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-E-D 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.

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 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
President
Lamar University

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In an emergency, Lamar University, in partnership with Lee College in Baytown, is offering the PACE at Gulf Baccalaureate Alternative Certification Route, for individuals who have earned a bachelor's degree 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.

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.

Lamar University, in partnership with Lee College in Baytown, is offering the PACE at Gulf Baccalaureate Alternative Certification Route for individuals who have earned a bachelor's degree and want to become teachers. Classes will be offered at San Jacinto Mall in Baytown on Saturdays for those who are interested and qualify.

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Bernard Harris

BRIAN SATTLER

Scholarships and expenses of the program are funded through grants by local corporate sponsors: ChevronPhillips, Entergy ExxonMobil, Marathon, Sempra 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 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.

Dr. Bernard Harris, president and founder of The Harris Foundation, 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 weighting 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 age of 43, he flew a total of 24 days in space and traveled over 7.2 million miles. Harris gave the commencement address at Lamar Aug. 17, 2002.

High schools participating in the event included Bridge City, Nederland, Port Neches-Groves, Orange, 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.

Nurturing scientific interest

Dr. Bernard Harris, president and founder of The Harris Foundation, visited Lamar 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 weighting 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.

35:3 NOVEMBER 2007

CARDINAL CADENCE

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.”

On campus

Saving a life in simulation

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

Ameyly 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 breathe normally. The baby cried and the group seemed to breathe sighs 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 John K. Dihrman 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 of nurs­ ing and chair. Forty-three potential nursing students from 16 area schools participated.

“We are encouraging high school stu­ dents 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, Buna, Central Medical Magnet, Community Christian, Kirbyville, Nederland, Port Neches-Groves, Orange, Sabine Pass, Silsbee, Woodville, Hamshire-Fannett, Vidor, Lumberton, Kountze and the Richard Milburn Academy in Beaumont.

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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 put 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 Mulh, the great-grandson of the legendary George N. Schulte, who drove the 1907 Thomas Flyer around the world in the 1908 New York to Paris Great Automobile Race. Mulh spoke on campus in the John Gray Center Auditorium Oct. 8. With seemingly insurmountable obstacles, Schulte 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. Mulh presented the story—in fact and fiction—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.

DFJ Mercury Venture Partners managing directors Dan Watkins and Blair Garreau spoke as part of the Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies Entrepreneurship Lecture series Oct. 2. Watkins and Garreau shared their perspective on the venture capital industry including 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 Garreau teaches venture capitalism as an adjunct professor of management at the J. O. Lanier Graduate School of Business at Rice University. He led the sale of Internet 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.

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.

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 former TTU 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 Planetary and Terrestrial Mining Science Symposium in Sudbury, Ontario. In his presentation, TTU Mathematics faculty members participated this summer in the annual reading and scoring of the College Board’s advanced placement (AP) examinations in Lewiston, Ky. Assistant professor Mary Villanueva and assistant professor Sarah Richardson used the cell phone as a tool, while assistant professor Hunter Cee read for the statistics exam. “The reading draws upon the talents of some of the finest teachers and professionals the world has to offer. It fosters professionalism, allows for exchange of ideas and strengthens the commitment to students and to teaching,” said Trevor Paskie, executive director of the program . . . Cornell Daily Sun . . . Eileen Doger Casil, 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 role as dean of the College of Engineering, professor in the chemical engineering department and director of the Texas Center for Technology Innovation and the Texas Exports 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.

System selects H-0
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. Recognized by Lamar University president Thomas C. Hu, professor and department chair of chemical engineering, H-0 was selected 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 methods and methods, and his unrelenting desire to work with students to help them be successful. Recipient will receive a $5,000 award and commemorative medal.
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 rough sea around obstacles to avoid collisions. Team members, all 2007 Lamar electrical engineering graduates, include team leader Jace Daigle, Arlington; John Brown, Baytown; Greg Gallo, Fannett; and Martin Martinez, Baytown. Faculty advisor Bernard Mansfield of the electrical engineering department and mentor Dave Chaumont of the NASA Johnson Space Center Constellation Program Office also participated in the project. Daigle now lives in Austin and works for National Instruments. Brazil works for American Electric Technologies Inc. in Beaumont. Martinez now works with NASA, and Gatti has moved to Portland to work for Lyondell Chemical. After working with his 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 Gatti. 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 Vizdor, a senior accounting major from Vidor, who has high hopes for what this honor will mean for his future. After he graduated in May 2008 with a bachelor’s in business administration, Woodward, 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 “I investigating the G-graph of a Group,” was held May 23-24, 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: Christian Call, a junior from Port Arthur; Christy Chen, a junior from Beaumont; Alan Rodriguez, a sophomore from China, Texas; and Shabtai Tempel, 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 the 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 catterpillar. All designed to build a little love of reading in young children and to teach them about books in a fun and unique way while Lamar students gain classroom experience. • Paleontol-o-ogy can be dirty. And the search can lead to some rugged places. This summer, students and Professor J. Jim Westgate headed for the Badlands of Utah for a little paleontological prospecting. Jaron Burrow, 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 University of Victoria in British Columbia, the University of California, Los Angeles. • Lamar senior Lauren Vizdor 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. Vizdor formerly was a writer for “Cadizna,” the Honors Program newsletter, “went to the newsroom 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 Julia Garcia of Port Arthur, feature editor Belashia Johnson of Houston and photo editor Kourtney Rose of Houston. • Lamar student Ariluvku of Houston is taking the reins as president of the Student Government Association. Ariluvku has a passion for enhancing student life and has made a goal to keep the focus on campus. “Lamar feels like a family to me,” he said. “I nibid at being in a classroom with 300 other students, teachers at Lamar know (students) by name.” Ariluvku enjoys working as a team with SGA officers vice president Tony Santa of Miami, Fla., and secretary-treasurer Vera Alikunku of Houston. • The Lamar Student Finance Committee 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 stu- dent 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 Angelides, Christopher Hallinan and Brian VanVliet-Price of Beaumont; Robinson Barroa of Grove, Sherron Capels of Nederland, Austin Jackson of Vidor; and Muriel Mitchell 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/studentcenter to post job openings, view student resumes 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 Tessa 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 life to a variety of projects. Our gratitude is deepened by the generosity of our donors. We are committed to providing the best education possible for our students, and these scholarships are a testament to that commitment. By providing financial support, our donors enable students to focus on their studies and achieve their academic goals.

Rebecca Lynn Fussell Scholarship in Music

Michael Lindsay and John Morgan of the law firm Lindsay and Morgan established the Lisa Panesi Lindsay Beautis Scholarship in criminal justice in memory of Beaumont police officer Lisa Beautis. Huang’s dream of becoming an officer after graduating from Katy High School. She worked as a jaker 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 2003. Huang was a hard worker and a dedicated police officer. She was a tireless advocate for the community and a true hero.

Cardinal Cadence

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Cardinal Cadence

Joseph F. Domino Scholarship in Electrical Engineering

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. 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. He is a member of the Lamar University Foundation and serves as a member of the Lamar University Alumni Foundation and as a member of the Board of Directors of Lamar University.

Field of Study Scholarships

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Thompson also received glowing reviews from his students.

"I feel blessed and lucky to be able to do 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."

In his downtime 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.

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BRIAN SATTLER

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 performing in a role that was totally implausible.""The last was Dr. Strangelove, or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bass," he adds. "It was a British production, and the British all thought he was a method actor performing in a role that was totally implausible.""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."

"I'm a British historian. It's obvious that 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 met the Queen, both former parts of the British Empire, on his agenda for the next book. He is familiar with all realms of British history, from the late 17th century to the present day. His research and writing on British history have earned him numerous accolades, including the title of "British historian" and "scholar-teacher." Thompson is also sought after as a speaker and lecturer, and his work has been featured in numerous publications and on television. 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 enroled 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 doing strip shows. 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 like light years away. Then, Thompson says, "After about 15 years, that quit being fun. Conclusively 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 1988, he arrived at Lamar University, and the rest is history. Quite literally, Thompson, associate professor of history, was honored this month as Lamar's 2007 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer. He became the 21st recipient of the honor, which is considered one of the highest accolades accorded a Lamar faculty member.

His lecture attracted an enthusiastic audience to the University Theatre Thursday Nov. 12. "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."

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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.

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.

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.

Brush with destiny

Norvell said.

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by Brian Sattler

An art for imaginative development
Johnny Carrabba peruses the book, *Ezekiel’s Horse*, by Lamar 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.

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*.

Patti and Ed Hurwitz ’62 enjoy the reception before the *La Dolce Vita* Vintner Dinner.

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.

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 Simmons ’68.

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.

Daniel Risso, manager of ExxonMobil’s Beaumont Refinery, and Kathleen Jackson, ExxonMobil public affairs manager, join President James Simmons at the Distinguished Faculty Lecture dinner.

“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 equities lodging company to host artists from around the world who want to experience, and be inspired by the raw beauty of the Amazon jungle.

“If 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 adventurous, students will take artists deeper into the jungle for $10 per day. Two jungle lodges, the Huanacora 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.

“I 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
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 ... 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 helping 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 ... 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.

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.

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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 UV 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 Brist 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.

GEORGE McLAUGHLIN '56

"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 the community."
- President James Simmons

GEORGE McLAUGHLIN '56

"A man of outstanding character and ability who made a significant impact on the university and the legal profession."
- John Tucker

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 UV 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 Brist 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.

"A man of outstanding character and ability who made a significant impact on the university and the legal profession."
- John Tucker

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...
“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, now finds herself serving well over 8,500 on a monthly basis. She also honored alumni who volunteer in the community.

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 Mazen 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 success.

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 back injury forced him to retire from the sport. 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 was one of those unplanned events, and I found out quickly that I could compete with anyone from anywhere with the education I received at Lamar University.”

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

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 when 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 offers services to well over 8,500 a month basis. She has established Target Hunger as an outfit 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 Alumni 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 1956 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 1963 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 lamar@edull.edu. The nomination deadline for nominations is March 1st for selection. Nominees are eligible for the Distinguished Alumni Award for two years.
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 on 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. Then, she excelled in painting and drawing and nurtured a growing interest in the visual arts. She honed that talent at the University of North Carolina, where she earned her bachelor’s and master’s degree while studying Western art traditions and modern art theory 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 Thelma Polly’s Decoration and Handicraft: Reinventing 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 and the Southwest Texas Press Club. In April 2007, the project took first 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 to share our love of art with our home-land,” Chauveaux said. “Campuses are the greatest patrons of the arts in our nation, and Lamar is a gem in the community.”

Students perfect song, dance and more at camps
Eduardo Garcia-Novelli, director of choral activities and camp director, gathered 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 auditions. 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 bands and camp director. The camp focused on activities to improve interactive ensemble skills, as well as individual skills. Activities included realistic 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 techniques 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.

NEA conference attracts arts leaders to Lamar
“NEA conference attracts arts leaders to Lamar,” 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 Hammers, 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.

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.
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 theater event benefits the museum's collections and educational programs. Featured chef Johnny Carrabba proved a popular attraction during the weekend, presenting both a gourmet wine-tasting dinner Oct. 19 and a cooking demonstration Oct. 20. On the evening of Oct. 20, guests sampled international fare and complimentary wines.

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 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. "It is a remarkably compelling analysis of the fraternal social and political dynamics that brought McVeygh and his tribalism to explosives to Oklahoma City. This book is an informative, insightful and gripping study that is at once irresistibly fascinating and deeply disturbing."

Vanderleeuw examines racial politics

"His work, as presented in this exhibition space, projects graphic power and hauntingly evocative shapes..." said Lynne Lokensgard, professor of art history. "His work, as presented in this exhibition space, projects graphic power and hauntingly evocative shapes."... 

Vanderleeuw examines racial politics

"The Colored Boy"

"Descant" magazine included Vanderleeuw's story, judged Eric's story, "... the best of those 13 stories."... 

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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. Lamar...
“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 is 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 Tekdyne Industries—his first employer. “The semiconductor industry was going through another one of its severe recessions,” Drayer said. “Tekdyne’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 turnaround was complete, and the once-shunned company was highly desirable.

“We ended up buying the semiconductor business from Tekdyne,” Drayer said. So, 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 waked 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.”
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. ... 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 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 second SLC team title for Lamar, tying them for the most in conference history with McNeese State and former member Abilene Christian.

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, 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. 1nd, Kasagule and Koenck earned automatic berths with their second- and fourth-place finishes, while Graham earned an at-large bid after finishing in 12th place.

—DL

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 McMurry.

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 Kingford 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, Koenck and Bwambale earned automatic berths with their second- and fourth-place finishes, while Graham earned an at-large bid after finishing in 12th place.

—DL

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.

—DL

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 Binagia, Staci McGuire, Leslie Myers, Lauree Thibaut, Logan Matt, Rachelle Barry, Toree Plaia, former head coach Matthew Dillon, assistant coach jody Clugston.

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**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. To keep up with the changes, assistant coach Larry Tidwell and his staff of Sonora Acolet ’94, 105, Janet Eaton and Joe Wells made an immediate impact on the recruiting trail, inking the No. 31-ranked class in the NCAAs, as ranked by The Collegiate Girls Basketball Report. They addressed their next 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 Cardinals were tabbed the top team in the Southland Conference East Division by the coaches and second in the poll by the sports information directors. Returning players are sophomore Brittany Williams, junior Aida Baldwin, sophomore Stewart and Vickie Toney.

Joining them is a talented group of newcomers, led by 5-6 point guard Nile Williams— a two-time Portlandia who is an explosive floor leader and a quality shooter from behind the arc. Tamaro Alibi, a 6-2 small forward has size and versatility on the perimeter and helped Spain finish 4th in the 1940 European Championships held in Slovakia of the war.

Adrian Crawford, a 5-6 point guard, displays a speedy, athletic combo-game guard, suited for small ball situations.

Emily Spidler, 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.

**Championship Bracket**

**50s**

Hudson Co. 70, 5-6, a point guard, and the chief financial officer for an oil and gas company. His wife, Jenny, is a financial analyst.

Lemke (Ames) Co. 50, 5-6, a point guard, and the chief financial officer for an oil and gas company. His wife, Jenny, is a financial analyst.

Estes (Plano) Co. 50, 6-2, a point guard, and the chief financial officer for an oil and gas company. His wife, Jenny, is a financial analyst.

**40s**

Philly (Shippens) Shippens ’90, B.B.A., business administration, in real estate agent for Century 21 Terrene Realty in Baton Rouge, La. She also worked as a “Mother of the Year” by the local board of realtors and the Louisiana Association of Realtors.

Huntington Co. ’91, 5-10, a guard, and the chief financial officer for an oil and gas company. His wife, Jenny, is a financial analyst.

Huntington Co. ’91, 5-10, a guard, and the chief financial officer for an oil and gas company. His wife, Jenny, is a financial analyst.

For more information, visit www.lamar.edu/alumni.
**CARDINAL CADENCE**

38, B.S. art education, is retired and lives in Portrait Hills, Ala., with her husband, Wade. She has four children. **Carol (Keesee) Pace** 38, B.S. mathematics, lives in Orange with her husband, John. She has recently begun her career as a consultant and speaker on life and educational issues.

**Stephen S. Bessey** 38, B.S. health education, is a medical technologist for M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, where she lives.

**Leta (Thomas) Parker** 38, B.S. home economics, teaches kindergarten at J.S. III Elementary School in Liberty, Texas. She lives in Liberty with her husband, Terry. She has two sons.

**Charles A. Brown** 39, B.S. music; 70, M.Ed. history, is a district manager for Cambro and lives in Bedford.

**Donald B. Winkle** 39, B.S. biology; 77, M.B.A. management, is president of Hays Communications and lives in Decatur, Ill., with his wife, Nancy.

**Glenn M. Ledger** 39, B.S. elementary education, began his new term as justice of the peace for Precinct 2 in Jefferson County this year. He lives in Port Arthur.

**Terry (Stroud) Littrell** 39, B.S. music; 87, M.A. history, is an administrator for Big Thicket National Preserve. He lives in Lumberton with his wife, Jenna.

**Carl (Rivas) Smith** 39, B.S. elementary education, is principal of Caddo Elementary School and lives in Orange with his wife, Kay. They have two children.

**Robert M. Giesy Jr.** 39, B.S. chemical engineering, is district manager for Valspar and lives in Decatur, Ill., with his wife, Nancy. Their son, Caleb, will graduate from Texas Tech University this spring.

**Ann (Blackwell) Fisher** 39, B.S. secondary education, teaches kindergarten at J.S. III Elementary School in Liberty, Texas. She lives in Liberty with her husband, Terry.

**Kenneth C. Thayer** 39, B.S. political science, is an instructor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She lives in Madison with her husband, Richard. Their two children are in college.

**William S. Taylor** 39, B.S. mathematics, is retired and lives in Roanoke, Va., with his wife, Janette.

**David W. Jones** 39, B.S. electrical engineering, is a senior data analyst in New Bruns-wick with his wife, Linda.

**Michael** 39, B.S. electrical engineering, is a senior data analyst in New Brunswick with his wife, Linda.

**James Robert Collins** 39, B.S. accounting, is a medical technologist for Mott Family Dentistry and lives in Rolla, Mo., with her husband, James. She has two children.

**Carol (Keesee) Pace** 39, B.S. mathematics, teaches kindergarten at J.S. III Elementary School in Liberty, Texas. She lives in Liberty with her husband, Terry. She has two sons.

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**Michael** 39, B.S. electrical engineering, is a senior data analyst in New Brunswick with his wife, Linda.

class_notes
Jeffrey H. Gray '90, B.B.A. accounting, is the National Account Manager at AES. He lives in Katy, Texas.

Randy H. Cuffel '68, B.B.A. general business, is the owner of R.P. Cuffel Co., Inc., a concrete and asphalt contractors in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Jeffrey W. Lennon '79, B.A. political science, is the mayor of Groves, Texas, in Groves, Texas. His wife, Shelly Ingalls, '79, is an art teacher at Groves High School.

Robert Paul Funkhouser '79, B.A. general studies in business, is a real estate broker with Williams Real Estate in Port Arthur, Texas.

Phyllis G.虾头 '78, B.B.A. general business, is with David Wooten, CEO of the Groves Chamber of Commerce.

Jeffrey W. Lennon '79, B.A. political science, is a private practice Constituent in Houston. His wife is Shelly and they have six children.

Vernon E. "Dave" Mayfield '89, B.S. kinesiology, is an employee of Shell. He lives in Friendswood, Texas, with his wife and two children.

Jeffrey W. Lennon '79, B.A. political science, is a retired politician of Texas A&M. He is married to his wife, Billie, in Alvin, Texas.

Barbara D. Eddington '82, A.A.S. refrigeration and air conditioning technology, is a service manager at Nance International Inc. He lives in Katy, Texas.

Shawn E. Hamilton '95, B.S. finance, is a service manager for Palmerton, Texas, and is an employee of Shell. He lives in Magnolia, Texas.

John M. Beck '84, B.S. electrical engineering, is the managing director of Shell. He lives in Balch Springs, Texas, with his wife and two children.

Jeffrey W. Lennon '79, B.A. political science, is a retired politician of Texas A&M. He is married to his wife, Billie, in Alvin, Texas.

Barbara D. Eddington '82, A.A.S. refrigeration and air conditioning technology, is a service manager at Nance International Inc. He lives in Katy, Texas.
Dr. Thomas B. Thompson, ’94, B.A. accounting, is the tax director for American Oncology Inc. He lives in Houston with his wife, Deborah. They have twin daughters.

Dr. Jennifer J. Haxton, ’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.

Dr. Chandra Alexander, ’95, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a research engineer for Lyondell Chemical Co. in Channelview. He lives in Clewiston with his wife, Kathy. ’96, B.S. chemistry.

Dr. St. John, ’96, B.A. General studies, lives in Atlanta, Ga., where he is pursuing a master’s degree in divinity at the Interdenominational Theological Center–Morehouse School of Religion.

Dr. N. Rabaez, ’97, B.S. chemical engineering, is a research engineer for Lyondell Chemical Co. in Channelview. He lives in Houston with his wife. Gajendra. ’98, B.S. biology.

Dr. G. Done, ’98, B.S. chemical engineering, is a research engineer for Lyondell Chemical Co. in Channelview. He lives in Houston with his wife. Gajendra. ’98, B.S. biology.

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We will miss...

Alumni

Jack Folmar '53, occupational training director, died May 11, 2007. He grew up in Beaumont, graduated from Lamar in 1953, and then entered the U.S. Navy, as a Seaman. After retiring in 1961, he worked in the marketing department of Reliance Insurance Co. in Houston. After he retired in 1989, he worked one day a week for Time West Coast Oil Co. for 15 years and spent the other four working. Gollub includes his wife of 48 years, QLD, and sons, Michael and Matthew.

Vicki Fontenot '02, B.A. history, died May 27, 2007. She was born in Beaumont in 1983 and attended South Park High School. In 2005, she was diagnosed with cervical cancer. In 2006, she married her husband, Shawn, and lived in Wildwood. She worked as a chemical engineer, math and chemistry teacher, and real estate agent. Survivors include her wife, Matty; mother, Margaret Duke; and father, O.T. Wallace.

Robert Prince '54, B.M. music, died July 15, 2007. She worked for the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services for 20 years in the Texas public school system and had a love for music. Survivors include her daughter, Matty; mother, Margaret Duke; and father, O.T. Wallace.

Daisy H. Green 82, died June 17, 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, Thomas; and daughters, Stan and Jihad, and granddaughter, Shae Robins.

Bill Loupas '78, B.S. oceanographic technology, died May 14, 2007. He was born in Port Neches and graduated from Jefferson High School in 1973. He was a member of the Lutheran church. Survivors include his wife, Janet; and daughter, Shae Robins.

Karl Kugler, 82, a nurse, died May 14, 2007. She was a nurse administrator at a nursing home in Daytona Beach, Florida. She loved teaching, camping and traveling. Survivors include her husband, Bruce; and daughter, Tracy.

Heather Truncale, 82, died April 4, 2007. She was a nurse at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Survivors include her sons, Michael, and daughter, Ruth Ann Muse.

Mildred Gernentz, 82, 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 also employed an angelic church in Texas and Georgia. Survivors include her husband, Barry; and daughter, Laura Howard.

Charles Houstoun '78, B.B.A. general business, died March 10, 2007. He worked in the marketing department of Reliance Insurance Co. in Houston. After he retired in 1989, he worked one day a week for Time West Coast Oil Co. for 15 years and spent the other four working. Gollub includes his wife of 48 years, QLD, and sons, Michael and Matthew.

Adagio and Allegro 84, died Aug. 29, 2007. She was president of the Texas AFL-CIO and 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.

M. A. history, died April 2, 2007. He was born in Beaumont in 1938 and attended South Park High School. He earned a master’s degree in history in 1962 and a master’s degree in history in 1965. 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, Laura Howard.

William McNeill '79, certif. in music technology, died May 14, 2007. He was born in Port Neches and graduated from Jefferson High School in 1973. He was a member of the Lutheran church. Survivors include his wife, Janet; and daughter, Shae Robins.

Vicki Fontenot '02, B.A. music, died June 26, 2007. She was a nurse in private practice in Beaumont and an nurse administrator at a nursing home in Dayton. She loved camping, fishing and traveling. Survivors include her husband, Thomas; and daughters, Stan and Jihad, and granddaughter, Shae Robins.

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“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 hurricane 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-hour days, the city manager had to keep up with every aspect of the crisis, managing the evacuation of thousands of people. She recalls the feeling of exhaustion and the need for rest.

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 to deliver with priorities established by the City Council, stabilizing 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 because all the 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 heads the sanitation department is another example. These 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 packed with activities, and she was preparing for graduation. She recalls finding herself one credit 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 the feeling she has when she can spend time with her grandchildren. Suhm has two sons, Gabe and Josh, and four grandchildren, Emma, Eli, Collin and Jared.
Destined for a healthy partnership

by Beth Gallapy

Lavender’s “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.

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.

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

“The nursing program was strenuous. It prepared us clinically, but also focused on management, which is critical to our success today.”

“Somewhat unaware” 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.

“Patience 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.”

“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 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 Peters’ 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 frontline managers in management skills. When the consulting firm later sold, the women decided to strike out on their own.

“We just kind of dropped 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 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.

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 nursing department at Lamar University, she chose the program because of an aversion to needles, but found she still had to learn to draw blood.

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, ‘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 floor of the 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 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 Peters’ resume to Lavender to see if she knew the applicant.

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“Patience for nursing, for the patients, really came to the forefront of everything we did.” —CAROL LAVENDER
Hoping Lamar University Grow One Student at a Time

Now, more than ever, is the time to make a commitment to help Lamar grow. Your gift helps us to meet the needs of aspiring students and support an exceptional faculty dedicated to engaging them in teaching, research and scholarship. The loyal support of alumni and friends like you will ensure their achievements resonate for years to come.

You can make a difference in the lives of our students.

Annual Giving focuses on acquiring regular, yearly contributions to fill the gap between what is needed and what the state provides. Unlike endowed funds, which are invested and generate income for specific purposes in perpetuity, the Annual Giving Campaign plays a vital part in the success of our university.

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Thank you for helping Lamar grow.
A CHARITABLE GIVING OPPORTUNITY EXTENDED

Last year, Congress enacted legislation through the Pension Protection Act of 2006 that offered charity-minded individuals an opportunity to make gifts from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) and to exclude the amount of these 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 must be made by December 31, 2007;
• IRA gift must be outright (i.e. no benefits such as income may be received).

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

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!

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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 lifetime income plan.

You may explore the following options, using the calculator:

- Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust
- Charitable Remainder 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 can save you time.

The site is secure, and the service is free.

Mr. and Mrs. David B. Boggess
Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. David J. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Brown
Mr. and Mrs. James Brown
Mr. and Mrs. John Brown
Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Brown
Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. James L. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. James L. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Brown
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 Congressman 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 Patrick “Pete” Parsons Marshall, executive director of Texas H2 Coalition, to discuss opportunities unique to Southeast Texas and Lamar University in particular.

While quick to describe Texas as dow 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, bio-mass—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 Codes, 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. “Currently 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 develop, and demonstrate the technology of tomorrow,” Hopper said. “We expect to be at the epicenter of the dawn of the next energy era—the age of hydrogen.”

The Texas H2 Coalition’s membership includes founding members Toyota, Shell Hydrogen, Xcel Energy, Air Liquids, TEXYN, Exergy Development Corp. and Nanotronics 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.

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.

“Supporting higher education has always been a strategic priority for Bowen Mobil,” said Terri Cornacchio, Global Recruiting Organization. “This program enables us to provide funding to colleges and universities that play a pivotal role in preparing students to enter the workforce. Bowen Mobil is proud to provide support to Lamar University that will enhance the department’s ability to align academic focus with the workforce needs of Bowen Mobil.”
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 just 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 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 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 Meehan was named setter of the year; Shalayne Blythe earned Newcomer of the Year honors; and Gibert was named the SLC Coach of the Year.