club (Par-70, 6,803 yards).

Lamar, which entered the round tied for 12th place, posted the lowest round of the day as three Cardinals finished below par individually. The Cardinals played the last two rounds ... at the NCAA Championships, surpassing last year's 1,158 total when the Cardinals tied for ninth place at Sunriver, Ore.

"It was a good round, and we finally played well as a team," said Lamar coach Brian White. "We played like I know we can play, and that was good to see. Our goal was to win, but this sure was a pretty good finish. The boys in red pants showed some pretty good golf today.

"Dawie (Van Der Walt) birdied the last hole to shoot 67 in his final college tournament before he turns professional. Dusty finished his career with a final round 2-under 68. It was nice to see those guys finish on such a positive note. The whole team brought a lot of pride to the school, and the city and the community should be proud of them."

"I know we lose some good players off this team, but that's college golf," said White. "You don't get them forever. You just have to enjoy them while you have them. I hope they all have success in golf and in life."

Stanford, which held the 54-hole lead, closed with a 1-over 281 to win over Georgia, which finished in second place at 1,121. Lamar and Charlotte, which shot a final round 287, tied for third at 1,125.

Van Der Walt, a native of Cape Town, South Africa, turned in the Cardinals' best round of the day at 3-under 66, posting a 72-hole score of 1-over 73-73-68-67—281 to tie for 22nd place. He was named to the 2007 Ping All-America first team in a ceremony on the 18th green after the final round and is the only three-time Ping All-American in school history.

"I really had fun out there today," said Van Der Walt, who plans to turn professional in the next week. "There is nothing better than playing golf, and I want to do this the rest of my life."

Dusty Smith, a senior from The Woodlands, said, "We beat our ninth-place finish last year, and to finish in the Top 5 is just awesome, especially after we had to fight to just make the cut. When I came to Lamar as a freshman I didn't even know if I was going to make the team, but I ended up playing in all but one tournament. The coaching I've received has been great, and I improved every year."

Championship team members are Oliver Bekker, a sophomore from Stellenbosch, South Africa; Casey Clendenon, junior, Katy; Justin Harding, sophomore, Cape Town, South Africa; Russell Helson, junior, Georgetown; and Ryan Kornmann, senior, Kingwood.

—DC