

# CARDINAL Cadence

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A MEMBER OF THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

## Discover

pg. 24

## Umpfrey Center opens

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## Benefits of biofuels

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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 Beck '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*

James M. Simmons  
President  
Lamar University



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CHRIS CASTILLO

## 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](http://lamar.edu/cardinalvillage).

## Open House draws thousands

More than 3,500 prospective students and their families toured campus March 3 for Open House 2007.

"Everyone I spoke with was enthusiastic about all the new developments on campus—from the dining hall to the new Sheila Umphrey Center," said James Rush, director of academic services. "Visitors came from all over the state. I met families from El Paso, San Antonio, Dallas, Houston and Austin."

Open House, an annual event, offers high school students and their families an opportunity to visit Lamar, meet with professors and learn about what the university has to offer socially and academically. Students also had a chance to talk with deans, campus administration and President James Simmons at the state-of-the-art Dining Hall.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN SATTLER

# LU locates in Lumberton

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.

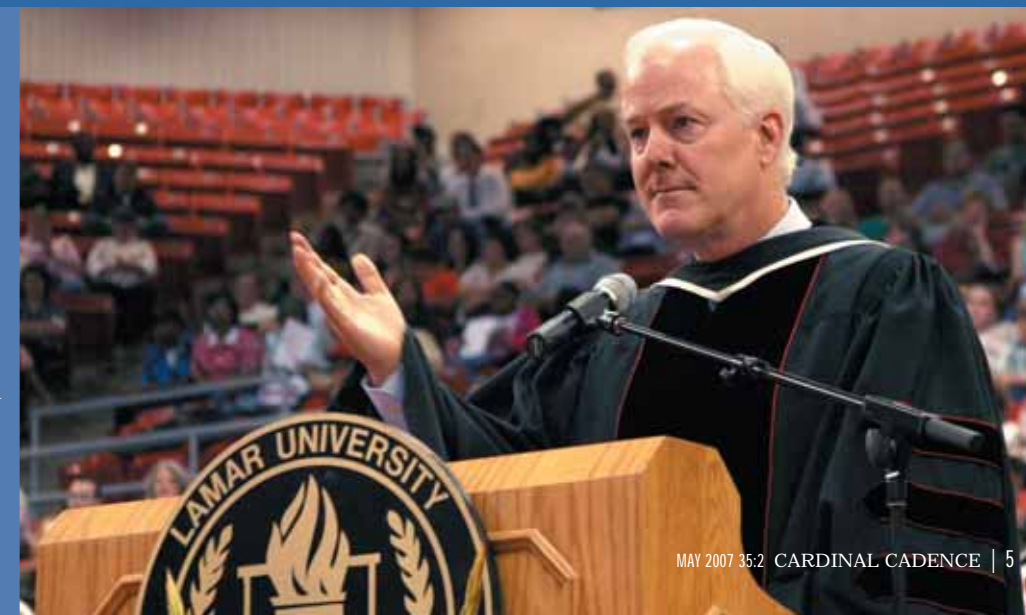
Monday through Thursday. For more information about registering for college courses at Lumberton High School, contact the Lamar University Center for Distance Education, (409) 880-1847, or visit [www.lamar.edu](http://www.lamar.edu).



BRIAN SATTLER

## Commencement witnesses several firsts

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.



ROHN WEINER



# Ensuring the best preparation possible

The College of Education and Human Development has achieved full and unreserved accreditation at the initial teacher preparation and advanced preparation levels by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) for a period of five years.

The quality of the Educator Preparation Program and graduate programs of Lamar University has been assured by NCATE accreditation. Programs receiving national recognition from their professional specialty organizations include educational diagnostician, elementary education, secondary English and language arts, secondary mathematics, and special education.

Arthur Wise, president of NCATE, offered his congratulations to the university for “displaying the high quality necessary to be granted national accreditation” in a letter to President Simmons.

Hollis Lowery-Moore, dean of the College of Education and Human Development, described accreditation as “extremely difficult” to achieve, but is very pleased with what accreditation means to the college. “It is the faculty, the staff, the students and our public school partners who did the hard work for accreditation,” Lowery-Moore said. “We have achieved excellence. We are preparing teachers to meet the demands of the 21st century. They are getting the best preparation they can get.”

“It’s a badge of success,” said Kevin Smith, senior associate provost of the university. “It will attract students to campus, it will attract faculty to campus, and it is an outward and visible sign to the community and the state of Texas that we offer a first-class teacher education program.”

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—KEVIN SMITH, *senior associate provost*

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 of Texas 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.

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.”

**NCATE**  
The Standard of Excellence  
in Teacher Preparation



Dean Christina Baum, left, Kristin Barrs and Theresa Hefner-Babb

BRIAN SATTLER

## Protecting the public’s right to know

The Mary and John Gray Library celebrated five decades of service as a federal depository Feb. 8. The library serves Southeast Texas’ 2nd Congressional District as the region’s only federal depository.

The Federal Depository Library Program is seen as an important government program helping safeguard one of our nation’s strongest traditions: the public’s right to know. Today, the Gray Library houses 64 percent of all materials issued annually by the Government Printing Office and retains them for at least five years. Patrons needing other materials can access them through the interlibrary loan program.



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 forces March 24 for ‘Pins for Pups’ at Crossroads Bowling Center for the Humane Society. More than 200 students obtained pledges from Lamar faculty members, families and friends. “Pins for Pups” set a goal of \$10,000, and the students exceeded that goal to give the Humane Society one of its largest donations ever.

LARRY ACKER



Elvis Mason, left, and President James Simmons

BRIAN SATTLER

## 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 1981 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 Best 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.



## At the podium

Kemba Smith told her story of triumph and determination Feb. 7 during a program sponsored by Lamar Alive! and the Setzer 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.



CHRIS CASTILLO



CHRIS CASTILLO

Technical experts from petrochemical industries of Southeast Texas gathered Feb. 21-22 at Lamar for a two-day seminar, "A Technical Overview of Heat Exchangers, Piping and Pressure Vessels," presented by Tony Sofronas, a mechanical engineering expert. Participants included engineers, supervisors, technicians and operators in local industry. The Golden Triangle Industries/Lamar University Engineering

Partnership was established to foster close cooperation between the College of Engineering and local industry to facilitate technology transfer. In addition, contact hours earned enable engineers to meet their annual professional license renewal requirements through Lamar's continuing education department.

As the country of Rwanda faced crisis, one man protected his family and found ways to save more than 1,200 people. During 100 days, almost one million people were killed in Rwanda. Paul Rusesabagina, a hotel manager in Rwanda, sheltered more than 1,000 refugees from certain death. Rusesabagina described his experiences March 26 as part of the Academic Lecture Series, funded by students to bring noted lecturers and experts to campus. The College of Arts and Sciences hosted his visit.



BRIAN SATTLER

The Lamar University Southeast Texas Chapter of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, hosted hurricane expert Nicholas Coch, who lectured April 4 on the topic "Are America's Beaches All Washed Up?" after Sigma Xi's annual spring banquet. Coch is a professor of geology at the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Queens College, City University of New York.

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 *Barn Burning, Barn Building: Tales of a Political Life from LBJ to George W. Bush*. Barnes, an influential player on the American political scene for four decades, was elected speaker of the Texas House at 26 and lieutenant governor at 30. Today, he is a lobbyist and fundraiser in Washington.



LARRY ACKER



CHARLES CUTLER

BRIAN SATTLER

## Industry partnership brings adaptive matrix control creator to campus

The Golden Triangle Industries/Lamar University Engineering Partnership sponsored an intensive two-day seminar for process control and operations engineers, providing an introduction to multivariable time-series process data analysis and multivariable process control using Cutler Technology Corp. products software.

Participants learned about the software and its capabilities from the creator of dynamic process controls, CTC founder and president Charles Cutler.

Cutler, who graduated from Lamar University in 1961, founded CTC in 1999. A member of Lamar's College of Engineering Advisory Council, Cutler holds a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering from Lamar University and a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Houston.

Cutler worked for Shell Oil Co. for 23 years in a variety of assignments in refineries, chemical plants, research and central engineering. Each assignment involved computer control and real time optimization. In his last four years with Shell, he was the senior engineering manager responsible for the instrumentation, computer control, and real-time optimization systems. In 1984, Cutler founded Dynamic Matrix Control Corp. and was CEO and president for 12 years until it was sold to Aspen Technology in 1996. For two years after the sale, he worked as an advisor to Aspen's senior management. The following year he founded CTC.

# Hydrogen on the horizon

The future will likely mean tapping energy from a variety of sources—renewable energy and hydrogen among them. "It's a long-term play," said Jack Hopper, dean of Lamar University's College of Engineering, of the initiative to form the Texas Hydrogen Energy Consortium.



Lamar and its research partner, Radiance Technologies, believe establishing a hydrogen refueling station in Southeast Texas is a logical step because one of

the nation's two extensive hydrogen pipelines crosses Southeast Texas as it runs between Baton Rouge and Corpus Christi.

The fuel cell and hydrogen initiative takes advantage of Lamar's location in the nation's largest hydrogen economy—45 percent of the nation's hydrogen is produced in the region. Lamar's neighbor ExxonMobil produces thousands of cubic feet of hydrogen daily.

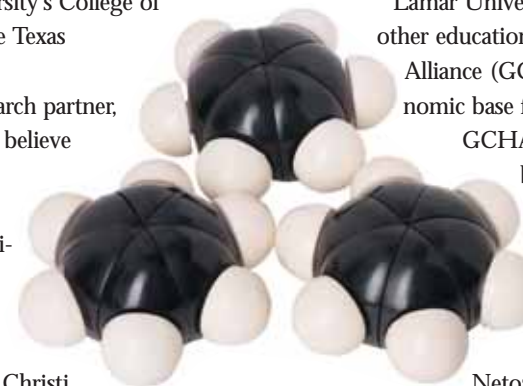
Lamar researchers would use the station to fuel vehicles to test emerging technologies. Adding the station would take the research

beyond the test bench and into the working world, said Craig Andrews, director of research at Lamar for Radiance.

Lamar University recently joined with industry, government and other educational institutions to form the Gulf Coast Hydrogen Alliance (GCHA) to serve as a resource for expanding the economic base for hydrogen along the Gulf Coast.

GCHA will act as a catalyst for hydrogen research and business expansion in the Gulf Coast including hydrogen fuel cells; hydrogen internal combustion engines; distributed generation; hydrogen production, storage, distribution and utilization; logistics and material-handling equipment.

Initial founding members of the alliance include Netozoic Inc., TesSol Inc., Infintium Energy Inc. and Applied Nanotech Inc. Lamar University is also a member of the Texas Hydrogen Coalition that includes founding members Toyota, Shell Hydrogen, Xcel Energy, Air Liquide, TEXYN, Exergy Development Group, Nature's Electric and the University of Texas. More information on the coalition can be found on the Internet at [www.texas2coalition.com](http://www.texas2coalition.com).



## Faculty notes

**Photography illuminated . . .** Six of Richard Ashmore's photographic

images were recently selected for display in Illuminance, a national competitive exhibition featuring photographic work from across the nation Feb. 6 through April 21, 2007, in Lubbock. Four of his panoramic images were selected along with two images he took of Cameron, La., after Hurricane Rita. Ashmore '99 is an adjunct professor in geology at Lamar. The center published a catalog of the works shown in the exhibition for distribution to museum curators and gallery directors nationwide • **McNair scholars led by one of their own . . .** Daniella Medley '03, '05, recently appointed director of the McNair Scholars Program, draws on her own experience as a McNair scholar to help the students she is working with in the



RICHARD ASHMORE



RICHARD ASHMORE

program. "I realize the importance of undergraduate research and maintaining the balance between home and school life while keeping the focus on graduate school," Medley says. The McNair Scholars Program works with first-generation, low-income students and helps them get into graduate school. Students in the program work with mentors to conduct research and present their findings at conferences • **Westgate turns around TAS . . .** Jim Westgate, 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, Westgate helped bring one of the state's oldest and most diverse science organizations from a \$10,000 deficit in 1999 to more than \$147,000 in assets today. The non-profit society awarded more than \$21,000 in college student science research grants and stipends this past year.



DANIELLA MEDLEY

CHRIS CASTILLO



## Making class count



**Hybrid earns engineering majors first place . . .** Mechanical engineering juniors **Greg Muller, Hong Vo, Terry Smith and Dustan Sapp**, competed in the Shell Eco-Marathon in Fontana, Calif., April 12-15 and received first place in the hybrid division. The principle of the marathon is to design and build a car that releases the fewest emissions, and the purpose of the competition is to encourage students to create possible energy solutions. The LU Racer, a soapbox-car-sized vehicle with a frame of metal tubing and bicycle tires, ran on a 48cc motorcycle engine and an electric motor from a Schwinn scooter. After the hybrid racer was complete, the team drove 26 hours from Beaumont to California with the racer in tow. Unfortunately, in Arizona, a sand storm caused the tarp covering the racer to chafe the car down to the metallic skin. The team had to re-skin the car the day before the race, but that didn't prevent the win. The team received first place in the hybrid division with 298.2 miles per gallon. According to Shell's website, the team has established a legacy by showing generosity in the garage. Lamar's team donated sheet metal to Louisiana State University and modified their gears, did welding for the team from Ontario, and gave technical advice to high school students from the Los Altos Academy of Engineering • **Lamar in select group of**



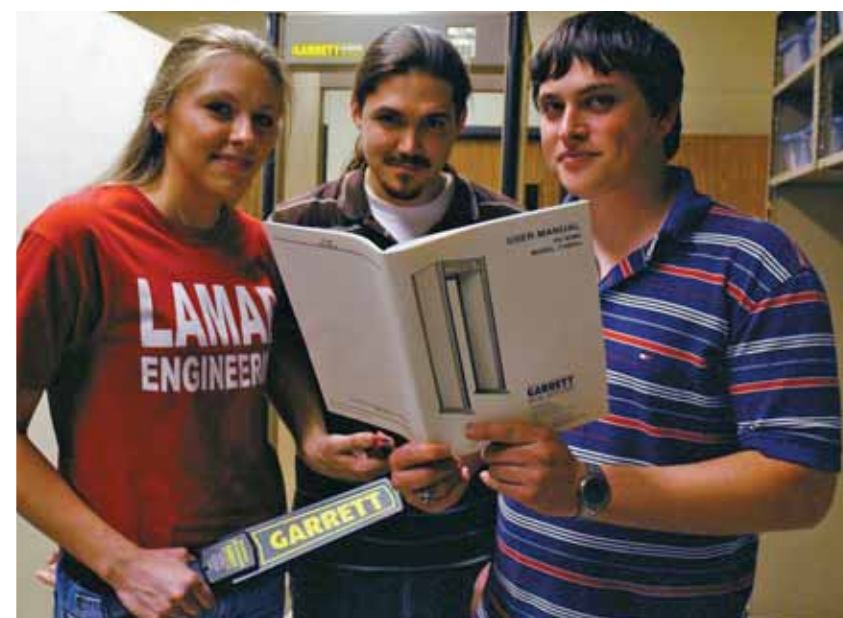
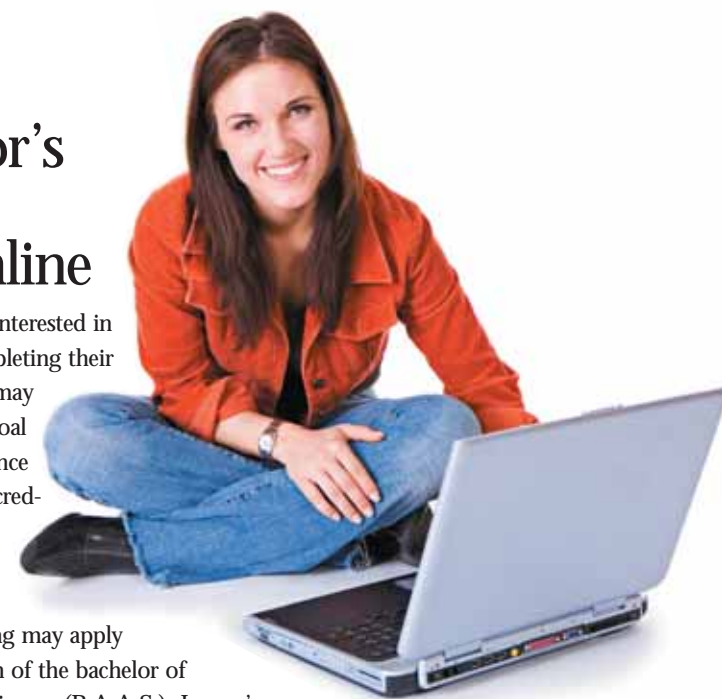
**two . . .** A seven-student team traveled to NASA Johnson Space Center's Ellington Field in Houston to conduct lunar gravity experiments aboard the "Weightless Wonder" aircraft. Lamar's team was among 34 college and university teams from around the nation selected to fly this year, but was one of only two schools chosen to conduct lunar gravity experiments. Team members are **Jonathan Sterling**, a senior mechanical engineering major from Orange;

## Bachelor's degrees now online

Southeast Texans interested in beginning or completing their bachelor's degree may now pursue that goal from the convenience of home, earning credit for what they already know. Up to 24 hours of experiential learning may apply toward completion of the bachelor of applied arts and sciences (B.A.A.S.). Lamar's online bachelor of general studies (B.G.S.) program is an ideal way to complete a four-year degree with the freedom to choose multiple areas of interest.

These two online programs provide flexible options for people who have already invested in coursework leading to a two-year degree or who have been in the work force and would like to advance. Online (web-based) courses are completed from home, office or on campus. That convenience means students can earn a degree without leaving their communities or their jobs. "Lamar University offers a wide array of courses in several disciplines that are now available online," said Paula Nichols, director for the Center for Distance Education. "These courses are flexible, affordable and fully accredited toward the students' degree plans."

Students interested in online courses will have a special orientation prior to the start of the semester. Students must be able to access the Internet and are encouraged to have a broadband connection. Full technical support via e-mail, telephone and the Web is available as well ([lamar.edu/luonline](http://lamar.edu/luonline)).



The opportunity to experiment with some high-tech gear comes with the donation of a Garrett Electronics PD6500i walk-through metal detector and handheld detector from Charles Garrett, a 1959 Lamar graduate in electrical engineering. Lamar electrical engineering majors Jessica Hammerly, Nelson Gaspard and Greg Gattis assembled the unit in the Cherry Engineering Building.

## Lamar University offers Chinese language, culture courses

This fall, the unique sounds of spoken Chinese will fill classrooms as students tackle one of the world's more challenging—and populous—languages. Lamar University will begin classes in Standard Mandarin in the Spring.

Initially, the university will offer two five-credit-hour courses. The classes will meet Monday through Friday for one hour each day.

Standard Mandarin — also known as Standard Chinese, Standard Mandarin Chinese or Standard spoken Chinese — is the official, modern Chinese spoken language used by the People's Republic of China, the Republic of China (Taiwan) and Singapore and is spoken by more than a billion people worldwide.

The courses, offered as CHIN 1511 Beginning Chinese I and CHIN 1512 Beginning Chinese II, will not only present the spoken language, but also introduce students to the written language, customs and culture of China.

The first course will introduce students who have no background in the language to its characters, tones and cadences through listening, speaking, reading and writing in Chinese and will improve their cultural knowledge as related to the language.

Students completing the first course should be able to distinguish Chinese syllables and tones and understand short conversation with a vocabulary of more than 600 words. Students will be able to carry on conversations on essential topics and read simple texts. After completing the course, students should be able to write from memory approximately 350 Chinese characters in simplified form.

The second course is designed to 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 greater variety of Chinese expression and further 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 able to comprehend 200 key sentence patterns, and gain the ability to write more than 350 additional Chinese characters in simplified form.

The College of Arts and Sciences advisory board first suggested adding 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 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 opportunity for students who seek a unique challenge, 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.

普通

### Making class count, *continued*

**Jared Mills**, junior, general business, Beaumont; **Jonah Cherry**, senior, mechanical engineering, Buna; and **Tiffany Smith**, senior, mechanical engineering, Mauriceville. Ground crew for the team were **Linsey Lewis**, a senior education major from Orange; **Chase Williams**, sophomore, electrical engineering and physics, Lumberton; and **Micki Carpenter**, senior, Beaumont. While in periods of lunar gravity, the students dropped a low-impact sphere into lunar soil simulant to study the effects on the dust in a vacuum chamber they built. Video recordings will enable the students to study the results frame by frame and present a final report of their findings to NASA • **Comm students document disappearance . . .**

The JASON 2007 two-week, live event, "Disappearing Texas Wetlands," kicked off Jan. 22 with the arrival of the first 1,000 Southeast Texas fifth- through eighth- grade students. About 8,500 students from 21 school districts and private schools viewed the "Disappearing Texas Wetlands" video, and participated in live activities involving local scientific and educational agencies whose mission is to protect Texas' wetlands. This was the sixth year for



Lamar University to host the annual JASON event, but this year was unique because Lamar communication students partnered with middle school and high school student "explorers" from school districts across Southeast Texas to film the video locally in six Southeast Texas wetland locations • **Chemistry graduate student earns double . . .** **Rachel Bond**, president-elect of the Lamar University Chapter of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) was recently awarded second prize in the student poster competition at the International Polyolefins Conference. Her work, entitled "Effect of Substrate Interactions on the Melting of Thin Polyethylene Films" was conducted under the supervision of **Paul Bernazzani**, 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.



\* New scholarships benefit students



Honoring the spirit of learning  
Students aspiring 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, established in 1979 by Wayne Reaud '71 to honor his father. With a new total endowment of nearly \$1.1 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 to see 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 hindering their education," said President James Simmons. "Scores of students have received opportunities for a quality education since the Albert Reaud scholarship was established in 1979. Now, Gena and Albert will be honored in their partnership of support for higher education, and even more students will have an opportunity to earn their college degrees here at Lamar University.

Growing up in Southwestern 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 degrees. Both received their undergraduate degrees from Lamar University.

"She taught us the value of education and along with our father made it possible for both of us to obtain our education," said Jon Reaud '88, executive director for the

Reaud Foundation. "The Reaud family believes we have future 'heroes' within our community, and it is a blessing for us to have this opportunity to be a part of making the dreams of many young men and women come true," Jon Reaud said.

Gena and Albert married in San Antonio in 1946 after he completed 4 1/2 years of service in the Air Force during World War II as head of the Quartermaster Corps for the 5th Air Force's 776 Air Materials Squadron in Italy. With dreams of becoming an architect, Al went to work in the business he knew best, construction. At night, he studied mail-order courses on mechanical drafting, blueprint reading, insurance adjusting and labor law. At 26, he was named general foreman of a division of a major construction company in Connecticut and, later, moved to Beaumont.

There, Reaud's career prospered and he rose to serve as president of Coastal Industrial Construction Co. and as a member of Austin Industries board of directors. Throughout his 40-plus-year career, he maintained his membership in Pipe Fitters Local No. 195. Regretting that the war had interrupted his own education, he joined his wife as a staunch believer in higher education.

Communication  
Kathleen Jackson and her children, Tommy, Kit and Thea, established the **Tom E. Jackson Memorial Scholarship** in memory of their husband and father. Tom Jackson '76 was a fifth-generation Texan and lifelong Beaumont resident who earned a bachelor's degree in communication. Upon graduation, Jackson began a farming and ranching career that included management of a 1,000-acre rice, soybean and cattle operation. He was general manager of the Jefferson County Waterway and Navigation District. From 1991 to 1995, Tom served as the legislative affairs representative for the Farm Credit Administration, 10th Farm District, and he was president of the Beaumont Metropolitan Area Council of PTAs. He also served as chairman of the Sabine Neches Waterway Safety Advisory Council, leading efforts to promote naviga-

tional improvements to that waterway. He was best known, however, for the many hours he devoted to working with young people, coaching many basketball and baseball teams. The scholarship benefits communication students.

Multiple majors  
Lila and Hunter Henry established the **Elaine Tatom and Hunter W. "Ticket" Henry Scholarship** in honor of their daughter-in-law and son. Elaine (Tatom) Henry '71 earned a bachelor's degree in medical technology from Lamar. She began a 28-year career with Dow Chemical in Texas and Michigan with overseas responsibilities as well. After moving into human resources at Dow, Elaine held several leadership positions, including compensation, domestic and international relocation, recruiting and placement, staffing and student programs. After earning a master's degree from West Virginia University, Hunter "Ticket" Henry later joined Dow Chemical Co.'s Dowell division, working in the oil and gas field. Five years later, he transferred to Dow's Texas operation in human resources, working in college recruiting and placement. He then held leadership roles in domestic and international benefits and human resource information systems. Lila and Hunter Henry have endowed four other scholarships in honor of members of Lila's family: Marvin V. Harlow Endowed Scholarship in Engineering; Robert H. Harlow, electrical engineering; Thelma V. Harlow, nursing; and the Martha and Haldane Vinson Memorial Scholarship in pre-veterinary medicine. The latest scholarship benefits a number of majors in the College of Arts and Sciences.

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**, it is their desire that deserving students have the opportunity to attend Lamar University and focus on their studies rather than on

financial worries. Lynn, a native Houstonian with a successful career as owner of a heavy equipment business, and Copperas Cove native Laura Lee are world travelers. Two of their grandchildren, Reagan Smith and the late Shelby Smith, attended Lamar, and their son, Kevin Smith, is senior associate provost for Lamar. His wife, Leigh '97, is dean of students at Lamar Institute of Technology. The scholarship benefits all majors.

Michael Lindsay, of the law firm Lindsay and Morgan, established the **Cindy Yohe Veteran's Appreciation Scholarship** in honor of the service men and women of Southeast Texas. The scholarship benefits any former or active duty military person who lives in Southeast Texas. Yohe is marketing director for Kinsel Motors and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1979, serving six years as a public affairs NCO and print journalist and attaining the rank of sergeant. She has two sons in service, Lance Corp. Christopher, a Marine who recently completed his second tour in Iraq, and Colin, currently in Army basic training. Their father, Robert Yohe, is a retired master gunnery sergeant who served 26 years as a Marine. "I would like to encourage our area veterans and civilian or military organizations to help grow this scholarship with future contributions," Cindy Yohe said. "We can never fully repay our troops for their service to our country, but we can provide them the advantages that come from a quality education."

Michael Lindsay and John Morgan also established the Lindsay & Morgan PLLC Scholarship to benefit all majors pursuing a bachelor of arts degree. Each credits the Southeast Texas community for not only being good to them, but also for enriching their lives. Lindsay and Morgan recognize the value of an education and hope to help students earn a bachelor of arts degree.

Family and Consumer Sciences  
Murray Anderson, husband of retired associate professor of home economics Virginia Anderson, has established the **Virginia Anderson Presidential Scholarship** in



Dean Hollis Lowery-Moore, Kim Wallet-Chalambaga, Murray and Virginia Anderson, and Amy Shows.

**Family and Consumer Sciences.** Virginia joined the faculty in 1960, and Murray strongly supported Lamar and the home economics department during her tenure and after Virginia's retirement in 1993. A Georgia native, she earned a master's degree in counseling and guidance from Trinity University in 1952 and completed additional graduate work at Texas Women's University before teaching high school in Georgia, North Carolina and Texas. At Lamar, she is best remembered by her students for a class she taught for more than three decades—Human Intimacy, Marriage and Family Relationships. She was instrumental in the development of several programs, including the family studies specialization, the interior design specialization, the graduate program, vocational certification, the Early Childhood Development Center and the guide for teacher competencies on which the state teachers exam is based.

Mirabeau Scholarships  
Martha (Coffman) '61 and Mike Grimes '61 have established two **Mirabeau Scholarships** in their name. The scholarships are funded each year for four years and are the top university award given to incoming freshmen of the highest ability. Martha and Mike met as students at Lamar in 1960 and married in 1962. Lamar provided an opportunity to attend college affordably. The couple established these scholarships to give that same opportunity to current students. Mike has served on the Lamar University Foundation board since 1992, was president from 1997 to 1998 and currently serves as chair of the Development Committee and a member of the Property and Gift Management Committee.

Business  
Impressed with Lamar's growth and its commitment to its students, Roy and Kim Steinhagen established the **Janie and Mark Steinhagen Scholarship in Business** in honor of Roy's parents, who are both Beaumont natives and strong supporters of the community and Lamar. They are also strong believers in the benefits of higher education and entrepreneurship and have always stressed the importance of sharing one's time, talent and treasure with others. Roy and Kim chose to make this gift in hope that current and future students work to succeed in business, enjoy success in life and be inspired to establish a similar scholarship opportunity of their own.

Michael Lindsay and John Morgan, of the law firm Lindsay and Morgan, established the **Kip Glasscock Scholarship in Business** in honor of Kip Glasscock, a 30-year trial attorney who has offices in Beaumont, Houston and Dallas. He is an adjunct professor who teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in business law, dispute resolution/mediation and M.B.A. interpretive problem solving. A charter member of the National Speakers Association, he has appeared on the same lecture platforms as Ronald Reagan, Paul Harvey, Dr. Norman Vincent Peale and Zig Zigler. He has authored three business motivation and training films and several audio recordings used by corporations for sales training and personal development and distributed worldwide.

Engineering  
Chrissy Young Esposito '91 and her husband, Anthony, have established the **Connie Young Presidential Scholarship in Mechanical Engineering** in memory of Chrissy's mother, Connie Young, wife of Fred Young, former dean of the College of Engineering. Dean Young served Lamar for 29 years and inspired hundreds of engineering students. He became dean in 1979 and led the college to nationally recognized levels of excellence. He retired in 2006.



# A CULTURAL AFFINITY

From Austrian studies to literary history and Edward Albee to Duong Thu Huong, Pamela Saur has contributed a lifetime of cultural study and understanding to her students and to academe.

by Louise Wood

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’s academic community. The scholar award is the university’s highest honor recognizing research and creative activities, 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.

She is an internationally recognized scholar in Austrian literature and recognized as one of Lamar’s most respected



BRIAN SATTLER

and talented 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 thanks 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 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 en route to

becoming a sociology professor. She grew up in Washington state, Minnesota and Iowa. 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.’”

They married Nov. 1, 1969, in Iowa City, Iowa. There were some tough times along the way, with small children, tiny apartments and long moves. “I remember someone once saying to me, ‘What! You’re 35 years old and you’re both in school and you have two kids?’ And I thought, ‘My gosh, you’re right. That is crazy.’”

“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.

They lived in Iowa, then Florida, where



CHRIS CASTILLO

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.

Steve earned his master’s in social work, and in Louisiana, where Pam had a temporary job at Louisiana Tech in Ruston. Then it was north to Boston, where Steve pursued an advanced degree at Brandeis University while Pam earned a second degree in education, and back south, where Pam taught at Auburn at Montgomery. They came to Lamar in 1988 and, Pam said, “within a couple of years, we both had tenure-track positions. I love the combination of teaching, research and service that the academic profession offers, especially, the chances we have to choose our own initiatives . . . We participate in all the activities, go to sporting events, support Lamar. We have a great situation here.”

The Saur’s 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, Carlee 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 has 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 her family and campus activities, Saur relishes regular visits to Vienna, which has by now become a second home. “Every couple of years, I try to go to Austria to present a paper or study in the libraries. And I’m dull. 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.”

David Castle, professor of political science, nominated Saur for University Professor, describing her as “quite possibly the best, most productive scholar among our ranks.”

“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

“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 literature and cultures . . . that demonstrates the amazing breadth of her research interests . . .”

—GERHARD KNAPP, professor of German and comparative literature, University of Utah

teaching assignments, Pam has published and presented scholarly papers on a truly impressive array of subjects in literature, language







and culture. She has written on authors such as Edward Albee, William Faulkner, Eugene O'Neill, Sophocles,

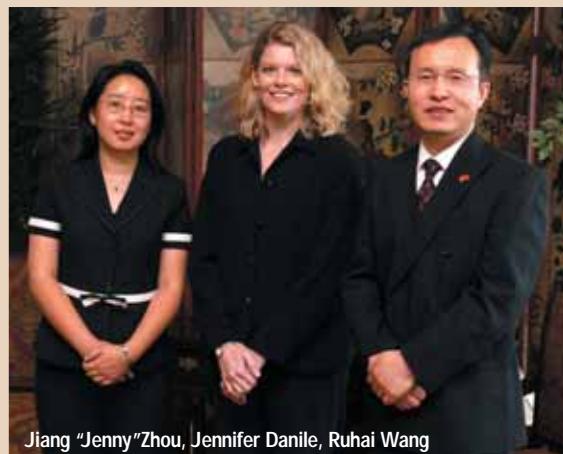
Chekhov and Duong Thu Huong and, more generally, on literary history and criticism, women's studies, cultural issues and contemporary German studies."

Saur publishes frequently in a number of journals, including *Modern Austrian Literature*, the most prestigious publication in its field, and has contributed chapters to various scholarly and reference works, as well as addressing international conferences.

Saur has five books, 100 scholarly publications and 80 professional presentations to her credit. Ariadne Press of California has published several translations, with another due in 2008. The new book chronicles the life and writings of Rosa Mayreder (1858-1938), the most important member of the Austrian women's movement at the turn of the last century.

In addition to German, Saur has taught English as a second language, linguistics, English composition, sophomore literature and advanced literature. She helped set state standards for foreign language teacher preparation and was editor of the Texas Foreign Language Association Bulletin. She has served as a Texas Education Agency consultant, as chief editor of *Schatzkammer*, a national journal for instructors of German, and on the executive board of the Conference of College Teachers of English, which honored her with two world literature awards.

Of two top awards coming so close together, Saur said, "It's such a great honor. I love Lamar so much that to be honored by my peers, my administrators and all the people who contributed to making those decisions, it's extremely gratifying—a lifetime award for me and a great high point in my career."



Jiang "Jenny" Zhou, Jennifer Danile, Ruhai Wang

CHRIS CASTILLO

## Daniel, Wang and Zhou earn 2007 Merit Awards

Lamar University has honored three junior faculty members with University Merit Awards in recognition of outstanding performance in the classroom.

### 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, Pi Mu Epsilon national honor society and the Martial Arts Club . . . volunteer for Texas Academy for Leadership in the Humanities and MathNerds.

**"Her courses are anything but traditional . . . she employs collaborative learning exercises in her sophomore-level classes and inquiry-based approaches in her advanced, theoretical courses."**

– STEPHEN DOBLIN, provost and vice president for academic affairs

### Ruhai Wang

*assistant professor of electrical engineering*

Master's from Roosevelt University, Ph.D. from New Mexico State University . . . areas of expertise include computer networks, wireless communication and satellite/space communications . . . co-principal investigator of a \$60,000 grant from the Texas Air Research Center . . . four Lamar research enhancement grants . . . mentors Lamar's robotics team, 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 26 peer-reviewed papers – considered a high level of productivity within a short time.

**"Dr. Wang has brought a wealth of knowledge, dedication and commitment to engineering education. His resume provides excellent evidence of his tireless efforts to bring recognition to Lamar."** – JACK HOPPER, dean, College of Engineering.

### Jiang "Jenny" Zhou

*assistant professor of mechanical engineering*

Bachelor's and master's from Chong Quing University, Ph.D. from University of Maryland . . . uses graphic-user interface tools, simulation and modeling software, and mathcad to enhance classes . . . supervised 10 design teams competing in programs sponsored by NASA, Baker Oil Tools, National Science Foundation and American Helicopter Society . . . supervised graduate students who presented research to American Society of Mechanical Engineering, two receiving "Best-Paper" recognition . . . member of American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Society of Experimental Mechanics, International Microelectronics and Packaging Society and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers . . . volunteers at Sallie Curtis Elementary School computer lab.

**"She is the best teacher I have ever had . . . (with) genuine interest in the success of the student."** – excerpt from a student evaluation



Student-athlete Vickie Toney, Lady Cardinal basketball player from Chicago, Ill., and sophomore electrical engineering major, shares a book with a possible future Cardinal, one of thousands of elementary schoolchildren who came to the Montagne Center for Cardinal Connection, a literacy program sponsored by ExxonMobil that pairs student-athletes with schools in the Beaumont school district throughout the year to promote reading.



▲ Dr. Mark Kubala presents President James Simmons and First Lady Susan Simmons the 2007 Jay C. Crager Award at the American Heart Association gala Feb. 13. The award honors Southeast Texans who have distinguished themselves through "unselfish professional activities and community."



▲ Barry Johnson, vice president for student affairs, and his wife, Pattie, play proud grandparents at the Music Hall of Honor luncheon March 3 during Homecoming festivities. Pictured, from left, are Laci Johnson and Kelly Ann Johnson, daughters of David '93 and Meredith (Guidry) Johnson '93, and Klaudia Johnson, daughter of Michael '90 and Karen Johnson. Johnson previously served as chair of the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance and director of bands.



▲ Linda and Joe Domino accept a resolution recognizing their "compassion, support and service" to Lamar University and the community at the April 26 Lamarissimo! concert. Joe is president and CEO of Entergy Texas, which sponsored the concert. The resolution cited his integral role in restoring power to Lamar in the aftermath of Hurricane Rita, ensuring, in large measure, the university's ability to resume classes and allow students to graduate on time.



▲ President James Simmons presents Distinguished Staff Awards to Sam Tait, information support specialist in Microcomputer; Delores "Gail" Martel, reproduction service operator, Print Shop; Diane Foreman, director, Student Health Center; Arhonda Nicole Eugene, administrative associate, Department of English and Modern Languages; and Sandy Drane, coordinator of International Student Services, College of Graduate Studies.



▲ Regents' Chairman Kent Adams, left, joins U.S. Senator John Cornyn, center, and Michael Truncale before August commencement ceremonies, where Cornyn presented the keynote address.



Friends and fellow alumni join Joan and Elvis Mason after the dedication of the Elvis Mason Conference Room in the John Gray Center on campus: from left, Judy and George Dishman, Joan and Elvis Mason, Katherine and Bill Fouts, and Janie and Mark Steinhagen.

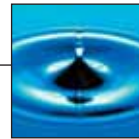


▲ Children and grandchildren of Walter and Sheila Umphrey joined the couple for the dedication of the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center, the newest jewel to enhance student life on Lamar's campus.



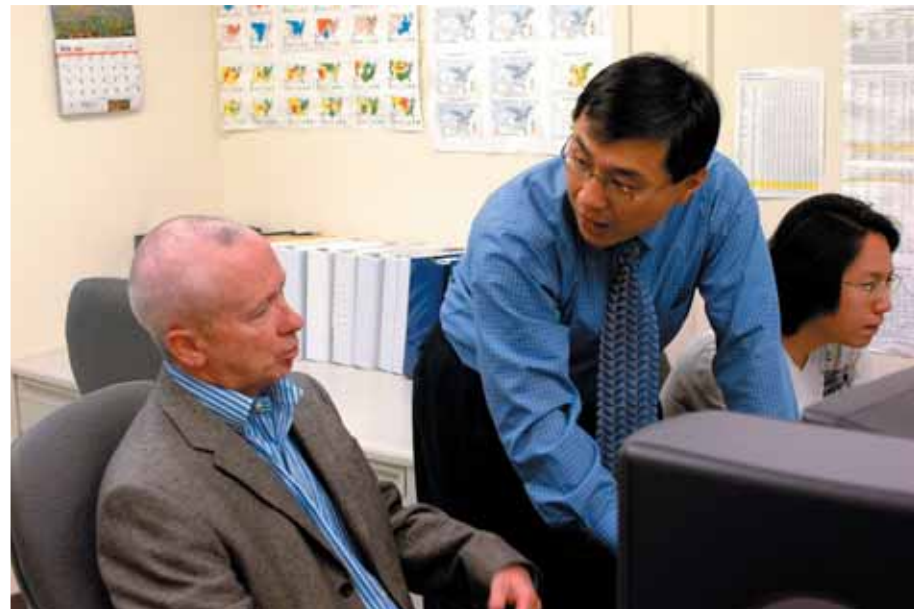
▲ December commencement speaker Pike Powers '62 and his wife, Pam (Honea) '68, center, are joined by her sister Carolyn (Honea) Crawford '64, '75 and her husband, Bo '65, '73, left; his sister Scout Carr; and his and Carr's mother, Mary Powers, seated, at a brunch in his honor. A leading force behind Austin's rise as a leading technology center, Powers served 26 years as partner-in-charge of Fulbright & Jaworski's Austin office. Carolyn Crawford is chair of Lamar's Department of Educational Leadership.





# Keeping it green

by Larry Acker



LARRY ACKER

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 life-long 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 a career of consulting for industries that need project management for soil, water and air analysis. He is currently using his environmental expertise by consulting with Motiva Enterprises, Valero Energy Company and Golden Pass LNG to assist with their expansion efforts in the region. His consulting role includes obtaining the appropriate permits for construction and acting as a liaison between the company and state and federal regulatory agencies.

After graduating from Lamar, Jones spent nine years at the Texas Department of Water Resources in several capacities,

beginning as a project engineer rising to the position of chief engineer. He was involved in the engineering review, contract administration, planning and development of state- and federally funded water-quality construction projects in Texas.

Armed with the experience he gained at the TDWR and a master of engineering degree from the University of Texas, he founded a Texas-based environmental and civil engineering consulting firm in 1982 named Jones & Neuse Inc. Jones & Neuse grew to become the largest independently owned environmental consulting firm in Texas before it was sold in 1993 to RMT Inc.

Jones then became a technical consultant for the company he began until 1997 when he co-founded JD Consulting LLC. The mission of JDC is to provide experienced senior-level consulting services in a cost-effective manner to industrial and manufacturing facilities located in Texas and along the Gulf Coast. JDC has offices in Austin, Beaumont, Corpus Christi and Houston.

"We represent industry by doing environmental consulting and interfacing between clients and the state and federal regulatory agencies," said Jones. "We con-

sult with businesses in obtaining permits to maintain air, water and soil quality."

"As the owner of JD Consulting, Bob is one of the most successful environmental engineers and business owners in Texas," said Bill Scott '70, longtime friend. "He has secured thousands of important permits for industrial clients over the past 25-plus years in business and was successful in securing the TCEQ permit for the Motiva 325,000 barrel per day crude oil expansion project. This is the largest ever single refinery expansion in U.S. history. In addition, Bob has been a dedicated husband and father, as well as, a civic leader in the Austin community. He has achieved real balance between his family, business and community life which make him a good example to everyone."

Jones was inspired by former Lamar engineering professor Bill Morgan who encouraged him to take courses in a relatively new branch of civil engineering concentrating on environmental quality. Civil engineering majors who were pursuing the environmental option were required to take more chemistry and biology courses.

"I recall spending so much time with other engineering students in class and on projects that they really became my whole

social circle while in school," Jones recalled. "I became acquainted with everyone in class because the classes were so small. Many of the people I went to school with have become life-long friends. In fact, I graduated with Don Nelson. He and I have worked together most of the time since we left Lamar. Don is the managing partner of the consulting firm."

Life as an environmental engineering consultant isn't all work and no play. Jones is enjoying semi-retirement by spending quality time with Beth on their boat. He was raised in Port Arthur and, through a family friend, began working on tugboats at an early age. Traveling the Intracoastal Waterway from New Orleans to Galveston instilled a love for the ocean and boating.

"I worked on tugboats after school, during the summers and on Christmas holidays and continued while I was going to school at Lamar," he said. "I developed this idea that whenever I made it out there in the world, I would buy myself a cruising boat. I literally thought about that boat for years. It was one of my goals in life."

Jones traveled to a boat show in Miami and, although he didn't intend to purchase a boat, the boat of his dreams presented itself, and he took the plunge. The *Hye Life* is a power-cruising catamaran with the capability to sleep four passengers, but is designed for two comfortably. The couple spends as much time as possible cruising down the east coast from Toronto, Canada, to Stewart, Fla.

"The first month, we started in Toronto and made it to Cape May, New Jersey," he said. "From there, we really started taking our time, exploring the Chesapeake Bay and making many stops along the eastern seaboard. We intended for the boat to end up on the Gulf Coast, but we've enjoyed the east coast so much, it hasn't made it here yet."

Jones has made it a priority in his life to support youth by giving his time and talent to organizations such as the

Austin Area Child Development Board of the YMCA, the Lamar University Civil Engineering Advisory Council and as chairman for the Partner of Youth-Boy Scouts of America for the Austin area. Jones continues his support for the Boy Scouts because he was an eagle scout. Texas governor Ann Richards appointed Jones as a regent for the Lamar University System, a position he held until the system was dissolved in 1995.

In a lecture for Lamar engineering students delivered in April, Jones was asked what the most important environmental issue we, as a country, will face in the future. His pointed answer was climate change, or more commonly referred to as global warming.

"As the principal liaison between companies and regulatory agencies, I can generally see what's going to

be the next big concern for industry with regard to environmental quality issues," Jones said with a wry smile. "Global warming will be a major factor in the years to come for industries of all types. Whether you believe in global warming or not is of no consequence. Industry will have to deal with any changes in regulatory policy that deal with global warming and the reduction of greenhouse gases, and that is good news for young environmental engineers."

But here, from the deck of the *Hye Life* at sunset, global warming 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 the environment and confident in the knowledge that the younger generation of Lamar University civil engineers will be well prepared to meet the challenges of the future. He and Beth have a daughter who recently completed her law degree and a son who has earned an engineering degree and is pursuing an MBA.



LARRY ACKER

## 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 in excess of \$10 billion with staffing needs exceeding 12,000 by 2010.

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 increase at its Port Arthur refinery. The expansion would make the refinery the largest in the country and create 4,500 jobs. The entire facility will mean nearly \$17 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. 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 locally-based subcontractors, suppliers and laborers.

Sempra Energy has plans to build Port Arthur LNG along the Port Arthur ship canal. The site is near another LNG facility the company plans to build, Cameron LNG in Louisiana. Construction of the estimated \$1 billion Port Arthur LNG project would bring more than 500 jobs to the area and could begin as early as 2007.

Cheniere Energy, Inc. has announced the Sabine Pass LNG terminal project located in Cameron Parish, Louisiana. Foreign LNG companies will be able to access U.S. markets via this tolling facility which has an estimated cost of \$1 billion and is expected to employ 1,000 workers.

Total Petrochemicals USA has proposed a \$1.8 billion expansion to its Port Arthur refinery. Total is considering building a new coker, which removes sulfur from crude oil; a potential expansion that would bring as many as 3,500 construction jobs to the area. Construction would begin in 2007 with expected completion in 2010.



# Red, White & You Homecoming 2007

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 exhibition 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.

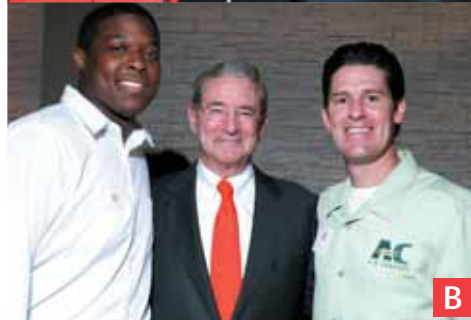
Cardinal Spirit raised the roof of the Setzer Student Center during a pep rally to mark "Get Your Red On Day" Friday, March 2.

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.



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(A) Susan (Williams) Simmons '68, Mary Lee and President Jimmy Simmons

(B) SGA President Ronnie Turner, left, President Jimmy Simmons and Slate Babineaux '94

(C) Pat Tubbs, left, Wanda (Cruse) Landrey '56, '71, and Frances (Wimberly) Alberto '56, '74

(D) Jerry White '53 and Norma (Plettman) White '56

(E) Paula "Torchy" Salter and Paul Jones '70, '92

(F) John Lovoi '59 and Paula (Russian) Lovoi '68

(G) Alumni board President Henry Strait '74 and Fran (Farinella) Strait '73

(H) Spirit Team members flank Big Red to rile the crowd at the pep rally kickoff to Homecoming weekend.

(I) Spirit Team members cheer Cardinal athletes at the pep rally.

(J) 2006-2007 SGA President Ronnie Turner gives the LU sign before a crowd of pep rally homecoming well-wishers. Joining him in Cardinal pride are, from left, city council member Audwin Samuel, President James Simmons, former city council member Bobbie Patterson, former Mayor Guy Goodson and former city council member Lulu Smith.

(K) Lamar Sanders (33) jumps above the fray to make a shot for the Cardinals.

(L) Lamar's Darren Hopkins (21) fends off a few Southeastern Louisiana players.

(M) Michael Reese '06 dons war paint for homecoming.

(N) The wave begins....

(O) This Cardinal fan keeps his eyes on the ball... and wears his lucky hat.

(P) Homecoming King James Brown Jr., a member of Omega Psi Phi fraternity and communication junior, and Queen Brandy Green, a member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority and a criminal justice senior, both of Houston, begin their reign.



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# Red, White & You Homecoming 2007

Before Lamar State College of Technology became Lamar University, before cell phones, 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 celebrate 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.



A



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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 rehearsals and a pre-game gathering at the Montagne Center.



B



C

(A) Lanell (Boykin) Hardy '57, Mary Grace (Jones) Bower '57, Beth Anne (Sperling) Mistrot '52, '57, '81

(B) Betty (Fertitta) Kubala '57, Susan (Williams) Simmons '68, Dr. Mark Kubala

(C) Byron Dyer '57, Connie Dyer, President Simmons

(D) Nolan and Joyce Landry '57 pose with Wanda (Bond) Waltrip '59 before a vintage Chevy.

(E) Agnes (Bailey) Bourgeois '58, Jerome Bourgeois '57

(F) Charter members of the Texas Epsilon chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon: W.E. "Chick": Collins '55, Lamar Roach '69, '71, Wayne Phillips '57, Burk "Mac" McGreevy '56, '64, '70

(G) Julie (DuBois) Coleman '80, Alan Coleman '80, James Ware '94, Paisley Ware

(H) Carlo Busceme III '74, Chris Brammer, Virgil Hydes '72, '75, Mike McKee '74



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Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity celebrated their 50th anniversary during the annual King's Ball black tie event March 3 at the MCM Elegante Hotel Ballroom.



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(I) Alumni band members jam at half time.

(J) Pep Band alumni returned to play the fight song once again for their alma mater . . . and a few tunes to pump up the halftime crowd.



Geology and earth and space sciences alumni gathered for reunion events and enjoyed a doubleheader—the dedication of the recently renovated geology building and the unveiling of a world-class mineral exhibit. Jim Jordan, chair of earth and space sciences, shared special perspectives of the new facility and of the newly installed exhibit that adds sparkle to its hallways and is on permanent loan from the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Jordan said, “We have the best exhibition in the state—outside their own—museum sources say.” The exhibit of mineral treasures features rare specimens from Spain, Madagascar, Argentina, Brazil, Italy, Uruguay and other exotic locales. The board of advisors for the Department of Earth and Space Sciences has been planning the exhibit for the past two years, with Lamar alumnus Byron Dyer '57 of Houston, playing a pivotal role.







# TREASURED TEETH: DENTAL DISCOVERY YIELDS NEW SPECIES

by Brian Sattler



CHRIS BEARD, JIM WESTGATE, DANA COPE

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.

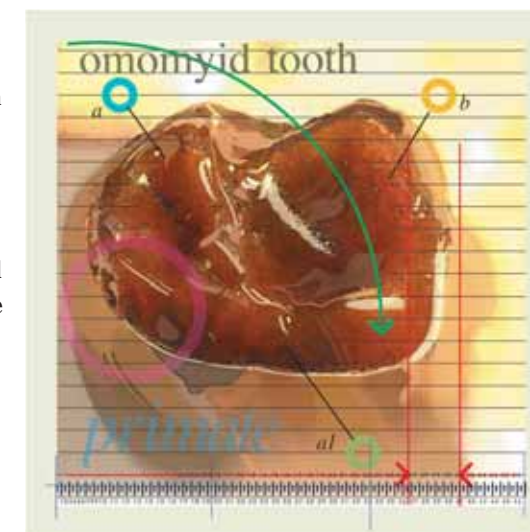
Westgate is a professor of earth and space sciences at Lamar and a research associate in the Vertebrate Paleontology Laboratory, Texas Natural Science Center, the University of Texas-Austin. He and his research colleagues, Dana Cope, professor of anthropology, College of Charleston, and Chris Beard, 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.





# COME TAKE

## SHEILA UMPHREY RECREATIONAL SPORTS CENTER

# A SEAT

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 air hockey, foosball, 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.







BRIAN SATTLER

## SIMPSON KEEPS STUDENTS IN SIGHT

The final weeks of preparation before opening the doors to the new Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center were very much a race to the finish, and who better to have lead that effort than Art Simpson '95, recreational sports program director since 2002 and former Cardinal athlete who still holds Lamar's indoor record in the 800-meter dash.

Helping in that transition was a recreational sports staff that will grow from about 85 student workers to more than 200 in anticipation of increased demand for programs and inclusive operating hours for the \$19-million facility.

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 kinesiology. Having been active in recreational sports as a student, Simpson enjoys "making a change in people's lives. Intramural sports provides the opportunity for everyone to be part of a team. It's a great way to build lifelong friendships," Simpson said.

### HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

#### Alumni

Valid Century Club (\$100) alumni membership required to purchase

- One, one-year membership for alumnus
- One additional, one-year membership for an immediate family member (must be 18 or older)

Cost: \$456 per year per person

Memberships expire each Aug. 31 and include a key card ID for entry. Alumni are classified as either Lamar University graduates or individuals who have earned 30 or more semester credit hours from Lamar University.

#### To purchase

- Alumni must complete an application form available from the Office of Alumni Affairs, John Gray Center, Bldg. B, Rm. 102.
- Submit the form, along with payment, to the Cashier's Office, Wimberly Building.
- Present payment receipt and a photo ID to obtain Umphrey Center ID, issued in the Admissions Lobby, second floor, Wimberly Building.

#### Membership information

Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center  
(409) 880-8921 | <http://dept.lamar.edu/recsports>  
Hours and information

## AN EYE FOR BEAUTY



Sheila Umphrey is an artist, an adventurer and a much-admired presence in Southeast Texas. She's an interior designer, a successful businesswoman, a community leader and philanthropist. She's a mother of two, a grandmother of seven 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 going up. I've been so impressed. I think the building is incredible, 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 the clerk saw the name on her card, recognized her and said, "'Oh, you're Sheila Umphrey, as in the rec center!' 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 the vision Jimmy—and Susan—had when he took over the presidency and the things they have done for Lamar and added to Lamar have just been amazing. They have been beautiful additions that have meant so much to the entire region. We all are so proud of what Jimmy and Susan have done at Lamar."

Born in Fort Worth, Sheila McCarthy Umphrey grew up in

Port Arthur and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School. Her creative gifts emerged when she was young.

"Even as a small child, I loved coloring in coloring books," she said. "As soon as I was able to actually draw, I started taking art courses, including private art lessons." Sheila studied fine art at the University of Colorado, then came to Lamar for a year to study commercial art. "I never really took design courses, other than just here and there," she said, "but I took every art class I could possibly take even after Walter and I were married."

She has built a successful career as an interior designer and owner of The Decorating Depot Inc. "I have been in business 18 years now, and just love it," she said. "Our business has grown so much that I have three designers, a secretary and a 'girl Friday.' Who would have ever thought it?"



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

Sheila has been involved in the Service League of Port Arthur and serves on boards of Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital, Land Manor and the Julie Rogers Gift of Life program.

Umphrey's design talents are reflected across the Southeast Texas landscape. "I've done all of the Community Banks (now Texas State Banks) in town, the ones we started from scratch as well as

the ones that just had to be renovated," she said. "And we're opening banks again now—we've got four of them to build, decorate and buy furniture for."

And, she adds, "I helped design Cowboy Harley Davidson and then decorated it," referring to the Umphreys' business venture with Morris Moore. "I do both commercial and residential," Umphrey said, and the homes she decorates include her own.

A sense of adventure permeates other aspects of the Umphreys' lives, including an interest in the outdoors, natural resources and wildlife. "We're both big hunters. My father was an avid hunter, and so I grew up going hunting with him."

They love the outdoors and time spent at their Timberline Ranch, near Woodville, as well as their latest retreat, Southern Star Ranch, near Uvalde.

Sheila's sense of adventure really took wing when she joined Walter on the open road as a motorcycle enthusiast, soon after he took up the pursuit. A friend talked him into going on a motorcycle trip through Colorado. Walter bought a motorcycle, took riding lessons and went on the trip.

"The first time they passed a car, they gave each other a hi-five. They were scared to death," said Sheila. "After he got to Telluride and I thought he could do it, I told him I'd ride behind him." Though she does ride solo at times—and is skilled at doing so—she enjoys most of the scenery from the back of Walter's cycle.

Sheila and Walter have had an exciting and eventful life together. "We've had a lot of fun times, a lot of adventures," she said. "And living off \$250 a month in the very beginning when we were in law school was always a challenge. But that was fun too. You look back and always think those were some of the best years of your life."

—LW



## A LANDMARK RENEWED

When McDonald Gymnasium opened 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; entertainment legends from Isaac Hayes to Chuck Mangione performed there; and Billy Tubbs was in the first class that graduated there.

But the reason McDonald Gym holds 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 trail-blazing president—in the president's office from 1952 until 1967—making him the longest-serving president in Lamar's history. Presiding over Lamar during a period of rapid growth, he worked to expand the curriculum, attract 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 year while he was president, the Lamar marching band awakened him on his birthday by playing a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday" on his front lawn. For many years, it was a rare thing to find a sporting event at Lamar where Dr. McDonald and his wife, Evelyn, were not in attendance.

When it came time to honor the man who held a keen love for athletic competition, it was fitting that the building chosen would be the epicenter of athletic competition on campus. Those who knew Dr. Mac were indeed fortunate, and his spirit of sportsmanship, dedication to purpose and love of Lamar live on in the new McDonald Gymnasium.





ROHN WENNER

# 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 educational communities and create and sustain promising reforms."

The program was designed for students to be part of a select group that moves through the program together as a unit. In this way, classes and instructors are easier to schedule, and

**"The relationships you develop in something like a cohort program truly becomes a kind of family."**

—SANDRA HARRIS '07

students have the advantage of interacting with the same peer group throughout the program. Most of the students in the program are working professionals, so the class schedule is designed to be conducive to work and family obligations.

"I think forming cohort groups was necessary for this program," said Jennifer Penland, a 2007 doctoral graduate. "You encounter a vast array of

personalities in the cohort, and you won't always agree with other members of your group, but the fact that you have such differences of opinions and experiences makes the program strong and unique."

The cohort structure allows students to develop working relationships with other students and gives the opportunity for members to assist each other in their research. Sherri Weathers Shoefstaff, a May doctoral graduate, acknowledged that many times during her own research, she found articles and material pertaining to the research of a fellow doctoral candidate and would pass the information on to that student. Although classes only meet every other week on Friday afternoon and all day on Saturday, the amount of communication between class sessions is substantial and a key to success in the program.

"Technology is really not a big part of our doctoral program in that we don't take a class in technology, and, yet, we are really into technology," said Sandra Harris, director of the educational leadership program. "Students write papers and send them to us via e-mail or online. We review the work and send it back to the student to make changes, so we are constantly using communications technology to allow students to get immediate feedback."

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 feeling 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," Harris said. "The cohorts themselves become 'the family,' and the professors are usually the odd-man out. But, generally speaking, we can't help but form attachments to the students we've worked with so closely and for so long."

Spring graduates of the educational leadership doctoral program include Susan Caffery, senior counselor for Central Medical Magnet High School; Darrell Evans, a counselor for Nederland school

district; Yvette Garner, a full-time student; Patricia Harris, a counselor for West Brook High School; Amanda Jones and April Jones, both full-time students; Mary Jane Moore, secondary curriculum coordinator for Port Neches-Groves school district; Ann Mullins, principal for Saint Joseph Catholic School in Baytown; Anna Nguyen, assistant principal for Central Medical Magnet High School; Jennifer Penland, adjunct instructor in the Department of Earth and Space Sciences at Lamar; Robin Perez, assistant superintendent for Lumberton school district; Thomas Price, superintendent for Splendora school district; Sherri Weathers Shoefstaff, coordinator for student support services at Lamar; and J.D. Taliaferro Jr., an instructor in the Lamar's management information systems department.

"I have had the opportunity to work with many doctoral programs, and they have all been cohort programs. While all cohorts are unique, I think this group is especially unique, not just because they are the first class to graduate, but also because they had to endure the growing pains associated with any new program," Harris said. "We had a few bumps in the road, but ironing out those bumps will make it easier for the classes that follow this first cohort group."

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/>.



ROHN WENNER



# The New Spindletop

by Larry Acker

**T**he 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 less than five minutes because of all the refinery 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 advisement during registration by any faculty member who had a free chair. His first semester, Roth just happened to find an unoccupied seat with Irving Dawson, the chair of the government department, even though he 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.



LARRY ACKER

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 Sheehy in Tyler for a position as his briefing attorney or "law clerk." Most federal judges have two law clerks, who normally serve two-year terms.

"I visited with Judge Sheehy on a Saturday, and he told me to come to work on Monday," Roth said with a smile. "He

told me right up front he didn't like law clerks, had never had a law clerk and didn't need a snotty-nosed kid right out of law school telling him the law."

It was during this time Roth found out he wanted to become a trial lawyer. Watching high-powered lawyers battle each other in the courtroom day after day, he began to think, "Is this what lawyers do? This looks like fun. My competitive instincts started to kick in, along with my ego, and I started to think to myself, 'these guys are supposed to be the big guns, but I think I could do better. I think I could beat these guys.'" Roth found more than a career in Tyler. He met and married Jo Ann Ford, the daughter of rose growers, to whom he has been married for 39 years.

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 received another call from Justice, who by this time had been appointed to the federal judgeship in Tyler. He recommended Roth to a law firm in Marshall and convinced him to go for an interview. He joined the law firm of Jones, Jones and Baldwin in 1969, trying hundreds of cases over the next three decades. He was involved in one of the first asbestos cases in the country in the mid-'70s, resulting in a \$20-million settlement that unleashed a flood of asbestos related litigation.

In 1991, a classmate from law school gave him the opportunity to represent Monsanto in a claim that resulted in a \$71 million verdict for the company. Shortly thereafter, a friend at Baker Botts L.L.P., an international law firm with a worldwide network of offices, retained him as co-counsel in a trade secret case brought by a Dallas telecommunications company, Digital Switch, against Motorola. Digital Switch needed a quick resolution to survive and Marshall's federal court worked quickly. The suit was favorably resolved in only four months, and a reputation for quickly disposing of patent litigation was born in Marshall. Shortly thereafter Roth left the Jones firm to establish the Roth Law Firm.

The first company to take advantage of the "rocket docket" was Dallas-based

Texas Instruments. "They were accustomed to a patent infringement case taking two to three years to get to trial and promised me a substantial bonus if we could get the case tried within 12 months," Roth said. "The case was over in 10 months."

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 that would have precluded Hyundai Electronics, the defendant, from selling their memory chip products in the United States. Hyundai agreed to pay TI \$1 billion in royalties over the next 10 years. Since then, the

**"I'm proud to be an alumnus of Lamar. I enjoyed my time there, and it was a period of intellectual awakening for me."**  
—CARL ROTH

Marshall federal court has become the hottest patent docket 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 little interruption to the patent litigation docket from competing criminal cases. In other district courts, the defendant's right to a speedy trial in a criminal case can delay a patent suit for as long as three to four years. The Marshall federal court can bring a patent suit to trial in as few as 15 months, which, some would argue, puts increased pressure on the defendants to settle quickly. The explosion of the patent docket in Marshall coincides with the 1999 appointment of Judge T. John Ward as the resident judge. Ward, who coincidentally was the opposing counsel in the TI v. Hyundai case, is known as a no-nonsense judge who has mapped out procedural rules to govern patent trials so they move forward more quickly and efficiently.

To date, 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.

"These law firms want someone who is in that courtroom every week," said Roth. "They want someone who knows how the judge operates, knows the local rules and customs, and, most of all, can communicate with local juries."

Roth is quick to convey that his passion is still being in the courtroom arguing a case. He brushes aside any notions of retirement, saying he's too old now to be doing all the things he said he wanted to do when he retired. "I still enjoy the adrenaline rush of standing in front of a jury," he said. "I now regard most of those things I said I'd do as just being painful."

Roth is the first to admit that most of his career happened because he was in the right place at the right time, but he made the most of the opportunities that arose in life. He never intended to graduate from Lamar with a liberal arts degree and never dreamed of being a lawyer. He never expected to work for a judge, and never expected to live and practice law in a small town in East Texas. And, he certainly never expected to be trying complex patent cases at this stage of his career.

"How did all this happen to a guy who entered Lamar thinking he'd be an engineer, and went to law school just to stay out of the army?" Roth wonders. "I certainly can't claim that any success I've enjoyed was due to an elaborate plan or design on my part."

With all its unintended twists and turns, however, Roth says, "I'm proud to be an alumnus of Lamar. I enjoyed my time there, and it was a period of intellectual awakening for me."

Roth still enjoys living in Marshall with Jo Ann and spending time with their three grandchildren. They have three children; Brendan, who is an attorney at the Roth Law Firm; a younger son, Dylan, who is the videographer for the law firm; and a daughter, Melinda, who goes by the name "Indy" and works in Austin at a residential treatment center for abused girls.



# It takes vision to change lives

by Cynthia Hicks

**I**t 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 he himself was. 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 exhibit high academic performance in any discipline. The fellowship will be Lamar's most prestigious award to students and is unique in that it recognizes students at the undergraduate level, a reflection of Lamar's distinctive commitment to offering research opportunity to undergraduates that would not be available to them at another university.

In 2002, Beck established a scholarship in political science for students who need financial assistance to attend college.

As a student at Lamar, Beck joined the pre-law program via a bachelor's degree in government, the

registration-day suggestion of Irving Dawson, then chair of the government department.

“He was the first person I met when I showed up at Lamar to register . . . He looked at my test scores and said, ‘You know, you really ought to look into government and history.’”

“Professor Dawson was a wonderful mentor. He knew my economic background and helped me get part-time jobs to make some money and stay in school. So he was a tremendous influence on me.” So much so that now Beck, as a top litigator, has come full circle into a position that enables him to mentor students in similar circumstances.

Beck hopes the fellowship will give outstanding scholars with 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 and accept internships 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 a unique undergraduate experience,” 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.

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 addition of a stipend for summer study, research, internship opportunities or international study. 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 also will be asked to define 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 will directly impact 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 set 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. Complacency 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 Secrest. “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 David 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 character, drive and potential and will become integral to their own visions for the future.

**“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.”**

—DAVID J. BECK





# Making connections

by Brian Sattler



BRIAN SATTLER

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 out in 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 Hybarger, 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-Forth 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 pulled 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 lucky, lucky, lucky."

When Grady made the move to Louisiana, he took with him a former competitor now-business partner. "It has been a great deal," he said. "I don't think we've ever had a cross word."

The company became a captive

contractor for Bell South, and "Whatever they needed we provided—from supplying people to support their line crews, to burying cable, to putting in conduit systems, to manholes."

In the early 1980s, Grady's company began to diversify with other kinds of work, including small pipeline jobs. Then, in the mid-'80s, 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 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 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."

Today, the company employs about 400 people and continues to diversify with jobs including work on strategic oil sites, steel fabrication, building construction and more. "A little bit of everything. We'll mow 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 Casey and Trey were "getting out of college and planning to get married." The couple had lost their eldest 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.

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-persons, 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 said, "And it's a good deal for Southeast Texas."

"Good clients, good employees, good family and good church," Grady said. "You just pinch yourself."





STUART CAHILL

# Win-win combination

A spirit of giving  
intertwines a  
passion for sports

by Chris Castillo

While 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 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 Hebert High School in Beaumont's Pear Orchard, and ranked second in her graduating class. Taking the top spot was another Lamar alumna, Dr. Tamerla 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

"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. She isn't one to stay in a job for comfort's sake; rather, she wants to continue to learn, grow and evolve.

She found her first jobs through the department's cooperative education employment program, working three semesters for Texaco and Union 76. After earning her diploma, she was selected to participate in a multi-year corporate development-training program with General Electric. She spent one year with Major Appliances in Louisville, Ky., and then worked with GE Factory Automation in Charlottesville, Va., before heading to Daytona Beach, Fla., for a two-year assignment in GE's Flight Simulation division.

Four years after graduating from Lamar, she decided to attend business school and applied to several, including

Stanford, Columbia and Harvard. When she attended women's admission day at Harvard, she said, she fell in love with the campus.

She wasn't naïve when she applied to Harvard. "I think the quality of education at Lamar prepared me academically to do anything," Clark said. The small classes at Lamar gave her opportunity to spend more time with her professors who made themselves accessible.

Clark earned her M.B.A. from Harvard Business School in 2000 and worked as a consultant for a year, but she soon found herself drawn back to the campus she loved when she was chosen to serve as managing director of the M.B.A. program for four years.

Clark likens her relationship with Jim Cash, the first black tenured faculty member in the Harvard Business School and chairman of the M.B.A. program, to that of Price. During his career, Cash served or currently serves on the boards of General Electric, Microsoft, Wal-Mart, Knight-Ridder, Tandy Corp. (now Radio Shack) and United Telecommunications (now Sprint Corp.). Clark said she had an amazing time working with Cash and John McArthur, the then-15-year dean of the business school.

From 1995 to 2001, Clark was an entrepreneur, owning and operating two middle-market manufacturing companies. Although she truly enjoyed the autonomy, she eventually had to make a change to free her for the next step in life—adopting a child.

As an entrepreneur, she said, she spent 90 percent of her time away from her home in Boston. Friends said she'd only come to town to get her mail and do her laundry. Finding a new job would give her the opportunity to spend time with her daughter, Sydney, now 2, while giving back to the community.

"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 allows 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 all 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 McArthur 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."





Architectural Daydream,  
oil on canvas, 2006

Three of artist Ken Mazzu's recent oil paintings were on display May 5-31, 2007, during the Beaumont Art League's 45th annual national juried exhibition. Mazzu '92, B.F.A. studio art, has been active in the regional art community for the past 15 years, primarily in Houston, where he lives.



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If you've graduated and miss having an ear to the ground about what's happening on campus, your University Press is now online and available in PDF format. See the photos, read the stories and gain the insight to your alma mater only the University Press—as campus's biweekly student newspaper— can provide. The URL is Lamaruniversitypress.com. You may download current issues, and you may access the year's past issues in archives. The UP covers state, national and international news as space allows, particularly those stories that pertain to curricula taught on campus, and it serves as the major advertising medium for area and national advertisers wishing to reach the Lamar audience.

We hope you enjoy reading about former classmates. If you have news to share – a position announcement, milestone, achievement, wedding, baby – or know the whereabouts of a lost alumnus, we want to hear from you. Send us your news: Write to Cadence, P.O. Box 10011, Beaumont, TX 77710, email [cynthia.hicks@lamar.edu](mailto:cynthia.hicks@lamar.edu) or call (409) 880-8421.

30s

Carl F. Rode '39, A.A.S. accounting, is retired and lives in Lufkin with his wife, Lois.

40s

Jerry D. Ward '43, A.A. engineering, earned his bachelor's degree at California Institute of Technology in 1947 and his master's degree from the University of California in 1969. He is retired and lives in San Diego with his wife, Penelope.

Flossy (Wadzeck) Shipman '45, B.B.A. business administration, is a real estate agent for Century 21 Tenace Realty in Boynton Beach, Fla. She lives in Atlantis, Fla.

Kenneth C. Pennington '46, A.A. pre-dental, earned his dental degree in 1952 and opened his own practice. He has been retired for 12 years and lives in Lake Jackson with his wife, Margaret. They have two children, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Gerard L. Delahoussaye '47, A.A.S. science, is retired and lives in Beaumont with his wife, Gloria.

Edward J. Lakous Jr. '47, A.A. English, earned his engineering degree from Texas A&M in 1949 and retired in 1990 after 41 years with Boeing Co. He lives in Renton, Wash., with his wife, Patricia.

Arby J. Walker '49, B.B.A. general business, is retired and lives in Colmesneil.

50s

Clara (Brewer) Clemens '54, B.S. home economics, earned her master's degree in education from Southwest Texas State in 1979. A retired teacher, she lives in Shiner with her husband, Ray.

Elizabeth (Teel) Baxter '57, B.S. education, '69, M.Ed. elementary education, lives in Livingston with her husband, WD.

Melba (Greathouse) Magnus '57, B.B.A. accounting, lives in Groves with her husband, Harold.

Pearl (Miller) Priebe '57, B.S. music, is a retired teacher and lives in Tomball with her husband, Julius.

Jack E. Thornton '57, B.S. social science, is retired and lives in Nederland with his wife, Betty.

Ruth (Granger) Vaughan '57, B.S. home economics, lives in Kirbyville with her husband, Richard.

Edgar A. Williamson '57, B.B.A. accounting, lives in Austin with his wife, Mary Eleanor.

John W. King '58, B.S. physical education, lives in Warren with his wife, Sue.

Luther L. Childress '59, B.B.A. general business, is retired and lives in Beaumont with his wife of 50 years, Rochelle.

Sidney J. Millard '59, B.S. commercial art, is a retired art teacher and lives in Goodletsville, Tenn., with his wife, Myrna.

Paul E. Pierson '59, B.B.A. marketing, lives in San Antonio with his wife, Jane. The couple recently celebrated a 50th wedding anniversary.

Jasper D. Terrell '59, B.A. history, is retired and lives in Troup with his wife, Leatrice.

Robert P. Townsend '59, certif. diesel engines, is retired from Central Freight after 40 years. He lives in Pollok with his wife, Joann.

Boyce L. Turlington '59, B.S. chemical engineering, earned his master's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Texas in 1960 and his doctorate in computer science in 1968. He is president of BLT-Austin, and lives in Austin with his wife, Jill.

Marilyn (Webb) Vordenbaum '59, B.S. music education, '85, M.Ed. supervision, is retired and lives in Kerrville with her husband, Harvey.

60s

Nancy (Hawthorne) Benson '60, B.A. English, is principal of Kaffie Middle School in Corpus Christi. She plans to retire in June and lives in Corpus Christi with her husband, Bruce.

Leonard J. Farr '60, B.S. secondary education, is a retired compliance officer at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and lives in Cincinnati, Ohio.

James W. Hulme '60, B.A. English, is a teacher for Pasadena school district, where he lives with his wife. They have three children and six grandchildren.

JoAnn (Pasak) Baker '61, B.S. elementary education, retired in 2002 after a 34-year teaching career. She lives in La Grange where she does volunteer work for three organizations and is a caregiver to her mother.

David J. Beck '61, B.S. government, serves as president of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. of the U.S. Supreme Court recently appointed Beck for a three-year term to the prestigious Judicial



Conference Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure. He is a partner with Beck, Redden and Secrest in Houston and is a past president of the State Bar of Texas. He lives in Houston with his wife, Judy.

George L. Dreyer '61, B.S. sociology, is retired and lives in San Antonio with his wife, Darlene.

William W. Hare '61, B.S. secondary education, '67, B.B.A. accounting, is retired from Eastman Chemical Co. and lives in Longview with his wife, Marian.

John P. Hudson '61, B.B.A. marketing, is retired and lives in Austin with his wife, Karen.

Jeff O. Meacham '61, B.S. elementary education, '67, M.Ed. counseling and development, is retired after 44 years in education and lives in Houston.

Finley L. Morton '61, B.S. education, is retired from the Texas Department of Human Services and lives in Houston with his wife, Thuy.

Wilbur C. Rankin '61, B.B.A. general business, is retired from Kelly Air Force Base and lives in San Antonio with his wife, Donia.

Robert E. Whitman '61, B.B.A. marketing, is retired and lives in Plano.

Donald K. Wiley Sr. '61, B.S. history, is retired and lives in St. Louis, Mo., with his wife, Virginia.

Lynn E. Yardley '61, B.S. mechanical engineering, is retired from Sun Chemical Corp. and lives in Mounds, Okla., with his wife, Frances.

Dwight A. Bryant '62, B.S. mechanical engineering, is retired from International Paper and lives in Mobile, Ala.

Freddy R. Burnett '62, B.B.A. marketing, is a regional claims supervisor at the Halliburton Co. and lives in Galena Park with his wife, Georgene.

Louis Caveness '62, B.S. education, earned his master's degree in education from Stephen F Austin University in 1968 and is owner of Beans Creek Ranch in Rusk. He lives there with his wife, Stephanie (Cox) '69, B.A. English.

Dalton R. Clements '62, B.S. secondary education, is owner of Seventeen Cattle Co.5 in Edna, where he lives.

Betty (Harris) Dunnam '62, B.S. home economics, is a retired teacher and director of recreation at HealthSouth in Plano. She lives in Richardson with her husband, Douglas.

Sandra B. Hubert '62, B.S. physical education, earned her master's degree from Azusa Pacific University in 1977 and is a retired teacher. She lives in Freeland, Wash.

Marie (Weeks) Norton '62, B.A. English, '68, M.Ed. elementary education, is a teacher in Bridge City school district and lives in Orange with her husband, Billy.

Charles W. Robinson '62, B.S. chemical engineering, earned his law degree in 1967 and is an attorney with his own law firm in Warrendale, Pa. He lives in Valencia, Pa., with his wife, Carol.

Sandra (Kiker) Sherman '62, B.S. elementary education, '82, M.Ed. school administration, has been appointed assistant superintendent for staff and community support in Hardin Jefferson school district. She has been the principal at China Elementary for 22 years. She lives in China with her husband, Jesse '65, B.B.A. business administration, who retired with 35 years service from Jefferson County and now is general manager for Devers Canal Rice Producers Association. The couple owns and operates Diamond S Enterprises, raising beef cattle and crawfish.

Jimmie R. Welborn '62, B.S. mechanical engineering, lives in Houston with his wife, Ruby (Crane) '63, B.S. elementary education.

Charles L. Beard '63, B.S. commercial art, is self-employed and lives in Houston.

James L. Hahn '63, B.S. chemistry, is retired from BASF and lives in Zavalla with his wife, Ada.

James B. Spencer '63, B.S. biology, earned his medical degree in 1967 from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. He is a physician and lives in Jasper with his wife, Meghan.

Bill E. Bauer '64, B.S. education, is retired and lives in Salida, Colo., with his wife, Sharon.

Charles A. Brown '64, B.S. electrical engineering, is a marketing manager at Ranken Energy Corp. in Edmond, Okla. He lives there with his wife, Shirley, who owns a pet-grooming shop.

Jimmie D. Cybert '64, B.S. electrical engineering, earned his master's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Texas in 1965. He is retired and lives in Houston.

Hattie I. Kingsley '64, B.S. elementary education, is retired after a 27-year teaching career and lives in Beaumont with her husband, Mitchel.

Anthony W. Norrell '64, B.B.A. accounting, is vice president of Braslau Furniture Co. in Corpus Christi, where he lives.

Wilford K. Parmley '64, B.B.A. accounting, is senior tax supervisor at Computer Sciences Corp. in Austin, where he lives with his wife, Carolyn.

Max C. Romero '64, B.B.A. accounting, is a claims manager at Irving Holdings Inc. in Dallas, where he lives with his wife, Gini.

Richard S. Rose '64, B.B.A. marketing, is president of Allegheny Southwest in Conroe and lives in Montgomery with his wife, Annetta.

Edd (Howell) Schrimsher '64, B.S. elementary education, is a retired teacher and lives in Conroe.

James E. Sebesta '64, B.S. biology, is a dentist in El Campo, where he lives with his wife, Agnes.

David R. Spillar '64, B.B.A. general business, is retired and lives in Spring with his wife, Cynthia.

Bruce D. Westmoreland '64, B.S. sociology, lives in Leesville, La., with his wife, Alice (Haynes) '63, B.S. elementary education.

Frank E. Andrews '65, B.B.A. marketing, is president of Andrews Auctioneers in Houston, where he lives.

John W. Harrington '65, B.B.A. management,

earned his master's degree in safety and ergonomics in 1990 and is retired from BASF. He lives in Orange with his wife, Faye.

Diane (Caniff) Moose '65, B.S. biology, is retired and lives in Deer Park with her husband, William.

Brenda (Bythewood) Rakestraw '65, B.S. biology, is retired and lives in Mont Belvieu with her husband, Robert.

Linda (Tomlin) Taylor '65, B.B.A. general business, earned a master's degree in 1995 and is a principal in Georgetown school district. She lives there with her husband, Eugene. They've been married 40 years and have five children and 12 grandchildren.

Dorothy (Lucke) Wallace '65, B.S. graphic design, lives in Alto with her husband, Charles, and is president of the Alto Lions Club.

Vianna (Trahan) Ward '65, B.S. education, '82, M.A. supervision, is a teacher at Cathedral High School in Beaumont. She lives in Groves with her husband, Otis '65,

B.S. elementary education, '81, M.Ed. supervision. They have 13 grandchildren and are active in their church.

Frances (Balke) Bunt '66, B.A. history, is an analyst at the Apache Corp. in Houston, where she lives.

Lucretia (Cammack) Campbell '66, B.A. elementary education, lives in Beaumont with her husband, Gene. They have four sons and 10 grandchildren.

Ron Flournoy '66, B.S. chemical engineering, is retired from the Alcoa Foundation and lives in Port Lavaca with his wife, Pamela (Bundick) '66, B.B.A. office administration, who works at the Alcoa Foundation.

Max Higgs '66, B.A. government, earned his law degree from the University of Houston in 1973 and was an El Paso County probate judge for 15 years before retiring from the bench in January. His criticism of the state's adult protective services in El Paso in 2002 and 2003 led to a statewide reorganization of the agency overseeing the treatment of children, elderly and the mentally ill. He lives in El Paso with his wife, Rosie.

Dan E. Huff '66, B.S. biology, earned his master's degree in 1970 and his doctorate in 1973, both from the University of Minnesota. He retired from the USDI National Park Service in 2002 and lives in Sumner with his wife, Joan.

Janiece (Chambers) Marshall '66, B.A. English, '75, M.A. English, is a retired teacher and lives in Port Neches with her husband, Kellon.

Robert H. Rabuck '66, B.S. biology, is a dentist in Conroe, where he lives with his wife, Betsy.

Geneva (Faris) Bailey '67, B.S. elementary education, earned her master's degree in 1983 from the University of Houston and lives in LaPorte.

Jennie (Guidry) Brady '67, B.B.A. office administration, is retired from The Huntsman Corp. and lives in Port Arthur with her husband, Charles.

Richard W. Griffin '67, B.S. government, earned his master's degree from Florida State University in 1970 and is a professor at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Mich. He is campus co-coordinator and is working on a political engagement project being sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation and the New York Times. He lives in Big Rapids with his wife, Diane.

Ronald C. Ricks '67, B.B.A. management, is president of M&M Signature Builders Inc. in Goshen, Ky., where he lives.

Lynn (Hodes) Rochelle '67, B.A. English, is a teacher at Broward County School and lives in Tamarac, Fla.



**Wilbur Lee (Galloway) Schubert** '67, M.Ed. elementary education, is retired and lives in Livingston with her husband, **William** '74, B.S. music.

**Max D. Williams** '67, B.B.A. management, '71, B.A. economics, is the human resources manager at Texas Exploration and Producing and lives in Sugar Land with his wife, Carolyn.

**Kathleen (Johnson) Young** '67, B.A. English, earned her master's degree in math from the University of Florida in 1985. She is retired and lives in Apex, N.C.

**Alan W. Chisum** '68, A.A.S. drafting technology, is senior designer at CB&I in Beaumont. He lives there with his wife, **Martha (Byrd) Chisum** '83, B.B.A. office administration, who is a teacher in Vidor school district.

**Homer J. Cook** '68, M.B.A. business administration, retired after 20 years as vice president of Thiorol's International Industrial Division. He lives in Layton, Utah.

**O'Neil McGilbery** '68, B.B.A. accounting, is owner of Trucks-N-More in Missouri City, where he lives with his wife, Rebecca.

**William T. Mixson** '68, B.B.A. accounting, is retired and lives in Orange with his wife, Beverly.

**Noel (Robichaux) Parro** '68, B.S. education, is director of religious education at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Cartersville, Ga., where she lives.

**Thomas R. Rice** '68, B.B.A. general business, is CEO of Community Hospital in Oklahoma City, Okla. He lives in Edmond, Okla., with his wife, Catherine.

**Richard A. Taft** '68, B.B.A. marketing, is senior vice president of marine energy at Marsh USA Inc. in Houston, where he and his wife, Denise, live.

**Robert Fischer** '69, B.S. sociology, is retired after 31 years of working for the state of Texas as an inspector. He lives in Houston with his wife, Barbara.

**John M. Gimble** '69, B.B.A. marketing, '77, M.B.A. business administration, is a manager at the Littleton Group in Houston. He lives there with his wife, Gail.

**Geneva (Parish) Hargrove** '69, B.S. music, lives in Beaumont with her husband, **William Hargrove** '49, A.A. science, who is an attorney with his own practice.

**Travis A. Light** '69, A.A.S. electronics, is president of LIGHTQuest Homes in Katy, where he lives.

**Robert F. McClure** '69, B.S. government, is regional manager at APR in Mount Pleasant, S.C. He lives in The Woodlands with his wife, Theresa.

**Minnie (Mearlon) Melton** '69, B.S. communication disorders, retired from Beaumont school district in 2003 and is owner of Peachtree Consultants in Beaumont, where she and her husband, James, live.

**70s**

**Larry R. Bodin** '70, B.B.A. management, is retired and lives in Fairfield Glade, Tenn., with his wife, **Carolyn (Handy)** '70, B.S. elementary education, '80, M.Ed. counseling and development.

**Daryl Ann (Chris) Borel** '70, B.S. mathematics, '83, M.Ed. supervision, is director of grants for the Beaumont Foundation of America in Beaumont, where she lives with her husband, Michael.

**Bruce "Billy" Bush** '70, B.S. secondary education, '75, M.Ed. secondary education, is a coach with George West school district in McAllen, where he lives.

**Mildred E. Chance** '70, B.S. home economics, retired from teaching in Evadale school district and lives in Lumberton.

**Dwain Lovett** '70, B.B.A. marketing, is retired and lives in Montserrat.

**Marguerite (Gilford) Mitchell** '70, B.S. education, is a guidance counselor at Robert E. Fitch High School in Groton, Conn. She lives in Mystic, Conn., with her husband, **James Mitchell** '69, B.A. history, who is superintendent of the school district.

**Linda (Cooper) Parson** '70, B.S. secondary education, has been a teacher for more than 35 years. She has taught all over the world, including Scotland, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Thailand and The Netherlands, and currently is in London. She lives in Beaconsfield in the United Kingdom with her husband, James. They have three children, all of whom live in Texas, with one currently attending Lamar.

**Andrew A. Purcell** '70, B.S. government, lives in Waynesboro, Va., with his wife, **Paulette (Pachuca)** '74, B.S. education, who teaches at Waynesboro Public School.

**Gail (Cawley) Showalter** '70, B.S. speech, is owner of Seeing You Through and lives in Nederland with her husband, Sam.

**Darrel W. Thibodeaux** '70, A.A.S. data processing, is president of Project Services Inc. in Tomball. He lives in Texas City with his wife, Cyndi.

**Barbara (Hogg) Baird** '71, B.S. communication disorders, '76, M.S. speech pathology, is retired and lives in Canyon Lake with her husband, Jeff. They've been married 39 years.

**Charles W. Dewees** '71, B.B.A. marketing, is sales manager at Caterpillar Inc. in Houston. He lives in Tomball.

Lamar University's Career and Testing Center is now an official Pearson VUE Select Test Center, providing testing for the GMAT and various information technology exams (IT), such as Cisco Systems, Microsoft, Agilent Technologies, Novell, VERITAS, National Instruments and many others. Examinees may register for the GMAT at mba.com and for IT exams at vue.com. Hours for Pearson VUE are 9 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday. More information—http://dept.lamar.edu/careercenter or 880-8444

**Susan (Allbritton) DeWolfe** '71, B.S. speech, is retired from state government and substitute-teaches and freelances in her spare time. She lives in Pearland with her husband, Carl.

**Barbara (Holcomb) Dunaway** '71, B.S. elementary education, '75, M.Ed. special education, is a diagnostician for Little Cypress-Mauriceville school district after retiring from a 32-year teaching career. She lives in Nederland with her husband, William.

**Robert J. Isakson**, '71, B.B.A. accounting, is administrative manager of DRC Emergency Services and director of the Claridge Group. He was a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation for 10 years and has traveled over 100 countries and six continents. He lives in Mobile, Ala., with his wife, Doris.

**Patricia (LaGrone) Lloyd** '71, B.S. sociology, is an administrative associate at Lamar University and lives in Port Neches.

**Linda (Gerry) Miner** '71, B.B.A. management, is an associate real estate agent at Weichert Realtors and lives in Houston.

**Kenneth G. Stokely** '71, B.B.A. marketing, is the staff contract administrator for STP Nuclear Operating Co. in Wadsworth and lives in Bay City.

**Donald "Ross" Theis** '71, B.B.A. general business, is an account manager at Rexel. He lives in Conifer, Colo., with his wife, Virginia.

**Mary (Strait) Babb** '72, B.B.A. management, is a secretary at White Pine County School in Lund, Nev., where she lives.

**Thomas R. Beavers** '72, B.S. environmental science, is retired from Total Petrochemicals and lives in The Plains, Va., with his wife, Judith.

**Joseph J. Fertitta** '72, B.B.A. marketing, is a partner at Brown and Fertitta Agency and is vice president of Texas Coffee Co. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Sandy.

**Raymond L. Hagood** '72, B.B.A. general business, is retired from State Farm Insurance and lives in Brownsville.

**Jarold "Rusty" Harper Jr.** '72, B.B.A. marketing, is operations manager at Shielding Dynamics Inc. in Tomball. He lives in Houston with his wife, Terrie.

**Ronald L. Maddox** '72, B.S. pre-dental, is a dentist at Lauder Road Dental Center in Houston. He lives in Spring with his wife, Carol.

**Ellen (Issel) Perry** '72, B.A. English, retired in 2001 after 30 years as a school counselor and is a tutor for Galveston school district. She lives in Galveston with her husband, Jesse. They have been married 25 years and have two children.

**Brenda (West) Philyaw** '72, B.A. history, is a teacher in Port Arthur, where she lives with her husband, David.

**Gary L. Trotter** '72, B.S. mechanical engineering, is vice president of OSO Energy Resources in Durango, Colo. He lives in Hesperus, Colo., with his wife, Tina.

**Jesse C. Willcox** '72, B.A. history, is senior technical specialist at EnGlobal Engineering Inc. in Beaumont. He lives there with his wife, Shirley.

**Denny M. Bartlett** '73, A.A.S. industrial electrical engineering, works at Equistar Chemicals and lives in Gainesville, Mo.

**Kenneth L. Brackin** '73, B.B.A. general business, attended the Naval Officer Candidate School after graduation. He flew for 10 years as an instructor and operationally in the P3 Orion. He is postmaster in Burkeville, where he lives.

**Rodney N. Cain** '73, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a technical professional leader at KBR in Houston. He lives in Katy with his wife, **Myrtle (Smith)** '80, B.S. art.

**Linda (Studdert) Duval** '73, B.S. elementary education, lives in Weatherford with her husband, Robert.

**Danny G. McDonald** '73, B.S. mechanical engineering, is senior engineering manager at CB&I in Houston and lives in Sugar Land with his wife, Betsy.

**Greer A. Parr** '73, B.S. mechanical engineering, is area maintenance supervisor at MeadWestvaco in Silsbee. He lives in Buna with his wife, **Deborah (Harrey)** '87, B.S. home economics, who is a teacher in Lumberton school district. .

**Willioneita Pittman** '73, B.S. speech, '79, M.S. speech, is a visiting instructor at the University of Houston and lives in Katy.

**Mary (Grand) Robertson** '73, B.A. political science, is director of admission and registration at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She lives in Little Rock with her husband, **Roby Robertson** '71, B.A. government, '73, M.A. government, who is the director of the Institute of Government at the University of Arkansas.

**Debbie (Pugh) Smith** '73, B.S. elementary education, '78, M.Ed. counseling, is a counselor with Beaumont school district, where she lives with her husband, Leroy.

**Carolyn (Griffin) Thompson** '73, B.B.A. business administration, is a teacher technologist in Houston school district and lives there with her husband, Charles.

**Brenda (Landry) Bell** '74, B.S. speech and hearing, is retired from Beaumont school district after 31 years of teaching special education. She lives in Beaumont.

# Life itself is education

Coming from Nigeria to America was supposed to be a temporary arrangement to further his education.

But today, Rev. Joyzy Egunjobi '06 calls Beaumont home. He earned his master's degree in counseling and development in December and is a parochial vicar at Our Mother of Mercy Church. He also is the author of more than a dozen books, several written while he pursued his degree at Lamar.

After earning his bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, in 1995 and a master's degree in theology and divinity from Pontifica Urbanniana Universitas in Rome, Egunjobi was satisfied with his education and ordination to the priesthood.

He had spent five years as a priest—and had no plans to further his education. That was until he became upset with the way the doctors, working in one of his diocesan hospitals in Nigeria, were treating the patients and the institution.

“They would get themselves familiarized with the people and then quit to start their own clinics in the same town, drawing the patients to themselves,” Egunjobi recalls. “I said to myself, ‘I can be a medical doctor,’ just to save the situation and not really minding how long it would take to get there.”

He wrote to his bishop, asking for his blessing to begin studying medicine. After consulting with several other bishops, he got a call saying he should consider clinical psychology—and should pray about the decision.

Egunjobi says he accepted clinical psychology in obedience to his bishop and began applying at universities.

He applied to Loyola College in Maryland and was accepted. Upon his arrival in America, he stayed at the Josephite headquarters in Baltimore and was soon asked to come to Beaumont for two weeks to substitute for another priest who was ill. When the priest died a short time later, Egunjobi was asked to stay at the church.

He soon was admitted to Lamar and to make the most of his credits, he changed his



REV. JOYZY EGUNJOBI

CHRIS CASTILLO

degree from psychology to counseling and development. He began the program in the fall of 2005 and finished in the fall of 2006 with a GPA of 3.929. “All glory to God,” he said.

Now a Lamar graduate, Egunjobi says that, looking back, he realizes education is not limited to the classroom. “Passing through life itself is education,” he said, “and there is more to learn from life.”

Egunjobi hopes to pursue a doctoral degree in educational leadership at Lamar or Texas Southern University's doctoral program in counselor's education. The future is in God's hands, he said.

While a student, Egunjobi has managed to publish 13 books, four of which he wrote at Lamar. Egunjobi's writing talent is just one of the qualities that impresses his advisor Carolyn Crawford, associate professor and chair of the Department of Educational Leadership. “He is one of the most genuine and compassionate persons I've ever dealt with – in his concern for others, in his insight and in his appreciation for his education.”

Some of Egunjobi's books are available 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.” —AR

**Laura (Poche) Caves** '74, B.S. elementary education, is vice president of Bob Caves Air Conditioning in Tyler. She lives in Bullard with her husband, Robert.

**Warren L. Clark** '74, B.A. government, is an attorney in Amarillo, where he lives with his wife, Jenny.

**Nancy (Elliott) Coy** '74, B.S. mathematics, is a teacher in Eanes school district in Austin, where she lives.

**Eddie R. Day** '74, B.A. political science, is a regional loss prevention manager at CVS Pharmacy in Collinsville, Ill., where he lives with his wife, Deborah.

**Molly A. Faust** '74, B.S. communication disorders, is vice president of Sunbelt Enterprises in New Port Richey, Fla., where she lives.

**James M. Fulton** '74, B.S. biology, earned his dental degree from the University of Texas in 1981. He has his own dental practice in Mont Belvieu and lives in Baytown with his wife, Cindy.

**Humberto "Bert" Garcia** '74, B.A. political science, earned his law degree from the University of Texas in 1977. He is an attorney at Nall, Delley and Wynne in Sherman and retired in June 2006 as United States attorney for the District of Puerto Rico. He lives in Sherman with his wife, Lana.

**Anthony M. Gerdes III** '74, B.S. biology, earned his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston in 1978. He is director of the Cardiovascular Respiratory Institute, which he opened at the University of South Dakota in 2000. He lives in Sioux Falls, S.D., with his wife, Bonnie.

**Patricia (Ledgerwood) Hasson** '74, B.S. composite science, earned her master's degree from Stephen F. Austin. She retired after 32 years of teaching biology and lives in Liberty.

**Helen (Munden) Hays** '74, B.S. elementary education, earned her master's degree in elementary education in 1976 and taught for 19 years at Hillcrest Elementary School in Nederland. In 1994, her family moved to Tyler County to build a retirement home. She has worked in the Chester school district for 13 years.

**Beulah (Butch) Howard** '74, B.A. sociology, is a retired social worker and lives in Hewitt with her husband, Willie. They are both ordained ministers in the Community of Christ Church and have been married 54 years. They have four children, 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Conny (Barry) Klausner** '74, B.S. elementary education, is a retired teacher and lives in Spring with her husband, Cary.





ATO fraternity brothers  
Bub Messina '73, left,  
and David Guidroz '75

ATOs Alan Hefty '69,  
Jake Tortorice '76 and  
Frank Messina '71



Reunion attendees Wayne  
'59 and Leta Cutler, left, join  
Katherine (Fanette) '60 and  
Bill Fouts '57 and Ellen  
(Walker) Rienstra '62.



PHOTOS BY ROB BUI '07

**Wayne P. Lindsay** '74, B.B.A. accounting, is a national pursuit leader at HDR Engineering in St. Louis, Mo., where he lives with his wife, Sharon.

**James A. Parker** '74, B.B.A. general business, is retired from Chevron and lives in Colmesneil with his wife, Helen.

**Larry R. Penn** '74, A.A.S. drafting technology, retired from Foster Wheeler Construction Co. after 26 years and, in 2004, founded Larry Penn Enterprises, based in Port Arthur and under contract with Valero. He lives in Port Arthur with his wife, JoEllen.

**Kathryn (Scutari) Plechy** '74, M.Ed. special education, is a learning disabilities consultant for the North Caldwell Board of Education in North Caldwell, N.J. She lives in East Hanover, N.J., with her husband, George.

**Barbara (Hopps) Poston** '74, B.S. home economics, is retired and lives in Fort Worth with her husband, Dennis.

**Patsy (Carnahan) Bartels** '75, M.Ed. elementary education, is a retired teacher and lives in Port Neches.

**Diane (Robbins) Bourgeois** '75, B.S. home economics, lives in Groves with her husband, Harold, who graduated from Lamar in December 2006.

**Louis C. Delarue** '75, B.S. secondary education, earned his master's in divinity from the University of St. Thomas in 1975. He is an associate pastor at St. Charles Catholic Church in Nederland, where he lives.

**Billie (Strait) Driscoll** '75, A.A.S. dental hygiene, was honored as "Outstanding Member of the Year" in 2006 by the New Mexico Dental Hygienist Association. She lives in Santa Fe, N.M., with her husband, Richard.

**Louise E. Esser** '75, B.S. communication disorders, '78, M.S. speech pathology, is an administrator at Texas E.N.T. Specialists in Houston and lives in Plantersville.

**Becky (Blanchard) Johnson** '75, B.S. secondary education, is a computer security officer at Fidelity National Information Services and recently earned both the CISM and CISSP certifications in computer security. She lives in Charlotte, N.C., with her husband, Ken, an Allstate Insurance agent, and her three dogs and three parrots.

**Carolyn P. Lindon** '75, B.S. elementary education, is a peer facilitator of language arts in Baytown, where she lives.

**Ronald D. Pickering** '75, A.A.S. drafting technology, is an engineering technician at Beauregard Electric Corp. in DeRidder, La. He lives there with his wife, Angela.

**Patricia (Collier) Rawls** '75, B.A. English, is a teacher in Beaumont school district, where she lives.

**Karen (Roberts) Files** '75, B.S. elementary education, is a homemaker and lives in Frisco with her husband, Roger. They have three children.

**Mary (Jackson) Sims** '75, B.S. secondary education, earned her master's degree in education from Sam Houston State University in 1980. She is the membership and community development manager for the Huntsville-Walker County Chamber of Commerce. Before this post, she retired from SHSU in 2006 as assistant dean of students after 29 years of service. Before joining SHSU in 1977, she taught school in West Hardin and Liberty. She lives in Huntsville with her husband of 35 years, Jim, who is the southern regional manager of Trinity River Authority. They have two children, Brooke and Wade.

**Edward L. Sparks** '75, B.S. oceanographic technology, is a construction manager at Parsons Company's Salt Waste Processing Facility in Aiken, S.C. He lives in Aiken, with his wife, Debra.

**Peggy (Pittman) Timbrook** '75, B.B.A. accounting, lives in Belton with her husband, Wayne.

**Ellen R. Vital** '75, B.A. sociology, is owner of Ellen Ray's Creole Restaurant in Houston, where she lives.

**Judith (Hudgins) Wilson** '75, B.S. music, is a band director in Chapel Hill school district in Tyler. She lives there with her husband, Mark Wilson '74, B.A. accounting, who is a business manager at the University of Texas at Tyler.

**Carolyn (Sumrall) Hamerly** '76, B.S. health education, is a teacher and coach in Little Cypress-Mauriceville school district. She lives in Orange with her husband, Joe.

**Joye (English) Johnson** '76, B.S. speech, is retired and lives in Sun City with her husband, Roy, who is also retired.

**Frankie A. LeBlanc** '76, B.S. psychology, is an account manager at Eads Co. in Nederland, where he lives with his wife, Samantha.

**Karen (Williford) Lee** '76, B.S. music, earned her master's in music education from the University of Houston in 1986. She is the choir director at Port Neches Middle School and lives in Orange with her husband, Edwin Dale Lee '72, B.A. English. He is the minister of administration and education at First Baptist Church.

**Wanda (Sevar) Mooney** '76, B.S. deaf education, is a deaf education teacher in Goose Creek school district. She lives in Baytown with her husband, Patrick.

**Mark H. O'Neal** '76, B.S. biology, earned his dental degree in 1980 and is a self-employed dentist in Houston. He lives in Magnolia with his wife, Dawn (Smallwood) '76, A.A.S. nursing.

**Kevin D. Pierce** '76, A.A.S. electronics, is an instrument technician at The Huntsman Corp. in Port Neches. He lives in Groves with his wife, Jeanie "Peggy" (Stanfield) '78, B.S. elementary education.

**Janice (Rivers) Taweel** '76, B.S. art, teaches art in Dallas school district. She also is a professional artist and owns the Artist Paper Trail Co. in Dallas, where she lives. She was listed in the Who's Who Among Teachers and Who's Who in American Women in 2006.

**Detra A. Viator** '76, B.B.A. office administration, is a retired secretary and lives in San Antonio with her husband, Kevin.

**George Bowden** '77, B.S. communication, is a marketing coordinator at Freese and Nichols in Fort Worth, where he lives with his wife, Kim.

**Vester M. Hasson** '77, B.B.A. accounting, earned his M.B.A. from the University of Montana in 1981 and is an account manager at Hahn Equipment Co. in Houston. He lives in Winnie with his wife, Jan.

**Ray H. Jones Jr.** '77, M.B.A. business administration, is retired and lives in Port Neches with his wife, Linda.

**Cathy (Cheney) McCraw** '77, B.S. criminal justice, is a teacher in Allen, where she lives with her husband, Gene.

**William S. Tarbox** '77, B.B.A. general business, is a business analyst at Encore Bank in Houston and lives in Magnolia. He has two sons, Bryan and Scott.

**Carl Thompson** '77, B.A. accounting, is vice president of Marathon Oil and lives in Houston with his wife, Linda.

**Barbara (Lawrence) Wager** '77, B.S. elementary education, is retired but working as an in-home trainer for Silsbee school district's special education program. She works with children who have autism, ADHD and other learning disabilities. She lives in Silsbee with her husband, Gary, who is also retired.

**Susan (Avery) Gattis** '78, B.A. political science, teaches in Hamshire-Fannett school district and lives in Beaumont with her husband, Gary. They have two children, both attending Lamar.

**Julie (Phelan) Harper** '78, B.S. nursing, earned her master's in social work from the University of Louisville in 1990. She is a therapist at Orlando Regional Healthcare and lives in Orlando, Fla.

**Robert J. Landry** '78, M.Ed. counseling and development, is director of Research and Education Services in Houston and lives in Pearland.

**Yolanda (Fowler) Duriso** '79, B.S. speech, runs Mama Hager's Christian Home in Beaumont, which she opened in 2004. She

lives there and opens the home to those in need of assisted living.

**Beth Hudson** '79, B.S. physical education, earned her master's degree in education from the University of Texas in 2005. She teaches special programs at the Big Thicket Special Education Cooperative in Lumberton and lives in Beaumont.

**Amanda (Gayler) Hughes** '79, B.S. nursing, is an associate pastor at First Church of the Nazarene in Whitney, where she lives with her husband, L.J.

**Kenneth W. McCurtain** '79, B.A. political science, earned his teaching certificate in 1993 and is a local building contractor in Nederland, where he lives. He has two daughters, Lily and Rosemary.

**Karen W. Rice** '79, A.A.S. general secretary, is a legal assistant at Sanders-Sanders L.L.P. in Orange, where she lives with her husband, Larry.

**William E. Thomas** '79, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a reliability engineer at the Alcoa Foundation and lives in Victoria with his wife, Dee.

**Sonda (Collum) Watts** '79, B.B.A. office administration, teaches in Klein school district and lives in Spring with her husband, Tommy.

## 80s

**Thomas J. Evans** '80, B.S. industrial electronics, is senior technical trainer at Barrios Technology in Houston and lives in Alvin with his wife, Pamela.

**Charles W. Pitts** '80, B.B.A. general business, is a dispatch clerk for the U.S. Postal Service in Richardson. He lives in Garland with his wife, Mary (Parr) '79, B.S. speech.

**Patricia (Kyte) Rach** '80, B.S. special education, '84, M.Ed. elementary education, lives in Buna with her husband, Dan.

**Melvin P. Bailey** '81, B.S. speech, is a principal in Quinlan school district and lives in Wills Point with his wife, Bailey.

**Raymond R. Bell** '81, B.S. communication, is a SARSS Operator for KBR in Iraq, but lives in Katy with his wife, Dee, when not active in the military.

**David W. Daigle** '81, B.B.A. management, is senior implementation manager at AT&T Services in Dallas. He lives in Ennis with his wife, Nyle (Bourque) '81, B.S. mathematics, a teacher at St. John High School in Ennis.

**Van N. Kitchens Jr.** '81, A.A.S. electronic engineering, is retired and purchased a ranch in 1995. He lives in Birch Tree, Mo., with his wife, Rebecca.

**Tommy G. McClellan** '81, B.B.A. accounting, is director of Delphi in Troy, Mich. He lives in Clarkston, Mich., with his wife, Mary.

**Clayton T. Rollins** '81, A.A.S. industrial electronics technology, works in corrosion technology at Spectra Energy in Baytown and lives in Winnie with his wife, Stacy.

**Sharon A. Boyette** '82, B.S. home economics, teaches in Silsbee school district and lives in Buna.

**Deborah (McMillan) Cox** '82, B.S. computer science, is the global accounts regional business manager at Microsoft in Irving. She lives in Frisco with her husband, Jack.

**Tracy (Mears) Davidson** '82, B.A. criminal justice, is a practice manager at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Dallas and lives in Fort Worth.

**Marie (Sarabia) Sanchez** '82, A.A.S. dental hygiene, earned her dental degree at the University of Texas Dental Branch in Houston in 1995. She is a dentist at Emilio A. Sarabia D.D.S. in Houston, where she lives with her husband, René.

**Raymond Shearer** '82, B.A. criminal justice, earned his law degree from the South Texas College of Law. He is a sergeant at the Beaumont Police Department and lives in Village Mills with his wife, Laura.

**Paul Davidson** '83, B.B.A. marketing, is president of Capital One Houston and has accumulated 22 years of banking experience. He lives in Houston with his son, Hunter, whose baseball team he coaches.

**Curley (Randall) Henry** '83, B.S. communication, works in quality assurance for Cingular Wireless and lives in Lafayette, La.

**Ann M. Mulreany** '83, B.S. general business, is an account executive at Risk Reducers L.L.C. and lives in Little Rock, Ark.

**Driscoll W. Staley** '83, B.S. electrical engineering, is the plant engineering supervisor at Invista in Victoria. He lives there with his wife, Cynthia, and their six children.

**William F. Dixon** '84, B.S. electrical engineering, is a communications engineering manager at Lockheed Martin and lives in Coatesville, Pa., with his wife, Wanda.

**Nancy (Sampson) Jackson** '84, M.B.A. business administration, is an optimization engineer at Giant Yorktown Refinery in Grafton, Va. She lives in Virginia Beach, Va., with her husband, Jeffrey Jackson '82, M.B.A. business administration, who is CEO of KABA Enterprises in Virginia Beach.

**Trena Sinegal-Comeaux** '84, B.S. secondary education, is a school counselor in Alief school district in Houston, where she lives.

**Judith (Coleman) Storms** '84, A.D. nursing, is program director for registered nurses at

Sunrise Healthcare in Beaumont and lives in Port Arthur.

**Andrew Sunderman** '84, B.S. accounting, is vice president of The Williams Co. in Tulsa, Okla. He lives in Jenks, Okla., with his wife, Laurie (Sanders) '82, A.A.S. office administration.

**Robert W. Bartlett** '85, B.B.A. marketing, is district sales manager at AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals and lives in Plano with his wife, Diane.

**Ronald W. Beale** '85, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a software analyst at Cimarron in Houston and lives in Webster with his wife, Julie.

**Kevin M. Maraist** '85, B.B.A. finance, earned his law degree in 1988 and is a partner at Anderson, Lehrman, Barre and Maraist L.L.P. in Corpus Christi. He lives there with his wife, Robin.

**Patrick J. Shortt** '85, B.S. education, is a professional baseball scout, working for the last 18 years as the northeast scouting supervisor for the Major League Baseball Scouting Bureau. From 1980 to 1982, Pat was a left-handed pitcher for the Cardinals. He went on to play in the Milwaukee Brewers organization before serving as an assistant coach & recruiter for Jim Gilligan from 1984 to 1986. In 1986, Pat served as pitching coach with the Salt Lake City Trappers of the Pioneer League. He lives in South Hempstead, N.Y., with his wife, Carmen, and their son, Joseph.

**Yvonne (Canady) Teal** '85, A.A.S. business management, earned her medical degree in 2005 and works in brain, spine and nerve surgery in Arlington. She lives there with her husband, Kevin, and their two children.

**Michael S. Williamson** '85, A.A.S. diesel mechanics, is president and CEO of Sytek Electric Corp. in Houston. He lives in Cypress with his wife, Jennifer.

**Kelly Gibson** '86, B.S. speech, is a professional golfer and lives in New Orleans with his wife, Elizabeth. After Hurricane Katrina, he was a major contributor of charity work to the city of New Orleans.

**Carolyn (Hughes) Sewell** '86, B.S. mathematics, teaches in Port Arthur school district, where she lives.

**James R. Fobbs** '87, B.B.A. marketing, teaches in Conroe school district and lives in Spring with his wife, Wynette.

**William H. Foster** '87, A.A.S. computer drafting, is an energy inspector at the General Land Office in Nederland and lives in Vidor.

**Marjorie (Mansfield) Gausepohl** '87, B.S. biology, is a lab technician at Arkema in Beaumont and lives in Nederland with her husband, Jason.

**Mary (Harris) Keeler** '87, B.S. sociology, is a field representative at United American Insurance in Houston, where she lives.

**Catherine (Kunst) Kennedy** '87, B.S. communication, teaches at St. Romuald School in Hardinsburg, Ky., where she lives with her husband, Mike.

**James D. Vickers** '87, B.S. physical education, '91, M.Ed. school administration, works at Seawinn in Katy. He lives there with his wife, Deborah (Westmoreland) '85, B.S. elementary education, who teaches in Katy school district.

**Cheryl (Smith) Bostelman** '88, B.S. communication disorders, is a registered nurse at Park Plaza Hospital and lives in Houston with her husband and their son.

**Devon (Davis) Espinoza** '88, B.A. history, is a training and certification specialist at National Instruments in Austin. She lives there with her husband, David, and their three children.

**Laura (Wiellezke)** '88, B.S. nursing, is on the faculty of Stephen F. Austin University and lives in Lufkin with her husband, Chris. They have two children.

**Andrea (Barnett) Saldana** '88, B.B.A. general business, is a key account manager at the Pepsi Bottling Co. in Beaumont, where she lives with her husband, Jose.

**Laura (Miller) Sattler** '88, B.B.A. general business, is program coordinator at the Health and Wellness Center at Christus-St. Elizabeth Hospital in Beaumont. She lives there with her husband, Austin.

**Gina (Moore) Tatom** '88, B.S. education, has three daughters she has home-schooled since 1995. She lives in Silsbee with her husband, Christopher, who is a minister.

**Danny J. Badeaux** '89, B.B.A. industrial engineering, is a plant manager at Sherwin Williams in Andover, Kan., where he lives with his wife, Kelli.

**Rachel (Denzlinger) Fowler** '89, B.S.W. social work, lives in Kingwood with her husband, Jeff '89, B.S. criminal justice, A.S. law enforcement, '98, M.Ed. counseling and development. He is a senior officer at U.S. Pre-Trial Services in Rusk.

**James C. Fults** '89, B.B.A. accounting, works in finance at Chevron Phillips and lives in Magnolia with his wife, Robin.

**Jimmy M. Givens Jr.** '89, B.S. computer science, is dean at Wayland Baptist University and lives in Lubbock with his wife, Lucy.

**Yvonne (Yowman) Hall** '89, B.S. graphic design, earned her master's degree in art in 2004 and lives in Oceanside, Calif., with her husband, Timothy.

### Plans are underway for the Epsilon Kappa Chapter 50th anniversary celebration

Watch your mail for more details as plans are finalized or visit [www.lamar.edu/alumni](http://www.lamar.edu/alumni). For more information, please contact [Lamarpikes50@yahoo.com](mailto:Lamarpikes50@yahoo.com)

**Elizabeth (Soliz) Mayfield** '89, B.S. elementary education, teaches in Port Neches-Groves school district. She lives in Groves.

**Ralph E. "Gene" Roberts Jr.** '89, B.S. political science, was an attorney with Bracewell & Giuliani LLP and has opened his own firm, Roberts Law Firm in Dallas, where he lives.

**Thelma (Alcantara) Smith** '89, B.S. liberal arts, lives in Orange with her husband, John.

**Myla (Carden) Strohbehn** '89, B.S. mathematics, teaches in Little Rock school district and lives in Little Rock, Ark., with her husband, Matt.

**Travis C. Wilson** '89, B.B.A. business administration, '94, M.B.A. accounting, is finance manager at Chevron in Manama, Bahrain, on assignment until 2010. His wife, Trudie (Downs) '85, B.A. education, teaches in Alief school district in Houston, where they live with their three children.

**Gloria (Negrete) Wood** '89, B.E.A. graphic design, lives in Johnston, Iowa, with her husband, Roy Wood '89, B.S. physics. He is a medical physicist at Mercy Medical Center.

## 90s

**Karla J. Pipes** '90, B.S. speech, is an LDAR specialist at ExxonMobil and lives in Beaumont with her husband, Darryl, and their two children.

**Antionette M. Kelly** '91, B.S. psychology, is a case manager at PerryLee Home Health Care Services in Beaumont, where she lives. She is president of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

**Thomas P. Sigeo Sr.** '91, B.S. criminal justice, has been active as an Army Reservist for the past 18 months. When not active in the military, he is director of pre-trial release for Jefferson County and lives in Beaumont.

**Jacqueline L. Taylor** '91, B.S. elementary education, earned her master's degree in family and child studies from Texas State University in 2007. She is a consultant and lives in Austin.

**Lynda (Timm) Howard** '92, B.B.A. general business, is self-employed and lives in Bloomington, Ill., with her husband, Jack.

**Kevin M. Jones** '92, B.S. psychology, is a doctoral student at the University of Maryland at College Park and lives in Silver Springs, Md.

**Jason Walker** '92, B.S. political science, earned his law degree from Baylor University in 1997. He is a shareholder and trial lawyer at Andrews, Myers, Coulter and Cohen. He was recognized as a "Rising Star" in Texas construction law by Texas Monthly in 2006 and 2007





and is active in a variety of legal and construction-related professional organizations. He lives in Houston with his wife, Karen.

**Cheryl (Thomas) Wright** '92, B.B.A. finance, is a national sales analyst at Combined Insurance Co. in College Station. She joined the National Seniors Sales Division of the company in 2006. She lives in Bryan with her husband, Mathew, and their son, Tyler.

**Chuck L. Ball** '93, B.S. biology, earned his medical degree in 2004 and is a physician. He lives in Port Arthur.

**Adrin (House) DarJean** '93, B.A. criminal justice, is a broker and owner of Southern National Financial in Houston and lives in Port Arthur.

**Jason Hughes** '93, B.S. criminal justice, earned his law degree from South Texas College of Law in December 2006. He was a detective with the special crimes unit for the Beaumont Police Department before joining the Beaumont law firm Germer & Gertz. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, **Anna (Valdez)** '90, A.A.S. data processing, who was promoted last December to bank officer at Wachovia.

**Glenn J. Preisler** '93, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is distribution supervisor at Conroe Coca-Cola and lives in Magnolia with his wife, Lori.

**Mike Sarbaugh** '93, B.S. kinesiology, has had a hand in two Carolina League championships with the Kinston Indians. At the behest of the parent Cleveland Indians, he returned in 2007 for a shot at a third, a season after guiding Kinston to a league title. He was an infielder for the K-Tribe in 1990 and was a shortstop for the Cardinals as a student. He lives in Reading, Pa.

**Helen (Chadwick) Williams** '93, B.B.A. human resource management, is the human resource specialist at the Department of Homeland Security in Houston and lives in Humble.

**Roy W. "Boogie" Frederick** '94, B.S. criminal justice, manages the architectural department at Trendmaker Homes and lives in Houston with his wife, **Shannon (Myers)** '94, B.S. sociology, who is a land acquisition manager at Trendmaker Homes. They have two daughters, Sloane and Sydney.

**Thomas E. Glenn Jr.** '94, B.A. political science, is chief procurement officer at HRE Inc. in Houston. He lives in Humble with his wife, LaToya.

**Kathy (Hayhurst) Lowe** '94, B.S. biology, is owner of K Lowe Staffing in Simpsonville, S.C., where she lives with her husband, Craig.

**John R. Meaux** '94, A.A.S. computer drafting, is senior designer at Sucoco Logistics in Nederland. He lives in Beaumont with his



# The power to serve

Betty (Breaker) Marcontell '67, B.B.A. office administration, and her husband, Edmon '67, B.S., '70, M.S. health and physical education, live in a 106-year-old Rusk home that sports a historical marker verifying it as the site of a Confederate gun factory. He was a member of the championship Lamar Cardinal football team from 1964 to 1966 and was inducted into the Lamar Hall of Honor in 2001. After three years of professional football on the heels of graduation, Ed and Betty taught school primarily in Cypress-Fairbanks school district, retiring after 30

years of teaching in 1997. They moved to Rusk in 1998. Since their retirement, both took up competitive tennis, participating in a combined total of 15 state championship tournaments since 2000, including senior women, senior men, senior mixed, adult mixed, adult men and adult women. They advanced in 2004 to the National USTA Mixed Doubles Championship. In 2005, Ed was part of a 3.0 men's team that went to the USTA National Tournament in 3.0 Super Senior Men, 3.0 Senior Men and 3.0 USA Adult League. That year was the first time in USTA league history that a group of men won all three state championships and advanced to nationals in the same year—the Triple Crown of league tennis. In 2001, Betty became president of the Cherokee County Republican Club for four years and in 2002 helped elect the first Republican to take office in Cherokee County since the 1860s. The couple has also been involved in mission work with orphans in Iasi, Romania, for the past 14 years, creating their own 501c3 mission organization in 1995, Capstone Ministries. July 16 of this year marks their 40th anniversary. Ed is a two-time cancer survivor—colon cancer in 1994 and prostate cancer in 2006. If you are a long-lost friend, you may e-mail them at bmarcontell@cebridge.net. Ed and Betty have one daughter, Shannan, and two grandsons.

wife, Amanda, and their son Cameron, who was born Dec. 30, 2006.



earned his law degree from Washington University in 1999. He lives in St. Louis, Mo.

**Denise M. Sherman** '94, B.B.A. management, is senior staff accountant at The Houstonian and lives in Houston.

**Kim (Williams) Boutwell** '95, B.S. nutrition, '96, M.S. family and consumer sciences, is the technology integration specialist for Clear Lake school district. She lives in League City with her husband, **Kevin Boutwell** '99, B.B.A. marketing, who is a representative for Glaxo-Smith Klein Pharmaceuticals. They have one daughter, Kinsley.

**Brandy L. Copley** '95, B.A. political science, is a senior counsel at Dynegy Inc., in Houston and lives in Pearland.

**Lea (Smith) Holcomb** '95, B.B.A. accounting, lives in Spring with her husband, Eric.

**Stephen J. Jordan** '95, B.S. civil engineering, is project manager at Schaumburg and Polk in Beaumont and lives in Port Neches.

**Lisa M. Lewis** '95, B.S. elementary education, earned her master's degree in counseling

from Texas A&M University in December 2006. She teaches in Beaumont school district, where she lives.

**Mari M. Peddycoart** '95, B.S., '97, M.S. mathematics, is a math professor at Kingwood College and lives in Kingwood.

**James J. Pickens** '95, B.B.A. marketing, is a sales manager at Telemundo in San Antonio, where he lives with his wife, Darlene.

**Rachel (Morse) Reed** '95, A.A.S. radiology, is a supervisor at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston and lives in Liberty with her husband, Stormie.

**Shelly Ann (Short) Wallace** '95, B.B.A. management information systems, is a traffic manager at KFDM-TV in Beaumont. She lives in Orange with her husband, Stephen.

**Anna (McCandless) Alesmith** '96, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches in Beaumont school district and lives in Nederland.

**Jennifer (Long) Casey** '96, B.S. criminal justice, '00, M.S. applied criminology, earned her law degree from South Texas College of Law in 2005. She is an attorney at Mehaffy and Webber PC and lives in Tomball with her husband, Ronald.

**Charlene (Hebert) Christ** '96, B.A. criminal justice, is an adult probation officer in Anahuac and lives in Winnie.

**Michele (Cote) Harrison-Moore** '96, B.S. earth science, earned her teaching certificate from Lamar in 2002 and teaches science in Beaumont school district. She lives in Orange with her husband, Donald.

**Brenda J. Jines** '96, B.A. accounting, is an auditor with the State Comptroller of Public Accounts in Beaumont and lives in Nederland.

**Stephanie (Erwin) Kirkendoll** '96, B.S. family and consumer science, teaches in Mesquite school district and lives in Forney with her husband, Tad.

**James L. Martin** '96, A.S. computer electronics, is a clinical engineer at Baptist Hospital in Beaumont. He lives there with his wife, **Nancy (Berwick)** '84, A.S. nursing, who is a licensed vocational nurse at Preferred Home Health in Beaumont.

**Victoria McCleery** '96, B.A. English, is senior office assistant at Tarrant County College in Hurst and lives in Bedford.

**Stephen D. Patterson** '96, B.S. kinesiology, '02, M.Ed. education, earned his doctorate in educational leadership from Stephen F. Austin State University in December 2006 and is a principal in Orangefield school district. He lives in Orange with his wife, **Cyndi (Kemp)** '97, B.S. general studies, a counselor in Vidor school district.

**Melinda (Francis) Teer** '96, B.A. English, teaches in Lumberton school district and lives in Sour Lake with her husband, Bennette.

**Lora (Richardson) Watts** '96, B.B.A. marketing, is a manager of customer service at Malarkey Roofing Products in Portland, Ore. She lives in Sandy, Ore., with her husband, Christopher.



▲ Sigma Nu alumni visit the renovated McDonald Gym during their 50th reunion.



▲ Hunter Ludwig '67, Sam Bagby '68, John Blackwood '69, Fred Hellen '68

▶ Sigma Nu charter members

**Debra B. Wester** '96, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, earned her 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 law firm in Beaumont, where she lives.

**Harold Whitfield** '96, B.S. psychology, '99, M.Ed. counseling and development, earned his doctorate in education from Texas Southern University in 2006. He works for the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services as a vocational rehabilitation counselor and is a consultant in statistical analysis for doctoral candidates. He lives in Beaumont.

**John C. Christopher** '97, B.B.A. accounting, is senior manager at KPMG in Houston and lives in Kingwood with his wife, Misty.

**She-ron (Beard) Deloach** '97, B.S. kinesiology, is a head coach at Tatum High School and lives in Longview with her husband, Damien.

**Linda (Perricone) Funchess** '97, A.A.S. business computer information systems, is a senior deputy clerk for Jefferson County. She lives in Beaumont and has a daughter attending Lamar.

**John E. Holden** '97, B.S. chemical engineering, is a process manager at TOTAL Petrochemicals in Port Arthur. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, **Adrienne (Pearson)** '99, B.S. interdisciplinary studies.

**Charlotte M. Jungen** '97, B.B.A. accounting, is a certified public accountant and financial planner and has been admitted as a shareholder at Edgar, Kiker and Cross in Beaumont. She earned financial planner certification in 2005 and lives in Beaumont.

**Cassie Raftis-Parker** '97, B.S. kinesiology, received the Teacher of the Year Award at Silverlake Elementary in Pearland. Cassie; her husband, George; and their son Eli, born in July 2006, live in Houston.

**John D. Almon** '98, B.B.A. human resources management, is an investment banker at WoodRock and Co. and lives in Missouri City with his wife, Nancy.

**Jeff S. Collum** '98, B.S. kinesiology, is a manager at TRIAD Educational Consultants in Longview, where he lives with his wife, Cara and their son, Caleb.

**J. Alex Donalson** '98, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is general manager at Bandera

Sigma Nu brothers, including charter members of the fraternity, returned to campus for a weekend of golf and gab, complete with the highlight White Star Formal so many enjoyed attending as students.



◀ Mike Grimes '61, Dick Cantella '63, Ralph Stevenson '63, Bill Buck '66



Chevrolet and lives in Bandera.

**Rebecca (Cox) Ezell** '98, B.G.S. general studies, is a probation officer for Orange County, where she lives with her husband, Rabon.

**Daxton D. Holcomb** '98, B.S. nursing, '04, M.S.N. administration, is chief operating officer at Freeman Neosho Hospital in Neosho, Mo., where he lives with his wife, Lauri.

**Noel (Robichaux) Parro** '98, B.S. education, is president of Chula Inc. in Cartersville, Ga., where she lives. She has two children, Louise and Jean-Francois.

**Stephanie (Duffy) Summers** '98, B.A. psychology, is a documentation negotiator at the Royal Bank of Canada in Toronto and lives in Whitby, Ontario.

**Andrew S. Tsang** '98, M.E. engineering management, is a technical and engineering section supervisor at ExxonMobil in Houston, where he lives.

**Lori (Webb) Benefield** '99, B.S. sociology, 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.

**Mary (Jones) Demas** '99, B.S. communication, is an account manager at Oce in Beaumont and lives in Groves with her husband, Carroll.

**Paul R. Hall** '99, B.S. kinesiology, is a supervisor at Chevron Phillips Chemical Co. and lives in Beaumont with his wife, Rita.

**Donna G. Hypolite** '99, B.B.A. accounting, is a senior accountant at Lamar University in Beaumont and lives in Port Arthur.

**Linda (Williamson) Penney** '99, B.S. marketing, is pursuing a master's degree and is a general ledger accountant at Talent Tree in Houston. She lives in Katy with her husband, Ian.

**Yvette (Nunez) Rojas** '99, B.S. communication disorders, is a speech-language pathologist for Ysleta school district and lives in El Paso with her husband, **Servando Rojas** '99, M.E. engineering management.

**Emily (Ward) Swanson** '99, B.B.A. management information systems, teaches in Beaumont school district. She lives there with her husband, **Chris Swanson** '95, B.G.S. general studies, and their daughter, Rowdie.





Jenny Achilles '03, left, and Melanie Medina '05



President Simmons, left, speaks with alumni Sam '03 and Gretchen Guseman.



Linda (Embs) LeBlanc '75, left, Judge Wilford Flowers '72 and his wife, Simone.

Bob Jones '73 and his wife, Beth, left, visit with Vice President of University Advancement Camille Mouton and Dickie Hile '71.



Alumnus Beau Theriot '70, left, hosted an alumni event for Austin-area alumni at his home, Villa del Sol, with President Jimmy Simmons and First Lady Susan (Williams) Simmons '68, April 14, 2007.



Sharon (Trask) Killough '63 and her husband Don '63 share stories with Bob Woosley '56 and his wife Janice '56.



PHOTOS BY BRET GERBE

## 00s

**Robert W. Arnold** '00, B.G.S. general studies, is a construction manager at MHI Partnerships in Houston and lives in League City with his wife, Janette.

**Carrie (Newton) Broussard** '00, B.B.A. management information systems, is a computer



programmer for American National Insurance and lives in League City with her husband, Jason Broussard '00, B.B.A.

human resources management. He is a human resource associate at American Insurance Co. The couple recently welcomed their first daughter, Jorja, in early 2007.

**Alexander J. Eppes** '00, B.A. industrial technology, is a purchasing specialist at Aera Energy in Bakersfield, Calif., where he lives.

**Toni (Siner) Fontenot** '00, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches in Huffman school district and lives in Liberty. She is pursuing a second degree, attending nursing school, and lives in Liberty with her husband, Ragis, and their two sons.

**Richard L. Fox** '00, B.S. computer science, earned his M.B.A. from the University of Houston at Clear Lake in 2006. He lives in League City with his wife, Michelle.

**Jairam Gorle** '00, M.S. environmental science, is a pharmacist at Walgreens and lives in Grand Blanc, Mich.

**Kristell L. Nelson** '00, B.M. music education, is a band director in Houston school district, where she lives.

**Diego F. Gomez** '01, M.E. mechanical engineering, is equipment manager at the Foster Wheeler Corp. He lives in Katy with his wife, **Lilian (Mojica)** '02, M.S. environmental studies, an environmental scientist at Envirodyne Labs.

**Jenna M. Powell** '01, B.S. communication, is district manager of Steadfast Companies in Newport Beach and lives in Fremont, Calif.

**Sharilyn (Gouedy) Rhynes** '01, B.S. computer information systems, is an IT applications programmer for the State of Louisiana Department of Corrections in Baton Rouge. She lives in Denham Springs with her husband, Steven.

**Elizabeth (Everett) Baird** '02, B.G.S. general studies, works in sales at Gruber Systems and lives in Burleson with her husband, John, and their son, who was born in 2006.

**Stephanie A. Chesson** '02, B.S. criminal justice, is a victim services coordinator for the Mobile County Sheriff's Office and lives in Daphne, Ala.

**Patricia (Brook) Cormier** '02, B.M. music education, is a band director at Baytown Junior High School. She lives in Baytown with her husband, **Matthew Cormier** '03, B.G.S. general studies, who works at Games People Play in Beaumont.

**Angela (Abate) Doise** '02, B.B.A. management information systems, is a legal assistant at Provost and Umphrey Law Firm in

Beaumont. She lives in Groves with her husband, Allen.

**Joshua C. Heinz** '02, B.B.A. finance, is an attorney at Benckenstein and Oxford Law Firm in Beaumont. He lives in Nederland with his wife, **Kimberlin (Solis)** '04, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, who teaches in Nederland school district.

**Danielle Howell** '02, M.S. kinesiology, is a teacher and coach in Lumberton school district, where she lives.

**Kelley A. Martin** '02, B.S. psychology, earned her master's degree in clinical psychology from the American School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University in Washington, D.C., in December 2006. She lives in Kingstowne, Va.

**Tammy M. Martin** '02, B.B.A. accounting, teaches in Goose Creek school district in Baytown, where she lives.

**Jeremiah Piette** '02, B.B.A. general business, is a firefighter and paramedic for the Houston Fire Department and lives in Kingwood.

**Jennifer (Dahse) Sanders** '02, B.B.A. mechanical engineering, is an engineer at EPCO in Houston and lives in Pearland with her husband, Kenny.

**Sarah (Purdy) Siragusu** '02, B.A. psychology, is a recruiter at Morris Best Friend and lives in Magnolia with her husband, Bradley.

**Edward Sturrock** '02, B.B.A. management information systems, is owner of Jubi Prints in Beaumont, where he lives.

**Maetin L. Temcharoen** '02, B.S. chemical engineering, is a project engineer at Mustang Engineering in Houston and lives in Cypress.

**Dennis G. Kutac** '03, B.S. communication, is a staff writer at the Mid County Chronicle in Nederland and lives in Port Neches.

**Derwin J. Seals** '03, B.S. industrial technology, works at the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department in Beaumont, where he lives.

**Sarah E. Smith** '03, B.B.A. management, is an officer at JP Morgan Chase Bank in Dallas and lives in Plano.

**Venkateswara R. Avasarala** '04, B.S. civil engineering, is an engineer at TRC Solutions in Hawthorne, N.Y., and lives in White Plains, N.J.

**Robyn M. Duve** '04, B.G.S. general studies, lives in Beaumont with her husband, Terrell Brittain '04, B.G.S. general studies.

**Clara (Touchet) Malina** '04, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a paralegal at Cohen, Gorman and Putnam LLP. She lives in Kingwood with her husband, Kenneth.

**Krystle Mason** '04, B.S. criminal justice, '05, M.S. applied criminology, is a juvenile probation officer at Jefferson County Juvenile Probation and lives in Lumberton.

**Shawn M. Mills** '04, B.S. chemical engineering, is a process engineer at EnGlobal Engineering and lives in Beaumont with his wife, **Vaniss** '03, B.M. music education. She is assistant band director for Hardin Jefferson school district.

**Ravi K. Pulletikurty** '04, M.S. computer science, is a project manager for the Microsoft Corp. and lives in Santa Clara, Calif.

**Mazen A. Saoudi** '04, B.S. civil engineering, is a civil engineer at Consolidated Contractors Co. in Saudi Arabia, where he lives.

**Toby L. Stafford** '04, B.S.W. social work, is the Texas Advisor at Health and Human Service in Port Arthur and lives in Nederland.

**Justin D. Burleson** '05, B.B.A. economics, is an examiner at the National Credit Union Administration. He lives in Baytown with his wife, **Stacy (Enmon)** '05, B.B.A. accounting.

**Douglas P. Dean Jr.** '05, B.S. political science, is a planner and buyer at Printpack in Orange and lives in Mauriceville with his wife, Jennifer.

**Nicole L. Dupree** '05, B.B.A. accounting, '06, M.B.A. accounting, works at Deloitte and Touche law firm and lives in Dallas.

**Christopher L. Ferguson** '05, B.B.S. marketing, is Internet sales director at Mac Haik Auto Group in Georgetown and lives in Austin.

**William "Trey" Swor** '05, B.G.S. general studies, is construction manager for Gehan Homes and lives in Austin with his wife, Amanda.

**Rachelle (Kaufman) White** '05, B.S. industrial engineering, is an industrial engineer at Chenega Management in San Antonio and lives in New Braunfels with her husband, Byron.

**Tina Bunnell** '06, B.B.A. business administration, is an audit associate for KPMB in Honolulu. Her husband, Casey, is a sergeant first class in the Army. They live in Wahiawa, Hi..

**Antonio L. Farinetti** '06, B.S. computer science, is a software developer for United Space Alliance in Houston, where he lives.

**Amanda (Cherry) Fry** '06, B.S. chemical engineering, is a utilities contact engineer for ExxonMobil in Beaumont, where she lives with her husband, Wesley.

**Sandie (Harwell) Hart** '06, B.S. communication, lives in Beaumont with her husband, Joel. She plans to pursue a teaching certificate.

**Love Kalra** '06, M.E. electrical engineering, is an engineer at US Denro Steel in Baytown, where he lives.

**Chad E. Kirby** '06, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a construction manager at McGuyer Homebuilders in Houston. He lives in Spring with his wife, Noel, and their daughter, Reece, who was born in 2006.

**Tonya (Valsin) Warren** '06, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a chemical analyst with Firestone Polymers Plant in Orange. She lives in Beaumont.

## We will miss...

### Alumni

**Alice (Williamson) Nungesser** '29, A.A. general studies, died Jan. 26, 2007. She was born Dec. 24, 1909, and grew up in Orange. After graduating from South Park College, she earned a bachelor's degree in English from Mississippi State College for Women in 1932. In a 35-year teaching career, she taught every grade level in elementary, middle, high school and junior college except second grade. Upon the death of her husband of 55 years, Cruce Stark, she moved to live near her son in Wilmington, Del. Survivors include her daughter, Molly O'Bier, and son, Cruce Stark.

**Leroy E. Linn** '41, B.S. mechanical engineering, died March 28, 2007. The Beaumont native worked for General Electric Co. for 43 years. He worked with Wernher Von Braun to develop the first American version of the jet engine. At retirement in 1985, he was liaison to gas turbine manufacturing associates in France, Germany, Italy, Scotland, Holland and Japan. His many achievements include the American Legion Award, Eagle Scout, many GE service awards and being named a fellow of the Marble Falls Noon Lions Club. Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Dorothy, and daughters, Kathryn and Patricia Linn.

**Henry Kettl** '47, B.S. chemical engineering, died Dec. 28, 2006. A life-long resident of Beaumont, he was a chemist and engineer at Mobil Oil for 43 years and a Navy veteran of WWII. Survivors include his wife, Bea; daughters, Stena Kettl and Celeste Kendrick; and sons, Lonnie, James and Sean.

**Robert E. Dyer** '55, B.S. chemistry, died Dec. 31, 2006. Born in Vinton, La., he worked at Neches Butane for 20 years and Mobil Chemical for 18 years until he retired in 1991. He was president of the American Chemical Society and the Masons and was an active member of Trinity United Methodist Church. He served as an Army combat medic from 1952 to 1954. Survivors include his wife, Lois, and his family, Nathan and David Richards and Martha Ballard.

**Joe T. Goetschius Jr.** '55, B.S. graphic design, B.B.A. management, died Dec. 16, 2006. Known as "Mr. YMBL," he was named as executive vice president of the Young Men's Business League, serving for 31 years before retiring in 1996. Survivors include his wife of 35 years, Jeanne; daughters, Dianne Thomas, Cheryl and Debra; and sons, Bobby and Jack.

**Karen (Hartley) Jackson** '61, B.S. elementary education, died March 12, 2007. She was a

teacher in Houston for 30 years and was a Certified Christian Educator. She was voted Teacher of the Year numerous times and was very active at Tomball Methodist Church after her retirement. Survivors include her husband of 44 years, Jerald, and daughter, Jennifer Payne.

**John E. Ludwig** '61, B.S. chemical engineering, died Feb. 9, 2007. He retired from Bayer Corp. in 1996 and went on to manage the synthetic rubber plant owned by Ameripol Synpol Corp. in Odessa until 1999. In 2004, he was appointed as a commissioner of the Jefferson County Waterways and Navigation District, where he served until death. He was a member of several civic organizations, including the Orange Chamber of Commerce, Boy Scouts of America, the Hughen Center, the Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission and the Lamar University Engineering Advisory Council, which he served as president. He was honored with the Lamar University Chemical Engineering Department Distinguished Alumni Award and numerous other awards. He actively served Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Nederland. His son, Dennis, preceded him in death. Survivors include his wife of 50 years, Evelyn; daughter, Lisa Richard; and sons, Kenton and Mark.

**Danny Mason** '61, B.S. health physical education, died Jan 15, 2007. He was a member of the 1960 NAIA National Champion golf team and earned his master's degree in 1962 from Texas A&M University and a doctorate from the University of Arkansas. He coached the Texas Tech Golf Team until 1980 and then was an associate professor until his retirement in 2000. He was inducted into the Texas Tech Athletic Hall of Honor in 2002. He served as a deacon in the Baptist church for 40 years and spent eight years on the National Kidney Foundation board of directors for Region II. Survivors include his wife, Betty; sons, Rodney and Kent; and daughter, Michele Sutherland.

**Robert G. Phelps** '62, B.S. biology, died July 16, 2006. He earned a doctorate in entomology from Texas A&M. He owned Professional Pest Control for 24 years and retired in 2000. Survivors include his wife of 43 years, Sammie, and daughters, Ruth Halley, Kathleen Sanders and Rachel Phelps.

**Jean (Richardson) Bryant** '63, B.S. elementary education, died March 1, 2007. She taught in Beaumont for more than 30 years and was a devoted member of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church. Survivors include her daughter, Pamela Washington and son,

Edward Bryant.

**Sandra (Strange) Clayton** '64, B.S. elementary education, died Feb. 12, 2007. She was a teacher for 32 years and a dedicated member of First Missionary Baptist Church in Texas City, where she lived. Survivors include her daughters, Azure Hamilton and Laura Smith.

**Rena (O'Pry) Goins** '64, certif. nursing, died March 2, 2007. She retired as a licensed vocational nurse from Baptist Hospital and moved to Houston in 1981 to be with her family. She was a member of the Catholic Daughters and attended St. Luke's the Evangelist Catholic Church in Houston. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bill, and son, Donny. Survivors include her sister, Sable Corbin, and daughter, Sharon Broussard Macha.

**Weldon B. Drennan Jr.** '65, B.S. secondary education, died Feb. 8, 2007. He retired in 1987 after a 23-year teaching career in Beaumont, Port Neches and Bridge City. He was a MARS Ham radio operator and owned Drennan Boating Supply, which he operated full-time after his retirement. Survivors include his father, Weldon Drennan Sr. Memorial contributions may be made to Lamar University, P.O. Box 10011, Beaumont, TX 77710.

**Vernon J. Landry** '67, B.S. secondary education, died Dec. 17, 2006. He taught public school for 35 years and retired after serving in the Wyndham school system as a counselor at the Stiles Unit. After retiring, he was a voluntary chaplain in the prison systems and was instrumental in setting up the Hospice program at Stiles. Survivors include his wife of 38 years, Beth, and daughters, Melissa Ware and Holly Landry.

**Mary Jo (Manning) Seastrunk** '69, M.Ed. elementary education, died Jan. 5, 2007. A life-long resident of Orange, she moved to Austin after Hurricane Rita. She taught elementary school in Orange until her retirement in 1985. She and her husband of 55 years, Vaughan, were members of the American Cut Glass Association. Survivors include her son, Oliver, and daughters, Mary Campos and Pam Seastrunk.

**Elizabeth V. Adams** '70, B.S. sociology, died Dec. 7, 2006. A lifelong Beaumont resident, she was an active member of the Melody Maids and a Southern Belle. Survivors include her brothers, Gilbert and John, and her sister, Patricia. Memorials may be made to either the Mrs. Gilbert T. Adams Sr. Memorial Scholarship or the Gilbert T. Adams Sr. Presidential Scholarship, c/o





## We will miss...

Lamar University Foundation, P.O. Box 11500, Beaumont, Texas, 77710.

**Ronald W. Collins** '71, B.S. mathematics, died Feb. 19, 2007. A lifelong Port Athur resident, he worked for DuPont Sabine River Works for 22 years until his retirement. Survivors include his wife of 26 years, Emma; stepson, Shelton Forrest II; son, Eric; and daughter, Deidre Martin.

**Alvin Thompson Jr.** '73, M.S. chemistry, died March 8, 2007. He worked for Aramco in Saudi Arabia for eight years before tenure in Los Angeles and Houston for Texaco Refinery. He retired after 38 years with Chevron-Texas and lived in The Woodlands. Survivors include his wife of 37 years, Katherine, and son, John David.

**Ron Skarbek** '76, M.B.A. business administration, died Jan 4, 2007. He worked at Texaco for 34 years before retiring in 2002 as director of business development for hydrocarbons and liquids for Chevron Texaco Technology Ventures and was a strong supporter of the National Kidney Foundation. Survivors include his wife of 32 years, Janet, and sons, Brian and Daniel.

**Lola (Rhyne) Thomas** '76, certif. nursing, died Feb. 10, 2007. Born in Clifton, she became a registered nurse. In 1980, she became administrative director of Baptist Hospital in Beaumont until she retired in 1999. Her husband of 55 years, Dennis, preceded her in death. Survivors include her daughter, Denise Clements, and son, Dwight Thomas.

**Alice (Geter) Dixon** '78, B.A. sociology, died Jan 23, 2007. She was self-employed business-woman for more than 28 years and dedicated much of her time to the Southeast Texas Workforce Development Board as chairperson. Survivors include her husband, Felton; daughters, Malkia and Maraya; and sons, Jelani and Mboya.

**Ruth (Henderson) Truncale** '79, teacher certif. music education, died April 4, 2007. She was employed as a church organist and funeral home musician at age 12. She earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in music from the University of North Texas. In 1947, she became one of the first female members of the faculty at Lamar University, where she taught piano until 1953. She also taught elementary and high school. She was instrumental in developing the Beaumont Civic Opera and the Lamar Opera Workshop. Her husband of 54 years, Joseph, preceded her in death. Survivors include her daughter, Ruth Ann, and son, Michael. Memorial contributions may be made to the Lamar University Department of Music, P.O.

Box 10011, Beaumont, Texas 77710.

**Leslie (Lankford) Beasley** '80, A.A.S. radiologic technology, died Dec. 21, 2006. Survivors include her husband, Michael; son, Matthew, and daughter, Allyson.

**Paul Martinez Jr.** '80, B.S. computer science, '82, B.S. electrical engineering, died Feb. 11, 2007. He worked in Dallas as an engineering manager before relocating to Portland, Ore., and then Grapevine and was an adult leader of the Boy Scouts, as well as a member of the Order of the Arrow. Survivors include his wife, Brenda; sons, Eric and Nicholas, and daughter, Olivia; and parents Carolyn and Gene Martinez.

**Barbara (Sigler) Horn** '82, B.S. speech, '84, A.A.S. real estate, died Jan 30, 2007. She was an accomplished ballet dancer and built a rice and soybean business with her husband of 52 years, Robert. As her children grew, she returned to school and later began teaching real estate classes at Lamar, becoming a real estate agent. She owned the Piece Maker in Beaumont and was actively involved with Unity Church of Beaumont and the Church of Religious Science in Lakewood, Colo. She and Robert moved to Golden, Colo., after they retired, then returned to Athens. Survivors include her children, Corwin, Marcy, Suzanne and Brad.

**Barbara A. Sampson** '89, M.S. computer science, died Feb. 8, 2007. She was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Orange and of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She was also active in the Orange Community Players. Survivors include her sisters, Pam Steele, Paula Pennington, Jan Leigh and Lynn Smith.

**Brenda (Cook) Willis** '89, A.A.S. nursing, died Dec. 24, 2006. A registered nurse, she worked at Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital for 20 years and Christus Jasper Memorial Hospital for three years. Survivors include her son, Phillip, and daughters, Karen Kirk-Gibson and Sherry Lawson-Rosas.

**Eric J. Carlsen** '89, B.B.A. marketing, died Dec. 28, 2006. He was the sales manager at Energy Country Ford and was the administrative board chairman for Faith United Methodist Church in Fannett, where he lived. Survivors include his wife, Donna; daughter, Conner; and son, Cody.

**Nicky J. Vaught** '96, M.Ed. counseling and development, died Jan. 8, 2007. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Sam Houston State University. He spent 28 years as a teacher, coach and assistant principal in public education, notably Liberty High School where he began teaching in 1984. He

also coached high school and Liberty youth baseball and basketball teams. Survivors include his wife, Laurie, and son, Jake.

**Mark R. Hernandez** '99, B.S. criminal justice, died Jan. 28, 2007. A lifelong Nederland resident, he worked at the Ehrart School in Beaumont and at the Schooner Restaurant. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Port Neches. Survivors include his parents, Richard and Angel Hernandez, and sister, Andrea Harrington.

**Sherri (Bloch) Smith** '02, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, died Dec. 6, 2006. A Port Neches native, she worked for the Mid-County Chronicle and was an avid sports fan. Survivors include her husband, Robert; daughter, Kacey; and son, Hunter.

**Robert D. "Bob" Tarte** '68, B.S. electrical engineering, died March 1, 2007. He also attended Texas A&M and earned both bachelor's and master's degree in psychology from North Texas State in 1962. He worked as a clinical psychologist for the Illinois Youth Commission in Joliet, Ill., for four years before returning to Lamar to earn his electrical engineering degree and work as a design engineer for Texas Instruments, later retiring from Teledyne Geotech in Dallas. In retirement, he was a master craftsman, building stringed instruments and ornate brass and copper inlaid furniture. Survivors include his wife of 36 years, Georgiana, and his brother Edward.

**Mary Frances (Dishman) Sherlock** '80, B.B.A. finance, died May 10, 2007. Born in Beaumont, she and her husband, Edward, who preceded her in death, moved to Kerrville in 1994. She was unable to walk, having been stricken with polio at 13; nevertheless, she raised three children and invented Mag Eyes, a hands-free magnifying device. She was named San Antonio Small Business Woman of the Year and Kerrville Business Woman of the Year in 2001. Sherlock held five patents for her inventions, and Lamar honored her as a Distinguished Alumna in 2005. Survivors include her mother, Kate Dishman; three daughters, Rhonda, Kristen and Kimberly; brother, Gene, and six stepchildren, E.J., Craig, Kitty, Mary Belle, Gena and Colleen.

## Faculty, Staff and Friends

**Aubrey S. Aron**, 90, died Feb. 4, 2007. A longtime resident of Beaumont, he was the retired assistant manager of Southern Iron and Metal. He served in the Army during WWII and was a tireless and devoted Cardinal fan. Survivors include his daughter, Alicia Hopper.

**Melvin F. Brust**, 84, retired professor emeritus of finance, died March 26, 2007. He served in the Army Signal Corp on the front lines in the Philippines during WWII. After leaving the military, he earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Texas at Austin, and then worked for General Dynamics, designed the Ground Avoidance Radar system for the F-111 fighter aircraft. After 31 years there, he earned his doctorate from North Texas State in 1977 and spent 27 years as a professor at Lamar. He was named University Professor in 1999 and professor emeritus in 2005. He established the Lamar chapters of the Financial Management Association and Sigma Iota Epsilon honor fraternity. Upon his retirement in 2005, he moved to New Braunfels. Survivors include his sisters, Mildred Haddick and Ethel Lipscomb, and brother, Orville Brust. Memorial contributions may be made to the Dr. Melvin F. Brust Scholarship in Accounting, P.O. Box 11500, Beaumont, TX 77710.

**Robert "Bobby" Gunn**, former Lamar University athletic trainer, died March 1, 2007. He was Lamar's first full-time athletic trainer from 1962-1971 and established the Athletic Training Specialization program, as well as being an active member of the Southwest Athletic Trainers Association. A 1951 graduate of Rice University, he served on the National Athletic Trainers Association board of directors from 1965-1996 and became the first elected president of NATA in 1970. Gunn was honored twice as Trainer of the Year. He was inducted into the NATA Hall of Fame in 1975 and the Cardinal Hall of Honor in 1982.

**Ida (Brock) Hamic**, 96, died April 18, 2007. She graduated from South Park Junior College and worked as a librarian at Tyrrell Public Library and later at Lamar before retiring in 1972. She was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Claude, and daughter, Nancy. Survivors include her daughter, Becky Knowles.

**Elizabeth L. Meeks**, 93, died Dec. 14, 2006. She was a Distinguished Professor of English literature and taught for 30 years at Lamar before retiring in 1983. A recognized Faulkner scholar, she was a graduate of Vanderbilt University, earned a doctorate from the University of Houston and taught for many years at Hockaday, a private girls' school in Dallas. Survivors include her friend and caretaker, Judy Thomas.

**Howard C. Vanzant**, 91, died Dec. 3, 2007. He retired in 1984 as a mathematics professor for Lamar.

## Music alumni hit high notes



WAYMON BULLOCK



LOYD HAWTHORNE



JEANINE THAMES



CHARLES SMITH

Lamar inducted the inaugural class of its Music Hall of Honor during homecoming activities March 2 and 3. Honorees are Waymon Bullock '58 of Etoile, Loyd Hawthorne '63 of Abilene, Jeanine Thames '83 of Plano and Charles Smith '58 of Vidor.

"These graduates all have distinguished careers in music, and most of them have earned national honors and acclaim," said Harry Bulow, chair of the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. "We are delighted to inaugurate the Lamar University Music Hall of Honor, which, in coming years, will shine the spotlight on the accomplishments of alumni who have put Lamar on the musical map around the world."

During Bullock's 20-year teaching career in Lufkin, his bands successfully competed in national competitions and won 20 University Interscholastic League Sweepstakes Awards. Bullock is past president of the National Association of Military Marching Bands and Texas Bandmasters Association and a member of the Texas Bandmasters Association Hall of Fame.

Hawthorne is Logsdon professor of church music and choral director in his 29th

year at Hardin-Simmons University. He has been president of the Texas Choral Directors Association. His choirs have sung at the Music Educators National Conference, Church Music Conference of the Southern Baptist Convention and Southwestern Division of the American Choral Directors Association, also touring Poland, the Soviet Union, England, Wales, Mexico and Italy.

Thames has made appearances in opera and recitals throughout the United States, Europe and Japan since beginning her career in 1987. She has performed with the Norwalk Symphony, Xalapa Symphony, Monterey Symphony and New York's Gotham Chamber Opera. In the 2004-2005 season, Thames appeared in Tokyo and Osaka, singing Queen of the Night in *Die Zauberflote* with the Prague State Opera.

Smith became band director at Vidor High School in 1961. His groups have performed before the Texas Music Educators Association and in UIL competition, as well as at the Sun Bowl in El Paso. Smith has served as regional TMEA band chairman and is a member of the Texas Bandmasters Association Hall of Fame.

## Reality... 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 reality.

He used his experience as a graphic artist to enhance his favorite photographs, and the resulting artwork became his latest show, *Digital Fandango*. 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 Pujales.

"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 mixes of layers of color, texture and line, frequently in illogical ways, the very things I would have done, with traditional tools, are bringing out the memories, imaginings and impressions."



ROSHA WENNER

Le Grand Bal 2007 attracted hundreds of Lamar arts patrons to the Dishman Art Museum, pictured here, for the silent auction and to the Montagne Center for dining, dancing and a tribute to honorees Sheila and Walter Umphrey. *Treasures of the Gulf Coast* was the theme of the annual gala, hosted by the Friends of the Arts to benefit the College of Fine Arts and Communication.





*Lamarissimo!* continued to dazzle audiences this spring as faculty artists, the Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Cardinal Singers and Lamar Dance Company lit the stage of the historic Jefferson Theatre right, three sopranos—Angela Pickering, Barbara Mathis and Noel Turner—were among attractions at the faculty concert March 6, while guitarist Lance Beaumont, lower left, drew ovations at the faculty event and as guest soloist with the Wind Ensemble March 22.



Beaumont is an adjunct teaching instructor in Lamar's first program for guitar majors. Graduate student Kathleen LeBlanc-Hood lower right, graced the podium as guest conductor of the Concert Band for an original composition by Harry Bulow, chair of the Department of Music, Theatre & Dance. To close the season April 26, the singers and dancers top photo, brought sizzling showbiz to the series' grand finale. *Lamarissimo!* returns to the Julie Rogers Theatre for its 18th season, with performances Oct. 9, Nov. 6, Dec. 2, March 4 and April 24, 2008. Call (409) 880-8144 for season tickets.



## Literary Lamar



SALLYE SHEPPEARD



J. LEE THOMPSON



CLAY REYNOLDS

The Conference of College Teachers of English awarded **Sallye Sheppard**, professor of English, the seventh 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 Sheppard has held every office—awarded her an honorary membership. She is also active in the Texas College English Teachers Association, which honored her in 1997 with the Joe D. Thomas Scholar-Teacher Award, its highest recognition.

Sheppard, who has taught 27 years of her 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. Sheppard served 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-Saudi Arabian 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 relationship,' discussing both the challenges faced jointly since 9/11 and contentious 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 met with students. *Of Snakes and Sex and Playing in the Rain* is described as "a treasure-trove created by one of Texas' most accomplished authors." Clay Reynolds can be curmudgeonly, and he can be lyrical, said one critic, "but he is always smart, and always has a keen eye for absurdity . . . This book is a hoot." Reynolds is professor of arts and humanities at the University of Texas at Dallas.

## ArtsNotes

Lamar hosted a National Endowment for the Arts conference June 14 in the University Reception Center, featuring speakers **Tony Chauveaux**, NEA deputy chairman for grants and awards, and **Rick Hernandez**, executive director of the Texas Commission for the Arts. Both speakers addressed grant and funding opportunities. The NEA is the largest annual funder of arts in the United States . . . Works by Distinguished Alumnus **Marvin Hayes** '63, all part of the Dishman Art 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 donated 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, *God's Images*, 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 Matlock**, associate professor of art, was among four "internationally recognized fiber artists" featured in the



Daniel

*Warp is Not Enough* exhibition this spring at the Houston Center for Contemporary Arts. The superlative was the Houston Chronicle's description of the artists, whose work was hailed as "tapestries that reflect the rhythmic processes of the natural world." Matlock also will be in Houston for the 2007 Contemporary Handweavers of Texas Biennial Conference, "007 Weave and Let Dye," Aug. 26-29 . . . The Dishman Art Museum will host Lamar's annual Faculty Exhibition Aug. 20-Oct. 2, with an opening reception from 7 to 9 p.m. Sept. 7. The exhibit will feature works by full-time faculty members **Keith Carter**, **Kurt Dyrhaug**, **Xenia Fedorchenko**, **Ann Matlock**, **Donna Meeks** and **Prince Thomas** . . . Five May graphic design graduates exhibited their work April 27-May 3 in the Dishman Art Museum. **Nicholas Vikos** of Beaumont presented the visual identity of an awareness campaign for social anxiety disorder. **William Elliott** of Beaumont chose a more controversial topic: a series of computer-illustrated propaganda posters concerning the Iraq war. **Jacob Cassity** of Lumberton

showed a series of works for a business identity consisting of a logo, layout and package design for a small business. **Aaron Myers** of Bridge City exhibited computer-generated posters addressing prescription drug abuse. **Christopher Orlando** of Nederland presented a series of digitally appropriated collages of popular culture of the 20th century . . . Lamar Theatre presented the ninth annual "Kidwrites" May 5, featuring winners of its playwriting contest for kids. Each year, Lamar children's theatre students go into area elementary schools to offer play-writing workshops. Then the fun really begins as the elementary students write their own original short plays on every topic imaginable—from talking ice cream to pencils that come to life. Twelve are selected for public performance by Lamar actors. "This year alone," said **Adonia Placette**, director of theatre Lamar, "students held 72 workshops in 11 cities for an amazing total of 1,290 kids. Out of this massive and mighty endeavor, a grand total of 187 plays were submitted." The winning plays came from Orangefield Elementary; St. Anthony Cathedral School and Caldwell Elementary, Beaumont; Langham and Hillcrest elementary schools, Nederland; William Travis Elementary, Port Arthur; Bridge City Intermediate; and Mauriceville Elementary.



COURTESY OF CARRABBA'S

### ◀ La Dolce Vita:

Houston culinary veteran Johnny Carrabba, who co-founded Carrabba's Italian Grill more than 20 years ago, will be the guest chef for *La Dolce Vita*, sure to tempt palates and awaken artistic senses Oct. 19 and 20 in the Dishman Art Museum. Now in its fourth year, the weekend of fine wine and haute cuisine will include a vintner dinner starting at 7 p.m. Oct. 19 and cooking school from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and wine pairing from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 20. Lamar faculty member Kurt Dyrhaug will be the featured artist, whose cast-iron creations will be a highlight of the auction at the dinner. Sharing a passion for food and a family tradition of generous hospitality, Carrabba and his uncle, Damian Mandola, founded the popular dining spot in 1986 in Houston. The enterprise has grown to include 200 locations. *La Dolce Vita* is the centerpiece of a campaign to ensure continuation and enhancement of the museum's collections and educational programs. The vintner dinner is priced at \$195 per person and the other events at \$45 per person—\$80 for guests attending both. For information, call the museum at (409) 880-8959.



Top 3 and Top 10: consistency counts

Lamar women's golf turned in another good season, but its bid for a third straight Southland Conference championship came up a little short. Sam Houston State edged out the Lady Cardinals for the SLC title, which was played at the Ram Rock Course at Horseshoe Bay Resort on Lake LBJ.

Sophomore Therese Nilsson led the team with a 75.57 season scoring average over 30 rounds. She won medalist honors at the McNeese Cowgirl Invitational. Nilsson was named SLC golfer of the year, becoming the first Lady Cardinal to earn the award since its inception in 2002, and first-team All-SLC. Hillary Zeigler, who placed 11th at the SLC Championship, won tournament titles at the Chris Banister Classic and the Sam Houston/Ellingson Invitational. Linda Persson, who joined the team at the semester break in January, posted a 76.75 scoring average over 16 rounds this spring. She became the third straight Lamar golfer to earn SLC freshman of the year honors, joining Zeigler (2005) and Nilsson (2006). Lamar won team tournament titles at the Lady Cardinal Invitational and the Centurytel Bobcat Classic hosted by Texas State University. The Lady Cardinals also posted top three finishes in all six spring events and top 10 finishes in all 11 tournaments this season.

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 and prestigious awards 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 Lamar in the men's 5000, posting a third-place finish with a time of 14:43.90.

The women's distance medley relay team, consisting of Amanda King, Alexandra Mayfield, Andrea Smith and Clerc Koenck blistered the SLC field to capture their third straight title in the event, running a 12:03.03.



THERESE NILSSON

SCOTT ESLINGER

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 their first championship since 1985.

Koenck notched her second victory of the meet with a school record 4:51.66 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, Koenck; 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. In the men's 3,000-meter run, Kasagule used a 27-second last lap to slip 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 SLC titles and 12 all-conference performances. Koenck finished the meet as the individual 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 competition with 22.5 points of his own. In all, Kasagule walked away with three postseason awards; Outstanding Track Performer, Athlete of the Year, and the league's inaugural Freshman of the Year award, none of which had ever been claimed by a Lamar athlete. Continuing in her record-setting form, Koenck took home dual honors as the league awarded her the Outstanding Track Performer and Athlete of the Year, neither of which have been given to a Lamar women's track member.



FRANCIS KASAGULE



CLERC KOENCK

SCOTT ESLINGER

In addition to their success at the SLC meet, Kasagule and Koenck also notched 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 fifth-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 in the Southland Conference, and advanced to the conference tournament. The Lady Cardinals finished the season with a 14-10 overall record, and an 8-3 mark in SLC play.



KALTRINA HARBUZI

SCOTT ESLINGER

Freshman Kaltrina Harbuzi, 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 LU's success was sophomore Maria Gutierrez and freshman Manijee Ashrafi, who had conference records of 8-3 and 9-2 respectively. Pamela Martinez, the lone senior on the team, finished the SLC 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 9-13 and a 3-3 record in SLC play.

In the first round of the SLC 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 seed Texas A&M-Corpus Christi who was ranked among the top 40 schools in the NCAA.

Junior Filip Kanczula led the way for the Cardinals this season, posting a 12-7 overall record. Mario Janjic also had a solid season for Lamar, posting an 11-8 overall record.

David Wanja earned second team all Southland Conference honors at No. 4 singles and the doubles tandem of Janjic and Andres Medina, earned second team all-SLC honors.

Top recruiter Tidwell takes lead

Athletic director Billy Tubbs selected Larry Tidwell, who spent the last eight seasons as the associate head coach at TCU, to take over as head coach of Lady Cards basketball.

"Larry brings a lot to the table," said LU athletics director, Billy Tubbs. "He is one of the



LARRY TIDWELL

SCOTT ESLINGER

nation's top recruiters and he'll be a great head coach who will bring credibility and respect to our program."

In his eight years at TCU, Tidwell helped the Lady Frogs to 173 wins and seven straight appearances in the NCAA tournament. Tidwell is known as one of the nation's top recruiters. He played a major role in putting together numerous nationally ranked recruiting classes at TCU.

Prior to his time at TCU, Tidwell spent time as athletics director and head coach at Mexia (Texas) High School. Before assuming his duties at Mexia, he spent six seasons as an assistant coach at Baylor University, from 1992-1998.

"I think Lamar University is a diamond in the rough," Tidwell said. "Recruiting in the Golden Triangle and getting the top local talent to come to Lamar is a priority, and we plan to contend for the Southland Conference championship next season."

LU alumna now spurs Lady Cards



SONDRA ANCELOT

Sondra Ancelet, who served as head coach at Orangefield High School the past six years, has been named assistant women's basketball coach, announced Head Coach Larry Tidwell.

In six seasons at Orangefield, Ancelet posted an impressive 139-35 (.798) record and guided the Bobcats to two district championships, four play-off appearances and two regional tournament appearances. She was also named the 24-3A coach of the year, the 21-3A coach of the year and the TGCA South All-Star coach during her time at Orangefield. A four-year letterwinner for the Lady Cardinals, Ancelet returns to the university where she was a member of the NCAA Midwest Regional finalist team in 1991.

Cards make third-straight semi-finals

Lamar men's basketball posted a 15-17 overall record and an 8-8 mark in Southland Conference play under first-year coach Steve Roccaforte. The Cardinals, who were seeded seventh at the Southland Conference Tournament at the Campbell Center in Houston, advanced to the semifinals for the third straight season. Just like the previous two years, Lamar's season ended with a 78-65 loss to Northwestern State but was highlighted by a home win over Brigham Young, which went on to be nationally ranked and was an at-large selection to the NCAA Tournament. The Cardinals also posted non-conference wins over Louisiana Tech and Northern Illinois. Lamar ended the season by winning six of its last nine games.



SCOTT ESLINGER



# 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.



Five stellar Cardinal athletes gather after the induction ceremony: Bill Kilgore, from left, Barbara Hickey, Louisa Bergsma, Johnny Ray Smith and Don Heller. Honoree Becky Brooke was unable to attend the banquet.

**LOUISA BERGSMA—golf, 1989-93**  
Hometown: Roodeport, South Africa  
*Stats:* 1993 Sun Belt Conference championship, individual medalist honors; honorable mention All-America, 1993; All-SBC honors, 1991, 1992; academic all-conference, 1991, 1993; 1992 NCAA Championship individual qualifier; helped Lamar advance to an all-time best eighth-place finish, the 1991 NCAA Championships. Bergsma is now the director of operations for the Southern Texas PGA, Cypresswood Golf Club, Spring, Texas

**BECKY BROOKE—track, 1983-87**  
Hometown: Toronto, Canada  
*Stats:* eight-time All-Southland Conference performer; won 1986 SLC women's cross country race; won the 1,500-meter and 3,000-meter runs, 1986 SLC Outdoor Championship; won three events, 1987 SLC Outdoor Championship; named Outstanding Female Track Performer; won the 1,500-meters, 3,000-meters and the 5,000-meters.

**DON HELLER—basketball, 1962-64**  
Hometown: Binghamton, N.Y.  
*Stats:* 15.8 points and 4.3 rebounds per game career averages; averaged 14.3 ppg, 1962-63 and 17.8 ppg, 1963-64; scored a single-game record of 48 points against McNeese State, Feb. 12, 1964; helped Lamar win 1963 Lone Star Conference championship with a 22-5 overall record and a 12-2 mark in LSC play; helped Cardinals win 1964 inaugural

Southland Conference championship with a 19-6 record and a 7-1 mark in SLC play. Lamar advanced to the NCAA College Division tournament both years, including advancing to the championship game in 1963. Heller was co-owner of Garbade Construction and is now retired.

**BARBARA HICKEY—basketball and track and field, 1988-92**  
Hometown: Orangefield, Texas

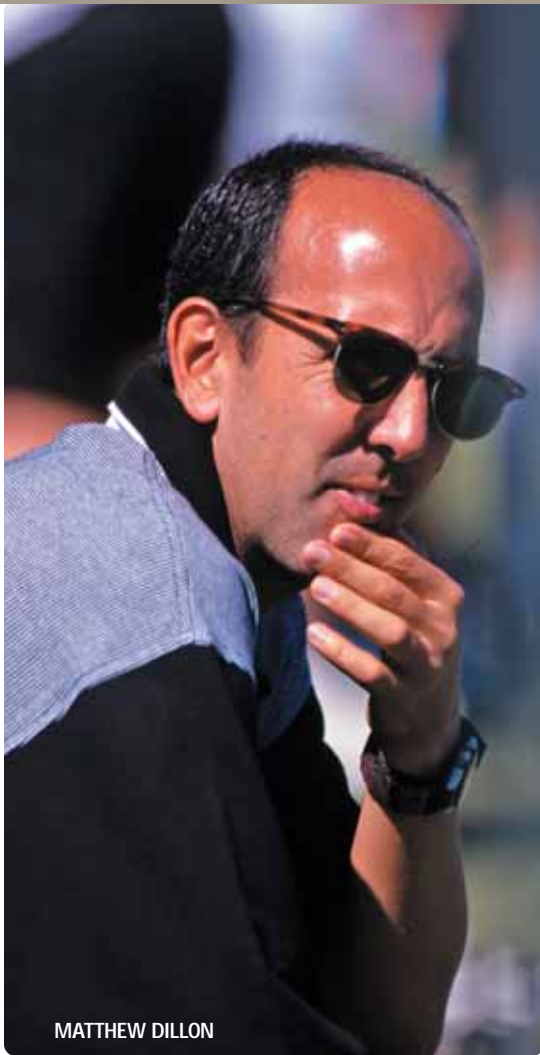
*Stats:* Helped Lamar post an 87-31 record during four-year career, claim 1991 American South Conference championship and 1992 Sun Belt Conference championship, and advanced to Elite Eight, 1991 NCAA Tournament; ranks fourth on Lamar's all-time scoring list with 1,370 points, second in assists (300), third in steals (177) and third in games played (112); three-time conference champion, high jump, 1989, 1990, 1991; NCAA Qualifier, high jump, 1989, 1990; has second-best high jump in school history, clearing 6-0. Hickey is currently a security project manager for Chevron Phillips in Orange.

**BILL KILGORE—football, 1964-67**  
Hometown: Mont Belvieu, Texas  
*Stats:* Three straight Southland Conference championships, 1965-67; two-time All-SLC selection, 1965, 1967; led team in receptions, 1965-67; 44 receptions for 687 yards and seven touchdowns, to set new single-season records, 1967; second all-time in school history in receptions (119), tied for second in touchdown receptions (15) and third in receiving yardage (1,769); best game—vs. Texas-Arlington, 1965, 10 passes for 150 yards; signed as a free agent with the Cleveland Browns in 1968. He works in the fire department of ExxonMobil in Baytown.

**JOHNNY RAY SMITH—football and track and field, 1977-81**  
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 (1,147 and two touchdowns), third all-time in punt return yardage (440 and one touchdown) and first in total combined return yardage (1,587); named Lamar's "Outstanding Defensive Back," 1979, where he ranked nationally with six interceptions; earned All-SLC honors, 100-meter dash, 1980. He now owns and operates Jazzy's BBQ, a restaurant in Tampa, Fla., with his wife, Pam.

-DC

# Soccer hits full stride in August



MATTHEW DILLON

COURTESY OF CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY

First-year coach Matthew Dillon relished the idea of being able to build a program from the ground up. He realizes that dream Aug. 31 when Lamar soccer plays its first-ever game against Eastern Washington at Northern Arizona's Tournament in Flagstaff, Ariz.

Dillon, who joined the Cardinals' athletic staff on 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 definitely 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 Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C. 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.

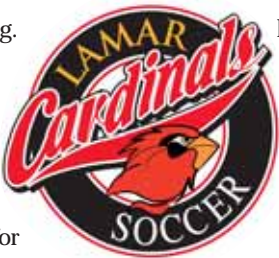
"It's been a pretty smooth transition all the way around," said Dillon, who was also an assistant coach at SMU and Central Florida prior to Campbell. "I've been able to get my family moved here and acclimated to the area. I've been able to get out in the community and work with one of the local soccer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

"I've seen a number of local high school games and met some of the coaches. We're starting camps and clinics to get Lamar 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 university administration. Because of that support and the amount of talent in the area and state, 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 there from the university administration," 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."







Aditi Singh, Helen Lou

## Bottomline: Biofuel beneficial

### LU's first Ph.D. graduate details regional biofuel potential

by Chris Castillo

Aditi Singh believes biofuels made from biomass, such as rice straw, could become an affordable, renewable—and profitable—resource in the region, and she has research to prove it.

This summer, Singh became the first student ever to receive a Ph.D. from Lamar University.

Beyond establishing her historic place at Lamar, Singh's dissertation may have far reaching implications in the search for affordable, renewable energy resources. Her dissertation, "Multi-Objective Decision Making in Design for Sustainability," focuses on the methodology she developed for sustainable engineering and industrial applications. Singh, who received her Ph.D. in chemical engineering May 12, focused her work on the

biofuel biobutanol.

Biobutanol's long hydrocarbon chains make it more similar to gasoline than ethanol, and it has significantly higher energy than ethanol, making it a candidate both as a fuel additive or as a potential replacement for gasoline with little or no modification to current engines or fuel systems. Biobutanol can be produced by fermentation of biomass including a wide array of organic feedstocks. Biobutanol made from rice straw holds promise in this area because Jefferson County is the largest producer of rice in Texas.

Singh's objective was to determine the sustainability of biofuel in Southeast Texas. Sustainability considers the balance between economy and environment and how they co-exist within our ecosystem.

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 worldwide 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.

Helen Lou, associate professor of chemical engineering and Singh's advisor

for the dissertation, said rice straw is abundant in Jefferson County. Currently, rice farmers leave the rice straw in the fields, burn it or throw away, Lou said. But, if it is converted into a biofuel, it could eventually help provide an affordable, renewable energy resource.

Singh's multi-objective approach is used to make sure all three areas – economy, environment and society – work at an optimal and sustainable level. Research like Singh's projects the impact a project will have on an area and investigates its feasibility by analyzing data before companies or governments make huge investments.

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 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.

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 \$74 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 \$37.5 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 is 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 Mumbai. There, one of her instructors suggested Lamar University as a place to pursue a master's because he knew of Professor Carl Yaws, 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 become acquainted to 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."

In 2005, the Texas Higher Education Board approved Lamar's Ph.D. in chemical engineering – the first Ph.D. available at the university. Now, 11 students are pursuing the degree. The program is Lamar's ninth doctoral degree program – but its first Ph.D. – joining doctorates in civil, industrial, mechanical, chemical or electrical engineering; educational leadership; deaf studies/deaf education; and audiology.

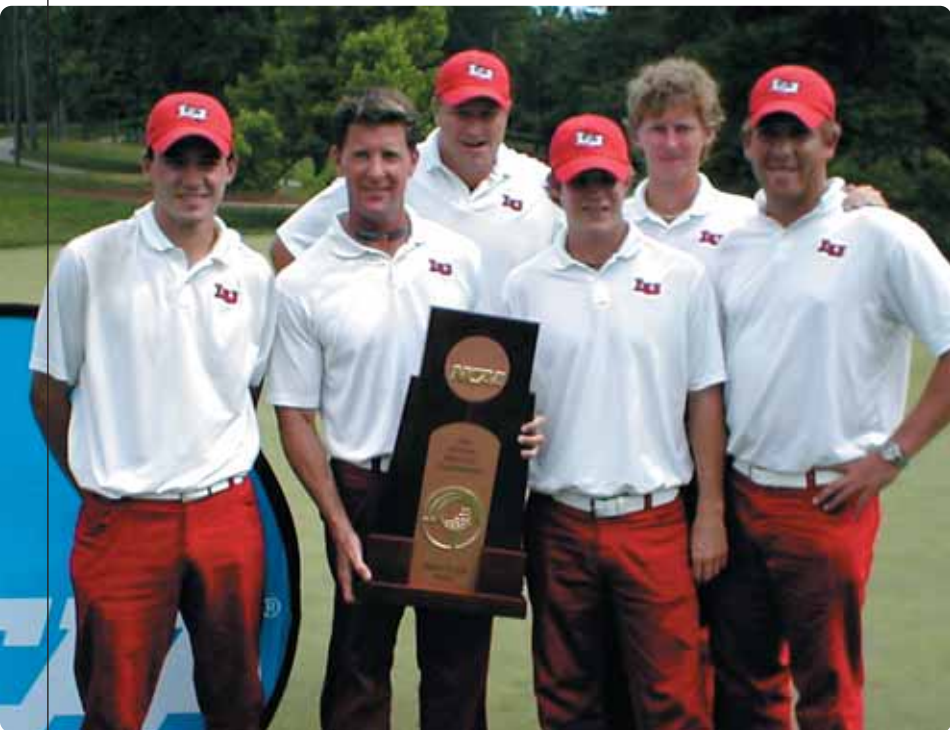
"Academically, this is a milestone and point of pride for LU," said Kevin Smith, senior associate provost. "Historically, Texas has granted few Ph.D. programs to comprehensive universities."

"The presence of a doctoral-level research degree provides us with a tremendous advantage in recruiting new faculty and doctoral students," said Jack Hopper, dean of the College of Engineering. "It will play a big part in the future development of our graduate programs and is a major building block in Lamar's leadership for economic development in Southeast Texas."



# Golfers make history

## White leads Cardinals to 3rd-place NCAA finish



DAUCY CRISER

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 7-under to post a 54-hole score of 5-over 285-287-278-275—1,125. Lamar's previous best NCAA championship finish was a tie for seventh place in 1986 at Winston-Salem, N.C. The team score of 1,125 also set a new 72-hole record 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 6, 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.



DON ANDERS

—DC