

CARDINAL Cadence

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A PUBLICATION OF LAMAR UNIVERSITY
A MEMBER OF THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

NOVEMBER 2007

Distinguished
alumni

pg. 24

Empowering potential

pg. 30

Reminisce at
homecoming

pg. 33



From the President

As we approach the holidays, and in particular as we reflect on our thankfulness for the blessings of life and liberty, we must also be thankful for the opportunities found in education.

We have seen a steady rise in our six-year graduation rate, up 14 percent, the result of high-quality students, better student services and a strong academic environment.

We are thankful, too, for the support of our wonderful alumni and friends. Recently, we had cause for celebration with the wonderful gift of \$5 million by Lamar alum Phillip M. Drayer and his wife, Karen, to the Department of Electrical Engineering. An ardent supporter and advisory council chairman, Phil has an exciting vision for the future of the college and the role it can play in Southeast Texas and beyond. Thank you, Phil and Karen, for your support.

Lamar’s Connect-ED emergency notification system got its first real-world use when Hurricane Humberto struck Southeast Texas. The system is capable of contacting thousands of faculty, staff and students in minutes with important messages and instructions, but only if the right numbers are in the system. Please sign up if you have not already done so. (Step-by-step instructions for updating contact information in myLAMAR can be found at Lamar.edu/connected.)

We welcomed several hundred new Cardinals in the Academic Partnership program. These certified teachers, in public school districts across the state, are embarking on a path to a master’s degree in educational leadership through an innovative program that blends Lamar’s quality curriculum and instructors with high-tech delivery and support.

I am humbled each year when I see the support students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni and friends give Lamar University. Your generosity does so much to help students achieve an outstanding education. That is truly something for which to be thankful!

With Cardinal Pride,

James M. Simmons

James M. Simmons
President
Lamar University



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On the cover: Electrical engineering seniors Luis Espinoza, Hien Nguyen and Erin Tade take a closer look at a computer-controlled circuit board mill in the Rapid Prototyping Facility of the newly named Phillip M. Drayer Department of Electrical Engineering.

Enrollment moves upward



Enrollment climbed 4.8 percent above last fall's enrollment of 9,867 students, slightly below the pre-Hurricane Rita headcount of 10,595 students in the fall of 2005. Fall 2007 welcomed 10,379 students to campus.

The total semester credit hours students are enrolled in has risen 2.3 percent to 115,178 hours from last fall's total of 111,739 hours.

"This headcount almost returns Lamar to pre-Hurricane Rita levels and reflects the fruits of several enrollment rebuilding initiatives," said Kevin Smith, senior associate provost. "We are very pleased. It is the result of a lot of hard work. We expect the momentum to continue into the spring semester and into the future."

Enrollment rebuilding initiatives include new distance-education sites in Baytown and Lumberton, more online courses and degrees, additional scholarships, new degree programs and newly constructed recreation, dining and residential facilities.

Senate bill caps dropped courses

This fall, new undergraduate students in Texas colleges and universities saw a cap assigned to the number of courses they may drop.

The 80th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 1231 limiting to six the number of courses an institution of higher learning may allow an undergraduate student to drop, including any courses a transfer student has dropped at another university.

SB1231 affects any student enrolled as a first-time freshman at Lamar University and all other Texas universities and colleges, beginning with the fall 2007 semester. The coordinating board defines a "dropped course" as a course an undergraduate student at an institution of higher education has enrolled in for credit but did not complete.

New regents appointed

Texas Gov. Rick Perry announced Sept. 24 the appointment of three regents to The Texas State University System to fill the expired terms of Chairman Kent Adams '78 of Beaumont, Regent Alan Dreeben of San Antonio and Regent Ken Luce of Irving.

The new regent from Beaumont is Michael Truncale, a senior partner at Orgain, Bell and Tucker, L.L.P. He is past president of the Jefferson County Bar Association and fellow at the Texas Bar Foundation. Truncale is a member of the Texas Association of Defense Counsel and the American Bar Association. He received a bachelor's degree from Lamar University, a master of business administration from the University of North Texas, Denton, and a law degree from Southern Methodist University School of Law. His term expires Feb. 1, 2013.

Also appointed are Charlie Amato of San Antonio, co-owner and chairman of Southwest Business Corporation, and Ron Blatchley of Bryan, co-owner of BMB Homes, a residential construction company.

The Texas State University System is the oldest multi-campus system in Texas and plays a critical role in the educational and economic development of this state. A nine-member board of regents appointed by the governor provides governance. In addition, a nonvoting student regent is appointed annually to the board.



MICHAEL TRUNCALE

BRIAN SATTLER

Alternative certification option added



LULA HENRY

Lamar University, in partnership with Lee College in Baytown, is offering the PACeR (Post-baccalaureate Alternative Certification Route) for individuals who have earned bachelor's degrees and want to become teachers. Classes will be offered at San Jacinto Mall in

Baytown on Saturdays for those who are interested and qualify.

Requirements include a bachelor's degree from an accredited university in an academic area appropriate for certification, a minimum grade point average of 2.5, a minimum number of hours in a content area required for state certification, and passing scores on the TExES content area examination and basic skills test.

Participants can begin teaching with probationary Texas certification and will receive mentoring for the first year of teaching. Other benefits include receiving credit hours that may be applied toward a master's degree in elementary or secondary education, as well as successfully completing the probationary period in one year and passing the appropriate

state certification test to become fully certified at the end of the year. Information about the program is available by calling Lula Henry, associate professor and director of the alternative certification program, (409) 880-8902.



SARAH PARKER

New news for communication students

After a quarter century, the Department of Communication is making news of its own by moving into new quarters.

After the construction of Lamar's state-of-the-art Dining Hall was complete, the former dining hall was remodeled to house the communication department as well as offices for the Department of General Studies and the Services for Students with Disabilities. The building, which has not yet been named, is on East Virginia, behind the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center and across from the new Dining Hall.

The building has five classrooms dedicated to the communication department, one of which has theater-style seating. Another is a double classroom with a sliding divider and seven interview rooms. It also has a Macintosh studio classroom and two computer labs. Each classroom is equipped with a flat-panel LCD TV and projection capabilities. In addition to the classrooms and the computer labs, the building has seven editing rooms, each with a computer, and a student lounge.

Political scientist gives keynote

Beaumont native Darren Davis '88, professor of political science at the University of Notre Dame, was keynote speaker for Lamar's summer commencement Aug. 18.

Davis is nationally recognized for his research on political tolerance, the support of democratic values, subtle racism and the concern for social desirability. His recent book, *Negative Liberty: Public Opinion and the Terrorist Attacks on America*, details how perceptions of threat and anxiety shape political attitudes and, ultimately, citizens' support for democracy.

During commencement, Lamar conferred 349 degrees, including 10 doctorates, 130 master's degrees and 209 bachelor's degrees. Graduates hail from eight countries, seven states outside Texas and 44 cities in Texas.



DARREN DAVIS

JOHN WENNER

Connecting in an emergency

Lamar University has contracted with Connect-ED, by the NTI Group Inc., to provide a state-of-the-art, web-based emergency notification system. The system will allow the university to contact faculty, staff and students quickly with news and information in the event of an emergency.

The Connect-ED system is capable of contacting individuals on cellular, home or office phones, PDAs, voice mail, and by text message, e-mail and TTY/TTD. Through the Connect-ED system, Lamar can contact thousands in minutes. The university administration began exploring ways to boost its ability to quickly reach faculty, staff and students following the tragic shooting at Virginia Tech in April and in the face of weather emergencies.



Teachers go exploring

K-12 teachers met in June for the Teaching Environmental Science Institute (TESI) to reinforce the message to “teach locally, think globally” in areas of study from waste disposal to water and air quality to conservation of natural habitats.

“Since 1996, nearly 200 teachers have completed the program at Lamar,” said program director James Westgate, professor of earth and space sciences at Lamar University. “Subsequently, these teachers have brought to approximately 100,000 students a better understanding of Southeast Texas’ environmental concerns.”

Scholarships and expenses of the program are funded through grants by local corporate sponsors: ChevronPhillips, Entergy, ExxonMobil, MeadWestvaco, Semptra Energy, the Texas Center for Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and Valero.

The unique partnership of 25 industrial, government agency and non-profit environmental organizations provides funding, scientific information and hands-on experience for four hours of scholarship-paid graduate studies credit.

The TESI educates teachers about how to enlighten and engage their students as they explore local environmental concerns. The hands-on learning includes a wide array of activities including



CHRIS CASTILLO

assessing water quality and capturing juvenile species in the region’s estuaries during daily field trips to coastal swamps. Other field experiences show the participants industrial and agricultural management, coastal concerns and endangered species.

“The diversity of the Southeast Texas landscape creates a regional laboratory,” said Westgate. All the experiences prepare the participants to be more effective teachers in the science classroom, Westgate said.

Nurturing scientific interest

Dr. Bernard Harris, president and founder of The Harris Foundation, visited campus to meet with campers attending the 2007 ExxonMobil Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp.

Developing their teamwork and organizational skills, the campers presented their work to Harris, demonstrating the scientific concepts of Archimedes’ principle of buoyancy and its relationship to density. The campers built a raft using aluminum foil and straws and then tested its buoyancy by floating the raft in water and weighing it down with pennies.

In 1990, Harris was selected as a NASA astronaut and flew his first mission three years later. He became the “First African American to walk in space.” At the time of his retirement from NASA in 1996, he had logged more than 438 hours in space and traveled over 7.2 million miles. Harris gave the commencement address at Lamar Aug. 17, 2002.

BRIAN SATTLER



BERNARD HARRIS



Saving a life in simulation

Three high school students went into action, trying to breathe life into a newborn baby in the birthing lab.

Ashley Joseph held the baby’s head and told nearby Sharlie Johnson to pump air into the newborn’s lungs. The baby was a shade of blue because the child didn’t have enough oxygen. Elissa Tieman watched as the baby started to breath normally. The baby cried and the group seemed to breath a sigh of relief at the noise.

Minutes earlier, the trio, all participants in Lamar’s Nightingale Experience, helped a mannequin give birth. These were among many computer-simulated programs students used at the JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing to gain familiarity with what it feels like to be a nurse.

Lamar and CHRISTUS Hospital St. Elizabeth and St. Mary hosted the two-day event to introduce high school students to nursing and the job opportunities available in the field, said Eileen Curl, professor and chair. Forty-three potential nursing students from 16 area schools attended.

“We are encouraging high school students to select nursing as a career,” said Curl. In its fifth year, the Nightingale Experience gives students a first-hand look at nursing and the hospital setting, Curl said. The goal is to showcase nursing while students are still making career decisions.

Students use nursing simulation programs to become familiar with skills and procedures such as helping an obstetric mannequin deliver a baby. “Nursing has many more career options than what is portrayed on TV,” Curl said. “Students don’t realize how many options there are.”

High schools participating in the event included Bridge City,



CHRIS CASTILLO

Buna, Central Medical Magnet, Community Christian, Kirbyville, Nederland, Port Neches-Groves, Orangefield, Sabine Pass, Silsbee, Woodville, Hamshire-Fannett, Vidor, Lumberton, Kountze and the Richard Milburn Academy in Beaumont.

Lamar nursing instructors worked closely with area school counselors to identify high school sophomores who are interested in nursing and want to learn more about job opportunities within that field, Curl said. Students were selected by their counselors as having the potential to be successful in the intellectually demanding field of nursing, then Lamar nursing instructors selected the Nightingale candidates, she said.

Healthcare professionals predict the nursing shortage in the U.S. will intensify within the next 10 years. Local hospitals

have hired recruiters to attract qualified nurses. Curl said nursing offers good pay, flexible hours and job opportunities almost anywhere in the U.S. because nurses are in demand.

Lamar University offers both a four-year bachelor’s degree and a two-year associate’s degree in nursing. Lamar also offers a graduate degree in nursing. More information is available by contacting the nursing academic advisor at elise.becker@lamar.edu or by calling (409) 880-8868.

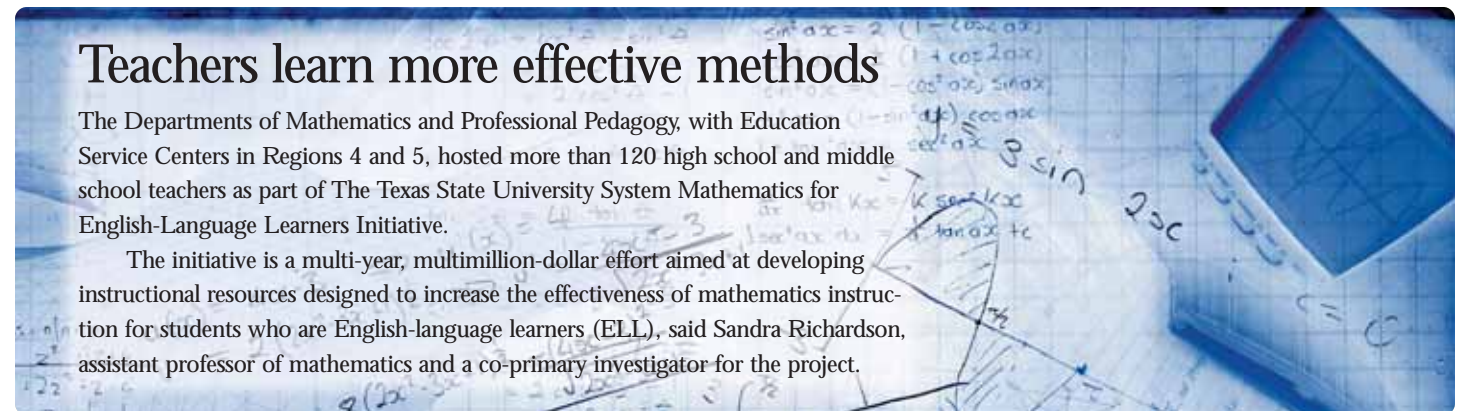


CHRIS CASTILLO

Teachers learn more effective methods

The Departments of Mathematics and Professional Pedagogy, with Education Service Centers in Regions 4 and 5, hosted more than 120 high school and middle school teachers as part of The Texas State University System Mathematics for English-Language Learners Initiative.

The initiative is a multi-year, multimillion-dollar effort aimed at developing instructional resources designed to increase the effectiveness of mathematics instruction for students who are English-language learners (ELL), said Sandra Richardson, assistant professor of mathematics and a co-primary investigator for the project.



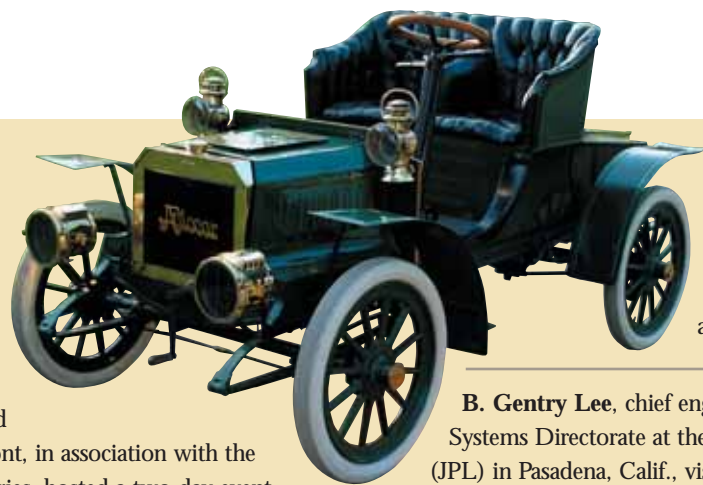
At the podium

New York to Paris comes to Beaumont . . . In 1908 an epic race helped usher in the age of the automobile. The almost superhuman feat pit man and machine against the elements and fueled public passion for the car in America and Europe. In October, the city of Beaumont, in association with the Mary and John Gray Library Lecture Series, hosted a two-day event with speaker **Jeff Mahl**, the great-grandson of the legendary George N. Schuster, who drove the 1907 Thomas Flyer around the world in the 1908 New York to Paris Great Automobile Race. Mahl spoke on campus in the John Gray Center Auditorium Oct. 8. With seemingly insurmountable obstacles, Schuster was the first person to ever drive an automobile across the U.S. in the winter. He was the only American to make the full distance of the race from New York to Paris. Mahl presented the story—based in fact and richly illustrated with more than 70 original photographs—in the guise of his great-grandfather, bringing original artifacts to help bring to life the events of the 1908 New York to Paris Great Automobile Race.



JEFF MAHL

DFJ Mercury Venture Partners managing directors **Dan Watkins** and **Blair Garrou** spoke as a part of the Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies Entrepreneurship Lecture series Oct. 2. Watkins and Garrou shared their perspective on the venture capitalism industry, the emerging markets in software and life sciences in Texas, and the growing entrepreneurial climate in the Greater Houston area. In addition to serving as a managing director for DFJ Mercury, Dan Watkins founded and was a managing partner of A3 Associates, a Houston-based firm focused on seed-stage investments and advisory services for start-up companies. Blair Garrou teaches venture capitalism as an adjunct professor of management at the Jones Graduate School of Business at Rice University. He led the sale of InterMat Inc., the world's leading provider of parts optimization software tools and services at the time, to Information Handling Services Inc. and served as the director of operations for the Houston Technology Center. The center has

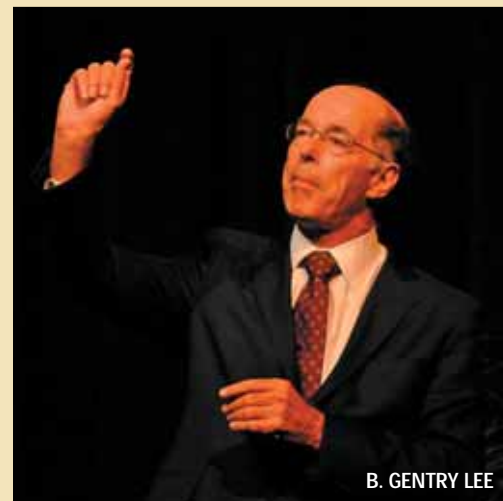


helped companies raise more than \$500 million for technological growth, and it houses the Gulf Coast Regional Center of Innovation and Commercialization.

B. Gentry Lee, chief engineer for the Planetary Flight Systems Directorate at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, Calif., visited campus Oct. 1 to speak

about his vision for the 21st century. The visit was part of the Academic Lecture Series, funded by student service fees to attract lecturers and experts to campus. The event was hosted by the College of Engineering. Lee is also a science fiction

author with several New York Times bestsellers to his credit. He is responsible for the engineering integrity of all the robotic planetary missions managed by JPL, including engineering oversight of historical twin rover missions to Mars and the implementation of NASA's Deep Impact and Stardust missions. Lee is an active novelist, television producer, computer game designer, media columnist and lecturer. He is co-author of four novels, *Cradle*, *Rama II*, *The Garden Of Rama* and *Rama Revealed* with revered science fiction grandmaster Arthur C. Clarke. Since his collaboration with Clarke, Lee has written three solo novels, *Bright Messengers*, *Double Full Moon Night*, and *The Tranquility Wars*, each of which were on the major science fiction bestseller lists. Lee also was the late Carl Sagan's partner in the creation, design, development and implementation of *Cosmos*, a science documentary series for television that won several Emmys and the prestigious Peabody Award.



B. GENTRY LEE

BRIAN SATTLER

Faculty notes

Applying earth lessons in space . . .

The world's insatiable quest for energy means researchers will go beyond the bounds of Earth in that search, said **Jim Jordan** '71, professor and chair of earth and space sciences. He took that message to Canada when he delivered the keynote address "From Prospect to Pipeline: The Search for Extraterrestrial Resources" in June at the



JIM JORDAN

BRIAN SATTLER

Planetary and Terrestrial Mining Science Symposium in Sudbury, Ontario . . . **Professors lend talent to AP . . .** Three Department of Mathematics faculty members participated this summer in the annual reading and scoring of the College Board's advanced-placement (AP) examinations in Lewisville, Ky. Associate professor **Mary Wilkinson** and assistant professor **Sandra Richardson** read for the calculus exam, while assistant professor **Kumer Das** read for the statistics exam. "The reading draws upon the talents of some of the finest teachers and professors the world has to offer. It fosters professionalism, allows



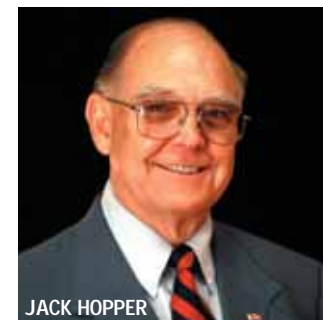
EILEEN DEGES CURL

for exchange of ideas and strengthens the commitment to students and to teaching," said Trevor Packer, executive director of the program . . . **Curl to lead Texas association . . .** **Eileen Deges Curl**, chair of the JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing, has been elected president of the Texas Association of Deans and Directors of Professional Nursing Programs. The professional

nursing organization ensures that professional nursing education in Texas is proactive in addressing contemporary issues and trends in practice. It provides expert representation to designated professional and government organizations, makes recommendations of nursing education policy and actions, and fosters communication among professional nursing education programs in Texas. As president, Curl plans to focus on how to use simulations in nursing education to enhance student education and extend clinical resources, efforts to encourage collaboration between colleges and universities, and new tactics to enable nursing programs to admit more students and to increase the number of nursing faculty . . . **Hopper and Cotten accept new roles . . .** Current administrators **Jack Hopper** and **Don Cotten** have new positions. In addition to Hopper's roles as dean of the College of Engineering, professor in the chemical engineering department and director of the Texas Center for Technology Incubation and the Texas Hazardous Waste Research Center, he will assume the title of executive assistant to the president for industrial relations and economic development. Don Cotten, who came to Lamar as executive director of the Office of Sponsored Programs Administration in 2006, becomes associate provost for research.



DON COTTEN



JACK HOPPER

System selects Ho

In a unanimous vote, The Texas State University System (TSUS) Board of Regents recognized six outstanding faculty members as the first recipients of the Regents' Professor Award, including Lamar University recipient **Thomas C. Ho**, professor and department chair of chemical engineering. Ho was recognized for his significant research publications and projects, contributions to professional societies, exceptional student evaluations throughout his 25 years of teaching at Lamar, unique and challenging teaching projects and methods, and his unfailing desire to work with students to help them be successful. Recipients receive a \$5,000 award and commemorative medallion.



BRIAN SATTLER

Volunteer work earns recognition

Jesse Doiron '77, instructor of English, has received the prestigious Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Award in recognition of his contributions to the community of Beaumont and Texas in the field of criminal rehabilitation. Doiron, a crime victim survivor, became a prison volunteer in 2003, when he began participating in Bridges to Life, a faith-based restorative justice program with a mission to connect communities and prisons in an effort to reduce the recidivism rate.

This guide shows the way

The GeoSciences Information Society (GSIS) awarded geology professor **Don Owen** '57 with a Best Field Trip Guidebook award. He was recognized at the Geological Society of America meeting in Denver this fall. The book covers the latest geological science information on the Chama Basin of northern New Mexico, adjacent to Colorado.



Press Club recognizes staff and student excellence

Staff and students won a total of 38 awards, including 13 first-place awards, in the 2007 Excellence in the Media competition sponsored by the Press Club of Southeast Texas.

The annual awards banquet benefits the Press Club Memorial Scholarship, presented each semester to a Lamar communication student or students.

Lamar's Department of Communication took home first place in the television documentary category. The University Press—produced by Lamar students—won 10 awards, including three first places, in competition with professional newspapers. The Lamar Public Relations staff and Cardinal Cadence magazine won 27 awards, including 10 first-place trophies.

Making class count

This year, Team Red Rover is one of three Lamar University teams that participated in the Texas Space Grant Consortium's (TSGC) annual design challenge. Team Red Rover chose to focus on object avoidance, navigating the robot around obstacles to avoid collisions. Team members, all 2007 Lamar electrical engineering graduates, include team leader **Jace Daigle**, Tarkington; **John Brazzil**, Baytown; **Greg Gattis**, Fannett; and **Martin Martinez**, Baytown. Faculty advisor **Bernard Maxum** of the electrical engineering department and mentor **Dave Chevront** of the NASA Johnson Space Center Constellation Program Office also participated in the project. Daigle now lives in Austin and works for National Instruments. Brazzil works for American Electric Technologies Inc. in Beaumont. Martinez now works with NASA, and Gattis has moved to Pearland to work for Lyondell Chemical. "After working with my teammates and several consultants to resolve problems, the most enjoyable part of the whole experience was when one of the judges from the showcase told us that our project was the best one he'd seen in four years of judging," said Gattis. Team members won several awards, including Best Project Model, Best Project Focus, Best Project Demonstration Video and an Outstanding Participation certificate from TSGC and NASA. • The College of Business awarded its second William G. McGowan Scholarship to **Steven Woodard**, a senior accounting major from

Vidor, who has high hopes for what this honor will mean for his future. After he graduates in May 2008 with a bachelor's in business administration, Woodard, who speaks German and is learning Mandarin, plans to teach business English in Shanghai, China, and he will be a German translator for the Olympics in Beijing. He plans to pursue an international MBA in business law. Each year, the McGowan Charitable Fund awards scholarships to a select group of management students who exhibit extraordinary leadership, academic achievement,

character, entrepreneurship and commitment to community. "We have very few scholarships of this magnitude," Dean Henry Venta said. "Only a university of our caliber can achieve this honor." • **The National Research Experience for Undergraduates Program**, "Investigating the G-graph of a Group," was held May 23-July 6, 2007 on campus. Four Lamar students were chosen to participate in the summer program designed to spend time working on research problems and on becoming proficient in LATEX, a document markup language used by mathematicians, scientists, philosophers, engineers and scholars in academia and the commercial world. Participating in the project were: **Christa Colvin**, a junior from Port Arthur; **Chrissy**

Johnson, a junior from Beaumont; **Alys Rodriguez**, a sophomore from China, Texas; and **Bobby Temple**, a senior from Galveston. The research experience is designed to allow talented undergraduate students the opportunity of working on an original research project. In addition to studying an exciting branch of mathematics, the students will discuss their work at a Mathematical Association of America conference. • **The Lamar Student Education Association (LSEA)** hosted a Fall Read-In, a day of reading and entertainment for area students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade, Sept. 29. LSEA members read a variety of books to the children attending. The children also had the opportunity to read books to others and participate in making arts and crafts, including designing their own storybook, puppet and story line caterpillar, all designed to build a life-long love of reading in young children and to teach them about books in a fun and unique way while Lamar students gain classroom experience. • **In paleontology**, discovery can be dirty. And the search can lead to some rugged places. This summer, students and Professor **Jim Westgate** headed for the Badlands of Utah for a little paleontological prospecting. **James**



BURNES AND ELLIS

Burnes, a junior from Beaumont, and **Susan Ellis**, a graduate student from Orange, helped collect more than 2,000 pounds of bulk sample from a 42-million-year-old pond deposit in what is now the desert of northeastern Utah—the Uinta Formation in the Badlands of the Uinta Basin near Vernal. They believe the fossil record will show that the region was once lush, supporting a myriad of species. The sample will be examined for clues as to what caused the extinction of primates in the Rocky Mountain region about 40 million years ago for a joint paleontology project between Lamar, the College of Charleston, Case Western Reserve University and the University of California, Los Angeles. • Lamar senior **Lauren Wigley** of Lumberton is in her first semester as editor of the University Press. "It's all about being a people person and knowing how to best utilize the UP staff's strengths," she said. Wigley, formerly a writer for "Cadenza," the Honors Program newsletter, "went to the newsroom



LAUREN WIGLEY



JIM WESTGATE

JASON Project teaches prep for super storms

Several Southeast Texas JASON Project teacher-trainers spent five days on a tour across Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana to get first-hand familiarity with the just-released 2007-08 curriculum created by the JASON Project, a nonprofit subsidiary of the National Geographic Society.

This fall, the teachers trained 170 fellow 4th-8th grade science teachers in new discovery-based experiments. They, in turn, introduced these concepts to their more than 8,000 students to understand what causes monster storms such as Hurricanes Rita and Katrina as well as super-cell thunderstorms that generate tornadoes throughout Tornado Alley, the southern end of which extends almost to Houston.

Since 2001, the JASON Alliance of Southeast Texas and Lamar University have provided curricula and training to Southeast Texas school districts free of charge through grants from local industries and other benefactors.

The Monster Storm expedition was part of a graduate course "Teaching Coastal and Environmental Science" led by Jim Westgate, professor of earth and space sciences. D'Ann Douglas, director of the JASON Alliance for Southeast Texas, assisted in planning the expedition and recruiting peer trainers.

On one memorable stop in the multi-state journey, the teachers met with the pilots and crew of a WC-130J Hurricane Hunter aircraft in the 403rd Wing of the 53rd Weather Squadron at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Miss. The JASON trainers also toured the National Weather Center's National Severe Storms Laboratory in Norman, Okla., and visited Entergy's Arkansas Nuclear One electric power plant and a fossil oyster reef that lived on the Gulf Coast 35 million years ago when sea level was 200 feet higher and the Earth existed under a "greenhouse" climate. The final stop on the five-day expedition was the National Estuary Program in Louisiana to see the impact of recent monster storms on Louisiana's wetlands. In one month during the 2005 hurricane season, the state lost the same amount of square miles of wetlands that it took the previous 10 years of Gulf storms to remove.

On Oct. 25, students, teachers and community leaders gathered to hear hurricane expert Jason Dunion. At NOAA, Dunion specializes in satellite remote sensing of hurricanes and has led the development of several new satellite products for monitoring tropical cyclones and Saharan dust storms. Dunion's visit was hosted by the JASON Alliance. Following the lecture, Dunion and six local students traveled to the coast of Louisiana to conduct research at locations devastated by Hurricane Rita two years ago.

Making class count, *continued*

and started asking for stories," said Wigley. "Next thing I knew, I was on the staff." Howard Perkins, director of student publications, said, "She's done an extremely good job working for the paper. She's organized, great at managing and working with the staff, and she's got great news values. Ultimately, that's what we need in an editor." Wigley's main goal is to encourage reader contributions to the paper. "I want to let people know the doors are open. Students can come to the newsroom and let us know what they want to read or even write a piece that we can include. This position won't be difficult because I have three editors who do great work," she said. Her team includes managing editor Julie Garcia of Port Arthur, features editor Belashia Johnson of Houston and photo editor Kourtney Reese of Houston.

• **Obinna "Obi" Arisukwu** of Houston is taking the reins as president of the Student Government Association. Arisukwu has a passion for enhancing student life and has set many goals in that direction for the school year. A senior graphic design major with a minor in business, Arisukwu chose to attend Lamar because "Lamar feels like a family to me," he said. "Instead of being in a classroom with 300 other students, teachers at Lamar know (students) by



OBINNA ARISUKWU

name." Arisukwu enjoys working as a team with SGA officers vice president Tony Sarda of Miami, Fla., and secretary-treasurer Vera Akinkuotu of Houston. • **The Lamar University Chapter of the Financial Management Association International** was named a "Superior Chapter" in 2006-2007 for the second year in a row. "Superior Chapter" is the highest honor a financial management chapter or honor society can attain. Of the more than 200 active student chapters, fewer than 5 percent receive this honor each year. The following Lamar University students have been named Collegiate Fellows by the Financial Management Association International: **Eric Angelle**, D'Angelo Walker and Mercedes Watkins-Price of Beaumont; **Robinson Bui** of Groves; **Shannon Copeland** of Nederland; **Austin Jackson** of Vidor; and **Munira Mitha** of Orange. • **The Lamar University Career and Testing Center** welcomes the opportunity to assist employers with scheduling their on-campus recruitment efforts. Employers may register online at www.lamar.edu/careercenter to post job openings, view student résumés and register for upcoming career events. Employers may also request to schedule on-campus interviews and information sessions to share company perspectives, labor market trends and profile emerging career options, said Teresa Simpson, director of the center.

★ New scholarships benefit students

We are proud of our alumni and honored to have friends such as these invest in the university and its students. Loyal alumni and friends make a difference in the lives of our students with gifts that continue to give into perpetuity, meeting generations of students where their aspirations begin, allowing them to engage with faculty and curricula during successful college careers and achieve their immediate goals and long-term dreams.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Mirabeau Scholarships

Mirabeau Scholarships provide a four-year full scholarship to academically gifted incoming freshmen.

Becky (Dickson) '71 and Chuck '72 Mason have established the **Becky and Chuck Mason Mirabeau Scholarship**, the first privately funded endowed Mirabeau Scholarship. "Chuck and I were both very interested to hear about the Mirabeau Scholarship fund," Becky said. "We think recruiting top students is an outstanding idea." Mason, of Mason Construction, serves as treasurer of the Lamar University Foundation and as district 5910 governor. The couple is actively involved in a number of community organizations, including Rotary International, the JASON Project, Partnership of Southeast Texas and the Symphony of Southeast Texas. Mason Construction built the replica of the derrick that brought in the Lucas Gusher of 1901 at the Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum on campus.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The **Josephine and Wilbur Hebert Mirabeau Scholarship** has been established in the couple's memory. They were longtime residents of Port Arthur and members of St. Joseph Catholic Church. Josephine retired from Texaco after 43 years of service.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Field of Study Scholarships
Michael Lindsay and John Morgan of the

law firm Lindsay and Morgan established the **Lisa Renee Ligda Beaulieu Scholarship** in criminal justice in memory of Beaumont police officer Lisa Beaulieu. Her dream of becoming an officer began after her graduation from Katy High School. She worked as a jailer in Dayton while attending the police academy at Lamar Institute of Technology. Then, she was hired as a dispatcher in

the Beaumont Police Department and worked as a reserve officer on a part-time, unpaid basis on the Kountze Police Department to get on-the-job training before becoming a sworn officer with the Beaumont Police Department in 2001. Her six-year civil service file is filled with commendations. Beaulieu lost her life April 27, 2007. She was the first female police officer to be killed in the line of duty in the Beaumont department's history.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Linda and Joe Domino '75 established the **Joseph F. Domino Scholarship in Electrical Engineering**. Domino earned a master's degree in engineering science from Lamar. During his 36-year tenure with Entergy, he advanced to become president and chief executive officer of Entergy Texas in 1998. His volunteer service is significant and wide-ranging: the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Beaumont and North Jefferson County, Symphony of Southeast Texas, Boy Scouts of America, Texas Energy Museum, Golden Triangle Minority Business Council, Greater Houston Partnership and Partnership of Southeast Texas are only a few. He is a Distinguished Alumnus of Lamar and serves as a trustee of the Lamar University Foundation and as vice chairman of the College of Engineering Advisory Council.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Rebecca Fussell '82 has established the **Rebecca Lynn Fussell Scholarship in**

Chemical Engineering in recognition of the education she received at Lamar and to take the opportunity "to give back to the university that gave so much" to her. She is a past member of the Department of Chemical Engineering Advisory Council and is process superintendent of TOTAL Petrochemical in Port Arthur.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Cardinal fan and former alumni board president and Cardinal Club board member Henry Strait '74 spearheaded a group of Cardinal Club members and baseball fans to establish the **Jim Gilligan Scholarship in Baseball** in recognition of the longtime coach's career achievements. Gilligan '70, a former Cardinal pitcher himself, was inducted into the Texas Baseball Hall of Fame in 2004. In his 28 years as the coach of his alma mater, Gilligan has guided the Cards to 11 conference championships, 11 NCAA



regional appearances and four conference titles. His career record of 1,069-649 ranks him as the 17th most active and 35th all-time winningest coach in NCAA history. He has been named the Southland Conference coach of the year five times during his career and is the 32nd coach in NCAA history to record 1,000 career wins, which was the catalyst for beginning this scholarship. Gilligan has coached more than 135 players into professional baseball.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Through a bequest, **Vivian Liddell** established a scholarship in her name for majors in the College of Education and Human Development with preference to students pursuing careers in teaching. Born in Bay City, Liddell grew up in Beaumont and

played sports with Mildred Didrikson "Babe" Zaharias. She earned a degree from Texas Woman's University and taught junior high physical education at Dick Dowling school in Beaumont.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Ida McFaddin Pyle, Gene McFaddin and Rosine McFaddin Wilson established the **James L.C. McFaddin Jr. Memorial Scholarship in Entrepreneurship** in memory of their sibling. A Beaumont native, Jim McFaddin attended the University of the South at Sewanee, Tenn., and Harvard Business School. He served in the Army in the Counterintelligence Corps in Germany during the Korean War. He was an active member of Trinity United Methodist Church and served as president of the Lamar University Foundation, the Cardinal Club and the YMCA, among many other civic commitments. Jim McFaddin encouraged young entrepreneurs, and, with this scholarship, the family hopes to continue that tradition by helping worthy students pursue their collegiate dreams.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Richard and Cathy Price have established the **Richard and Cathy Price Scholarship in Choral Music** in honor of Eduardo Garcia-Novelli, assistant professor of music and director of choral activities. The scholarship is available to any eligible major who participates in choir. For many years, the Prices have been widely known for their love of music and their devotion to expanding music offerings and music appreciation in the Beaumont area. They are both active members of First United Methodist Church of Beaumont and are currently planning a 2008 tour in Spain, during which the church choir will perform at different cathedrals. Before his retirement, Richard served as vice president of LMS Trucking Corp.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Marjorie Shepherd Turner '40 established **The Shepherd Scholarship in Music** "for all that Lamar has done for the Shepherds and for Beaumont as a token of our

appreciation to help a student succeed in his or her choice of a career in music." The Shepherd family descended from 19th-century English immigrants who founded Shepherd's Laundry, which eventually expanded to include operations in Houston and San Antonio. Many members of the Shepherd family attended Lamar from its birth as South Park Junior College to its growth into Lamar University. Three members of the family were musicians: Mary Louise Shepherd Philip, Jane Shepherd Williamson and Mabel Winne Shepherd. "The choice of a music scholarship is a tribute to the achievements of Lamar University in training students and providing music to the community," Turner said.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Alumni and friends of the Department of Electrical Engineering have established the **Professor Joseph T. Watt Jr. Scholarship in Electrical Engineering**. Watt began his tenure at Lamar after working for General Electric Co. and completing graduate work at the University of Texas, Austin. He developed new courses in digital systems and computers and served as director of cooperative education from 1984 to 1992. He retired in 1996 and later taught English for the Lamar Language Institute.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Charlie Weinbaum has established the **Gloria Weinbaum Literary Scholarship** in memory of his wife, who believed that education, human enlightenment and cultural advancement were all attainable through a life of study and in the enjoyment of great books. The annual award of \$1,000 will be given to eligible English majors. This is the second scholarship to bear the Weinbaum name. A bequest by Eleanor P. Weinbaum, Charlie's mother, established an endowment in the Department of English and Modern Languages to support scholarships, *Pulse Magazine* and the *Poetry Room*.

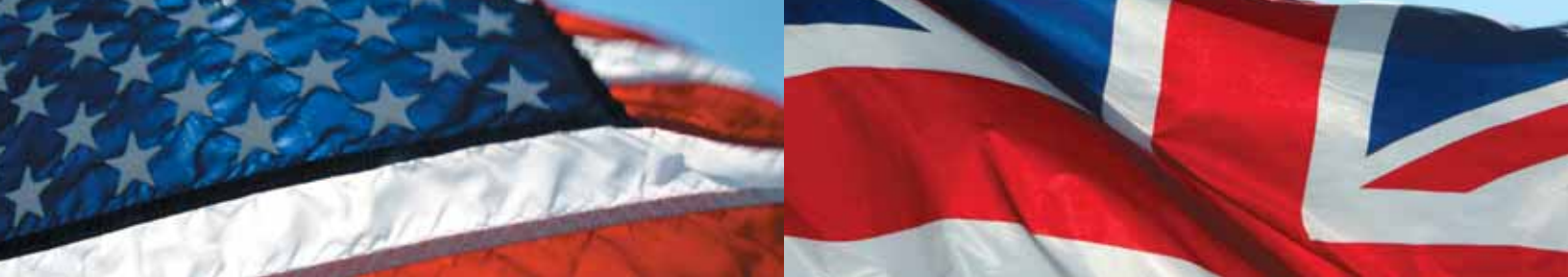
FISHER LECTURE SERIES:
Gift increases endowment

Beaumont Foundation of America has given the Lamar University Judge Joe J. Fisher Distinguished Lecture Series \$250,000, which has been added to the current endowment of \$66,000. The gift was part of \$1.15 million given to create nine scholarships to honor Southeast Texas legends.

The Lecture Series honors the distinguished Judge Joe J. Fisher, who was the United States district judge for the Eastern District of Texas for almost three decades. It attracts individuals of national and international stature who are capable of making significant educational contributions. The series recognizes the many contributions to Southeast Texas by one of the state's most outstanding citizens, a distinguished jurist and scholar, and good friend to the university.

Lamar University is indebted to Judge Joe J. Fisher for lending his name to this most worthwhile endeavor, to the members of the steering committee who planned and executed the funding effort, and to the donors who have made the endowment and the program possible.

JUDGE JOE J. FISHER
LECTURERS
1987—GERALD R. FORD
1988—LARRY MCMURTRY
1989—VLADIMIR SAKHOROV
1989—STEPHEN J. GOULD
1991—LINDA ELLERBEE
1992—ANTONIN SCALIA
1997—ARTHUR SCHLESINGER JR.
1998—SHIMON PERES
2002—BENAZIR BHUTTO



HISTORICAL PASSION

2007 DISTINGUISHED FACULTY
LECTURER J. LEE THOMPSON
FOUND FASCINATION IN
BRITISH HISTORY, AND NOW
HE’S A WORLD-CLASS SCHOLAR
AND AUTHOR ON THE SUBJECT

by Louise Wood

A bachelor of arts degree in hand, J. Lee Thompson was firmly ensconced in corporate America. Years later, he would find his real life’s work, with the other side of the Atlantic Ocean his ultimate destination.

Thompson had graduated from the University of Houston at 21 with a history degree, but, he says, “I was really tired of school. Getting a Ph.D. in history didn’t even occur to me. I wanted to make some money.”

He worked at a mortgage bank, as an IBM salesman and in the publishing industry. Becoming a scholar, historian and author seemed light years away. Then, Thompson says, “After about 15 years, that quit being fun. Confucius said, ‘Do what you love, and you’ll never work a day in your life.’”

Well into his 30s, Thompson embarked on a new chapter in his life. He loved history, so he returned to U of H at night for graduate courses in history, completing his master’s degree. He went on to Texas A&M University and earned a Ph.D., then spent 18 months there as a lecturer. In August 1998, he arrived at Lamar University, and the rest is history. Quite literally. Thompson, associate pro-



fessor of history, was honored this month as Lamar’s 2007 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer. He became the 21st recipient of the award, which is considered one of the highest accolades accorded a Lamar faculty member.

His lecture attracted an enthusiastic audience to the University Theatre Nov. 12. *Partners in the Age of Global Terrorism: The United States-British ‘Special Relationship’ in Historical Perspective* was the topic of the lecture, sponsored by ExxonMobil.

“I’m a British historian. I was drawn to that because the country has had a thousand years of history,” says

Thompson, teacher, scholar, researcher and the author of four books, with two others in progress. Recently, he was honored as a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

“Part of it is travel, and part of it is interest. From Robin Hood forward, I’ve been a fan of British history. It’s always fascinated me.”

Thompson travels to London every year for historical research. He’s been to South Africa and has India and Egypt, both former parts of the British Empire, on his agenda for the next book. His family is originally from England, so that also has something to do with his interest.

* * *

“Dr. J. Lee Thompson is a classic example of a scholar-teacher,” says John Storey, chair of the Department of History. “His research and writing in British history have not only enriched the classroom for thousands of Lamar students, but also brought favorable notice to the university from scholars across the nation.”

Thompson also received glowing reviews from his students.

“I think they like my classes because I know my subject and am enthusiastic about it,” he says. “I have fun with it. I tell them the first day, ‘I’m going to enjoy myself. I hope you guys will come along.’ I bring a lot of enthusiasm and passion for the subject, and I think that comes across in my lectures.”

* * *

Thompson was born in Dallas, spent most of his youth in Austin and graduated from high school in Houston. If he hadn’t become a British historian, he might have been a film historian. Upon entering college, he took a personality test to determine the best course for a career. “My No. 1 match was film director,” he recalls, while historian and lawyer were in the Top 5 or 10.

“Writing a book is a lot like directing a film. You’re in control, and you have to control the whole thing. I haven’t been able to make films, but I have been able to write books.”

But, Thompson admits, “I am a film nut. Not just historical films. I like film noir, and I like foreign films. I like all sorts of genres.”

During the mini-session last summer, he taught a course on the British Empire in film. “We showed nine movies, starting with *Captain Blood*, the pirate movie with Errol Flynn.

“The last was *Dr. Strangelove* with Peter Sellers, showing the British playing second fiddle to the Americans.”

In Thompson’s opinion, Slim Pickens steals the show. Sellers was supposed to do that role, too, but he hurt his ankle and couldn’t get in and out of the B-52. “So they brought in Slim Pickens,” Thompson said. “It was a British production, and the British all thought he was a method actor

when he was just being Slim Pickens.”

Among favorite directors, he lists *Strangelove*’s Stanley Kubrick. Others are John Ford, for Westerns, and directors like Frank Capra and Howard Hawks, for the screwball comedies of the 1930s. Hawks’ *Bringing Up Baby* is one of his favorites.

* * *

The evolution from academician to published author was a natural after graduate school.

“You’re crazy if you don’t write a dissertation that can be a book,” he says. “I had a good graduate advisor who not only is a world-class scholar but is also a great teacher. I have stolen shamelessly from his teaching style—and have told him that.”

Thompson’s dissertation, “Lord Northcliffe and the Great War,” led to two books, *Politics, the Press and Propaganda: Lord Northcliffe and the Great War 1914-1919*, published by Kent State University Press in 1999 and *Northcliffe: Press Baron in Politics, 1865-1922*, published by John Murray Publishers of London in 2000.

Fairleigh Dickinson University Press published *Forgotten Patriot: A Life of Alfred, Viscount Milner of St. James’s and Capetown*, in 2006, and Pickering and Chatto Publishers in London published *Wider Patriotism: Alfred Milner and the British Empire Commonwealth* in 2007. Another manuscript is in progress: *The Proconsuls: Curzon, Cromer, Milner and Kitchener in the Age of High Imperialism*.

Biographer-historian John Grigg hailed Thompson’s first book as “really a splendid work” in which Thompson “shows with great lucidity and a wealth of evidence that Northcliffe could be either brilliantly right or crashingly wrong.” The volume opened an important new era of historical research, according to other reviewers, closing a significant gap in the history of World War I propaganda.

While preparing his Distinguished Faculty Lecture, Thompson came up with the topic for his next book, Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th president. It will be titled *Teddysey*—as in *Odyssey*—and will focus on Roosevelt’s travels to Africa after he left the presidency. “He went on safari and then

he went to England and was there when King Edward VII died. So I’m going to write a book on him, which I would not have done if I had not done the research to write this lecture.”

Thompson is also sought after as a speaker-scholar. In 2006, he was a visiting Fellow at Wolfson College of Cambridge University and delivered the presidential address at the Western Conference on British Studies’ 32nd annual meeting. He has made presentations at The Chamberlains of Birmingham, an International Conference, in 2003 in Birmingham, United Kingdom. Another audience was the International Journalism Historians Interest Group at the American Journalism Historians’ Association 14th annual convention in 1995.

Thompson recently returned to A&M to speak to history Ph.D. students—as a successful graduate—about what it’s like in the real world. “So You Want to Be a Historian?” was his topic.

“I talked about my experience getting a Ph.D., the job search and how you survive on the job. I told them about Lamar and how, since I’ve been here, every year things seem to get better and better. It’s turned out to be a great place.”

In his rare time away from teaching and writing, Thompson plays tennis and cheers for the Dallas Cowboys. He and his wife, Diane, are wine enthusiasts—and they enjoy traveling to destinations like Italy and France, off the beaten path of his historical research.

Thompson gives Diane, a human resources director in Groves, credit for his success. “She allowed me to go back to school while she was working,” he says. “If we hadn’t been able to do that, this never would have happened. In every one of my books, I thank her.

“I feel blessed and lucky to be able to have done this—and also to just find a job because Ph.D.s are sort of thick on the ground. It’s good fortune—or kismet or whatever you want to call it—that I’m here and doing what I want to do.”

An art for imaginative development

by Brian Sattler

When you meet Doug Norvell '64, be prepared to hear a fish tale. Before long, you'll find out about many of his passions, not the least of which is a unique institute in one of the more remote places on earth.

Along the way, you'll see a stroke of organizing genius that is pure art.

Silvered and pushing 70, Norvell tackles life with the same kind of zest that took him hitchhiking to Mexico right after he graduated from Port Arthur's Thomas Jefferson High School in 1956. It seems he's been setting new goals and mapping new destinations ever since.

He earned a bachelor's degree from Lamar in economics and history, graduating in 1964, and began a career in academe, earning a Ph.D. in agricultural economics at Texas A&M in 1970. His career included service for the state department in Afghanistan, work as a professor in marketing and international business at Texas A&M, as well as teaching in Harvard Business School's branch campus in Central America, and at other universities.

Today, he's a man with a new passion—The Amazon Institute for Indigenous Arts in Iquitos, Peru.

Want to visit? Don't plan to drive. With a population of around 500,000, it's the largest city in the world without a road leading in. Water locked, Iquitos has steamships that travel the Amazon, airplanes that fly across the Andes to other Peruvian cities, and a huge fleet of riverboats carrying people and cargo that travel the tributaries.

Norvell has traveled to South America many times. He ended up in Peru in 2006 in a quest to land a peacock bass, a prize game fish of the Amazon River basin. Instead, it was he who got hooked.

Brush with destiny

Norvell took along an old aluminum case, freshly coated with self-etching primer, intending to have it decorated by a local artist.

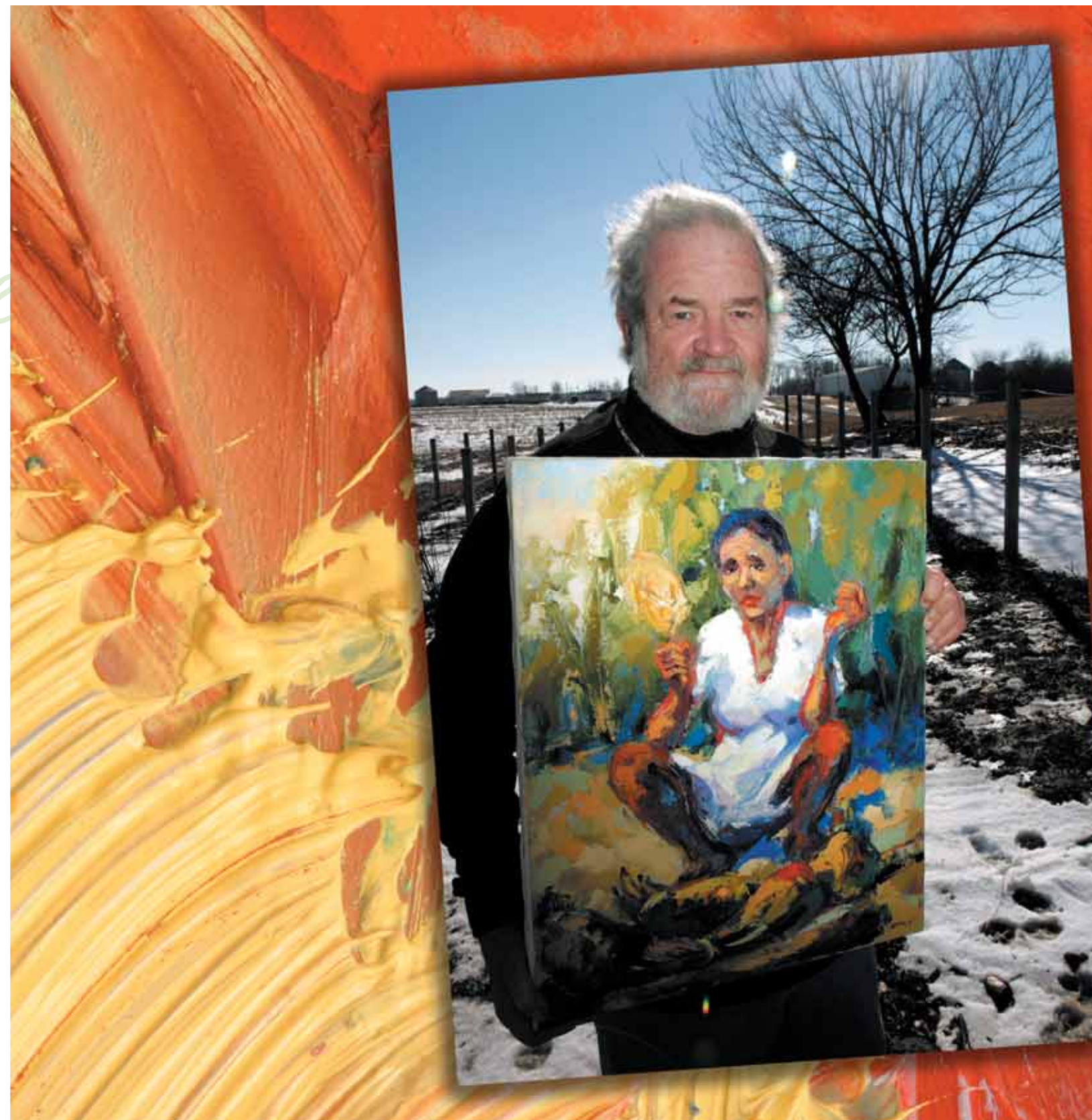
"It would be a conversation starter," he said. "The only piece of luggage like it in the world." That makes a suitcase easier to find in baggage claim,

but, for a globetrotting consultant like Norvell, conversations create opportunities.

Applying brush to the project was Cliver Flores Lanza, a professor at the Victor Morey School of Fine Arts, or Bellas Artes, a government-funded school offering college degrees for young artists of the Amazon basin.

"We got to be buddies, and he took me over to the art school," Norvell said.

The school, a converted 1920s-era hospital building in the art deco style, needed some repair. As the pair toured the facility, carefully skirting puddles and drips from the leaky roof, Lanza painted a picture of challenge. Norvell saw instead opportunity.



JOHN LOVRETT/THE HAWK EYE



With salaries for faculty and staff provided by Peru's Ministry of Education, and facilities by the local community, the institute had promise. The greater challenge was for the 75 students, half of whom dropped out simply because they could not afford materials.

"It is horrendously expensive," he said. "Most of the art supplies are imported from England. I said, 'So, it's a money problem. We're gonna fix that.'"

A novel approach

Back home in Nauvoo, Ill., Norvell drew on his experience as he wrote up an application for a Fulbright Senior Scholarship from the state department.

His idea was to create a non-profit organization within Bellas Artes, the Amazon Institute for Indigenous Arts. This organization would partner with an Iquitos lodging company to host artists from around the world who want to experience, and be inspired by, the raw beauty of the Amazon jungle.

"It would be the ultimate sustainable eco-tourism," Norvell said. "Artists would come, experience, create and then they go home."

Setting up the foundation would keep money separate from the state-run institution where it might end up channeled to other purposes, Norvell said. Likewise, to reduce the temptation a large endowment might present, he requires funds be expended every year on scholarships, or direct support of students to buy the materials they need.

"The Institute is modeled after Providence, R.I.'s municipal department of Art, Culture and Tourism," said Norvell. "Research led us to the Providence program, and I hope to replicate both their techniques and successes."

The first major effort of the Institute will be a visiting artists program, where artists from the industrialized countries come to Iquitos, travel deep into the rainforest and paint, sculpt or print.

For \$75 a day, visiting artists are provided room, board, studio space and river travel.

The accommodations are swank, with

two high-end hotels to choose from, the Victoria Regia and Hotel Acosta. For the more adventuresome, students will take artists deeper into the jungle for \$10 per day. Two jungle lodges, the Helconia and Zungaro Cocha, are options as well. Daily fees are split between the hotel company and the institute helping build more classrooms and buy more materials at Bellas Artes, providing scholarships for students from low-to-moderate-income families, and providing for faculty salary supplements, professional development and other activities.

About the time Norvell applied for the Fulbright Scholarship, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice had issued a statement urging all U.S. missions overseas to reach out to "marginalized" peoples.

"There's nobody more marginalized than the river dweller in the Amazon Basin, living on the edge of civilization," Norvell said.

The institute was formed in December 2006 with support from the Fulbright Commission and the Cultural Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy. "Everything just fell together," he said.

Norvell is now working on appointing a board of directors, and is already dreaming of expanding courses and taking the program farther into the jungle to other towns in the Amazon basin. "We have strong Peruvian leadership," Norvell said.

"I'm the spark plug, a whirlwind. I get them whipped up, and then I leave," Norvell said.

Watch for him at the airport. He's the fellow with the suitcase brightly painted with faces of the people of the Amazon basin, as well as fish, reptiles and animals. And he's got a fish story to tell you.

Visit amazonartinstitute.com

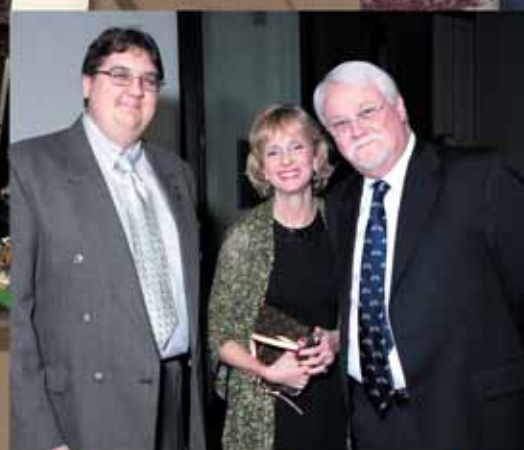


Karen and Phil Drayer '67, center, were honorees at a Dishman Art Museum dinner the evening before the announcement of the Drayers' \$5 million gift to Lamar and naming of the Phillip M. Drayer Department of Electrical Engineering. With them are his brother and sister-in-law, Dr. Jerry '60 and Kellyn Drayer, and President and First Lady James and Susan Simmons '68.



Johnny Carrabba peruses the book, *Ezekiel's Horse*, by Lamar's Keith Carter '70, presented as a gift to him at *La Dolce Vita*. Lynne Lokensgard, professor of art history, joins Carrabba at the podium. The main token of appreciation is a Carter portrait of the guest chef.

Jesse Doiron '77, '81, Lamar University's recipient of the 2007 Julie and Ben Rogers Community Service Award, is joined by his wife, Uliana Trylowsky, and their daughter, Natalia, and son, Dennis, before the awards ceremony.



Distinguished Faculty Lecturer J. Lee Thompson, right, and his wife, Diane, visit with lecture committee chair Steven Zani at a dinner in Thompson's honor before the Nov. 12 lecture.



From left, Barbara White, Ann Ohmstede, Colene Hansen, Bill Russell and Judy Dishman prepare to place their bids during the silent auction at *La Dolce Vita*.



LEGENDS OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS



They are Legends of Southeast Texas – seven lawyers and two educators whose names will live in perpetuity at Lamar University and help generations of students realize the dream of higher education.

The Southeast Texas Legends scholarships—each an endowment of \$100,000—were made possible by a gift from the Beaumont Foundation of America, a non-profit corporation that seeks to expand, enhance and strengthen opportunities for students who are most in need of assistance, said Wayne Reaud, chairman of the Beaumont Foundation board.

Beginning in January 2007, the Beaumont Foundation and Lamar University announced scholarships honoring the late Major Townsend Bell, Everett Lord and Joe Tonahill, all of whom were lawyers; Judges Don Burgess and Bob Wortham; lawyers Hubert Oxford III and John Tucker; Lamar President James M. Simmons; and former Lamar Chancellor George McLaughlin.

The foundation grew out of an historic \$2.1 billion settlement of a nationwide class-action suit to obtain relief for those who bought defective computers. The foundation has granted more than \$68 million worth of equipment.

“During the initial phase of the foundation’s life, its technology phase, it was a national leader in help-

ing close the digital divide,” said Frank Newton, president and chief executive officer of the Beaumont Foundation of America. “Our mission has broadened beyond technology to address a fundamental reality of our global economy: Education is essential for a successful life. We believe scholarships such as these are the backbone of how to achieve excellence and growth.”

“This will give students the opportunity to come to school and maybe not have to work quite so hard, so they can get through Lamar University in four years and become productive citizens right away,” Simmons said. “These scholarships will inspire future generations of Lamar students. We are thrilled that Lamar University is one of the institutions that the Beaumont Foundation of America assists with funds.”

Camille Mouton, vice president for university advancement, added: “These scholarships will have an immense impact on deserving students. We are most appreciative that the Beaumont Foundation of America has chosen to foster academic excellence at Lamar through this substantial and extremely generous gift.”

The Beaumont Foundation of America honored these leaders as Southeast Texas Legends



MAJOR TOWNSEND BELL

1897-1969

Major Townsend Bell devoted almost half a century to the legal profession – beginning his career as a district attorney for the 4th Judicial District in East Texas and, ultimately, impacting the legal community for more than four decades as a driving force behind the Beaumont law firm of Orgain, Bell and Tucker, which celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2007. Bell served as president of the State Bar of Texas and Jefferson County Bar Association. His younger son, Tom, describes him as a man of honesty, integrity and kindness – a straight shooter. “He had an aura about him that was pure honesty,” the younger Bell said.

“He was a lawyer’s lawyer.”

– BENNY HUGHES, JR.,
Of Counsel, Orgain, Bell & Tucker

“He was a man of honesty and integrity. He stood up for his clients and their rights. He would get off a case if it did not meet his standards.”

– GILBERT “BUDDY” LOW
Partner, Orgain, Bell & Tucker

DON BURGESS

Judge Don Burgess’s legal career has spanned more than three decades, from service as an assistant district attorney and later judge of the 260th District Court in Orange County to private practice to 20 years as an associate justice of the 9th Court of Appeals. As an appellate judge, he participated in 12,000 cases, personally writing opinions for more than 4,500 of them. Burgess retired as the senior appellate judge in the state of Texas and continues as a senior district and appellate judge. He retired from the Judge Advocate General’s Corps as a colonel.



“Don Burgess is one of the most academically bright legal scholars I’ve ever met. Many times over the years, when I was dealing with a tough or confusing legal issue, I would go to Judge Burgess.”

– JEFFERSON COUNTY JUDGE

RON WALKER,

Former chief justice, 9th Court of Appeals



EVERETT LORD '37

1918-1994

Everett Lord was an imposing figure in the legal community, known for his impact on family and domestic law in Southeast Texas. The son of a district judge, he was introduced to the judicial profession at a young age. Lord practiced family law for 44 years, also serving as interim judge of the Jefferson County Family District Court and teaching family law at Lamar University. His service to the state of Texas is commemorated by a plaque hung in the halls of the State Bar of Texas in Austin.

“Everett Lord was a man of his word. Everything was done on a handshake during the early days, and you could always trust Everett Lord.”

– MELVIN BONEAU '64,
Partner, Boneau & Lewis

by Louise Wood



GEORGE McLAUGHLIN '56

George McLaughlin's service to higher education spans half a century and closely parallels the recent history of Lamar University. He is a 1956 Lamar graduate whose impact on educational excellence has extended from the LU campus and classroom to regional, state and international innovations in education. After serving in a number of major positions at Lamar—including chancellor and Regents' Professor of Education—he now is with Best Associates of Dallas. Among scores of honors, he earned the prestigious Fulbright Scholar award to spend a year in Hong Kong as Fulbright professor-in-residence at Chinese University.

“Dr. George McLaughlin personifies the quest to make education – quality education – available and accessible to students, whether across the Quadrangle or around the globe. His leadership and dedication have meant a great deal to his profession and to this community.”

– PRESIDENT JAMES SIMMONS

HUBERT OXFORD III

During a 45-year career, Hubert Oxford III has contributed to his profession and to the state of Texas, not only as a highly regarded lawyer, but also as a public servant. He is managing partner of the Beaumont law firm of Benckenstein & Oxford, LLP, specializing in admiralty law and maritime cases. Oxford began his career as a briefing attorney to U.S. District Judge Joe Fisher and as an assistant district attorney for Jefferson County. He served as a regent and general counsel of the Lamar University System, on the Texas Air Control Board and in a number of other statewide positions. He left his mark on the Southeast Texas landscape by working to incorporate many small towns around Beaumont and helping them receive utility services.



“Hubert Oxford’s service to Lamar University is legendary, as evidenced by his appointment as a regent of the Lamar University System and, later, by his tenure as general counsel to the system.”

– PRESIDENT JAMES SIMMONS

JAMES SIMMONS

Since becoming Lamar University’s 10th president in 1999, James Simmons has led the university into a new era of dynamic growth. He increased enrollment, reshaped the campus and inspired excellence. The first Southeast Texas native to lead Lamar, Simmons rose through the ranks from band director, department chair, advancement executive and college dean. His community leadership has earned scores of honors. Music is his passion, and Simmons remains active as a musician and conductor.



“By any standard, Lamar University President James Simmons is a legend—a legendary educator, artist, motivator, innovator and leader who is blazing trails across the Southeast Texas landscape and into the future. President Simmons has made history at Lamar University, transforming momentum at the university into momentum throughout the communities whose quality of life, economic impact and very futures depend on this fine educational institution as their lifeblood.”

– GILBERT “BUDDY” LOW
Partner, Orgain, Bell & Tucker



JOE TONAHILL
1913-2001

Joe Tonahill was a larger-than-life legal giant who, coming from humble beginnings, made it his life’s work to be a “people’s lawyer”—though earning international acclaim along the way. Tonahill distinguished himself as a co-founder of trial lawyers’ organizations, as a pioneer in worker protection, product liability and juror reform and in other areas. He practiced law in Jasper more than half a century, but tried cases across the country, including his highly publicized presence on the Jack Ruby defense team.

“Joe was an unusual lawyer, one of a rare breed who could try almost any type of case. There were no limits on Joe’s practice or imagination.”

– RICHARD HILE '71
(Joe Tonahill’s son-in-law)
Partner, Dies & Hile

“He worked hard on his cases and seemed to take them very personally. He lived the law and breathed it.”

– JOE TONAHILL, JR.

JOHN TUCKER

Over a legal career that spanned more than seven decades, John Tucker earned a reputation as the “wizard of trial law.” In 1933, Tucker joined the law practice founded in 1907 by William Edmund Orgain. The law firm’s name changed to Orgain, Bell & Tucker in 1945. Both he and the law firm celebrated their 100th birthdays this year – Tucker in October 2007. He was lead counsel in many cases that established important principles of law, arguing a number of cases before the Texas Supreme Court. Described as a humble and clever man, he is known for his sense of humor and kindness – and his signature bow tie.

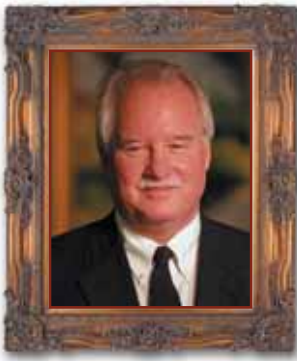


“Some lawyers are good on the facts, and others are good with the law. John was good at both.”

– BENNY HUGHES
Of Counsel, Orgain, Bell & Tucker

“It didn’t matter if you were the opposition lawyer, the court reporter or the person making copies for the law firm. He treated everybody as if they were someone special.”

– ANN ISLES
(the oldest of John Tucker’s three daughters)



BOB WORTHAM '71

Bob Wortham is an innovator and legal pioneer whose landmark cases have had national impact. Wortham, judge of 58th District Court in Jefferson County, served 12 years as U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Texas before becoming a partner in the Reaud, Morgan and Quinn Law Firm. He began his career as an assistant district attorney and, at age 31, was appointed to 60th District Court, becoming Texas’ youngest district judge. A 1971 Lamar graduate, Wortham is a philanthropist whose generosity has touched scores of individuals and organizations.

“Bob is a force of nature. He sets high goals for himself and pursues them. He’s been a judge, a prosecutor and a lawyer. It’s hard to do all those things right – and he’s succeeded in every one of them. The tone he sets is conducive to feeling good about yourself and wanting to work hard. He knows how to make people feel valued. Service is what motivates Bob. He’s happiest when he’s helping the public.”

– TOM KIEHNHOFF
Associate, Reaud Morgan & Quinn
Assistant U.S. Attorney, 1990-2001

To read more about the Legends of Southeast Texas, visit lamar.edu/legends.



The Distinguished Alumni
Awards Committee of the Lamar
University Alumni Advisory
Board selected three notable
alumni who were honored during
the annual Distinguished Alumni
Awards Dinner Oct. 27.

by Larry Acker

"The Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner is one of my favorite events of the year," President Jimmy Simmons said in opening remarks. "I want to say how proud we are of you as outstanding Lamar alumni. Welcome home to your alma mater."

Jill Roy, chair of the committee, presided over the prestigious event, attended by Lamar faculty, staff and alumni. The award recognizes alumni who have distinguished themselves in their careers or life's work. The award also honors alumni who work in community service and young alumni who have distinguished themselves early in their careers. The 2007 honorees included Randy Best '67, entrepreneur; Clara Brown Cooper '89, humanitarian; and Charles Cutler '61, inventor.

RANDY BEST began his entrepreneurial journey before he graduated from Lamar University in 1967 with a bachelor's degree in government, selling his seventh business to Beatrice Foods after graduation. He has founded or acquired more than 100 publicly or privately held companies during a 35-year span as a private investor and senior executive. Best was a founding partner in the merchant banking firm of Mason Best with offices in Texas and London. His business interests, based in Dallas, include specialty foods, health care, real estate, energy and education.

Lamar University has partnered with Best to provide master's-level courses to Texas teachers in a convenient course format with Lamar instructors. The application-based curriculum meets the practical needs of educators and school districts through relevant, research-based content. The program's unique instructional model provides the flexibility to meet the professional and personal needs of today's educators.

In 1994, Best founded Voyager Expanded Learning, a provider of in-school core reading programs, reading intervention programs and professional development programs for school districts throughout the United States. These programs are boosting student and teacher success in school districts across the country by addressing two major challenges in public education—teacher certification and student illiteracy. Best serves as a member of the Lamar University College of Business Board of Advisors.

"I'm most grateful to Lamar University for giving me a great education and for the many professors and others here who took a personal interest over a long period of time in my future," Best said in accepting the award. "One of the great regrets I have is waiting so long to come back to Lamar. I came back to see some of the professors whose lectures I remembered for decades only to find that many are gone. Whenever there was a world event, we would go to Dr. Fornell's class and sit on the floor just to listen to what he had to say about it. They were remarkable people who will live on in our hearts and memories forever."

Three honored as outstanding Cardinal alumni



RANDY BEST



CLARA BROWN COOPER



CHARLES CUTLER

CLARA BROWN COOPER earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Lamar University in 1989 and immediately began helping people—beginning her career with Big Brothers and Big Sisters as director in Fort Bend County. Her dream of helping a larger community came true after earning a master's degree and accepting a position working for the United Way campaign department to strengthen the relationship between corporate and non-profit communities. She now takes a more hands-on approach in serving her community as executive director of Target Hunger in Houston. Although Target Hunger was originally expected to aid 700 people per month, Cooper now finds herself serving well over 8,500 on a monthly basis. She has transformed Target Hunger from an outlet for clients to receive food as needed to an agency that offers various services such as assisting clients locate resources for rent, shelter and utilities. The agency has expanded to include after-school hot meals programs, computer training and partnerships with other agencies to provide back-to-school clothing and school supplies. Under her leadership, Target Hunger has partnered with agencies to provide life skills, health education, nutrition classes and GED courses. "We don't provide a quick fix. We try to get to the root of the problem," she said. "We do more than food here, we provide hope." She was selected the Distinguished Alumna for Community Service.

"I am truly honored to have been selected as an outstanding alumna this year," Cooper remarked as she accepted the distinguished alumni award. "I remember when I had my third child last year, and my mother told me I would have to slow down some now that I had three kids. She said some of my volunteer work would have to wait. Actually, more work came. There are so many worthy causes I believe in that need volunteers, it was impossible for me to turn away. I think everyone who has been blessed as I have must reach back to help others."

CHARLES CUTLER began his academic career in 1954 playing football for Lamar. He joined the Army in 1956, and his two-year stint included touring Europe on Army boxing and football teams until a broken leg sidelined the leading ground gainer. That break led Cutler back to Lamar and a degree in chemical engineering. A 1961 graduate, he worked for Shell USA for 23 years, exploring the intricacies of a relatively new computer control process. Cutler became the driving force behind bringing process control into the computer age. After leaving Shell, he founded Dynamic Matrix Control Corp., which today provides the most widely used process control software in the world. He sold the company in 1996 to create San Antonio-based Cutler Johnston Corp. to convert the dynamic matrix controller as a training simulator for control operators. Cutler holds several patents and is a member of the prestigious National Academy of Engineering. Despite a busy travel schedule, he still finds time to serve as a member of the College of Engineering Advisory Council.

"During the course of my life, I've had the chance to change course many times, and in each case it was an unplanned event," Cutler said during his acceptance remarks. "Breaking my leg in the Army changed my outlook from being a coach back into being an engineer. I probably would have been a lousy coach, but I turned out to be a reasonably good engineer. Another event was coming back here to Lamar. I had the opportunity to go to other schools, but the fact that I had married my wife of 53 years kept me here in Beaumont. In my many years at Shell, I had the opportunity to work with engineers from all the Ivy League schools, and I found out quickly that I could compete with anyone from anywhere with the education I received at Lamar University."

Distinguished alumni honors are awarded annually, and outstanding alumni may be nominated at any time by contacting the Alumni Affairs Office at (409) 880-8921 or lamaredu/alumni. The selection committee reviews nominations in March for selection. Nominees are eligible for the Distinguished Alumni Award for two years.

Lien assumes duties as Dishman director



FU-CHIA-WEN LIEN

For years, as art history professor at the Parsons School of Design, Fu-Chia-Wen Lien heard about New York City artists' flocking to Texas in search of a muse. Now, Lien can see for

herself the culture that draws so many talented individuals to the area. As the new director of Lamar's Dishman Art Museum, Lien is taking in every aspect of artistic life in Southeast Texas.

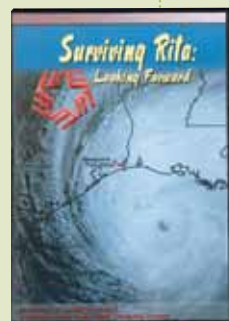
"The Dishman Art Museum is such a wonderful place to showcase not only the talent of our students and faculty, but also the varied talent of nationwide and worldwide artists," she said.

Originally from Taipei, Taiwan, Lien received her bachelor's degree in English literature from National Taiwan Normal University. There, she excelled in painting and drawing and nurtured a growing interest in art. She honed that talent at the University of North Carolina, where she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees while studying Western art traditions and modern art theory, history and practice.

To share her love of art with her homeland, Lien returned to Taiwan to work in the education department of the country's first modern art museum, Taipei Fine Arts Museum. In addition, Lien helped establish Taiwan's first alternative gallery, Space II. Her love of studying art earned Lien the prestigious Fulbright scholarship, allowing her to return to the United States to earn her Ph.D. in art history from the City University of New York Graduate Center in 2004. For her dissertation, Lien explored *The Body Politics of Decoration and Handicraft: Revisioning 1970s Feminist Art*.

Film takes first

The documentary *Surviving Rita: Looking Forward*, created by Lamar University students and graduates and supervised by two LU faculty members, has earned several prestigious awards, including first-place honors from the Houston Press Club and the Southeast Texas Press Club. In April 2007, the project took best documentary honors at the Louisiana State University's annual film festival. Gordon Williams, producer of the film, said he was happily surprised by the win at the Houston Press Club because it was up against Channel 13-KTRK, the ABC affiliate in Houston. KTRK took second and third place in the documentary competition.



Wetlands wins national recognition

Texas Wetlands, a film produced by the students and faculty of Lamar, won first place in the student/amateur category of the North American Association for Environmental Education/Pierce Foundation Environmental Education Film and Video Festival. "It is an honor to be able



DANIEL McLEMORE

to go to a school like Lamar that is not that well known and still be able to win such a prestigious award," said Daniel McLemore, producer and lead editor of *Texas Wetlands* and a junior communication major from Nederland. *Texas Wetlands* is an education film created for the JASON Alliance of Southeast Texas.



The film's purpose is to explain why the Texas wetlands are important and encourage people to protect them. Students in the

Department of Communication and 42 middle and high school students from Region 5 schools traveled to the wetlands of Texas, including the Big Thicket, Shangri La and the J.D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area, to film footage. Students in the communication department wrote, edited, were videographers and appeared as reporters in the film. As winner in the student/amateur category of the festival, McLemore premiered the film at the association's annual conference in Virginia Beach, Va., in November.

Students perfect song, dance and more at camps

Eduardo Garcia-Novelli, director of choral activities and camp director, greeted 16 young voice students when he conducted his first choir camp in the summer of 2002. In 2007, he welcomed 250 students to the All-State Choir Camp in June.

"We've been growing every year," he said. This one-week intensive program for high school students focuses on learning the repertoire for the All-Region and All-State Choir auditions. During the day, the schedule includes sectional and full rehearsals, sight-reading classes, diction classes, voice classes and lectures. Evenings are filled with recitals, recreational activities and a talent show. Instructors include statewide, award-winning choir teachers as well as Lamar faculty members.

Band Camp attracted about 360 students in June, said Bradley Kent, Lamar's director of



EDUARDO GARCIA-NOVELLI

bands and camp director. The camp focused on activities to improve interactive ensemble skills, as well as individual skills. Activities included rehearsals, sight-reading and theory classes, and electives, with recitals and talent shows in the evenings.

Theatre Camp in June included puppets, prose and plays as participants studied many aspects of the theater and performing on stage. Lamar theater students helped campers choreograph a Broadway-style dance from the musical *Grease*. In technique class, participants went through various techniques of acting, including voice and diction exercises and stagecraft. Students designed puppets for presentation, painted a set and rehearsed one-act plays, all designed to impart knowledge of theater as well as an appreciation of the art form.

During Dance Camp in July, dancers ages 12 to adult immersed themselves in the world of dance by working with inspiring teachers. Harriet Lihs is veteran director of the camp, which was offered for the ninth year. The camp taught ballet, modern dance and jazz, as well as special classes in tap, ballet repertoire and auditioning.

NEA conference attracts arts leaders to Lamar

"A great nation deserves great art," according to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). That declaration is part of the agency's logo and literature—a mission statement for an agency that is the nation's official arts organization and largest source of arts funding.

Executives of both the NEA and the Texas Commission on the Arts were at Lamar June 14 to share their visions on arts and society with leaders of arts organizations across the region and beyond. The College of Fine Arts and Communication and Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Administration hosted the conference.

The speakers were Tony Chauveaux, deputy director for grants and awards for the Washington, D.C.-based NEA, and Ricardo Hernandez, executive director of the Texas Commission on the Arts in Austin.

Chauveaux is a longtime Beaumont lawyer, community leader and supporter of Lamar University. He divides his time between Beaumont and Washington.



RICARDO HERNANDEZ



BRIAN SATTLER

Storey makes history

The East Texas Historical Association honored John Storey '61, award-winning author and historian and Regents' Professor of History, for his "exemplary contribution as a teacher and keeper of East Texas history."

Storey, history department chair and a 40-year faculty veteran, accepted the association's East Texas Educator of the Year Award Sept. 29 in Nacogdoches.

Storey said, "I try to emphasize that history is not just dates. History is about people. It's about movements. It's important that my students understand the sequence of events—the cause and effect. Hopefully, I make history come alive."

Storey is the author or co-author of seven books.



TONY CHAUVEAUX

CHRIS CASTILLO

"In this community, the arts are a real window into the university," Chauveaux said. "Campuses are the greatest patrons of the arts in our nation, and Lamar is a gem in the community."

Surveys show arts participation correlates with positive civic behavior, Chauveaux said. "Without art, we would not have the society we want. Take art away, and you're left with a diminished thing."

The Texas Commission on the Arts provides grants, information and technical assistance to artists, art organizations and the general public.

"We fund 98 percent of all applications that come to us—but it took us years to get there," Hernandez said.

The commission works with about 8,000 organizations on a regular basis, he said—from "mom-and-pop shoebox" organizations to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston—and provides funding to more than 1,000 of them annually.

Literary Lamar

Wright explores Oklahoma bombing

Stuart Wright, professor of sociology and assistant director of the Office of Research, has published his

fourth book, *Patriots, Politics and the Oklahoma City Bombing*. Cambridge University Press is its publisher. The book is a historical and sociological study of the militant, underground Patriot movement as it metamorphosed into a violent, anti-government movement in the 1990s, culminating in the bombing.

"I began writing this book about the bombing itself, but, as I researched the history and ideology of Patriot groups, I detected numerous threads linking this event to a series of movements that spanned several decades, reaching back to the heyday of the Cold-War years," Wright said.

Wright's study builds on face-to-face interviews with Timothy McVeigh, the convicted Oklahoma City bomber. The author served as a consultant to McVeigh's defense team.

"The story of the Oklahoma City bombing is one that Stuart Wright is uniquely qualified to tell because of his masterful understanding of the Patriot movement . . .," writes Carl Smith, distinguished professor of English and American studies at Northwestern University. "The result is a remarkably compelling analysis of the fateful social and political dynamics that brought McVeigh and his truckload of explosives to Oklahoma City. This book is an informative, insightful and gripping study that is at once irresistibly fascinating and deeply disturbing."

Wright is internationally recognized for his research and analysis of religious movements, domestic terrorism and militia groups.

Vanderleeuw examines racial politics

The issue of race has always intrigued James Vanderleeuw, professor of political science at Lamar.

"Growing up, I came to political awareness during a turbulent era in our nation," says Vanderleeuw, also director of Lamar's Center for Public Policy Studies. "There were protests to the Vietnam War, Civil Rights marches and the urban riots of the mid-1960s."

After decades of scholarly research and publications, he is now the co-author of a book on the subject, *Race Rules: Electoral Politics in New Orleans, 1965-2006*, published by Rowan & Littlefield's Lexington Books division in October 2007.

His collaborator is Baodong Liu, professor of political science at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

"This volume should be on the shelf of all those interested in racial and urban politics," wrote Charles S. Bullock III of the University of Georgia.



STUART WRIGHT



▶ Bassoon tunes

Bassoonists Patrick Todd, a Port Neches-Groves High School graduate, and Natalia Albacete, a graduate of Beaumont West Brook, share the spotlight at the opening concert of the 2007-2008 *Lamarissimo!* concert series. The Lamar Wind Ensemble and Concert Band brought up the curtain on the series' 18th season Oct. 9 in the Julie Rogers Theatre.



ROHN WENNER

La Dolce Vita . . . sweet success

About 300 patrons enjoyed a weekend of fine wine and cuisine when the Dishman Art Museum hosted La Dolce Vita. Now in its fourth year, the three-tier event benefits the museum's collections and educational programs. Featured chef Johnny Carrabba proved a popular attraction during the weekend, presenting both a gourmet vintner dinner Oct. 19 and a cooking demonstration Oct. 20. On the evening of Oct. 20, guests sampled international fare and complementary wines.



Italian fare included shrimp scampi and other delights.

▶ Wine-pairing patron Anne Kilman of Katy savors one of the many delectable dishes offered at the event, served by senior art student Brittney Ragsdale of Vidor.



▲ Guests fill the Dishman Art Museum for the wine pairing, which featured Mediterranean, Italian, French, Asian and dessert stations.



▶ Guest chef Johnny Carrabba charms the audience with his culinary skills and family stories.



▶ Johnny Carrabba, assisted by Wayne DaSilva, proprietor of Carrabba's Italian Grill in Beaumont, amazes the audience with the preparation of homemade pasta.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHELLE CATE AND ROHN WENNER

ArtsNotes

The neo-expressionist works of distinguished alumnus **John Alexander** '68 will be on display Dec. 21 through March 16 in the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C. *John Alexander: A Retrospective* is the first full-scale examination of the Beaumont-born artist's three-decade career. It includes about 40 paintings and 30 works on paper from the late 1970s to the present, highlighting Alexander's engagement with the American landscape. The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, organized the exhibition . . . Le Grand Bal, major annual fund-raiser for the College of Fine Arts and Communication, will honor **Gay (Duckworth)** '80 and **Bill Scott** '70, business and civic leaders. The gala, featuring a Renaissance theme, is scheduled March 29 in the Dishman Art Museum and Montagne Center. **Beverly** '80 and **Carl Parker** will chair the event, hosted by the Lamar Friends of the Arts. For reservations,



JOHN ALEXANDER

and assemblages. Wubben is a professor of printmaking and drawing at McNeese

State University. Visitors to the museum found themselves "overwhelmed by his black-and-white paintings of complex round patterns," said **Lynne Lokensgard**, professor of art history.

"His work, as presented in this exhibition space, projects graphic power and hauntingly evocative shapes." . . .

Kathleen LeBlanc-Hood '06, a graduate assistant in the Department of Music, Theatre & Dance, participated recently in two prestigious musical events at The Boston Conservatory. She attended classes and performed May 29-June 10 at the International Woodwind Festival 2007. On Oct. 21, she returned to Boston for Clarinet Day at the conservatory, billed "a complete day of all things clarinet." LeBlanc-Hood, now of Beaumont, is a Bridge City High School graduate. She has guest-conducted the Lamar Concert Band for the last two *Lamarissimo!* performances . . . **Eric Gunter** '04, a graduate student in English from Port



GERRY WUBBEN

MICHELLE CATE

Neches, has earned the Frank O'Connor Award for a short story published in *Descant*, the literary journal of Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. The award, which carries a \$500 prize, honors the best short story appearing in the 2007 issue of the journal. "Last year, *Descant* received more than 500 short story submissions," said **David Kuhne**, *Descant* editor and associate director of the William L. Adams Center for Writing at TCU. "Of those, we were able to publish 13 in *Descant* 2007. As editor, I judged Eric's story, *The Colored Boy*, to be the best of those 13 stories."



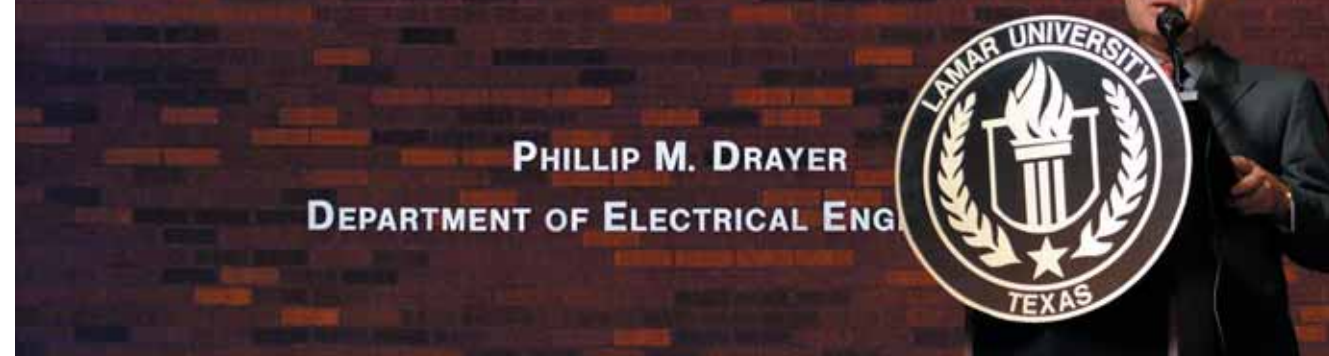
ERIC GUNTER

call (409) 880-8137 . . . Works by Lake Charles artist **Gerry Wubben**, two-time winner of Lamar's Dishman Competition, attracted acclaim during a fall exhibition at the Dishman Art Museum. Wubben attended a reception in his honor Oct. 12 and spoke Oct. 30 at the museum. The exhibition, *One Decade: Gerry Wubben*, included larger-than-life charcoal drawings, paintings



Empowering potential

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



by Brian Sattler

As chairman of the Lamar University College of Engineering Advisory Council, Phil Drayer '67 is helping bring to life the college's motto — Imagine it. Design it. Build it. Improve it. He and his wife, Karen, are backing confidence in the college with a \$5 million gift.

In celebration of their generous philanthropy, the Phillip M. Drayer Department of Electrical Engineering was named Oct. 22.

Of his leadership and the gift to engineering, Drayer said, "My goal is to do what I can to return the Lamar College of Engineering generally, and the electrical engineering department specifically, to national prominence for research in certain competencies and to see it produce top-notch graduates who can make a big contribution for many years to come."

"This \$5 million gift will transform the electrical engineering program and, ultimately, the college," said James Simmons, president of the university. "It will enable us to recruit top-quality faculty and students, provide research and scholarship assistance, and help the college to grow in many other ways."



"It will be a great honor to have the Drayer name linked in perpetuity with a great department, a great college and a great university," Simmons said. "The endowment to fund the naming of the department will memorialize Phillip M. Drayer, thanks to a wonderful couple who, in their lives together, have made a commitment to philanthropy on a high level and to supporting excellence and opportunity for future generations."

Honored as a distinguished alumnus in 2006, Drayer knows how to make a positive impact in business and in life. He also recalls how Lamar was ranked among the nation's best

small-college engineering programs when he attended. He hopes to see Lamar engineering achieve growing state and national recognition for its accomplishments and quality.

"I feel like the luckiest man in the world this morning," Drayer said at the unveiling of the new department name, citing the people in his life, from his parents, to teachers, to colleagues and his wife, Karen. "If you don't have an anchor at home, going through all the gyrations that are required to get to this point, I can promise you that this wouldn't happen."

Now "safely retired for about the third time," you'll likely find Phil Drayer serving a kill shot on the racquetball court, or serving on the board of some august organizations. In either case, his penchant for progress propels him.

Most recently, Drayer served as a member of Gov. Rick Perry's original 17-member executive committee for the Emerging Technology Fund, helping direct the state-sponsored venture funds investment in new start-up technology companies in Texas.

Today, he continues service on the board of the World Affairs Council in Dallas and the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think-tank in Washington, D.C. His civic-minded contributions include service on the board of governors for the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. Drayer has chaired Lamar's Engineering Advisory Council since 2005 and is a trustee of the Lamar University Foundation.

Being able to make a multi-million-dollar gift to his alma mater might have seemed beyond the realm of imagination to this Beaumont native as he made the drive to California in 1967 to take a job with Teledyne Systems Inc. He had just graduated from Lamar with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and had worked at Teledyne the summer before, an opportunity facilitated by his brother Larry '60, a Lamar graduate and an engineer there.

"I was always impressed by the education I got at LU," Drayer said. "LU equipped me to go head to head with people from Cal Tech, MIT and Berkley. What I discovered was that after six months, they were all coming to me for answers. I got a much better education at LU than they got at those schools."

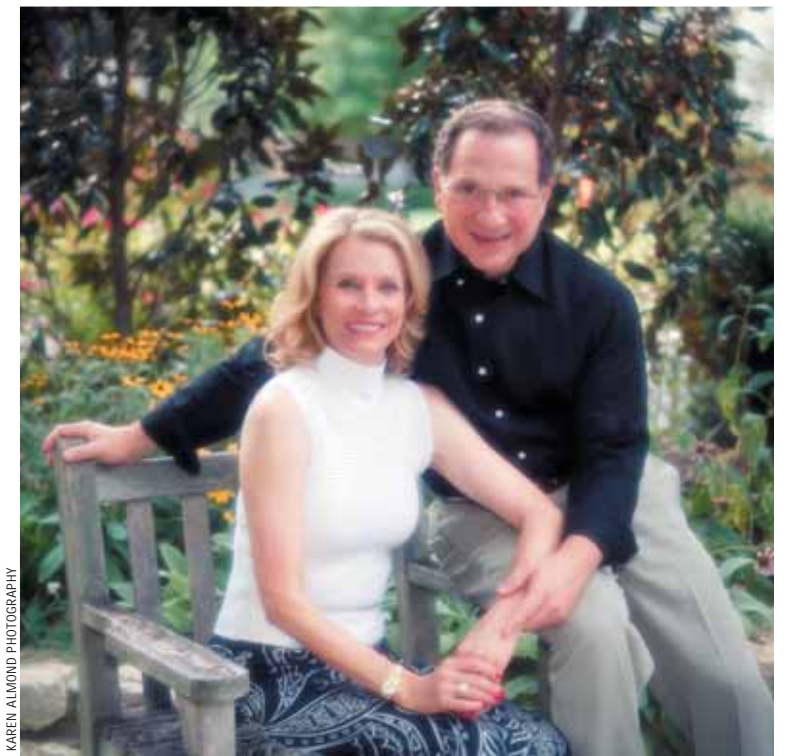
At Teledyne, he worked on a Department of Defense contract to develop a fully digital, very high-speed navigation receiver for high-performance aircraft; soon, however, he began to develop a growing interest in a new technology called Metal-Oxide Semiconductor (MOS) that created wafer-thin transistors.

"I wanted to move into semiconductors and integrated circuit design because I felt there would be a good future there," Drayer said.

Being a Texan, Drayer naturally looked to Texas Instruments for that opportunity. He got the nod to join TI's MOS group and soon found himself as one of the original contributors to its MOS business in Stafford, Texas, near Houston. He would spend eight

"LU equipped me to go head to head with people from Cal Tech, MIT and Berkley."

—PHILLIP DRAYER



KAREN AND PHIL DRAYER

years with TI, starting as an integrated circuit designer for military applications.

In 1971, he would take MOS from the realm of military secrets to the commercial world as he led a team in developing the first volume production of the single-chip calculator. It would become the first MOS circuit to reach volume production at TI.

TI's success propelled the company toward MOS solid-state memory, aiding the development of ever-smaller computer

components, Drayer said. He advanced from design to leadership in manufacturing engineering, helping bring concept to commercial viability, then profitability. After successes there, Drayer joined a TI spin-off company—Mostech Corp.—that was created to advance and market emerging microprocessor technology. Drayer began as team leader of the company's microprocessor designers, bringing its first products from the drawing board to life. Again, Drayer soon made a move from design to manufacturing, eventually running the company's

on-shore and offshore assembly and test operations.

That propensity to move from design to leadership roles is attributable both to opportunity and to preparation. While many of his peers were pursuing advanced engineering and business degrees, Drayer attended night school at South Texas College of Law in Houston to earn a juris doctorate. With its concentration in corporate law, Drayer—and others—saw his legal background as a degree of distinction.



BRIAN SATTLER

"I always wanted to start my own company, and I felt that my technical education and experience, coupled with a legal education, would provide me a unique background," Drayer said. He remains a member of the State Bar of Texas.

In 1980, Drayer started his first company—EPI Technologies—a semiconductor contract manufacturer. "We were one of the early inventors of the contract manufacturing business," Drayer said.

Soon, the Dallas company was making semiconductors for customers like TI, Motorola and Fairchild, as well as highly reliable circuits for the Department of Energy's nuclear applications.

In 1990, Drayer "came full circle" when he took leadership of a company owned by Teledyne Industries—his first employer. "The semiconductor industry was going through another one of its severe recessions," Drayer said. "Teledyne's semiconductor group's financial performance was bad and getting worse."

He rescued the floundering high-tech company from a relentless pounding by the industry's "boom-and-bust cycles." In two years, a thorough restructure and turn-around was complete, and the once-shunned company was highly desirable.

"We ended up buying the semiconductor business from Teledyne," Drayer said. Soon, a new company, TelCom Semiconductor, was created to develop a series of standard and semi-standard high-performance products destined for use in cellular phones, personal computers and other consumer products. The formula met success, the company grew, and profitability was up. In 2000, Drayer sold the company to Microchip of Phoenix, Ariz.

Drayer then took his combination of high-tech savvy and business acumen to the venture capital arena as president and CEO of Kalydus Equity Research Partners, a company providing equity research for Wall Street investment firms and the Bank of America. Perry tapped Drayer's business acumen and high-tech savvy soon after that to help guide the Emerging Technology Fund.

"Rarely does a day go by that I don't think that all I may have, or have accomplished, was in large measure because Lamar was there to give me a start," Drayer said. "I can assure you that when I was a graduate in 1967 if someone had told me I was going to be standing here in the Phillip M. Drayer Department of Electrical Engineering, I would have thought they were absolutely crazy."

Hybrid know-how, entrepreneurial élan



"When I graduated, engineers went to work for one of a dozen large companies," Phil Drayer said. "Now the spectrum for things to do is much, much broader."

That is why Drayer is an active proponent of developing a cross-flow between the colleges of engineering and business to provide Lamar's graduates a distinctive advantage in the high-tech marketplace.

"The engineering profession is becoming more and more entrepreneurial in nature. Today, most jobs and innovation are found in small and medium-sized entrepreneurial businesses. And, many of today's graduates will get the bug to do something entrepreneurial on their own."

Likewise, Drayer sees continuing opportunity for venture capital and financial institutions as they support increasing numbers of new, upcoming or separating businesses.

It would be a clear advantage for engineering majors to graduate with some business background, he said. "Not like me, who had no idea what a profit-and-loss statement was," Drayer said. "I know now what my weakness was when I started my first business at age 35. I started from a very deep hole and had to learn as I went along. I could have gotten my business started a lot quicker than I did had I been equipped from a business perspective."

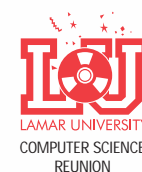
Likewise, business students would benefit by being exposed to the technical jargon and aspects of the technology business, Drayer believes.

"Graduates who have a big-picture perspective and take chief-financial-officer or chief-operating-officer positions inside companies would have a real advantage," he said. "Reciprocal exposure between business and engineering would make a much more desirable candidate coming out of the university."

—BKS

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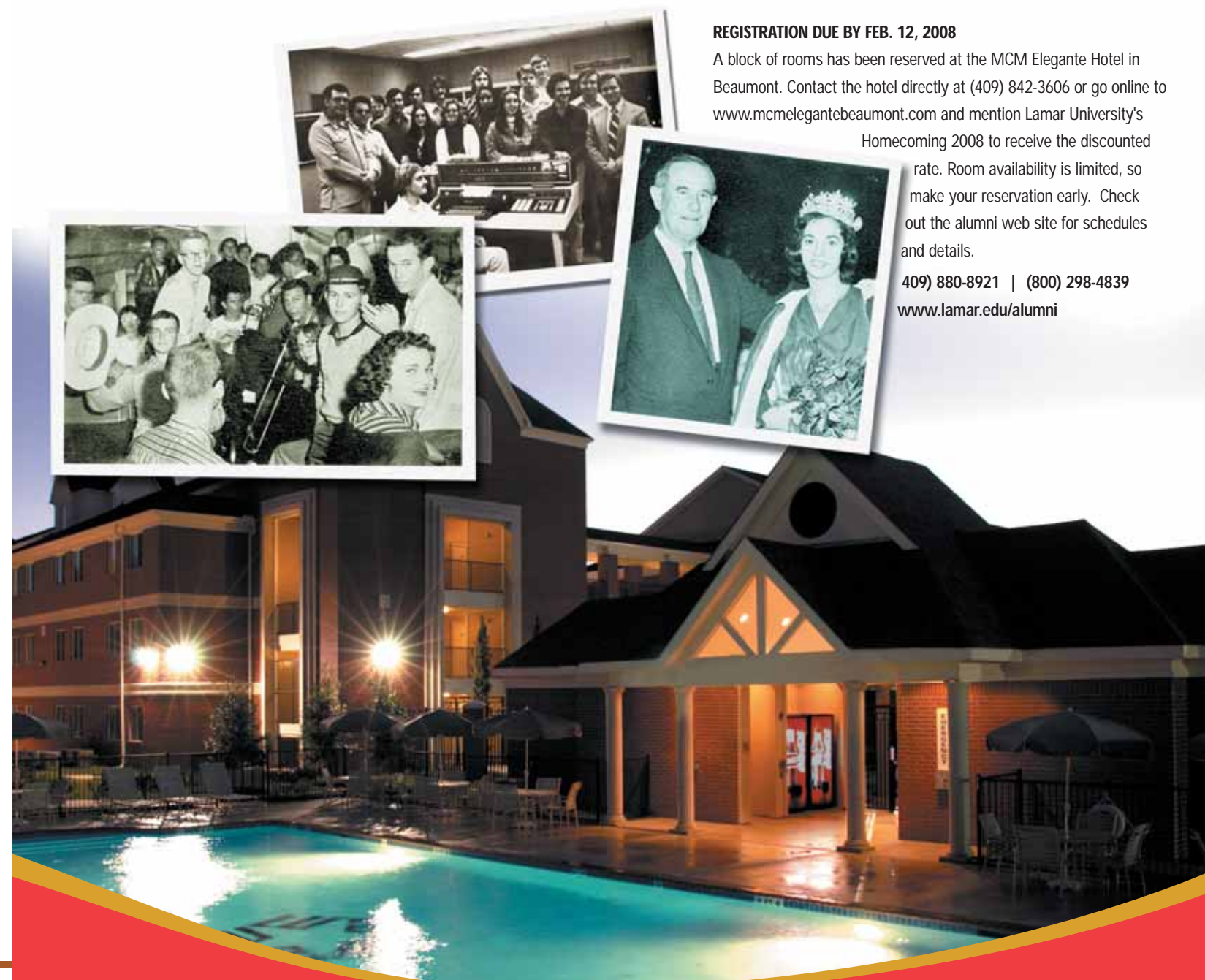
A block of rooms has been reserved at the MCM Elegante Hotel in Beaumont. Contact the hotel directly at (409) 842-3606 or go online to www.mcmelegantebeaumont.com and mention Lamar University's

Homecoming 2008 to receive the discounted

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From left, Ewan Simpson, Danny Shaw, Francis Kasagule, Randy Becker, Aaron Brannen, Frank Bwambale, Samuel Kosgei and Drew Bean. Two-time all-American Kasagule is holding the trophy.

Cross country captures second straight SLC Championship

by Drew Lacy

The foundation was already in place for a repeat with the men's cross country team returning all five runners that clinched the 2006 Southland Conference title. The only thing missing from a second straight SLC title was for the Cardinals to run the race.

In a span of 30 minutes, the LU men had finished the job they had come to do in Corpus Christi. The Cardinals celebrated their second straight conference championship by putting five individuals among the top 15 runners in the SLC meet at West Guth Park.

The Cardinals posted a team score of 37 points to win the title, while Texas A&M Corpus Christi finished in second place with 44 points and UT-Arlington finished third with 73 points. The win was the seventh SLC team title for Lamar, tying them for the most in conference history with McNeese State and former member Abilene Christian.

"Winning this championship is special for several reasons," cross country coach Sita Waru-Ewell said. "The first reason is that this is what we were supposed to do. We returned everybody from a year ago, but repeating a championship is very hard, especially when everybody around you expects it from you. The other reason is that it puts us in a tie for the most team championships in conference history. That says a lot about what kind of program we have right now, and

what kind of history we have."

Sophomore Francis Kasagule led the way for the Cardinals, running to a second-place finish in a time of 24:12.5 over 8,000 meters. He finished eight seconds behind Shadrack Songok of TAMUCC, who set a new SLC meet record with a 24:04.6 performance. As a freshman in 2006, Kasagule registered a third-place finish.

Junior Samuel Kosgei, who finished second a year ago, was the second LU runner to cross the finish line, grabbing a fourth-place finish in a time of 24:38.8, while junior Frank Bwambale registered a seventh-place finish in a time of 25:10.1. Senior Danny Shaw completed his SLC Championship career with his third straight Top 10 finish, grabbing 10th place in a time of 25:25.0. The four Cardinals in the Top 10 all earned all-conference honors.

Freshman Drew Bean, who was running only the second race of his collegiate career, completed the scoring for the Cardinals with a 14th-place finish in a time of 25:41.9. Sophomore Randy Becker was the sixth LU runner to cross the finish line, grabbing 16th place in a time of 25:49.1, while sophomore Aaron Brannen finished 22nd in a time of 26:11.3. Junior Ewan Simpson closed out the Lamar performance with 28th-place finish, running a 26:41.7.

Another Repeat Performance

Although the Lady Cardinals cross country team fell just short of a fourth consecutive conference title—edged out by Texas A&M Corpus Christi by four points—the individual performance of senior Clerc Koenck made history. After becoming the first Lady Cardinal to capture the Southland Conference crown as a junior in 2006, Koenck became the first Lamar University runner, male or female, to repeat as a cross country conference champion with a 20:48.1 performance over 6,000 meters. The only runner to register three straight championships since 1997 is Lamar coach Sita Waru-Ewell, who accomplished the feat from 1999-2001 while running for McNeese.

Junior Renee Graham continued her run of second-place finishes in the SLC championship, grabbing the No. 2 spot for the third straight season.

Freshman Rachel Kingsford was the third Lady Cardinal to finish in the top 10, grabbing a 10th-place finish. Like the men, the three runners in the top 10 earned all-conference honors.

* * * *

The Cardinals continued their successful season with impressive performances at the South Central Regional in Fayetteville, Ark., on Nov. 10. The men's team turned in a fourth-place finish, while the women placed sixth. Kasagule, Kosgey, Bwambale, Koenck and Graham all earned all-region honors with their top 25 finishes.

Individually, three LU runners punched their ticket to the NCAA Championship in Terre Haute, Ind. Kasagule and Koenck earned automatic berths with their second- and fourth-place finishes, while Graham earned an at-large bid after finishing in 11th place.

—DL

CLERC KOENCK



Scavenger hunt nets the goods

The second-annual canned food scavenger hunt held Oct. 15 by the Lamar University Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)—which includes members from all Lamar athletic teams—brought in 1,300 pounds of canned goods for the Southeast Texas Food Bank. Emelie Irving, executive director of the Southeast Texas Food Bank, was on hand to accept the donation and address the crowd in attendance at the Montagne Center.

Members from all of Lamar's athletic teams met at Rogers Park at the corner of Dowlen and Gladys and split into small groups to search for the food from houses in the surrounding neighborhood. The canned goods were given to the Southeast Texas Food Bank as part of a presentation during the Big Red Mania pep rally.



LU SOCCER TEAM

Left to right, front row:

Kari Melancon, Lauren Messick, Kelsie Binetti, Lauren Ludwig, Mindy Gremillion, Haley Addison;

middle row: Carrie Mrazek,

Lauren Peterson, Brittany Ross, Yureli Gomez, Aline Pugliesi, Beth Squires, Heather Broussard;

back row: athletic trainer Josh Yonker, former volunteer assistant coach Gina Fulner-Dillon, Ericka Predmore, Erin Binaglia, Staci McGuire, Leslie Myers, Stefani Turner, Jillian Lindsey, Lauree Thibaut, Logan Matt, Rachelle Barry, Toree Plaia, former head coach Matthew Dillon, assistant coach Jodi Clugston.

Cardinals

After three straight years of advancing to the semifinals of the Southland Conference Tournament, Lamar is poised for a run at the SLC Tournament title and a trip to the NCAA Tournament.

Steve Roccaforte '89 guided the Cardinals to a 15-17 overall record and an 8-8 mark in SLC play in his first year at the helm. He returns a solid nucleus of six letterwinners, including four starters, that has optimism running high in Cardinal country.

Lamar was the No. 7-seed at last year's SLC Tournament, played at the Campbell Center in Houston. The Cardinals upset No. 2-seed Sam Houston State, 99-98, when Darren Hopkins hit a driving layup with 2.6 seconds remaining in the game. Lamar's season ended with a 78-65 loss to No. 3-seed Northwestern State in the semifinals.

The six returning players accounted for 66 percent of the scoring and 59 percent of the rebounding from last year's squad.

The Cardinals return four senior starters in Matthew Barrow, Darren Hopkins, Lamar Sanders and Currye Todd. Also returning are junior forward Lawrence Nwevo and sophomore guard Shane Mahoney.

That returning fire-power did not go unnoticed to the rest of the conference as Lamar was picked to finish first in the SLC East Division in the preseason coaches' poll. Additionally, Sanders was named to the pre-season all-SLC first team and Hopkins was a second-team selection.

The recruiting haul landed a top-flight point guard in Kenny Dawkins, who was an NJCAA second-team All-American. Brandon McThay was also added to provide backcourt depth. Lamar returns two letterwinners to front-court and will count on four recruits to provide interior defense, rebounding and some scoring punch: juniors Jay Brown, Justin Nabors and Tristan Worrell (Houston, Texas/Angelina College) and sophomore Ashton Hall. The Cardinals will also gain the services of Coy Custer, who was redshirted last season as a freshman.



Lady Cardinals

With just four returning players, 10 newcomers and a new head coach, Lady Cardinal basketball has a new look for the 2007-08 season, a look they hope to parlay into championship contender status.

Head coach Larry Tidwell and his staff of Sondra Ancelot '94, '05, Janet Eaton and Joey Wells made an immediate impact on the recruiting trail, inking the No. 31-ranked class in the NCAA, as ranked by The Collegiate Girls Basketball Report. They addressed their need at each position with impact players on the perimeter and size and development in the paint, while adhering to the philosophy of "pure energy" by playing up-tempo, pressing basketball.

The Lady Cards were tabbed the top team in the Southland Conference Eastern Division by the coaches and second in the east by the sports information directors. Returning players are sophomore Brittney Williams, senior Aida Bakhos, Jasmine Stewart and Vickie Toney.

Joining them is a talented group of newcomers, led by 5-6 point guard Nikki Williams—a 1st-team NJCAA All-American who is an explosive floor-leader and a quality shooter from behind the arc. Tamara Abalde, a 6-2 small forward has size and versatility on the perimeter and helped Spain finish 4th in the 19U European Championships held in Slovakia during the summer.

Ashley Crawford, a 5-6 point guard, displays a speedy, athletic combo-guard game, best suited for Tidwell's up-tempo style.

Emily Spickler, a 5-7 shooting guard, finished 2nd in the NJCAA in 3-point field goal percentage and led the nation in free-throw percentage in 2007. Agnija Reke, a 5-8 shooting guard, was a starter on the 2007 Wranglers team that captured the NJCAA national championship.

The Lady Cardinals also bulked up in the post, adding Natasha Ward, a 6-5 center; Brittany Hendrix, a 5-11 small forward; Trashanna Smith, a 6-0 forward; and Nicole Aiken, a 6-3 center.

With the talent Tidwell and staff have assembled, this year's team will look to force the issue on the court and become a force in the SLC.

class notes

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

Write to Cadence,
P.O. Box 10011,
Beaumont, TX 77710,
email cynthia.hicks@lamar.edu
or call (409) 880-8421.

Clarence J. LeLeaux Jr. '49, certif. chemistry, lives in Houston with his wife, Josephine.

50s

Harold W. Davis '50, A.A. engineering, is chief financial officer for EWSCO and lives in Idaho Falls, Idaho, with his wife, Enid.

Leonard E. Davis '50, certif. engineering, received his bachelor's degree in mathematics from Trinity University in 1953, and his juris doctorate from the University of Texas in 1958. He practices law at his own firm in San Antonio, where he lives with his wife, Jean. They have three children and four grandchildren.

Neil J. Sheffield Jr. '50, certif., lives in Tyler with his wife, Margie.

John A. Smart Jr. '50, certif. business, received his bachelor's degree from the University of Texas in 1954. He is retired and lives in Centennial, Colo., with his wife, Marriott.

Col. Robert F. Darden Jr. '51, certif., received his bachelor's degree from the University of Omaha in 1962, and his master's from American University in 1974. He is an Air Force retiree and lives in Waco with his wife, Jo Ann. They have three children.

Dr. Joseph E. Dugas Jr. '51, certif., earned his master's in 1956 and his law degree in 1971. He is a retired surgeon and lives in New Orleans with his wife, Betty.

John H. Marshall '54, B.S. business administration, received a law degree from St. Mary's University in 1957 and his master's from New York University in 1958. He recently received a 50-year service award from the State Bar of Texas and practices law in Houston, where he lives with his wife, Jacquelyn.

R. Guy Williford '54, B.S. business administration, is retired and lives in Port Neches with his wife, Neva.

Janie E. (Findley) Lunceford '55, B.S. education, is a paralegal for Zbranek Law Firm and lives in Liberty. She has three children and seven grandchildren.

Gene M. Shaw '55, B.S. health education, is retired and lives in Nederland with his wife, Gail.

Robert V. Birch '57, B.S. secondary education, earned his master's degree in secondary education from the University of Houston in 1965. He is retired and lives in West Columbia with his wife, Celeste.

Thomas E. Dwyer '57, B.S. industrial engineering, retired from the Air Force in 1974 as a lieutenant colonel and command pilot. He lives in Conroe with his wife, Barbara '48, certif. vocation.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY DELTA SIGMA!

Delta Sigma Chapter of
Zeta Tau Alpha

Celebrates the 45th anniversary of the founding of the Lamar University chapter Feb. 22-24, 2008.

For more information, visit www.lamar.edu/alumni.

Martha (Moulden) Bruce '61, B.B.A. office administration, lives in Beaumont.

Ed. E. Canoll Jr. '61, B.F.A. graphic design, is retired and lives in Rosenberg with his wife, Linda.

Betty (Simmons) Cochran '61, B.A. English, '63, M.A. English, lives in Washington, N.C., with her husband, William.

Dudley D. English '61, B.S. chemical engineering, has retired as director of engineering for Olin Corp. and lives in Tallahassee, Fla.

Daniel F. Greer '61, B.S. social sciences, earned his master's degree in education and counseling in 1968. He works part time for the University of Alaska Southeast and lives in Ketchikan, Alaska, with his wife, Rita.

Barbara (Power) Idleman '61, B.S. secondary education, has recently become a great-grandmother. She is retired and lives in Macon, Ga.

James A. Harvard '62, B.S. mechanical engineering, is retired and lives in Hendersonville, N.C., with his wife, Judith.

Katherine (Marsch) Henderson '62, B.S. elementary education, is a retired teacher and lives in Taylorville, Iowa, with her husband, Patrick. They have twin granddaughters.

Charles M. McBride '62, B.S. industrial engineering, earned a Ph.D. in engineering in 1967. He is retired and lives in Robinson with his wife, Ida (Bridgewater) '62, certif. secretarial science.

Sarah (Winchester) Rankin '62, B.A. English, is a retired teacher and lives in Tucson, Ariz.

Thomas E. Short Jr. '62, B.S. chemical engineering, earned his Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University in 1970. He is retired and lives in Ada, Okla., with his wife, Debbie. They have three sons.

Earl L. Walker '62, B.A. sociology, lives in Kailua, Hawaii. He has one daughter and two grandchildren.

Jeanette (Decker) Weems '62, B.A. English, is a retired teacher and lives in LaGrange with her husband, Dalton.

Cary (Van Vleck) West '62, B.S. music, is a substitute teacher and a substitute driver for Marble Falls school district. She lives in Burnett with her husband, Norman.

Phyllis (Lee) Baker '63, B.S. secondary education, earned her master's degree in biology in 1971. She is the chair of the science department for Port Arthur school district and lives in Port Arthur.

Charles Alexander '58, B.A. history, earned his Ph.D. from the University of Texas in 1962. He has since retired after 45 years of teaching and lives in Butler County, Ohio, with his wife, JoAnn.

Shirley (Metreyeon) Broussard '58, B.S. physical education, is retired from Nederland school district and lives in Nederland with her husband, Paul.

Kenneth R. Garner '58, B.B.A. marketing, is retired from Sears Roebuck and lives in Odessa.

John B. Hancock '58, B.B.A. accounting, is a self-employed investment advisor and lives in Sugar Land.

Jamie G. James '58, B.S. graphic design, is owner and president of the James Agency in San Diego, Calif.

Harry E. Langert '58, B.B.A. business administration, is advisor to the president of Taylor Made Adidas Golf Co. and lives in La Quinta, Calif., with his wife, Jane.

Capt. Don McWilliams '58, B.S. government, is a retired pilot for the Federal Aviation Administration and lives in Kilgore.

Melvin E. O'Mealey '58, B.S. mechanical engineering, is retired and lives in Aurora, Colo., with his wife, Jerry.

Carole (Yant) Tanner '58, B.S. music, lives in Liberty, Mo., with her husband, Jim.

Ronald R. Wallace '58, B.B.A. marketing, is the slot manager for Agua Caliente Casino and lives in Cathedral City, Calif.

Ronnie R. Webb '58, B.B.A. economics, is a computer systems analyst for Motorola and lives in Austin with his wife, Joan.

Roy A. Johlke '59, B.S. industrial engineering, is retired and lives in Tomball.

Sue (Sherer) Jones '59, B.B.A. office administration, retired after 37 years with DuPont and lives in Port Neches with her husband, James.

Bette (Rudd) Liebgold '59, B.S. secondary education, earned her master's degree in math from Louisiana State University in 1963. She is retired and lives in Houston with her husband, Peter.

60s

Martha (Sanders) Campbell '60, B.A. English, lives in Austin with her husband, John '64, B.S. mathematics.

Deward P. Bowles '61, B.A. English, earned his master's degree in English from the University of Arkansas in 1963. He is self-employed and lives in San Jose, Calif.



PIKE
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August 8-10, 2008
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Mac R. Chandler '63, B.S. sociology, earned his master's degree in public administration from the University of Texas in 1970 and lives in Staunton, Va.

Louise (Jacobson) Gallher '63, B.S. elementary education, lives in Chevy Chase, Md., with her husband, Richard. They have two children.

William T. Kee '63, B.S. mathematics, is retired and lives in Royal, Ark., with his wife, Edna.

Dan G. Sassin '63, B.S. electrical engineering, is retired and lives in New Braunfels with his wife, LaVerne.

Richard J. Thiem Jr. '63, B.B.A. accounting, is retired from American National Insurance Co. and lives in Galveston.

Lynton H. Thomas '63, B.S. mechanical engineering, is retired and lives in Calvert City, Ky., with his wife, Betty.

Glenda (Salem) Bays '64, B.S. elementary education, lives in Longview with her husband, Ed.

Jim B. Boone '64, B.S. music; '70, M.Ed. guidance; '74, M.Ed. school administration, is retired and lives in Colmesneil with his wife, **Linda (Laughman)** '62, B.S. elementary education.

Charles A. Brown '64, B.S. electrical engineering, is a marketing consultant for Ranken Energy Corp. and lives in Edmond, Okla., with his wife, Shirley.

James Robert Collins '64, B.A. mathematics, earned his M.B.A. in management from the University of Dallas and a master's degree and doctorate in electrical engineering from Texas A&M University–Commerce. He is head of industrial engineering and technology, Dwight Look College of Engineering with Texas A&M–Commerce. He lives in Farmersville with his wife, **Claude Ann (Riggs)** '64, B.S. mathematics.

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

Robert M. Giesy Jr. '64, B.A. sociology, is retired and lives in Charleston, S.C.

Jo Ann (Thomas) Griffin '64, B.S. sociology, received her master's degree in counseling from the University of Delaware in 1972. She is retired and lives in Wilmington, Del.

Larry V. Hardy '64, B.S. sociology, is retired and lives in Oxford, Ohio, with his wife Katherine. They have three children and four grandchildren.

George E. Mathesen '64, B.F.A. graphic design, earned his master's degree in 1965 from Instituto Allende in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. He is retired and lives in San Antonio with his wife, Lucy.

Fred B. McKinley '64, B.A. political science, '87, M.A. history, retired from Willow Creek Publishing Co. in 2005. He recently published his third book, a historical fictional novel titled Devil's Pocket. He lives in Charlotte, N.C., with his wife, Dottie.

Bob Morgan '64, B.B.A. business management, began his new term as justice of the peace for Precinct 2 in Jefferson County this year. He lives in Port Arthur.

Robert G. O'Brien '64, B.S. electrical engineering, earned his master's degree in electrical engineering from Purdue University in 1969. He is retired and lives in Lakeside, Ore., with his wife, Diane.

James L. Walker '64, B.S. sociology, is corporate director of human resources for Superior Industries International. He lives in Valencia, Calif., with his wife, Robin.

Dr. Robert C. English '65, B.S. biology, is a dentist at Fort Hood and lives in Nolanville.

Beverly (Odneal) Morris '65, B.S. elementary education, earned her master's degree in education in 1970. She retired after 26 years of teaching and lives in Thornton with her husband, Gary.

John C. Susil '65, B.S. mechanical engineering, earned his master's degree in mechanical engineering from Texas A&M University in 1966. He is retired and lives in Friendswood with his wife, **Agnes (Harbus)** '65, B.S. secondary education.

Ruth Julianne (Mills) DeBower '66, B.S. speech, retired as senior vice president and regional trust manager for Bank One, Texas, and currently runs a private law practice. She has four children and lives in Lakeway with her husband, Ken.

Charles W. Hammonds '66, B.S. electrical engineering, earned two master's degrees in 1968 and 1992 and a doctorate of ministry in 2000. He is pastor of Grace Fellowship Church and lives in San Andreas, Calif., with his wife, **Myra (Hite)** '65, B.S. secondary education.

Dr. William F. Harper '66, B.S. biology, assumed the post of associate program director and internal medicine resident at the University of Texas Medical Branch after 18 years in private practice. He lives in Galveston with his wife, Peggy.

Robert G. Hill '66, B.S. government, is superintendent of the Marine Military Academy in Harlingen. He lives there with his wife, **Hattie "Jodi" (Oakes)** '68, B.S. home economics.

Lt. Col. John D. Taylor '66, B.S. sociology, lives in Woodville with his wife, Rosemary.

Richard W. Griffin '67, B.A. political science, is a professor at Ferris State University and lives in Big Rapids, Mich., with his wife, Diane.

Sue (Chesson) Harris '67, B.S. kinesiology, is the director of education for the Stark Museum of Art. She lives in Orange with her husband, Franklin.

Carole (Murphy) Page '67, B.A. English, earned her master's degree in English from the University of Oklahoma in 1971. She is a program director for the Army and lives in Springfield, Va.

Vonda (Hebert) Sharron '67, B.S. elementary education, lives in San Antonio with her husband, **James** '70, B.B.A. marketing.

Robert T. Victor '67, B.S. biology, '77, M.B.A. health care administration, is a program analyst for Quest Diagnostic. He lives in Desoto with his wife, Erma.

Barbara (Keeling) Dressler '68, B.B.A. office administration, is an executive administrator for North American Training Development. She lives in Houston with her husband, **Jerry** '68, B.S. mechanical engineering, who is a senior project engineer for Albemarle Corp.

Don Dutton '68, B.S. government, is president of the North American Gaming Regulators Association. Before being appointed as a board member of the New Mexico Gaming Control Board in 2003, he had a general civil law practice in Ruidoso, N.M. He lives in New Mexico with his wife, Ladonnah.

Ann (Blackwell) Fisher '68, B.A. elementary education, owns Ann Fisher Realty and lives in Tallahassee, Fla., with her husband, George.

Michael L. Johnson '68, B.A. history, earned his master's degree in 1976 and is the New Mexico sales representative for Houghton Mifflin. He lives in Albuquerque, N.M., with his wife, Marjorie.

Carol (Keesee) Pace '68, B.A. sociology, lives in Fredericksburg with her husband, **William** '71, B.S. government.

Dwight D. Thacker '68, B.S. health education, earned his master's degree in health education in 1974. He is retired after 37 years as a coach in Bridge City school district and lives in Bridge City.

Carolyn R. Barnett '69, B.S. health education, earned her master's degree in health education in 1970. She owns Blueblood Ridge Thoroughbred Farm and lives in Pollok.

Charlene (Born) Copeland '69, B.A. political science, is the assistant attorney general of Illinois. She lives in Shorewood, Ill.

James K. Davis '69, B.B.A. accounting, is a real estate agent at Ken Davis Realtor and lives in Arlington with his wife, Nita.

Dolores (Rodriguez) Pinion '69, B.S. secondary education, '73, M.Ed. educational psychology, is an instructor in the Fairbanks school district in Alaska where she lives with her

husband, John. She has recently begun working on her master's degree in special education.

Charlotte (Howard) Rainey '69, B.S. elementary education, retired in 1991 and lives in Beaumont. She has three daughters.

Stuart D. Slifkin '69, B.S. sociology, has just started his 12th year as transportation director for Tiffany & Co. He lives in Long Valley, N.J., with his wife, Karen.

Russell L. Staley '69, B.S. mathematics, received his master's degree from the University of Houston in 2007. He is retired and lives in Deer Park.

70s

Sheri (Barrett) Baden '70, B.S. elementary education, teaches kindergarten at All Saints Episcopal School and lives in Beaumont.

Leroy J. Bailey '70, B.S. mathematics, lives in Garland with his wife, **Barbara (Guidry)** '72, B.B.A. accounting; '79, M.Ed. special education.

Thomas C. Gerik '70, B.S. health physical education, earned his master's in education administration from Texas A&M–Commerce. He retired from Robinson school district in 2005 and lives there with his wife of 37 years, **Carolyn (Urbanovsky)** '70, B.A. English. She is a teacher in Robinson.

Frank Hancock III '70, B.S. secondary education, '72, B.S. psychology, earned his Ph.D. in religious studies from Rice University in 1990. He is chaplain for Solar Hospice Care and lives in Las Vegas, Nev.

Pricilla (Hodges) Hayes '70, B.S. elementary education, teaches first grade in Clear Creek school district. She has been teaching 32 years and is a professional singer with CantareHouston, a chamber ensemble sponsored by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. She lives in Pearland with her husband, Roland.

Samuel C. Itin '70, B.S. environmental science, earned his master's degree in 1975. He is the president of Lone Wolf Resources, and he lives in Houston with his wife, Susan.

Marie (Thibodeaux) Johnson '70, B.S. education, teaches adult classes after retiring from teaching in Galveston where she lives. She has three children and 10 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Jerry C. Knowles '70, A.A.S. business and data processing, is the owner of WHY USA Bluebonnet Properties in Houston, where he lives with his wife, Dixie.

Murphy J. Monceaux '70, B.S. geology, earned his master's degree in 1976. He is associate dean of ITT Technical Institute and lives in Old Hickory, Tenn.

David Quick '70, B.S. secondary education, is a teacher at the STARS campus in Jasper school district. He lives in Jasper with his wife, **Paula (Welch)** '75, B.S. elementary education, '85, M.Ed. secondary education. She is assistant superintendent of Burkeville school district.

Linda (Boyd) Sparkman '70, B.A. political science, lives in Beaumont with her husband, **Terry** '73, B.S. secondary education. They have one son and one grandchild.

Jack A. Strawther '70, B.S. health education, is district manager for Cambro and lives in Bedford.

Donald B. Winkle '70, B.B.A. business management, is regional manager for Thomas Equipment and lives in Cypress with his wife, Linda.

Walter "Bob" Buckalew '71, B.A. English, earned a master's degree in communication from the University of Texas. He is owner and president of Buckalew Media. He formed the company after a 25-year career in media that includes serving as a producer for the NBC Television Network and as an executive producer for Austin's KVUETV and Houston's KPRC-TV. He lives in Austin with his wife, Amanda.

Bill Dean '71, B.S. elementary education, '74, M.Ed. supervision, is superintendent of Jasper school district. He lives in Jasper with his wife, **Susan (Miller)** '71, B.S. elementary education.

Kirk F. Hebert '71, B.B.A. accounting, lives in Brentwood, Tenn., with his wife, Mary.

Emmett McKinley '71, B.B.A. marketing, is the advertising director for the Baytown Sun. He lives in Atascocita with his wife, Tamara. His son attends Lamar University, majoring in biology and chemistry.

Harriet (Lane) Langston '71, B.S. elementary education, '83, M.Ed. special education, retired after 25 years of teaching. She lives in Village Mills and has two children.

Richard M. Metcalf '71, B.B.A. accounting, owns Sentinel Financial Tax Services and lives in Fancy Gap, Va., with his wife, Thelma.

Leta (Thomas) Parker '71, B.S. secondary education, is program assistant for Big Thicket National Preserve. She lives in Lumberton with her husband, **John** '69, B.A. political science, '71, M.A. history. He retired in 2001 as manager of Village Creek State Park in Lumberton.

Sherry (Singleton) Windham '71, B.S. art education, teaches art at Orangefield High School and lives in Orangefield. She has two daughters.

Randy Allmon '72, B.S. geology, is vice president and chief geophysicist of Kraker & Martin Energy. He lives in The Woodlands

with his wife, Sylvia.

Mary (Strait) Babb '72, B.B.A. management, is employed with the White Pine County school district and lives in Lund, Nev.

Wiley Dean Hulsey '72, B.S. chemical engineering, is production manager for Occidental Chemical Corp. He lives in Houston.

Glenn M. Ledger '72, B.B.A. marketing, is a retail manager for S.C. Johnson & Sons. He lives in Vidor with his wife, Joanne.

Randall G. Morgan '72, B.S. chemical engineering, retired after 32 years with Dow Chemical Co. He lives in Lake Jackson with his wife, Mary. They have four granddaughters.

Jennifer (Jacobson) Stone '72, B.S. speech, earned a master's degree from Sam Houston State University. She worked as a speech language pathologist and speech therapist for Conroe school district and retired in May 2007. She lives in Conroe.

Adair (Thorn) Bowen '73, B.S. elementary education, earned her master's degree in 1989. She is a professor at Baylor University and lives in Woodway.

Martha Holland '73, B.B.A. marketing, earned her law degree from the University of Houston in 1978 and is an attorney advisor for the Social Security Administration. She lives in Bethesda, Md.

Gailen (Clark) Lakey '73, B.S. home economics, is teaching home economics at Kennedy High School and lives in San Antonio with her husband, Willie. They have one son.

Charles L. McFarland '73, B.B.A. accounting, is the practice manager for Halliburton and lives in Katy with his wife, Cindy. They have two sons.

Cecile C. Ross '73, A.A.S. dental hygiene, is a dental hygienist for Mott Family Dentistry and lives in Rolla, Mo., with her husband, James.

Kenneth C. Thayer '73, B.S. elementary education, is an identification technician for the Orange Police Department. He lives in Orange with his wife, Rose.

Patricia W. Wingate '73, B.A. history, '77, M.A. history, taught special education and lifeguard and water safety for 25 years. She works for Spindletop MHMR in Beaumont, where she lives.

Paula (Pate) Beaty '74, B.S. secondary education, '84, M.Ed. supervision, '00, M.Ed. school administration, is interim coordinator of testing, assessment and counseling for Port Arthur school district.

Kathleen (Dean) Hayes '74, B.B.A. office administration, is a paraprofessional at Port Neches-Groves High School. She lives in Port Neches with her husband, **John** '73, A.A.S. mid-management, '77, B.B.A. mar-

keting. Their son, Caleb, will graduate from Lamar in December with a B.B.A. in human resource management.

Gerald R. Miller '74, B.S. secondary education, '78, M.Ed. secondary education, is a counselor at Nederland High School. He lives in Nederland with his wife, Cynthia.

John E. Nilsson '74, B.S. mathematics, earned his M.B.A. from the University of Southern California in 1987. He is a senior scientist for Computer Sciences Corp. and lives in Galveston.

Virgil M. Pate '74, B.S. health education, is superintendent for Warren school district. He lives in Hillister.

John Prien '74, B.B.A. accounting, lives in Decatur, Ill., with his wife, Nancy.

Francis J. Rivero '74, B.A. history, owns F&M Copiers and lives in Leander with his wife, Margaret.

Linda J. Wagner '74, B.S. medical technology, is a medical technologist for M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, where she lives.

Barbara (Goodgame) Wyrick '74, B.S. elementary education, retired in 2006 after 32 years of teaching. She lives in Grand Prairie.

Nicholas Carter '75, B.B.A. accounting, is president of South Hampton Refining Co. He lives in Lumberton with his wife, **Judy** '79, B.B.A. accounting. She owns Antique Mall of Lumberton.

Billy F. Chilos '75, A.A.S. drafting technology, earned his master's in business administration and his Ph.D. in leadership administration in 1994. He is the president and chief executive officer of Leadership Strategies International and lives in Maryville, Ill., with his wife, Monica. They have three children and six grandchildren.

Phylliss (LeDoux) Coleman '75, B.S. elementary education, '79, M.A. special education, is the assistant superintendent for Santa Fe school district. She lives in League City with her husband, **Stanley** '80, B.B.A. accounting, who is a consultant with Russell Coleman & Associates.

Barbara (Williams) Harper '75, B.B.A. general business, '04, M.B.A. business administration, is an instructor at Houston Community College. She lives in Sugar Land.

Randall K. Odom '75, B.A. criminal justice, is chief of training for the Texas Game Warden Academy. He lives in Round Rock with his wife, Dana. They have two children.

Daniel T. Seay '75, B.S. secondary education, earned his master's degree in education from Pepperdine University in 1979. He is president of ConCenSys Group Inc. and lives in Lenexa, Kan., with his wife, Janice.

Rebecca (Hobbs) Wright '75, A.A.S. dental hygiene, '89, B.S. elementary education, '04, M.S. family and consumer science, is an instructor for the dental hygiene program at Lamar Institute of Technology. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, **Perry** '76, A.A.S. drafting technology.

Pamela (Holt) Ansley '76, B.S. elementary education, is a teacher for the Hardin school district where she was named 2007 Hardin Elementary School Teacher of the Year. She lives in Daisetta with her husband, Michael.

Nelda (Bailey) Buchanan '76, B.S. elementary education, teaches kindergarten in Port Neches-Groves school district. She lives in Orange with her husband, Jeffery.

Judy (Burge) Hare '76, B.M. music education, is a music teacher for West Bonner County school district and lives in Priest River, Idaho, with her husband, Duane.

Ernest Jacobs Jr. '76, B.S. computer science, is a senior service specialist for Dow Chemical Co. He lives in Lake Jackson with his wife, **Lois (Laday)** '78, A.S. nursing.

Minette (Liebling)Johnson '76, B.B.A. accounting, is a real estate agent with Keller Williams Realty and lives in Alpharetta, Ga., with her husband, Kirk.

Beverly Nell Lange '76, B.B.A. accounting, is assistant city manager of Frisco. She also serves as vice president of the TexStar Local Government Investment Pool.

Henry W. Prejean '76, B.A. history, is assistant district attorney for Brazoria County. He lives in Richwood with his wife, Trudy.

George M. Shirley Jr. '76, B.A. sociology, is retired after 46 years as an industrial safety consultant. He lives in Sulphur, La., with his wife, **Anne (Himmelheber)** '79, B.S. art education.

Larry D. Storer '76, M.Ed. school administration, is vice president and editorial director of Publications & Communications Inc. He lives in Waco with his wife, Patricia.

Velma Elaine (Griffith) Stryker '76, B.S. elementary education, lives in Elberta, Ala., with her husband, Paul.

Dene (LeGros) Tate '76, certif. office administration, lives in Port Arthur with her husband, Donald.

Rev. Pamela Lynn Taylor '76, B.S. music, is senior pediatric chaplain at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, where she lives.

Donald B. White '76, B.B.A. general business, is a claims manager for the American Automobile Association in Houston. He was recently nominated for the company's President's Award. He lives in Houston with his wife, Rosemary.

Anthony M. Young '76, certif. real estate, is in real estate sales for Brighton Homes and lives in Pearland.

Kathryn (Outler) Dunigan '77, certif. vocational nursing, owns the Village Movie Center in Beaumont. She lives in Vidor with her husband, Johnny.

Daniel Duplantis '77, A.A.S. real estate, is senior consultant for Clayton Services. He is president of the Mortgage Bankers Association of Tampa Bay and regional governor of the Mortgage Bankers Association of Florida. He holds designations as a certified mortgage banker and an accredited residential underwriter from the Mortgage Bankers Association of America. He lives in Riverview, Fla., with his wife, Anita.

Jack H. Eldridge '77, M.Ed. secondary education, is a retired Air Force colonel, and he lives in San Antonio.

Belinda Giarratano '77, B.S. speech, teaches at Vidor Junior High School. In March 2007, she was given the VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award, which recognizes teachers who provide citizenship education. She lives in Orange.

James T. Glass Jr. '77, B.S. industrial engineering, '90, M.E.S. engineering science, is the CAFM manager for Austin school district and lives in Round Rock.

Theresa (Crain) Harvick '77, B.S. elementary education, teaches seventh grade in Hamshire-Fannett school district. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, David. They have two children.

Gary Jackson '77, B.A. government, '79, M.P.A. public administration, is assistant city manager of Deer Park. This year, he celebrated a 25th wedding anniversary with his wife, **Lisa (Woodson)** '77, B.A. sociology. She works at a library in Pasadena.

Michael F. Preston '77, B.B.A. accounting, is president of Creekstone Partners in Houston. He lives in Sugar Land with his wife, Eileen.

Kathy (Tully) Turner '77, B.S. speech, lives in Orange with her husband, Robert.

Jeffrey B. Watson '78, B.S. physics, earned a master's degree in art from Sam Houston State University and a doctorate in education from Texas A&M. He is vice president for academic affairs at East Arkansas Community College in Forest City, Ark., where he lives.

William P. Wilkinson '77, B.B.A. general business, is the national account director for Veolia. He lives in Corpus Christi with his wife, Billie.

Jeffrey Wilmore '77, B.A. political science, is the interim city marshal in Groves. He lives in Groves with his wife, **Ella Kay (LaGrange)** '79, B.S. art.

Raphael M. DeMartino '78, B.B.A. general business, is retired and lives in Beaumont with his wife, Mary Ann.

Michael D. Getz '78, B.S. secondary education, owns his own firm, the Law Offices of Michael Getz. He lives in Beaumont.

Capt. John R. Ragan '78, B.S. computer information and science, is active in the Air Force. He lives in Balch Springs with his wife, **Grace (Blackmon)** '92, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences.

William J. Traywick '78, B.A. political science, is a retired captain of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. He lives in Spring with his wife, Billie Jo.

George Briggs '79, M.A. English, is minister emeritus of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. He lives in Winston-Salem, N.C., with his wife, Elise.

Phyllis (Osmand) Cowgill '79, B.B.A. accounting, lives in Houston with her husband, Patrick.

Joseph Hegwood '79, B.B.A. accounting, is chief financial officer for Bryan Texas Utilities. He lives in Bryan with his wife, **Cathy (Powell)** '80, certif. office administration. She is office manager for Bryan school district.

Colleen (O'Grady) Laine '79, A.A.S. dental hygiene, lives in Hitchcock.

Melaine (Henderson) Priesmeyer '79, B.S. elementary education, owns Energy Metals Inc. and lives in Houston with her husband, Michael.

Elias Rohbani '79, B.S. chemical engineering, is public relations officer for Acme Metal Finishing Inc. and lives in West Hills, Calif., with his wife, Sheri.

Tara (Baker) Shockley '79, B.S. communication, is director of communications for the Houston Bar Association. She lives in Houston with her husband, John.

80s

Hewlet J. Harris '80, A.S. drafting technology, is a CAD designer for Dodson Psomas and lives in Suisun City, Calif.

Ivan E. Ogburn '80, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a staff mechanical engineering manager for Lockheed Martin in Houston and is developing the crew module docking system for NASA's Orion CEV Program. He lives in Taylor Lake Village with his wife, Audrey. They have three daughters.

Jill Scoggins '80, B.S. communication, is director of public relations and marketing for Texas A&M in Kingsville, where she lives with her husband, David Widener.

Tony D. Sekaly '80, B.B.A. marketing, received his master's degree from the University of St.

Thomas in 1988. He is the managing director for Coastal Securities and lives in Houston with his wife, Shelly.

Ronald R. Strybos Jr. '80, B.S. chemical engineering, is a senior cavern specialist for Dow Chemical. He lives in Angleton with his wife, Gwen.

Timothy Sudela '80, A.A.S. drafting technology, '85, B.S. industrial technology, '92, B.S. mechanical engineering, is executive vice president of American Valve & Hydrant. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Lisa.

Daryl J. Harvey '81, B.S. communication, is an area sales manager for Novartis Pharmaceuticals. He lives in Kingwood with his wife, Suzie. They have one daughter, who will become a third-generation Lamar graduate in December.

Michael Killingsworth '81, B.S. elementary education, was recently promoted to head of learning and competence for gas and power for Shell International/Royal Dutch Shell. He lives in Hague, the Netherlands.

Tom McClellan '81, B.B.A. accounting, is director of forensic audit services for Delphi and lives in Clarkston, Mich., with his wife, Mary.

David C. Smith '81, B.S. industrial engineering, was recently elected to the position of chairman-elect for the American Machine Tool Distributors' Association. He lives in Ballwin, Mo.

Linwood Abshire '82, B.B.A. management, is a homebuilder and developer for AAA Home Builders. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, **Kerri (Fournier)** '87, B.B.A. general business. They have five children.

Lillie (Larkin) Hubbard '82, B.B.A. office administration, is employed with Port Arthur school district and lives in Nederland with her husband, Frank.

Marc Keith '82, B.S. kinesiology, is principal of Port Neches-Groves High School. He lives in Port Neches with his wife, **Kimberly (Cameron)** '85, B.S. kinesiology.

Janice (Roberts) Melara '82, A.A.S. nursing, is a retired staff nurse with the Williamson County and Cities Health District. She lives in Austin with her husband, Garrett. They have three grandchildren.

Kellie (Morris) Miller '82, A.A.S. radiologic technology, works for Christus St. Mary's Hospital and lives in Bridge City with her husband, Kenneth.

Sheryl (Claymon) Mitcham '82, B.S. elementary education, lives in Chester with her husband, Gary.

Gayle (Rayborn) Reynolds '82, B.B.A. accounting, works for Guide Stone Financial Resources and lives in Colleyville with her husband, Duane.

Gary Rothenberger '82, B.B.A. accounting, is an administrator at Calvary Baptist Church. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Jan.

Terence Welch '82, B.S. electrical engineering, is director of operations for British Petroleum America. He lives in Katy with his wife, Janelle.

Jerome A. Jarboe '83, B.S. chemical engineering, is an environmental supervisor for Houston Refining and lives in League City with his wife, **Sandra (Schroeder)** '83, B.S. communication.

Colleen (Goodwin) Jones '83, M.Ed. special education, is a school psychologist for the Hamilton County Department of Education. She lives in Hixson, Tenn.

Kim (Rogers) McLaughlin '83, B.S. communication disorders, is a second grade teacher for Eanes school district. She was selected as the 2007 Bridge Point Elementary Teacher of the Year and lives in Austin.

Gary L. Miller '83, B.S. mechanical engineering, is branch manager for Engineered Air Balance Co. Inc. He lives in San Antonio with his wife, Sarah.

Robert M. Simmons '83, B.S. industrial technology, is principal for Environmental Resources of St. Louis and lives in St. Charles, Mo., with his wife, Sharla.

Dr. Barbara Stubee '83, B.S. biology, has a medical practice in Port Arthur. She lives in Nederland with her husband, Kenneth.

William F. Dixon '84, B.S. electrical engineering, is a systems engineering manager for Lockheed Martin. He lives in Coatesville, Pa., with his wife, Wanda.

Juliana (McNight) Garcia '84, A.A.S. general secretary, '90, B.B.A. management, is a teacher with the Orangefield school district. She lives in Orange.

Ronnie Sims '84, M.Ed. school administration, earned his doctorate in education from Texas A&M. He is superintendent of Lumberton school district. He lives in Lumberton with his wife, Rachel.

John E. Suttle '84, B.S. communication, is vice president of business integration for BAE Land & Armaments and lives in Waxhaw, N.C.

Lori (Swinney) Aten '85, B.S. chemistry and biology, teaches science at Lufkin High School and is team leader for the Integrated Physics and Chemistry Science section at the school. She was named teacher of the year in 2007. She lives in Huntington with her husband, John.

Richelle Brewster '85, A.A.S. mid-management, earned bachelor's degrees in criminal justice and accounting from the University of Houston. She is a revenue agent for the

Internal Revenue Service and lives in Houston.

Frankie (Driver) Johnson '85, B.S. communication, is a secretary for Spring school district. She lives in Houston with her husband, Victor. They have one son.

Laura (Ham) Klock '85, B.S. communication, lives in Windsor, Colo., with her husband, Terry. They have six children.

Todd A. Landry '85, B.S. chemistry, earned his M.B.A. from Southern Methodist University in 1986. He is director of the Division of Children and Families within the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. He lives in Omaha, Neb., with his wife, Karl.

Richard Sandig '85, B.B.A. finance, is director of financial accounting for Occidental Petroleum. He lives in Katy.

Britt K. Talent '85, B.S. communication, owns the Cleveland County Herald and is a member of the Arkansas Press Association board of directors. He lives in Rison, Ark., with his wife, Karen.

Mollie (Modiset) Dixon '86, B.B.A. accounting, lives in Erie, Colo., with her husband, Douglas. They have twin sons.

James T. England '86, B.B.A. marketing, is senior vice president for Woodforest National Bank. He lives in Spring with his wife, Lisa.

Jose A. Ibarra '86, A.A.S. electrical technology, is a general foreman for Newtron Inc. and lives in Beaumont with his wife, Patty. They have two children.

Paul Clines '87, B.S. speech communication, is senior pastor for Parkway United Methodist Church and lives in Sugar Land.

Kleve Smith '87, A.A.S. computer drafting technology, is project manager in the facilities department of Houston Community College. He lives in Friendswood.

Margaret Ramona (Carter) Stricklan '87, B.B.A. accounting, is a fourth grade teacher at Parnell Elementary School in Jasper. Her husband, **Jerry** '86, B.S. criminal justice, '86, A.S. law enforcement, is a materials supervisor.

Jimmy D. Taliaferro Jr. '87, B.B.A. economics, '07, Ed.D. educational leadership, is department chair of industrial technology for Lamar State College-Port Arthur. He lives in Port Neches with his wife, **Kimberly (Cash)** '85, B.B.A. accounting, who teaches in Port Neches-Groves school district.

Roxanne (Daggett) Allen '88, M.S. kinesiology, is an instructor at McNeese State University and lives in Lake Arthur, La.

Kara (Audrey) Broussard '88, B.B.A. office administration, is a supervisor at Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Leonard.

Meredith (May) Frazier '88, A.A.S. radiologic technology, is retired and lives in Lufkin. She has two children and six grandchildren.

Willamena (Taylor) Frazier '88, B.B.A. general business, is a human resource representative for Bayer Corp. She lives in Houston with her husband, **Justin** '00, B.G.S. general studies. He is in the final stages of launching a stock market analyst business.

Cheri (Mathis) Prichard '88, B.S. elementary education, lives in Dallas with her husband, Lev. They have two children.

Charlette (Prothro) Sandell '88, B.B.A. general business, is a manager at Spectra Energy Corp. She lives in Spring with her husband, **Randy** '75, A.A.S. drafting technology.

DeAndrea (Prevost) Sullivan '88, B.S. fashion and retail merchandising, is the human resources manager for Macy's West and lives in Chino Hills, Calif.

Stephen Wilson '88, B.S. electrical engineering, is president and creator of Music Oven Network Inc., an internet company that helps businesses create their own audio image and helps artists outside the traditional broadcast formats get air play. He lives in Austin.

Scott Coker '89, A.A.S. real estate, owns Scott Coker Realty and lives in Lumberton.

James Fults '89, B.B.A. accounting, is senior financial analyst for Chevron Phillips Chemical Co. He lives in Magnolia with his wife, Robin, and their three daughters.

Lee E. McBride '89, B.S. kinesiology, is an assistant professor at McNeese State University and lives in Lake Charles, La., with his wife, Barrette. They have three children.

Timothy A. Sheffield '89, A.A.S. mid-management, is a measurement technician with Kinder Morgan Texas and serves on the Nederland City Council. He lives in Nederland with his wife, Marie Ann, and their three children.

Pamela (Hood) Standley '89, A.A.S. business data processing, lives in Brownwood with her husband, Donald.

90s

Donna (Montgomery) Britt '90, B.A. English, teaches at Ross S. Sterling High School in Baytown. She received the Mary Jon and J.P. Bryan Leadership in Education award from the Texas State Historical Association. She lives in Baytown with her husband, John.

Rodney D. Cavness '90, B.S. kinesiology, '94, M.Ed. administration, received his doctorate in educational administration from the University of Houston in 2004. He is superintendent of Evadale school district and teaches professional pedagogy as an adjunct instructor for Lamar University. He lives in

Beaumont with his wife, Tanya. They have six children.

Mary Rachel (Slott) Dubois '90, B.S. speech, earned a master's degree in art from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. She is a lecturer for the department of communication at Lamar, teaching public speaking and corporate training. She lives in Port Neches with her husband of 16 years, Robert, and their two children.

Chris W. Graham '90, B.S. computer science, is a systems analyst for ExxonMobil Chemical Co. He was recently selected as the National Chapter Advisor of the Year by Sigma Nu Fraternity and lives in Beaumont with his wife, Amy.

Andy Mann '90, B.S. political science, '95, M.B.A. business administration, is a contract employee at Johnson Space Center. He lives in League City.

Danny C. Mitchell '90, A.A.S. mid-management, '94, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a teacher and coach for Tatum school district. He lives in Longview with his wife, Erica.

Michael W. Barnes '91, B.M. music, is director of fine arts and band for Spring Hill school district. His band has been invited to perform at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China. He lives in Henderson.

Susan (Smith) Lamb '91, B.B.A. accounting, received her master's degree from North Carolina State University in 1994. She is an educational consultant and academic advisor for Collegiate Preparation Services and lives in Raleigh, N.C., with her husband, Marshall.

Jack Mann '91, B.B.A. finance, is assistant operator for Valero in Port Arthur, where he lives.

Michael T. Peyton '91, A.A.S. computer drafting technology, is a graphics designer for CDI Corp. He lives in Beaumont and plans to return to Lamar University to pursue an industrial engineering degree.

Theodore W. Reese '91, B.S. communication, is a project manager for UBS Financial Services in New York, N.Y., where he lives.

John M. Beck '92, B.S. theatre, founded Beck-n-Call Productions and lives in West Hollywood, Calif.

Timothy Haney '92, B.S. kinesiology, is an academic counselor for the University of Phoenix. He lives in Phoenix.

Karen E. Holstead '92, B.A. English, is a campaign administration coordinator for Bucknell University and lives in Northumberland, Pa.

Sharon (Darbonne) Leath '92, B.B.A. marketing, is advertising director for Cadbury Schweppes Americas Beverages and lives in

Dallas with her husband, Jason.

Vernita (Pitts) Mathews '92, B.S. criminal justice, is a probation officer for Dallas County and lives in Mesquite.

Brian K. Richardson '92, B.S. communication, received his master's degree from Louisiana Tech in 1992 and his doctorate from the University of Texas in 2001. He is a professor of communication studies at the University of North Texas and recently founded New Script Communications. He lives in Fort Worth with his wife, Cheryl. They have two children.

Yolanda M. Shaw '92, A.A.S. business data processing, '01, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a teacher in Beaumont, where she lives.

William F. Walker '92, M.Ed. school administration, received his bachelor's degree from East Texas Baptist University. He was recently selected as superintendent of Randolph Field school district and lives in Killeen.

Nelson R. Davis III '93, A.A.S. computer drafting technology, is a computer-drafting technician for Gusto MSC and lives in Katy.

Mark A. Fertitta '93, A.A.S. real estate, is owner of Mark A. Fertitta Realty and Property Management. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Carolyn.

Celeste (Moody) Halko '94, B.S. health education, is the contracts manager of First Care Health Plans and lives in Georgetown with her husband, David.

Shawn E. Hamilton '94, B.S. industrial technology, is the IT coordinator and coach for Woodlands High School. He lives in Houston with his wife, Shaundra.

Deborah Johansson '93, B.B.A. marketing, is a broker associate at Coldwell Banker Commercial Arnold and Associates. She lives in Bridge City with her husband, **Alan** '74, A.A.S. refrigeration and air conditioning technology. He is a service manager at Nance International Inc.

John M. Leger '93, A.A.S. nursing, earned his master's in business from Our Lady of the Lake University in 1999. He is chief nursing officer at Select Medical Corp. and lives in Humble with his partner, **Charles Hardy** '95, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences.

Todd D. Munn '93, B.S. communication disorders, is the assistant manager of the Shoe Department and lives in Laneville with his wife, Esther. The couple married in June.

Thomas Price '93, M.Ed. school administration, earned a doctorate in education from Lamar in May 2007. He is superintendent of Splendora school district. He lives in Splendora with his wife, Donna (Duhon) '81, M.Ed. elementary education.

Patrick B. Maloy '94, B.B.A. accounting, is the tax director for American Oncology Inc. He lives in Houston with his wife, Deborah. They have twin daughters.

Suzane (Simon) Moore '94, B.S. communication, is an account manager for Accudata Systems Inc. in Houston. She lives there with her husband, Coy.

Jacqueline (Sanders) Ballard '95, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, teaches math at Jasper High School.

Cristal (Dorman) Fertitta '95, B.S. foods, nutrition and dietetics, lives in Beaumont with her husband, Frank. They have one daughter.

Terryn D. Strahan '95, A.A.S. nursing, is a nurse at Harris Methodist Hospital. She lives in Keller.

Rhonda (Norris) Wesie '95, B.S.N. nursing, is a nurse for the University Health System and lives in San Antonio.

Joseph H. Brown '96, B.S. environmental science, teaches social studies and coaches at Jasper High School.

Randi (DuBose) Fertitta '96, B.S. psychology, is director of disaster response and special initiatives for Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Jerome.

Bruce A. Jagers '96, B.S. communication, is director/technical director of WEPC News and lives in Bay Harbor Islands, Fla.

Dr. Shelly Polnick '96, B.S. psychology, received her master's degree in 2000 and her doctorate in 2006. She is director of physical therapy for Orthopedic Physical Therapy and lives in Plano.

Benny Soileau '96, B.S. criminal justice, '00, M.Ed. educational administration, earned his Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. He is principal of Nederland High School and lives in Nederland with his wife, **Angie (Sonnier)** '02, B.S. interdisciplinary studies.

Timeca Allen-Shaheed '97, B.B.A. office administration, is a human resource assistant and assistant to the executive vice president at CDI Engineering Solutions in Houston. She lives in Missouri City with her husband, Fardan.

Carol L. Davis '97, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches for the Liberty school district and lives in Nome with her husband, **Chris** '97, B.S. civil engineering.

Dr. Heidi (Beaumont) Doucet '97, B.S. chemistry, '97, B.S. biology, is an optometrist in Orange. She lives in Bridge City with her husband, Keith.

Joel M. Galindo '97, B.S. electrical engineering, is an engineering manager for Overload Services in Houston. He lives in Pearland

with his wife, Laura. They have three children.

Amanda Jones '97, B.A. English, '03, M.Ed. school administration, earned her doctorate in educational leadership from Lamar in May 2007. Her sister, **April Jones** '96, B.S. sociology, '03, M.Ed. school administration, also earned her doctorate in education in May 2007. Amanda and April are both adjunct professors at Lamar and live in Beaumont.

Jennifer (Lelaya) Kastner '97, B.S. environmental science, is an environmental analyst for Anadarko Petroleum Corp. and an NEPA Specialist in the Rocky Mountains. She lives in Magnolia with her husband, Thomas.

Eric Maddox '97, B.S. chemical engineering, is a staff engineer at RWD Technologies in Houston, where he lives.

Dr. Chris A. Sparkman '97, B.S. biology, owns Sparkman Family Medicine & Aesthetic Center in Houston. He lives in The Woodlands with his wife, Amanda. They have one daughter.

Steven D. Vincent '97, B.B.A. management information systems, is the hardware and knowledge engineering manager for Hewlett Packard in Houston. He lives in Tomball with his wife, Katherine.

Emily (Everett) Allen '98, B.S. political science, '04, M.Ed. supervision, is a grade chairman and special education teacher for Pine Forest Elementary in Vidor. She lives in Sour Lake with her husband, Raymond.

Jason E. Bonnette '98, B.S. biology, plans to return to Lamar to earn his master's degree in biology. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Trudy.

Aaron D. Clauson '98, B.S. civil engineering, is the products manager for Big R Manufacturing and lives in Loveland, Colo., with his wife, Carrie.

Brian P. Herrington '98, B.M. music, received his master's from the University of Louisville. He received two awards from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, and he is currently teaching at Sam Houston State University. He lives in Conroe with his wife, **Mary** '99, B.S. nursing. They have two children.

Vickie (Roberts) Lazenby '98, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, lives in Orange with her husband, Daniel.

Joe D. Malley '98, B.B.A. management, owns Malley's Real Estate Inspection in Beaumont. He lives there with his wife, **Melissa (Tipton)** '99, who received her master's from the University of Texas. She is currently employed as a family nurse practitioner at Beaumont West Medical. They have one daughter.

Anna D. Nguyen '98, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '00, M.Ed. earned her doctorate in

education from Lamar in May 2007. She is assistant principal at Central High School in Beaumont, where she lives.

Lori (Webb) Benefield '99, B.S. sociology, is a representative for State Farm Insurance. She lives in Murfreesboro, Tenn., with her husband, Anthony.

Jackie (McQueen) Bradley '99, M.Ed. counseling and development, is a counselor at Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School, where she attained certification as a National Certified Counselor through the National Board of Certified Counselors. She lives in Orange with her husband, Barry.

Dr. Laura Eastep '99, B.S. chemistry, received her medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, where she lives and works as a resident physician.

Shane Howell '99, B.G.S. general studies, is head coach of the men's golf team at Texas State University in San Marcos.

Angela S. Moody '99, B.S. family and consumer sciences, is director of community relations for ASRC Energy Services and lives in Anchorage, Alaska.

Kedric Westbrook '99, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a business manager for AT&T. He lives in Wylie.

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James W. Hammonds III '00, B.B.A. management information systems, lives in Austin with his wife, Basimma.

Katherine (Barnes) McGee '00, B.S.N. nursing, is a nurse for Davita Dialysis and lives in Pearland.

Kimberly M. McMains '00, B.S. nursing, is a nurse for Sam Houston Elementary School and lives in Nederland with her husband, Cory. They have two children.

Ann Mullins '00, M.Ed. school administration, earned her doctorate in educational leadership from Lamar in May 2007. She is principal of St. Joseph's Catholic School in Baytown, where she lives.

Dr. Wesley Myers '00, B.S. chemistry and biology, earned his medical degree in 2004. He lives in Galveston with his wife, **Keri (Harris)** '00, B.S. biology.

Courtney (Sturrock) Smith '00, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, owns and teaches at the Sturrock Montessori Academy in Beaumont, where she lives with her husband, Bryan.

Erik Angelle '01, B.B.A. finance and accounting, is a staff accountant for Cavett, Turner & Wyble in Beaumont, where he lives.

Anand K. Chauhan '01, M.S. computer science, is an instructor of computers for Lamar State College-Port Arthur. He lives in

Beaumont with his wife, Ashima.

Hiram Clark III '01, B.B.A. general business, is a homebuilder for H.K. Clark & Sons Inc. He lives in Orange.

Max R. Dunlap '01, M.B.A. business administration, is an internal audit manager for Pride International Management. He lives in Houston with his wife, Chen Chen.

Jay W. Johnson '01, B.B.A. marketing, is working with Zim American Integrated Shipping in Houston, and lives in Baytown.

Amberly (Granger) Klam '01, B.B.A. accounting, lives in Austin with her husband, **Jason** '98, B.S. kinesiology, who is the chief operating officer for The First American Corp.

Angela (Butler) Lewis '01, B.S. communication, is vice president of Capital One Bank in San Antonio, where she lives with her husband, Bradley.

Debra (Ott) Long '01, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, '04, M.S. kinesiology, is the director of health information technology for Lamar Institute of Technology. She lives in Sour Lake with her husband, Boyed.

Latrice (Simpson) Patton '01, B.S. kinesiology, teaches and coaches in Cypress-Fairbanks school district in Houston, where she lives.

Jackie C. Duvall '02, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a safety engineer for Gulf Coast Project Corp. in Houston. He lives in Humble with his wife, Melanie.

Dorothy (McIntyre) LeBlanc '02, B.S. communication, is a respiratory sales specialist for Adams Respiratory Therapeutics. She lives in Daphne, Ala. with her husband, Matthew.

Kristin (Seaman) Franz '06, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a family and consumer science teacher at Jasper High School.

Phyllis L. Loeb '02, B.S. criminal justice, '04, M.S. applied criminology, works for the U.S. Postal Service and lives in Beaumont.

David Manley '02, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is dean of campus support services at Ranger College. He lives in Ranger with his wife, **Callixta (Innocent)** '06, B.S. psychology.

Jacob Miller '02, B.F.A. studio art, earned his master of fine arts in visual arts from the University of Iowa in 2007. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in painting from the University of Iowa.

Chanelle (Guidry) Reese '02, B.B.A. management information systems, lives in New Bern, N.C., with her husband, Terrance. They have a son.

Leena L. Waghmare '02, M.E. electrical engineering, is a senior consultant for KPMG and lives in Mumbai, India.

Kevin Andrews '03, B.S. health education, is co-manager of Kroger in Friendswood. He lives in Houston with his wife, **Allison (Starghill)** '02, B.S. nursing, and their daughter, Zoey. Allison is a registered nurse at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston.

Darin Fletcher '03, B.S. kinesiology, is head baseball coach at Deweyville High School.

Chrisa (Ponthieu) Atkins '04, B.S. communication, is business and marketing manager for the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, **Robert** '04, B.B.A. finance, who is a loan officer for Westin Mortgage Group.

Jonathan Bond '04, B.B.A. general business, is a field technician for ECP Tech Services in Houston. He lives in LaPorte with his wife, **Stephanie (Farrow)** '02, B.G.S. general studies. She is an athletic trainer at Christus St. John Hospital.

James W. Mahon '04, B.B.A. management information systems, is a specialist with the Army and lives in Fort Myer, Va.

Vince E. McClelland '04, B.S. theatre, is a field technician for Advanced A/V Solutions and lives in Lumberton.

Kecha (Landry) Ray '04, B.S. communication disorders, is a vocational rehabilitation counselor for the Department of Assistive & Rehabilitation Services. She lives in Beaumont.

Amy A. Sanders '04, B.S. biology, is a student at Texas Chiropractic College in Pasadena and lives in Houston.

Becky (Vickery) Thomason '04, B.S. criminal justice, '05, M.S. applied criminology, achieved professional certification as a certified fraud examiner. She is an internal auditor for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Huntsville where she lives. She has one son.

Casey L. Tucker '04, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a disaster recovery analyst for the Christus Health Foundation in Beaumont. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Amanda.

Kizell J. Brown '05, B.S. electrical engineering, is an area manager/electrical technology engineer for Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. in Lawton, Okla., where he lives. He is pursuing his M.B.A. in technology management.

Stacy (Ennon) Burleson '05, B.B.A. accounting, is an internal auditor for the University of Houston. She lives in Baytown with her husband, **Justin** '05, B.B.A. economics. He is an examiner for the National Credit Union Administration.

Robert Bush '05, B.B.A. finance and economics, is a field service representative for Halliburton Co. He lives in Spring with his wife, Dacia.

Sumeer V. Chopra '05, B.S. chemical engineering, is a process operator for Lyondell Chemical Co. He lives in Manvel with his wife, Wendy.

Dimitra (Raesis) Crowell '05, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches for the Port Arthur school district. She lives in Port Neches with her husband, Jason.

Donniece Fells '05, B.S. industrial technology, is a real estste agent with Town & Country Real Estate. She lives in Orange.

Nitin Garg '05, M.E. mechanical engineering, lives in Punjab, India.

Stephanie (Cryer) Glover '05, B.S. psychology, has been chosen to serve as vice president of recruitment for the Texas Tech School of Medicine, where she is a student. She lives in Lubbock with her husband, Mark.

Aleta (Naderhoff) Nash '05, B.S.W. social work, earned a master's degree in social work from Stephen F. Austin State University in May 2007. She is a therapist for Memorial Hermann Baptist Hospital in Beaumont and lives in Vidor.

Jennifer (Mahana) Reynolds '05, B.S. elementary education, teaches math and science in Cypress-Fairbanks school district. She lives in Katy with her husband, Seth.

Scott Sheridan '05, B.S. civil engineering, is vice president of Daniel Scott Engineering. He lives in LaPorte.

Curtis G. Smith '05, B.S. industrial technology, is a pipe designer for Bechtel in Houston. He lives in Webster.

William G. Smith '05, B.A. history, is a barista at Starbucks in Dallas, where he lives.

Rajashekhar Tadi '05, M.S. environmental engineering, is a design engineer for Interfield Inc. He lives in Houston.

Shannon M. Tait '05, B.S. political science, recently graduated from the George Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University, and lives in Bryan.

Chris A. Alexander '06, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a mechanical engineer for Lyondell Chemical Co. in Channelview. He lives in Crosby with his wife, **Misty (DeMann)** '05, B.S. psychology.

Rev. Diandra M. Darby '06, B.G.S. general studies, lives in Atlanta, Ga., where she is pursuing a master's degree in divinity at the Interdenominational Theological Center – Morehouse School of Religion.

Layne Riddick '06, B.B.A. accounting, is an accountant for Cavett, Turner & Wyble in Beaumont, where she lives.

Brandon D. Thibodeaux '06, B.B.A. general business, is credit manager for Smart's Truck & Trailer in Beaumont, where he lives with his wife, Erin.

Jessica (Rambin) Wooley '06, B.S. communication, is a child support technician for the Texas Attorney General's Office. She lives in Nederland with her fiancé, **Stephen B. Yearwood** '06, B.S. communication.

Joseph K. Young '06, B.S. electrical engineering and B.S. physics, has been accepted into the doctoral program in nanophotonics at Rice University. He lives in Houston with his wife, **Ebonie (Howard)** '02, B.B.A. management information systems.

Holly M. Hornsby '07, B.S. health education, is a healthy living sales associate with HEB in Beaumont, where she lives.

Save the Date

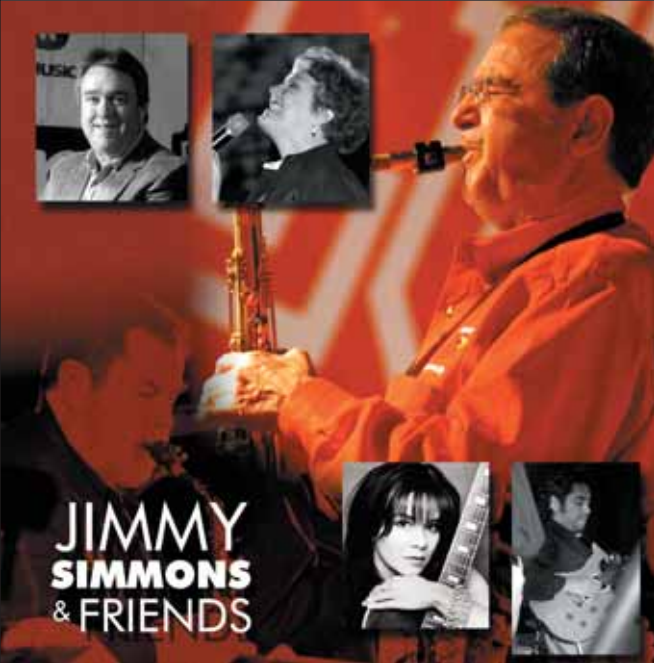
Jimmy Simmons & Friends

Encore

May 3, 2008 | 7 P.M.

Montagne Center

Mark your calendars now so you don't miss this special evening of spectacular music.



We will miss...

Alumni

Jack Folmar '53, occupational training, died July 9, 2007, in Dallas. Born in Luling in 1931, he grew up in Beaumont and became a pilot, later founding Gulf Aviation Underwriters and then incorporating Aviation Office of America, a company that achieved world-wide growth as an aircraft insurer. He also founded International Aviation Underwriters and Aviation and Marine Insurance Group, which was acquired by an NYSE company in 1997, leaving him to manage investments for Jack G. Folmar & Partners Ltd. He served on various bank boards and on boards of trustees for Baylor University and was a life deacon of Park Cities Baptist Church. He also was a founding member of the Lamar University Foundation board. Survivors include his wife, Janet; daughters, Bonnie Moore and Connie Stevenson; and son, David.

William McDermand '56, B.M. music, '85, M.M.E. music, died June 16, 2007. A native of Orange and resident of Sour Lake, he was a retired musician and teacher and was organist for several churches in the area for many years. Survivors include his sister, Mary Ann Scarborough.

Barbara (Ball) Metcalfe '57, B.S., '64, M.Ed. elementary education, died June 19, 2007, in Bryan. She served the Port Neches school district for 28 years as an elementary school teacher and as a special education supervisor. She could be found caring for pets of ill or out-of-town neighbors, tutoring struggling students, furnishing cold drinks to the lawn-care crew, finding medical services for those unable to undertake the task, befriending the recently bereaved, going kayaking with friends at age 81 or leading neighborhood children on a night-time bug patrol. Her husband of 46 years, Joseph, preceded her in death. Survivors include her son, Joseph.

Jimmy Ann (Watwood) Smith '57, B.S. chemical engineering, died June 5, 2007. She was homecoming queen at Lamar and was the first female to graduate with a degree in chemical engineering. Born in Houston, she grew up in Beaumont and lived in Wildwood. She worked as a chemical engineer, math and chemistry teacher, and real estate agent. Survivors

include her husband of 51 years, Edgar; her son, Joe; and daughter, Laura Howard.

Charles Miertschin '59, B.B.A. general business, died May 30, 2007, in El Paso. He worked in the marketing department of Texaco Inc. for 30 years. After he retired in 1989, he worked one day a week for Trans Mountain Oil Co. for 15 years and spent the other four workdays golfing. Survivors include his wife of 48 years, Ernestine, and sons, Michael and Matthew.

William McNeill '60, B.A. history, '65, M.A. history, died April 2, 2007. He was born in Beaumont in 1938 and attended South Park High School. He earned a doctorate of philosophy from Rice University and taught history at Lee College in Baytown for more than 40 years. Survivors include his wife, Jeanette; son, Sy; and daughters, Julie Paradissis, Kate Smoke and Kelly McNeill.

Edward Richardson '60, A.S. commercial art, died Aug. 25, 2007 in Houston. He was a retired commercial artist who, as a volunteer, designed the esplanades on Antoine in northwest Houston. He was born in 1937 in Beaumont, and, after graduating from Lamar, joined architect Rex Goode as a draftsman. He later was supervisor of graphics at Shell Oil's Bellaire Research Center and worked for Mobil and Sun Oil in Beaumont. Survivors include his wife, Ann, and daughter, Hettie Young.

Jerry Mallory '62, B.S. health education, '88, M.Ed. middle management, died May 21, 2007. He coached football for the Nederland school district for 25 years at C.O. Wilson Junior High School, Central Junior High School and Nederland High School. While at Nederland High School, he served as head coach of football and track and field and taught marketing, driver's education and physical education. He later worked as an administrator serving as an assistant principal and interim principal for Nederland High School. Survivors include his wife, Sheron; sons, Jake and Jared; and daughter, Shera Raborn.

Rita (Blakeman) Green '64, B.S. elementary education, died March 12, 2007. She loved music, especially the piano, and she taught in Port Neches-Groves school district as a music and classroom teacher for

25 years. She was also employed as an organist at churches in Texas and Georgia. Survivors include her husband, Cecil; sons, Cecil and Blake; and daughters, Gail Jones, Terry Hinson, and Cecile Hughes.

Charlotte Newnum '67, B.A. history, died March 10, 2007. She worked part time as the financial secretary for Trinity United Methodist Church in Beaumont before retiring in 1999. A devoted mother, she served as president of the Parent Teacher Association and director of concessions for West End Little League. Survivors include her husband of nearly 41 years, Bill; son, Will; and daughter, Katie Rogers.

Mildred Gerentz '68, B.A. history, died May 15, 2007. She taught history for 20 years at Thomas Edison Junior High School in Port Arthur. The governor of Texas honored her as "Outstanding Texas History Teacher" in 1984. Her husband, John, preceded her in death. Survivors include her sons, John, James, Joe and Jordan.

Robert Waguespack '68, B.S. industrial engineering, died March 18, 2007. He worked primarily in the inspection department of Texaco/Motiva in Port Arthur for 31 years. He was a member of St. Elizabeth Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus Council 2461. Survivors include his wife of 39 years, Pat, and sons, Jeff and Keith.


Clayton Fontenot '67, B.S. industrial engineering, died June 9, 2007. He retired from ABB Power T&D Co. Inc. after 38 years of service. He lived in Houston. Survivors include his sister, Fran, and brother, Ed.

Terry Watkins '69, B.B.A. accounting, died May 26, 2007. He was born Oct. 15, 1945, in Beaumont and graduated from South Park High School. He retired as a certified public accountant and owned a business in Lawton with his wife. Survivors include his wife, Yon Sun; sons, John and David; and daughters, Susan Watkins, Wendy Frederick, Linda Fountain and Sherry Allen.

John Conway '71, B.A. history, died March 8, 2007. He taught many years at Kelly High School. He was honored with national recognition by the National Catholic Education Association and given

the Texas Excellence Award for Outstanding Teachers. Survivors include his son, Tim, and daughter, Erin Galloway.

Karl Kugler '71, B.F.A. graphic design, died March 19, 2007. He was born in Freising, Germany, and came to Beaumont at age 7. In 1977, he opened Heinz Kugler Fine Portrait Photography. He was a member of the Iron Butt Association and the BMW Motorcycle Owners of America, and he participated in three Iron Butt long distance motorcycle endurance rallies. Survivors include his wife, Brie; daughters, Elizabeth, Emily and Lilian; stepdaughters, Beshka and Allie; son, Jeremiah; and stepson, Sebastian.

 **Daisy H. Green** '75, B.S. speech, '84, M.S. audiology/speech-language, died May 22, 2007, in Dallas. Born in Jasper Jan. 11, 1921, she was the wife of Edward W. Green and mother of Joan M. Riddle of Dallas. She will be remembered for the love she had for her family. She practiced speech pathology in the Texas public school systems and had a love for music.

Richard Loupe '75, certif. real estate, died March 8, 2007. He was an Army veteran and retired from Texaco Chemical in Port Neches after 35 years of service. Survivors include his wife, Mary, and sons, Richard, Mike and Jeff.

Helen (Simmonds) Morgan '75, A.S. nursing, died May 14, 2007. She was a nurse in private practice in Beaumont and a nurse administrator at a nursing home in Dayton. She loved camping, fishing and traveling. Survivors include her husband, Bob; her sons Mike, David, Brian and Joe; and daughter, Kathy.

Kolt Loukas '78, B.S. oceanographic technology, died March 28, 2007. He was born in Port Arthur and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1973. He was a member of the Lutheran church. Survivors include his sons, Jeremy and Kristofer.

Ronnie "Wheels" Thibodeaux '79, certif. real estate, died July 23, 2007. A lifelong Groves resident, he was a member of the Port Arthur Optimist Club, Groves

Chamber of Commerce and the Groves Rotary Club. He spent 31 years as a photographer and was the co-owner of TNT Productions in Nederland. He was an advocate against drunk driving because a drunk driving accident left him wheelchair bound as a toddler. He was a Huguen School graduate and devoted much time to the school. He is remembered as an inspiration to many and a friend to all. Survivors include his wife, Loraine, and brother, James.

Terry (Wallace) Lee '86, B.S.W. social work, died July 15, 2007. She worked for the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services for 20 years in offices in Beaumont, Houston and Conroe and won the Texas CPS caseworker of the year award. Survivors include her daughter, Matty; mother, Margaret Duke; and father, O.T. Wallace.

Dewey Prince '89, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, died May 21, 2007. He served in the Army and earned four campaign ribbons with nine battle stars. He worked for Neches Butane until he retired in 1983. His wife, Theresa, preceded him in death.

Graeme Doughty '01, B.B.A. general business, '02, M.B.A. business administration, died April 13, 2007 in Goicoechea, Costa Rica, where he lived with Fanny Hidalgo, his wife of two weeks, and their baby. He was a principal in the Casino Paradiso Costa Rica in the Clarion Hotel Amón Plaza in Barrio Amón, San José.

Faculty, Staff and Friends

Alice Bell, 74, died June 2, 2007, in Beaumont. She was born in 1933 in Rockport. She attended Texas Woman's University and earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees before teaching in several different schools and the Austin Recreational Department. In 1975, she joined the Lamar faculty. After 18 years, she became a full professor and served as chair of the Department of Health, Physical Education and Dance and as women's athletic director. Survivors include her sisters, Myrtle, Anna Williams and Patsy Hudman, and brother, Glen McMillan.

Helen Dunlap, 86, died May 31, 2007. After a long career in nursing, including serving as head nurse at St. Mary Hospital and director of instruction of

nurses at Stilwell Technical Center, she taught pediatrics, psychology and microbiology courses at Lamar before retiring in 1982. Her husband, Frank, preceded her in death. Survivors include her sons, Freddie and Dennis, and daughter, Lois.

Paul Wilson Holmes, 84, died Aug. 29, 2007. A native of Abilene and resident of Silsbee, he earned a master's degree in music theory and composition from Hardin Simmons University and joined the Lamar faculty in 1953. An active composer, he was head of music theory and composition until his retirement in 1985. His *Adagio and Allegro* was performed by many orchestras, as well as by the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C. His son, Ralph, preceded him in death. Survivors include his daughter, Laura, and son, David.

Tony Houseman died at his home in Orange Aug. 3, 2007. Born in Port Arthur, he built a career in investment banking in Los Angeles and New York and established Houseman Securities in Dallas. He founded Housemen Companies in 1987 with his wife of 23 years, Gisela, and continued a Houseman family tradition of home building begun in the 1960s. Houseman was also committed to a number of local charities, wildlife conservation organizations and regional economic engines and was a children's advocate. In Orange County he founded Patrons of Police (POP), a support group for law enforcement personnel. His most lasting contribution to wildlife conservation is the Tony Houseman State Park and Wildlife Management Area at Blue Elbow on the Sabine River. He devoted substantial energy to the Southeast Texas Economic Development Corp. (SET Inc.) and the Partnership of Southeast Texas (POST). He was a board member for Lamar University Friends of the Arts. Survivors include his wife; son, Stanley; and daughters Zo Houseman, Debi Means and Julie Hobert. Memorial contributions may be made to Lamar University Beaumont-Speech & Hearing, P.O. Box 11500, Beaumont, TX 77710.

Harry Hubbard, 82, former president of the Texas AFL-CIO, died June 7, 2007, in Bastrop. Born in 1924 in Rocky Springs, he refused a basketball scholarship from Stephen F. Austin State University in favor of joining the Navy

during World War II, serving at Guadalcanal. He returned to live in Port Neches and worked at the B.F. Goodrich Rubber Plant and Fairmaid Bakery in Beaumont, where, as a teamster steward in 1948, he began his career as a Texas labor leader. He was appointed AFL-CIO legislative director in 1966 and was elected president in 1973, serving for eight, two-year terms. He retired from the AFL-CIO in 1989 and assumed the post of director of human resources at John Gray Institute. Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Marceil; his son, Bob; and his daughter, Janis Dawes.



President and First Lady Robert and Helen Kemble cut the cake at the university's 60th anniversary celebration.

Helen Kemble, 84, wife for 58 years of former Lamar University President Robert Kemble, died of pancreatic cancer in her home in Albuquerque, N.M., Sept. 22, 2007. She was Lamar's "First Lady" from 1977 to 1986. She served for 50 years in prominent public and private roles in New Mexico, Texas, New York and abroad. Her vigorous life exemplifying service to country, community, and family was often in partnership roles in her husband's varied professional positions as well as in many pro bono charitable activities. Born in 1923, she grew up during the Depression and graduated from high school six months before the attack on Pearl Harbor. She attended junior college while also working at a series of other jobs, including secretary to the

county draft board. With the U.S. entry into WW II, her interests turned to aviation, and she became at 18 the first licensed female pilot in southern Iowa. She joined the Civil Air Patrol, training to meet the nation's requirements of that time and to provide assistance when called upon. She later worked in Washington for U.S. Rep Karl LeCompte, who hired her in 1946. She met her future husband, C. Robert "Bob" Kemble, when he came to Washington to thank the congressman for his appointment to West Point during the Battle of the Bulge. They married shortly after Bob's graduation in 1949. She was

an influential mother of five and a talented and helpful service partner to Bob—an energetic Army wife in Germany, a faculty spouse during Bob's 10 years as a professor at West Point, First Lady at New Mexico Military Institute and then at Lamar University, with 13,000 students and 500 faculty. Finally, for four years she was a New Mexico Cabinet Secretaries wife—all while committing time to numerous and myriad volunteer service

projects. Survivors include her husband and five children, Christopher, Keith, Cynthia Lawshe, Geoffrey and Carol.

Ruth Truncale, 82, died April 4, 2007. She graduated from the University of North Texas with bachelor's and master's degrees in music. In 1947, she became one of the first female members of the faculty at Lamar. She taught piano courses until she retired in 1953. After leaving Lamar, she and her husband, Joseph, developed the Beaumont Civic Opera and the Lamar Opera Workshop. She is preceded in death by her husband of 54 years, Joseph. Survivors include her son, Michael, and daughter, Ruth Ann Muse.

Taking care of Big D business

by Larry Acker

“It was the most amazing experience of my professional career,” said Mary (Moore) Suhm ’68, Dallas city manager, as she talked about providing emergency services for evacuees from hurricanes Katrina and Rita. “We were beginning to get people who needed some help, and we knew there were people already staying in the hotels. We pulled out the emergency plan, and it called for opening the recreation centers. We had 60 people or so in the centers; so we were feeling pretty good about ourselves until we found out there were 25,000 people heading toward Dallas who were not going to be able to take care of themselves. I remember looking at a spot on the wall wondering what in the world I was going to do. I haven’t had that feeling very often in my life.”

Providing emergency response for Katrina and Rita evacuees was one of the most emotionally trying yet professionally fulfilling times for the chief executive officer of Dallas. For one swift moment, a hint of trepidation crept into her mind, but it quickly passed as she gathered the staff and prepared for the largest evacuation the United States had ever encountered. Working 16-, sometimes 24-hour, days for six weeks didn’t seem to bother the city staff. There were so many people who had literally lost everything in the storm, the long hours required to care for evacuees seemed to pale in comparison. Although, while growing up in Beaumont, she had gone through Hurricane Audrey, a Category 4 hurricane, in 1957, and Hurricane Carla, a Category 5 hurricane, in 1961, nothing prepared her for the devastation wrought by the 2005 storms.

“People came to us with literally nothing. Their lives were devastated, and everyone needed assistance of some kind. I was so proud of our response team and the city staff for doing the things that were necessary to help so many disaffected people,” she recalled.

“Everyone pitched in and gave all they had during that crisis.”

Mary Suhm is an executive who likes to keep her options open to take advantage of opportunities as they present themselves. Suhm graduated from Lamar earning a bachelor’s degree in education with an emphasis in biology and English. She was awarded a pre-med scholarship and considered pursuing a career in the health care profession, but, at the urging of her mother, who was a teacher at French High School, she earned a teaching certification so “she would always be able to get a job.”

Her career began as a teacher at R.L. Turner High School in Carrollton, where she taught for a year before moving to a teaching position at Allen High School near Dallas. During the spring of her first year at Allen, she became pregnant with her first child, which cut her teaching short.

“As I think back about that now, I can just imagine that principal was ready to kill me,” she said. “A friend was going back to school to get her master’s degree, so I decided to go with her.”

That decision earned her an M.B.A. and a master’s degree in library science from the University of North Texas. Her position as director of the Allen Public Library led to a director’s position with the Dallas Public Library in 1978, beginning her long tenure with the city of Dallas.

She has held many leadership roles in Dallas city governance, including executive assistant director of the Dallas Police Department (the first female non-sworn executive in DPD history), director of court services, assistant to the mayor and assistant city manager, which eventually led to her appointment as city manager in 2005. She is responsible for an annual budget of more than \$2 billion while supervising in excess of 13,000 employees.



MARY SUHM

Suhm has been recognized for her professional achievements by the North Central Texas Council of Government with the Linda Keithley Award for Women in Public Management, the Women’s Council of Dallas County as Woman of the Year and by the North Texas Chapter of the American Society for Public Administrators as the North Texas Public Administrator of the Year. She has earned a reputation for creativity and innovation by reorganizing city services delivery to align with priorities established by the City Council, establishing better customer service throughout the city organization and establishing a permanent efficiency team to streamline city processes and identify revenue sources and savings. Suhm is active in mentoring other female mid-level managers in the city of Dallas by being available for counsel, offering advice and making opportunities available.

“I recognize the challenges for women in general in their careers, but, for me personally, I don’t think about challenges as challenges for women. I think about the challenges women deal with as professionals, such as the problems you have to solve and the things you have to deal with along the way,” she said. “I try to give women as much opportunity as possible in roles that are not historically female roles with the city.”

“We have, I suspect, one of the few female directors of a major water system in the country, a woman whom I hired. The woman who is head of the sanitation department is another example. Those are not traditional jobs for women.”

A member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority, she worked at the Lamar swimming pool as a lifeguard during the summers. One not-so-fond memory was preparing for graduation. Her schedule was to graduate at 10 a.m., get married at 2 p.m. and begin a new teaching job the following week. That’s when she found out she was one credit hour short of graduating.

“I panicked,” she recalls. “Dr. Richard Setzer, the president of Lamar at the time, took time to see me and hear my problems. I realize now that he went out of his way to see me and even set up an individual study class that helped me get all that resolved. Years later, in looking back, I realize how much he helped me and the fact that he probably wasn’t even the one who should have been dealing with my problem.”

When asked about hobbies, or special interests, she laughs and comments that running the city of Dallas is a seven-day-a-week, 18-hour-a-day job, but she loves her work and feels honored to be entrusted with such an awesome responsibility. She does enjoy spending time with her grandchildren. Suhm has two sons, Gabe and Josh, and four grandchildren, Emma, Eli, Collin and Jared.



NADER KHOURI

DERENDA PETE



MICHAEL STRAWICO

CAROL LAVENDER

Destined for a healthy partnership

by Beth Gallaspy

Derenda “Dee” (Sublett) Pete ’79 and Carol (Jordan) Lavender ’79 met as nursing students in one of the first classes at Lamar University to earn bachelor of science in nursing degrees. When they graduated, their relationship consisted of nothing more than friendly hellos.

Fast-forward to 2007, and the two are friends and business partners in a Houston-based health care consulting firm celebrating more than a decade in business with a national client list.

“Trying to get our name out there is our challenge,” Pete said. “We’re competing with a lot of larger health care consulting groups.”

Pete and Lavender created Insight Advantage with nothing more than their brainpower and two laptops 11 years ago. After some lean times early on, they established a profitable business with a growing list of satisfied clients. Insight Advantage works with hospitals, large physicians’ practices and clinics to improve customer service, productivity and profitability. Lavender and Pete draw on their clinical and managerial experience to study clients’ health care organizations and make objective

recommendations about how the companies can refine what they do.

A big emphasis for clients now is patient flow, said Pete, who has authored books and spoken nationally on emergency department operations. The company looks at how a hospital moves patients from the doors of the emergency room through admission, treatment and discharge. Identifying bottlenecks and trying to clear them might mean recommending changes in scheduling or staffing. The ultimate goal is greater efficiency, higher profitability and better patient care. “The patient is the nucleus of what happens,” Pete said.

The company also offers on-site management training for frontline health care managers such as nurses. Lavender authored those educational materials and was involved in developing labor productivity software the company uses.

Finding out what clients need means frequent travel to facilities across the U.S. Pete spends about three weeks a month on the road. Frequent travel also has been part of Lavender’s routine for years. The pair seeks to develop more business in Texas. “We would like to have a

greater presence in our backyard,” Lavender said.

Lavender has a daughter and two granddaughters. Pete has a son and two grandsons. Both raised their children as divorced single mothers while working full time and furthering their education. Today, they are part of the sandwich generation, each caring for parents while enjoying their grandchildren and watching their children achieve their goals—all as they direct the day-to-day operations of a successful firm. The consulting business is a far cry from where they started.

Pete knew when she graduated from Beaumont’s Hebert High School in 1975 she wanted a health care career. She researched several options, choosing Lamar because of its location close to home and the onset of the four-year degree program. “The program had some really good teachers,” she said.

Her training at Lamar prepared her for a nursing job at Baptist Hospital in Beaumont, which led to supervisory positions at the hospital. “The nursing school was the core,” Pete said. “We found the curriculum to be very challenging.”

For Lavender, a Nederland High School graduate, becoming a nurse was not part of a long-term plan. Encouraged by her mother, who was an instructor in the one-year LVN program at Lamar, she went through a respiratory therapy certification program at Lamar University. She chose the program because of an aversion to needles, but found she still had to learn to draw blood.

“Every step of the way (the program) was challenging me to do things out of my comfort zone,” Lavender said.

After completing her certification, Lavender went to work for Baptist Hospital as a respiratory therapist and returned to Lamar to study nursing. Both programs, and the professors she encountered as a student, had a profound impact on the young woman who had never given much thought to academia. “It really boosted my self-confidence. From then on, I said, ‘If I can do this, I can go on.’ I really wanted a degree,” Lavender said. “The nursing program was strenuous. It prepared us clinically, but also focused on management, which is critical to our success today.”

The fact that Pete also worked while in nursing school, something discouraged by faculty, gave the pair more in common. The bond was not established, though, until a few years later when both were nurses at Baptist Hospital on the leading edge of emergency care. Pete was director of nursing for the hospital’s new Life Flight program when Lavender, director of the interventional cardiac cath lab, joined her on a flight to transport a cardiac transplant patient to Houston.

A friendship was born. It took a hiatus when the women lost touch temporarily after Lavender moved on to a Houston-area hospital.

“For whatever reason, our paths seemed to follow along the same lines,” Pete said. Pete initially left Baptist Hospital for Galveston, where she worked on a master’s

“That passion for nursing, for the patients, really came to the forefront of everything we did.”

—CAROL LAVENDER

degree in nursing and worked as a nurse manager at a hospital. She later applied for a job at the Houston hospital where, unbeknownst to her, Lavender was the director of cardiac services. When the chief nursing officer noticed the Lamar University connection, she brought Pete’s resume to Lavender to see if she knew the applicant.

Pete was hired as director of the emergency department, and the friendship continued and grew. Both women had abilities in management and completed master of business administration degrees together at Houston Baptist University.

Through hospital mergers and acquisitions, first Lavender and then Pete, found themselves in search of a new path. Together, they began working as consultants for an independent consulting firm. The

work focused on training clinicians and front-line managers in management skills. When the consulting firm later sold, the women decided to strike out on their own.

“We just kind of stepped into it with both feet, eyes shut,” Pete said.

Though Lavender said they decided “somewhat naively” to start their own consulting business with no capital on hand, they certainly bring their business acumen to bear in the work they do. Lavender said she and Pete are clinicians first and have an advantage

in understanding both the clinical and business side of health care.

“That passion for nursing, for the patients, really came to the forefront of everything we did,” Lavender said. “We understand financial issues, the business issues, but we also understand that the whole reason hospitals and health care facilities are in operation is patient care.”

So far, all of Insight Advantage’s business has come from referrals, not from soliciting new clients. With a new focus on developing business in Texas, that soon could change.

From a helicopter flight as nurses focused jointly on one patient’s care to a joint business that took flight more than a decade ago, Lavender and Pete have been going places for years and see new opportunities on the horizon.



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A CHARITABLE GIVING OPPORTUNITY EXTENDED

Last year, Congress enacted legislation through the Pension Protection Act of 2006 that offered charitably minded individuals an opportunity to make gifts from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and to exclude the amount of their gifts from their gross income.

To be eligible:

- You must be 70-1/2 years of age or older;
- IRA transfers must go directly to Lamar University Foundation;
- Distribution maximum for the year is \$100,000;
- IRA transfer can count toward your minimum distribution;
- Gifts must be outright (i.e. no benefits such as income may be received).

Please consult with your financial advisor to learn more about how this tax-smart charitable giving opportunity will impact your gift planning with Lamar, and then call the Lamar University Foundation at (409) 880-2117. You CAN help us make a difference!

ACT NOW FOR THE GREATEST BENEFIT! This special IRA ruling is only available until December 31, 2007! No charitable income-tax deduction is allowed.

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New Online Planned Giving Calculator

It's no secret that the future of Lamar University depends upon the continued financial support of our alumni and friends. We've created an easy-to-understand web site to help you dream a little—about our future and yours. There are many easy giving options from which you can choose. The Planned Giving Calculator is a web-based calculator that provides an interactive way for you and your advisor to perform charitable deduction calculations for a broad range of planned gifts. The calculator is designed to give you an estimate of your tax savings and income benefits of a life income plan.

You may explore the following options using the calculator:

- Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust
- Charitable Remainder Unitrust
- Charitable Lead Unitrust
- Charitable Lead Annuity Trust
- Gift Annuity
- Pooled Income Fund

Visit the Planned Giving Calculator online at www.lamar.edu/foundation. By answering a few basic questions, you can easily work through the process of narrowing down your choices. It's fun and easy to use!

The site is secure, and the service is free. If you have any questions, please call us at (409) 880-2117.



www.lamar.edu/foundation

IN MEMORIUM

Between September 1, 2005, and August 31, 2007, donations were received in memory of the following alumni and friends of Lamar University. If you would like to honor the memory of someone in this special way, please send your contribution to Lamar University, P.O. Box 10011, Beaumont, Texas 77710. We will notify the families of your thoughtful generosity.

Ms. Elizabeth V. Adams
Mrs. Gilbert T. Adams, Sr.
Dr. Hugh A. Akers
Mr. Bruce Allred
Mr. Aubrey S. Aron
Dr. Harold T. Baker
Mrs. Joyce N. Baker
Ms. Gail Barnett
Dr. Byrnes Belk
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Mr. Robert J. Waguespack
Mrs. Gloria Weinbaum
Mrs. Gladys S. Williams
Mr. Will Wilson
Mr. Parker Windham

CARDINALS FOR LIFE

The University recognizes and extends its sincere appreciation to those who have supported Lamar University throughout the years. Cardinals for Life are those alumni and friends who have cumulatively made significant contributions.

\$1 Million +

Mr. and Mrs. Michael E. Aldredge
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The Robert A. Welch Foundation
Mr. Rudy C. Williams

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HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Heritage Society honors alumni and friends who have made planned gifts for the future of Lamar University. These gifts come in the form of bequests, life insurance and life income arrangements such as charitable remainder trusts and charitable gift annuities. If you would like to become a member of the Heritage Society by making a provision for Lamar University's future through a bequest or trust, please contact Janice Trammell, director of development, with the Division of University Advancement at Lamar University, (409) 880-8422.

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Mr. Gregory W. Bischoff
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Mr. Rudy C. Williams

PARTNERING *for* POWER



U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, visited campus and toured the Advanced Fuel Cell Research Laboratory with professor David Cocke '69, left, July 6. Accompanying Hutchison were U.S. Rep. Ted Poe, right, R-Humble, for District 2, and U.S. Rep. Kevin Brady, R-The Woodlands, for District 8.

LAB CONDUCTS FRONTIER FUEL RESEARCH

Lamar University's Fuel Cell and Energy Research Lab is conducting frontier research to meet the needs of the U.S. military by developing clean and efficient energy systems for its strategic missions. This includes the generation of chemically stored energy in systems that produce hydrogen from conventional and renewable sources. Along with military applications, advanced fuel cell research holds the promise of utilizing non-polluting hydrogen energy that will eventually allow energy independence for the U.S. while reducing environmental stresses.

President James Simmons said, "Lamar University is indeed fortunate to have such stellar support from Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison and Congressmen Kevin Brady and Ted

Poe for the innovative research being performed here on Lamar's campus."

This ongoing research by the new Lamar University energy laboratory and its numerous collaborating partners places Southeast Texas and the Gulf Coast region squarely at the forefront as leaders in developing sustainable and renewable energy for decades to come.

"A comprehensive strategy to unleash the power of free minds and free markets so we can explore and produce energy in America will strengthen our national security and solidify our global economic leadership," Hutchison said. "With its renowned research institutions and vast supply of untapped renewable energy resources, Texas is poised to invent the breakthrough sources that will help fuel the world in the 21st century."

DEFINING RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

Lamar University is in a unique position to bring Texas closer to the vision of a hydrogen economy. LU recently hosted a fact-finding visit by Patrice "Pete" Parsons Marshall, executive director of Texas H2 Coalition, to discuss opportunities in hydrogen-related research.

Parsons, a former deputy land commissioner for Texas in charge of energy, has been a long-time advocate for alternative energy sources and is a driving force behind the formation of the industry-driven initiative for a hydrogen economy, a coalition of business, industry, academia and non-governmental organizations.



The day of meetings with university engineering faculty, researchers and administrators, as well as representatives from the City of Beaumont, Beaumont Chamber of Commerce and Radiance Technologies, sought to characterize opportunities unique to Southeast Texas and Lamar University in particular.

While quick to describe Texas as slow on the draw to get into the long-term hydrogen play, Parsons describes the state as uniquely positioned to assume a national leadership position in the production and distribution of hydrogen and the development of a hydrogen-based economy.

Other states' hydrogen efforts to date have centered primarily on transportation challenges—working with industry in the development of hydrogen-powered automobiles and buses for example—but have done little to address the supply and distribution challenges facing the move to clean hydrogen, she said.

Creating hydrogen economically from clean sources—wind, solar, biomass—and developing power distribution methods will be essential for success. Codes and standards are yet to be written, and there is a lot to explore in bringing the technology forward to the market, said David Cocke, Gill Chair in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering at Lamar.

"Lamar University's strong history in chemical, electrical and

mechanical engineering will be assets in tackling the challenges of hydrogen," said Jack Hopper, dean of the College of Engineering. Already the college is pursuing groundbreaking



research in hydrogen-powered fuel cells under contract with the Department of Defense. Materials science, nanotechnology and composites research will all play important roles, Hopper said.

"We will continue to build partnerships bringing the best of research science together with industry to design, develop and demonstrate the technology of tomorrow," Hopper said. "We expect to be at the epicenter of the dawning of the next energy era—the age of hydrogen."

The Texas H2 Coalition's membership includes founding members Toyota, Shell Hydrogen, Xcel Energy, Air Liquide, TEXYN, Exergy Development Corp. and Nature's Electric; educational institutions the University of Texas and Lamar University; and affiliate organizations, Southern Fuel Cell Coalition and the Center for Transportation and the Environment.

COMPANIES INVEST IN ENGINEERING STUDENTS

Lyondell Chemical Co. representatives Mike Wobser, Randy Tatum and Nicole Lewis presented a \$65,000 check to the Department of Chemical Engineering Oct. 11.



"We provide students with knowledge in the classroom," said Peyton Richmond, associate professor of chemical engineering. "Lyondell's donation will help students assimilate that knowledge by providing example problems in an industrial context."

The money will be used to help establish an Advanced Process Control lab. Students using the system will feel as if they are in an actual plant control room and will be exposed to the types of problems that arise on the job, Richmond said.

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Lamar University will receive \$15,200 from ExxonMobil's Departmental Grants Program. The unrestricted grant allows selected academic departments to

allocate the money for various educational purposes, including scholarships, field trips, visiting speakers, equipment purchases, student and faculty travel to academic-related activities, and other educational projects.

"Supporting higher education has always been a strong priority for ExxonMobil," said Tom Marcotte, Global Recruiting Organization, ExxonMobil. "This program enables us to provide funding to colleges and universities that play a pivotal role in preparing students to enter the workforce. ExxonMobil is proud to provide support to Lamar University that will enhance the department's ability to align academic focus with the workforce needs of ExxonMobil."

The building *of a* champion



Sept. 8 through Nov. 10.

The winning streak started with a 3-1 victory over the University of Denver in their final match of the TCU tournament in Fort Worth. The Lady Cardinals had dropped their previous two matches and six of their last seven and were sitting three games below .500 at 4-7 on the year.

As players, the Lady Cardinals knew they were better than their record, and

When he took over as head coach of the Lamar University volleyball team almost three years ago, Justin Gibert inherited a program that had fallen from championship contender to the bottom of the Southland Conference. Now, just 34 months later, the Lady Cardinals are conference champions and the top seed in the SLC tournament.

"I knew it would happen, I just didn't know it would happen this fast," Gibert said. "We basically had to start from scratch. We had to get a bunch of new players and get the players that were here before us to buy in to what we were trying to do. I knew it was just a matter of time for Lamar to get back to the top, and this team put it together."

This season the master plan worked as the Lady Cardinals rolled through the Southland Conference, posting a 15-1 record in league play. They ripped off 14 straight wins, which is the second-longest winning streak in school history, dropping just one match from

knew they had to start proving it. They rebounded from a tough 3-2 loss to New Orleans in their morning match and rolled past Denver, a win that triggered a 20-1 run to close out the regular season.

"I think the match against New Orleans was an important lesson for us," sophomore outside hitter Kaci Brewer said. "We went into that match, after losing to TCU the night before, thinking we would beat them pretty easily. We didn't show them respect, and they stepped up and beat us. After that loss, we hated the way we felt, and we decided to start making teams respect us the way New Orleans made us respect them."

Along with respect they earned, the Lady Cardinals picked up the eighth overall conference championship in school history and the school's fourth Southland Conference volleyball championship. The Lady Cardinals won their first two SLC titles in 1983 and 1984 and their third in 2001.

Adding to their team championship, the volleyball program also received a truck load of individual honors for their efforts. Senior Molli Abel was named Southland Conference Player of the Year; Adrienne Meengs was named setter of the year; Shalayne Blythe earned Newcomer of the Year honors; and Gibert was named the SLC Coach of the Year.

