

# CARDINAL Cadence

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A MEMBER OF THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

## Couple's \$6 million gift

prompts chemical engineering,  
press box name gain

## \$4 million gift

from law firm, couple  
spurs stadium naming

## Putting the bite on super bugs,

researcher probes alligator immunity





## From the President

These are exciting days at Lamar University. We have again set an enrollment record, possible because of steady on-campus numbers and incredible growth in the education master's program offered in partnership with Higher Education Holdings.

The response to Lamar's Investing in the Future campaign has been phenomenal—with \$54 million raised toward the \$100 million goal—and enthusiasm remains strong despite the economic challenges of late.

We recently celebrated a \$3 million gift from Provost-Umphrey Law Firm and an additional \$1 million gift from Walter and Sheila Umphrey. In recognition of the generosity of the partners, football will return to Lamar in Provost-Umphrey Stadium.

Future reports of the gamesmanship of the Cardinals on the gridiron will be dispatched from the Dan F. and Sandra A. Smith Press Box—named for the couple in recognition of a \$1 million gift to help restore the program. Across campus, future stars in industry will study in the Dan F. Smith Department of Chemical Engineering, named in recognition of a \$5 million contribution to the College of Engineering.

Getting around campus has become more of an adventure with all the construction under way – and there is more to come. From renovation to new construction, it has been decades since so much has been “in the works” on campus. We're excited about setting the stage for an even brighter future. Thank you for your patience!

The campus was abuzz with activity as we celebrated Homecoming and held a record-setting Open House for prospective students. What a delightful mix—those reminiscing about the wonderful times they experienced on campus and hundreds of young men and women filled with promise and possibility. We look forward to seeing many of them on campus as the next generation of the Red and White.

The campus community joined in remembering the legacy of long-time educator, administrator and former LU interim president W. Brock Brentlinger, who died Feb. 19. His association with Lamar began in 1969 as dean of the School of Fine Arts and continued with service as interim president in 1992. He later shared his experience and insight as a special assistant to the president until his retirement in 2005.

Thank you for all you do for Lamar University. Your support makes a real difference!

With Cardinal Pride,

*James M. Simmons*

James M. Simmons  
President  
Lamar University



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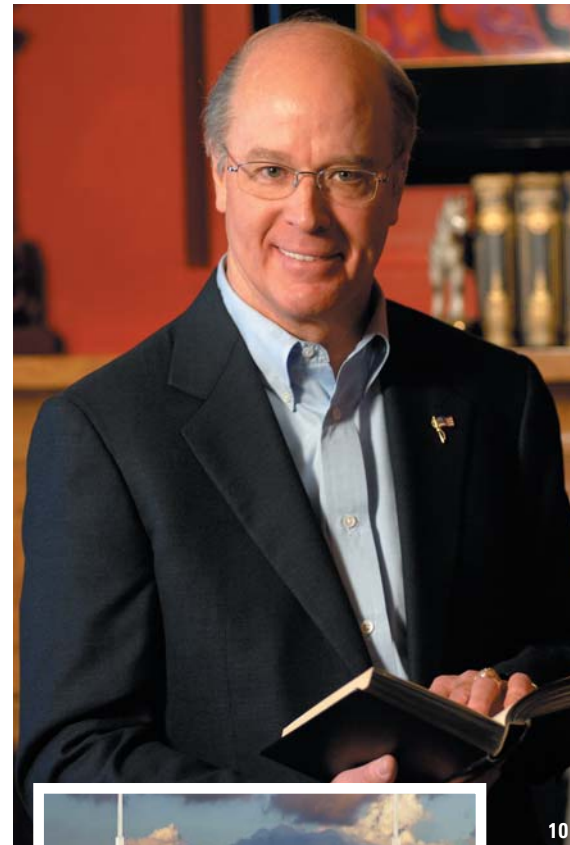
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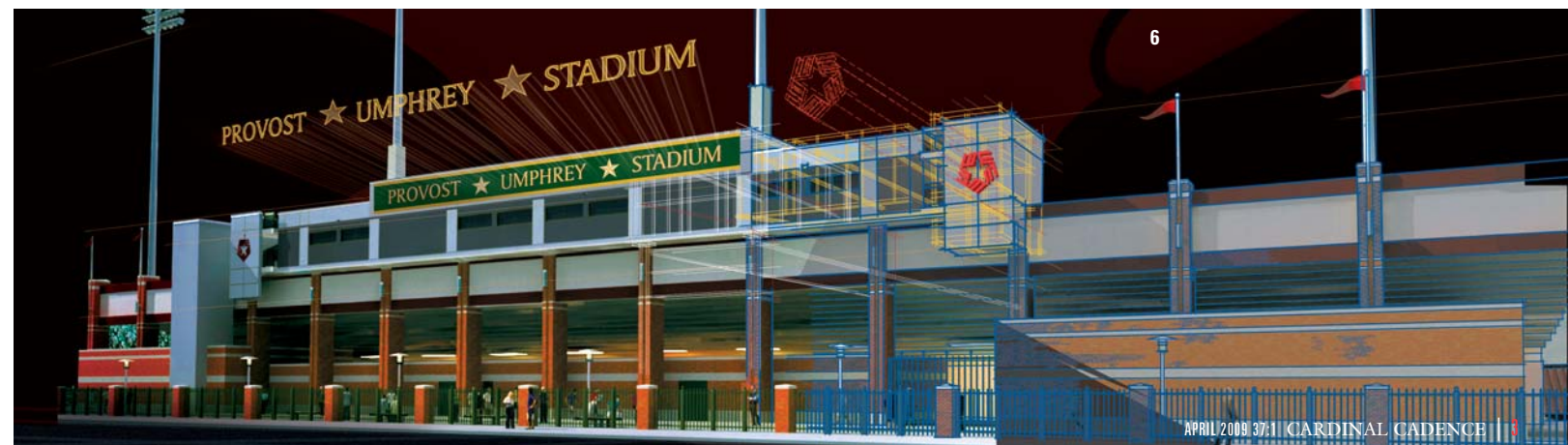
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6





MICHAEL CARPENTER

# Engineering faculty excellence

by Louise Wood

Growing up in a small copper-mining town, Anita Riddle '93, '96, loved to look at stars. Astronomy is a hobby to this day, begun when her father bought a telescope so the family could marvel at the galaxies twinkling above the Arizona desert. He also inspired her to be an engineer.

Today, Riddle is a star in her own galaxy, and her meteoric career rise has made her an executive in the petrochemical industry. Lamar University played a starring role in that career, in which Riddle serves as U.S. manufacturing procurement manager and global advisor for ExxonMobil.

Honored by the Southeast Texas Business and Professional Women as a "Woman to Watch," she is a member of Lamar's Chemical Engineering Advisory Council. Riddle is also an athlete, having lettered in four high school sports, and she still plays on a softball team. A bilingual Latina, she is a world traveler and an national-parks devotee who has a great love for the great outdoors.

She and her husband, Steven Schmidt, who live in Fairfax, Va., are also great friends of Lamar University, where their generosity has supported educational excellence in areas from faculty enrichment in chemical and industrial engineering to scholarships and the Society of Women Engineers, as well as other areas.

Inspired by the engineering faculty's impact on her career, Riddle has contributed to her alma mater for 14 consecutive years, culminating in the gifts she and Schmidt made to Lamar's current comprehensive campaign, "Investing in the Future."

Their \$100,000 campaign gift created the Riddle and Schmidt Faculty Development Endowment in Chemical Engineering and the Riddle and Schmidt Faculty Development Endowment in Industrial Engineering. The engineering faculty is close to Riddle's heart, and she credits that faculty for her career success.

"The university has been key in helping me become a better person, a better leader, a better professional. I took management classes, and I took technical classes, and it's made me a more effective employee," she said. "I have always been so impressed with the engineering professors' willingness to work so closely with industry to meet industry's needs.

"I don't want the professors to have constraints. If there's anything I can do to help them teach better—or teach more—that's why I do it."

"We are most appreciative of this gift and are excited about the impact it will have," said Camille Mouton, vice president for university advancement. "When I visited with Anita about her campaign gift, she told me about the wonderful mentoring she received from our engineering faculty and asked what she could do to support faculty. This endowment will provide flexibility so faculty members have opportunities to further their professional development and ensure that our engineering students continue to receive a top-notch education."

For Riddle and Schmidt, ExxonMobil's program of three-to-one matching gifts has proven inspirational.

"There is a lot of opportunity, and I want to take full advantage of it. As my husband and I continue to work, we'll continue to give to Lamar."

Riddle's success story begins in the copper-mining town of Bisbee, Ariz., where her father, John "Jack" Riddle, worked as a mining engineer. "I think since fourth grade, my teachers recognized I was good at math," Riddle said. "My dad recognized that early on, and he encouraged me."

Hers is a family of engineers. Her sister, Yvette, is a geological engineer in the mining industry. Their brother, Sergio, recently retired from the Army Corps of Engineers. Jack Riddle met Anita's mother, Silvia, a teacher, while in the copper mines of northern Chile.

"My mother (now deceased) taught me Spanish, so I am bilingual," said Riddle, who encourages daughters Sierra Katherine, 7, and Christine Silvia, 4, to speak Spanish.

In high school, Riddle lettered in volleyball, basketball, track and tennis and was student body president.

After graduation, she followed her sister to the University of Arizona, deciding a year later to transfer to Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., with an Army ROTC scholarship. At Cornell, she was

captain of the women's volleyball team.

Riddle graduated from Cornell with a chemical engineering degree, then spent six years on active duty in the Army, stationed in Germany, Colorado and Alabama, where her duties included ammunition management and bomb disposal. In the early 1990s, her travels led to Beaumont.

"I loved the Army because I was getting all kinds of leadership experience, but I wanted to be an engineer as well as a leader," she said. "I needed to find a place where I could do chemical engineering, get a graduate engineering degree and do part-time Army Reserve work.

"Beaumont had everything for me. The refinery was a wonderful place to work. I immediately applied at Lamar for a master's program. And the Army Reserve gave me the command of a transportation company on College Street. It was a wonderful place to start a career."

Tom Moeller, ExxonMobil Director, Refining Americas,

ExxonMobil Refining & Supply Co., and a former regent of The Texas State University System, was then manager of the Beaumont refinery. "He inspired me to continue my education (at Lamar). "I could immediately apply what I was learning at work. In fact, my doctoral project was on the process unit for which I was the engineer. It was a perfect combination," said Riddle, who earned her master of engineering management in 1993 and doctor of engineering in chemical engineering in 1996.

"Anita Riddle is an extremely talented analytical problem solver," said Jack Hopper, dean of the College of Engineering and executive assistant to the president for economic development and industrial relations. "Moreover, she is providing a very valuable role for the College of Engineering as demonstrated by her high level of commitment and support for Lamar."

Adds Victor Zaloom, associate dean of engineering and chair of industrial engineering: "Anita has a wonderful and uncommon set of attributes, including high intelligence, high ethical standards, motivation to succeed and caring of others. She was a model student. It is even more rewarding to know her and see her grow into a wonderful, caring person."

Beaumont changed Riddle's life in another significant way. She met her husband at a conference on campus. Both were doing environmental work, Riddle at Mobil and Schmidt at the DuPont Sabine

River Works in Orange. They were married Nov. 11, 1995, with a reception on the eighth floor of the Mary and John Gray Library. The setting held special significance on campus, in view of the company that gave her a career and beginning her life with Steven. "The sunset was gorgeous. Everything was coming together."

Soon after Riddle earned her doctorate from Lamar, she also earned one of her first key leadership positions as a shift superintendent, with the responsibility to execute the orders of management and to ensure the safety and the environmental responsibility of all the operations.

"I was working a rotating shift schedule, where the team works a series of days, then a series of nights. It was challenging. I have a lot of respect for folks who do that for many years."

She went on to a leadership position over the lubricant-processing plant. It was a perfect fit because her Lamar doctoral project was about solvent extraction.

"That was the first time I had complete accountability for all the safety, environment, proper business controls, operations, profit and loss, and efficiency of that business," Riddle said.

From Beaumont, Riddle went to the Joliet, Ill., refinery, as manager over the storage and transport of gasolines and diesel fuels from the refinery to the gas stations. During her first assignment in Fairfax, she was in charge of optimizing the crude oil purchases for all refineries in the Americas. "That was right after the merger, so it was a very exciting time for the company," she said.

Assigned to corporate headquarters in Irving as environmental advisor for safety, health and environment, Riddle led efforts to

set aside undeveloped acreage at the headquarters as a wildlife habitat. By then, Steven had left Du Pont for ExxonMobil. "Our life became a little less complicated, and I thank him for that sacrifice, as I do for all the other sacrifices he makes for my career," she said.

Transferred to Baton Rouge, Riddle was in charge of the operations of crude oil distillation, resid coking and lubricants processing. She returned 3½ years ago to Fairfax, over procurement of services and materials for ExxonMobil's U.S. refineries and chemical plants.

"It's exciting. It's fulfilling. It's challenging," she said. "I feel like ExxonMobil is taking full advantage of what I can give—and pressing me for more creativity and even better leadership."

“ExxonMobil is so generous with its matching gifts and strongly encourages us to support programs to develop scientists and engineers because that is one of the company’s strengths.”

—ANITA RIDDLE

## Matching gifts multiply impact

As Anita Riddle and Steven Schmidt continue to participate in ExxonMobil's matching-gifts program, they encourage other employees to follow suit. "I would echo our company in saying that with investment in science and engineering, the payback is tremendous," Riddle said. "I can see the investment ExxonMobil makes not just in Lamar's graduates, but also in its own employees, developing our careers. It's worth it."

If you or your spouse works for a company that matches charitable gifts, this is a great way to double or even quadruple the impact your gift can make in the life of a student. Check with your human resources department to find out and to obtain a matching-gift form to complete and mail with your gift to Lamar. You may also call the Lamar development office at (409) 880-8422 for more information. Below is a partial list of companies that match charitable gifts.

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Texas Instruments  
TOTAL Petrochemicals  
UBS Foundation  
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Valero Energy  
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# Cardinal Stadium reborn

## Provost Umphrey fashions new facade



BRYAN BLEVINS JR.



DAVE WILSON



JAMES PAYNE



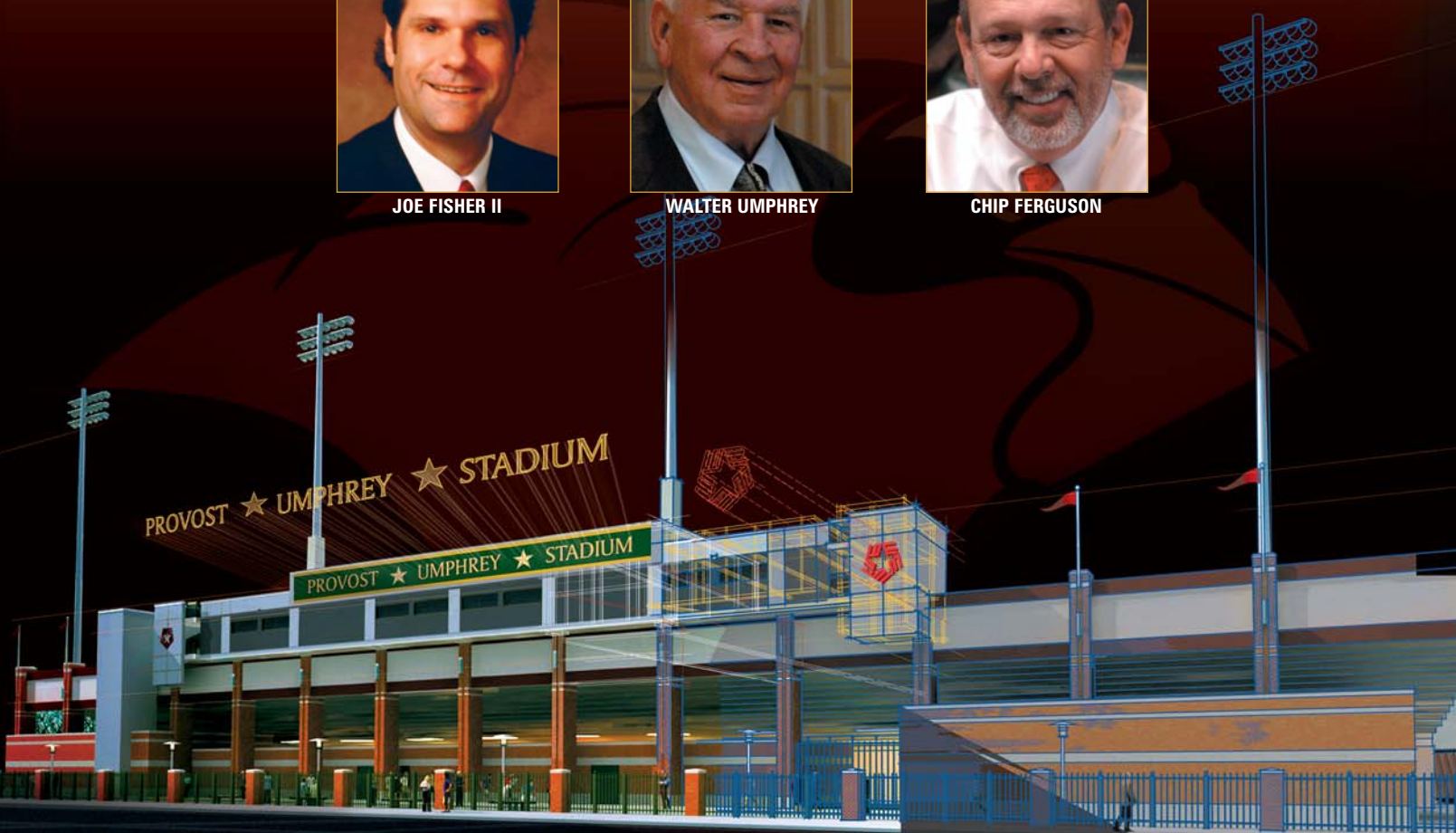
JOE FISHER II



WALTER UMPHREY



CHIP FERGUSON



by Beth Gallaspy

When the Lamar University Cardinals return to the gridiron, it will be thanks in large part to the generosity of donors like Walter Umphrey and his partners at Provost Umphrey law firm.

"It's very clear to all of us that we would not be talking about football if it wouldn't be for the wonderful support we've received from our friends, donors and alumni from this region and across the state," said President James Simmons. "You have to single out this gift as the cornerstone of the project. Some wonderful people have also stepped in to help us get to the total we needed to make it possible."

In recognition of a \$3 million gift from the Beaumont-based law firm and an additional \$1 million from Umphrey and his wife, Sheila, the name "Provost Umphrey Stadium" will grace the soon-to-be renovated facility where fans will cheer on the Cardinals. The gifts are part of LU's \$100 million Investing in the Future comprehensive campaign.

Umphrey, a Port Arthur native who founded the law firm in 1969 with David Provost, said he and the five senior partners all agreed that making the donation was a valuable investment in the region.

"We feel that Lamar University is the future of Southeast Texas, and, to have a complete university, you have to have a complete athletic program," Umphrey said. "It attracts students and creates interest. It's a stimulant for them to live on campus."

A former athlete himself, Umphrey received a football scholarship to Southern Methodist University, where he began his studies before finishing his undergraduate and law degrees at Baylor University. Sheila Umphrey, who owns The Decorating Depot Inc., studied art at the University of Colorado and at Lamar. The couple had nothing but praise for recent progress at Lamar University, where he earned a few English credits in summer classes and where their son graduated.

"Jimmy Simmons has done a heck of a job since he's been president," Umphrey said. "He has done magnificent things in regards to having several dormitories built, the recreation center for the students and any number of things."

Senior partner Dave Wilson '75 attended many Lamar games as a student and remembers football as an important part of student life, especially for those who lived on campus as he did for his first two years. He left Lamar for the military for eight years then returned to complete his studies. "It gave me a great start in everything that I wanted to do and was part of the basis of where I am now. It was a great learning experience. I think Lamar is great for the area," Wilson said.

Though none of the other partners graduated from Lamar, there are connections. James Payne took a summer English class on campus, and his wife, Tracie (Wilson) Payne '97, completed her master's degree at Lamar. Chip Ferguson's wife, Michelle (Beard) Ferguson '02, is an alumna, and his stepson is a student. Along with partners Bryan Blevins Jr. and Joe Fisher II, all agreed to participate in this gift, which was critical for transforming the return of football from a dream to a reality.

Renovations to the stadium, which has not been home to a Cardinal football team since 1989, are expected to begin in April after The Texas State University System issues bonds to help pay for the project. The debt will be repaid using revenue from athletics, student-approved fees and private donations.

The dramatic stadium upgrade is expected to take 12 to 14 months. During the renovation, the facility will get all new bench

seating, new restrooms, new concession stands and a new walking surface beneath the bleachers. A major component of the project will involve making the stadium more accessible for the disabled. Ramps will be modified to lower the slope, making movement easier for those in wheelchairs. Additional seating for the disabled will be part of the finished facility. Throughout the stadium, concrete surfaces will be repaired, and insulation will be replaced. The playing field will see improvements, including artificial turf for the field, new goalposts and a new scoreboard to keep track of Cardinal touchdowns. New lighting will be installed throughout the stadium. Gerald McCaig, associate vice president of facilities management and operations said fans who visit the stadium after the upgrade "will definitely see the difference."

The stadium project goes hand-in-hand with construction of a new athletic complex. Construction of the new building will follow the same timeline as the stadium renovation. Home and visitors locker rooms will be inside the athletic complex. The building will house football coaches' offices, a sizable weightlifting and physical conditioning room, and a large trainers' area for taping up players and rehabilitation of injuries, McCaig said. Storage for field equipment and players' gear will be inside the building as well. Plans for the new facility include several meeting rooms for studying game films and playbooks and for players to focus on their academic studies. Together, the two projects to provide a home for Cardinal football will cost an estimated \$26 million, of which \$7.5 million has come from private donors, including Provost Umphrey law firm.

"We didn't give the gift necessarily for football. We did it for Lamar University," Umphrey said when the gift was announced. "(The partners) thought it was a great idea."



WALTER & SHEILA UMPHREY

GARY CHRISTOPHER



# Football fans

**C**harline Dauphin loves young folks, football, and big, good-looking coaches and athletes. So when she met Lamar University's head football coach, Ray Woodard, last year at a function in Silsbee, where he has family and where she has lived for more than 40 years, she immediately had a soft spot for him. "He's just a sweetheart," Dauphin said. "I loved Ray immediately."

She loved Ray Woodard so much that she and her daughter, Robin Dauphin, decided to make a donation to help revive the Cardinals' football program after a 20-year absence. In honor of their gift through the Sidney and Charline Dauphin Foundation, LU's new athletic complex will include the Charline and Robin Dauphin Football Office Suite. The \$200,000 gift is part of LU's \$100 million Investing in the Future comprehensive campaign.

"I've known her family a long time, and I'm excited about having her be a part of our family here at Lamar," Woodard said. "Any contribution is appreciated, but the fact that she's already well connected to the program through the McGallion and Woodard families makes it very special."

Dauphin and her late husband, Sidney "Chief" Dauphin, enjoyed attending Cardinal football games with friends years ago. He was a big, good-looking football coach and former player, too.

Chief Dauphin left the Silsbee High School gridiron in the late 1960s to concentrate on the business the couple

created and built together for more than 30 years, Texas Home Health. She had tucked away \$10,000 from grocery money to start the business, recognizing the value of home health after seeing how it improved the life of her father, a double amputee. After Chief Dauphin's death in 2000, Charline Dauphin sold the company that they had expanded from a single Silsbee office in a very young industry to a network of 37 offices across Texas employing more than 12,000 people. Their hard work for many years led to phenomenal business success and allowed her to generously support causes she cares about, including cancer prevention and programs to benefit high school and college students.

The Dauphin family has been fortunate not to have been touched by cancer, Dauphin said. She knows, however, that not all families are as lucky. A close friend of Regina Rogers, she has been an active supporter of the Julie Rogers "Gift of Life" program, which provides free mammograms and prostrate cancer screenings throughout Southeast Texas. Dauphin created the Charline & Sidney "Chief" Dauphin Cancer Screening & Prevention Center at Memorial Hermann Baptist Beaumont Hospital. She also has generously supported M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, where she serves on the

University Cancer Foundation Board of Visitors with former president George H.W. Bush. She and other board members have been guests of the Bush family in Kennebunkport, Maine.

Along with her gift to LU's football program, Dauphin last year provided support to Silsbee High School to build the Sidney "Chief" Dauphin Silsbee Tiger Field House, a gift she knows would have pleased her husband, who coached at the school. "I hadn't even planned that," she said. "I'm pretty spontaneous."

Dauphin sees athletics as an important part of education at both the high school and college levels. "I have seen so many kids as my daughter was growing up and when Chief was coaching that if they didn't participate in sports, then they were out on the streets—smoking, drinking, whatever," she said. If students play a sport, they will learn some discipline and, with any luck, be too exhausted to get into trouble, she said. Dauphin had no interest in playing sports when she was a student, but her lengthy practices as a Rangerette at Kilgore College had the same effect. "We would have done the same thing, but then we worked out for three hours every day . . ." she said, recalling being too tired to move, much less run out to party. Athletics—whether football or some other sport—also teach high school and college students how to lose gracefully and "then they get a taste of that high when you win," she said. "Many a time I've been out on the football field with tears rolling down my eyes right along with the boys."

She hopes to be able to join in cheering on the Cardinals before long. —BG

BETH GALLASPY

# Ghana next step for first David J. Beck Fellow

**J**ennifer Mikel, a junior nursing major from Sweeny, has been named the inaugural winner of Lamar University's most prestigious student award, the David J. Beck Fellowship.

Lamar University President James Simmons announced Mikel's selection Nov. 18 at a ceremony on the eighth floor of the Mary and John Gray Library. At the ceremony, Mikel received an engraved medalion and certificate from Lamar University distinguished alumnus and prominent lawyer David J. Beck, whose generous gift to the Investing in the Future campaign made the fellowship possible.

The fellowship will provide Mikel with a full academic scholarship for 2009—including tuition, fees, books and on-campus room and board—along with up to \$10,000 to pursue the summer project she proposed as part of her application. She plans to travel to Ghana where she will work as a nursing intern in a rural hospital and live with a host family for six weeks through Projects Abroad.

Mikel, 19, said she had been interested in working in Africa since her senior year at Sweeny High School when she did an internship at Brazosport Memorial Hospital and met a nurse who had traveled to Africa during her college years.

**A willingness to work hard and learn from others is critical to success in any field.**

—DAVID BECK

"This is a wonderful opportunity not only for me but for future students who want to do something extraordinary and experience something that they might not be able to do if it wasn't for his contribution. He's making so many people's dreams become reality."

Beck, a 1961 Lamar graduate and founding partner of Beck, Redden & Secrest, LLP, a boutique litigation firm in Houston, praised Mikel as an outstanding choice as the first David J. Beck Fellow.

"A willingness to work hard and learn from others is critical to success in any field," Beck said. "I hope this fellowship year gives Jennifer a unique opportunity to supplement the excellent education she is receiving at Lamar University. Her spirit of service is admirable and indicative of the quality of students attracted to Lamar."

Mikel was one of 22 applicants for the Beck fellowship, which is being awarded for the first time in 2009. The fellowship is open to LU undergraduates in any major, with fellows chosen based on the strength of their complete application packet, including proposed summer project, academic record and financial need.

Mikel is a Mirabeau Scholar at Lamar University and carries a perfect 4.0 grade point average. She is a member of the Honors Student Association and the Lamar Dance Company and serves as vice president of the LU Rotaract Club. She is the eldest and only girl among five children. Her father, A.J., is a farmer who grows cotton, corn and maize. Her mother, Dani, is an elementary school teacher.



BRIAN SATTLER

Four finalists for the fellowship also were recognized at the ceremony.

Michael Hennigan, a physics major from Anahuac, proposed a research trip to a NASA test site in Ohio to further his ongoing study of the geometry of liquid surfaces in conditions of weightlessness. Rajiv Jaini, a chemical engineering major from Baytown, proposed traveling to East China University of Science and Technology in Shanghai to work as a research assistant studying the molecular assembly of surfactants in water and air interfaces. Garrett Roy, a nursing major from Groves, proposed traveling to South Africa for a six-week AIDS/HIV education and awareness internship through Cross Cultural Solutions. Cynthia Alissa Weber, an American Sign Language major from Sugar Land, proposed spending the summer at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., to take professional studies courses and immerse herself in deaf culture.

Applications for the fellowship will be due each October with fellows named each November. For more information on the David J. Beck Fellowship, visit [lamar.edu/beckfellowships](http://lamar.edu/beckfellowships) or call (409) 880-8400. —BG





# \$6 million gift benefits engineering, athletics

Welcome to the Dan F. Smith Department of Chemical Engineering

by Brian Sattler

As president and chief executive officer of Lyondell Chemical Co., Dan F. Smith '69 supported Lamar's chemical engineering department through scholarships and saw that his company proved a leader in providing internship opportunities for promising students. He considers his own co-op experiences while a student at Lamar a valuable tool that enabled him to gain first-hand application of the concepts and practices he was learning in the classroom.

Beginning now, current and future students will develop their own prowess in the Dan F. Smith Department of Chemical Engineering. The department will bear Smith's name in recognition of a \$5 million gift from Dan and Sandra Smith to the College of Engineering, President James Simmons announced to an appreciative crowd gathered in the Cherry Engineering Building March 19.

Among those in attendance were their daughter, Brooke Lenker; her husband, Matt; and their children, Ethan, Charles and Abigail Kate, of Kingwood. The Smiths' son, Andrew, and his wife, Lindsay, of Van Nuys, Calif., were unable to attend.

The couple gave an additional \$1 million gift to the university to assist in the return of football to Lamar (see sidebar story). The combined \$6 million gift adds significantly to the university's Investing in the Future

\$100 million campaign, which has now reached the \$54 million mark. Smith serves as a member of the university's campaign cabinet.

"I've seen the department come a long way over the past few years under the current leadership both at the college and university level," said Smith, who serves on the College of Engineering Advisory Council. "I'd like to see them continue to excel. I hope to help in that regard with the gift."

"I got my start in business with the degree I earned at Lamar," Smith said, "and I wanted to be sure that opportunity was there for future generations."

Smith served as president, CEO and chairman of Lyondell from 1996 to January 2008 when Lyondell Chemical Co. became a subsidiary of LyondellBasell Industries AF S.C.A. Before the merger, Lyondell was North America's third-largest, independent, publicly traded chemical

company and a global leader in the manufacture of chemicals and polymers. At the time of the sale, Lyondell's combined assets totaled approximately \$20 billion with sales of more than \$30 billion annually.

Unfortunately, the new owners sought Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in January 2009 for its U.S. operations and for Basell Germany Holdings GmbH, one of its European holding companies, amid a heavy debt load and plunging sales. Chapter 11 bankruptcy allows a company to restructure debt and continue operations.

During Smith's tenure at the helm of Lyondell, the company was recognized in 2007 by The Princeton Review as one of the nation's best companies for college graduates to begin their careers. Entry-level employees are integrated quickly into essential and important projects thus providing exciting challenges for young minds.

When Smith retired from Lyondell, he accepted a position as chairman of the board of directors for Kraton Polymers LLC, a private company owned by two equity firms. Kraton polymers are used in a wide range of applications including adhesives, coatings, consumer and personal care products, sealants, lubricants, medical, packaging, automotive, paving, roofing and footwear products. Kraton production facilities are located

in the United States, Germany, France, The Netherlands, Brazil and Japan.

"I've been doing that over the course of the last year and three months," Smith said. "At the same time I've been looking at other opportunities in the investment world, including the possibility of running another company, but I haven't found what I'm looking for yet."

Lyondell provided funding support for

**I got my start in business with the degree I earned at Lamar.**

—DAN SMITH

the Advanced Process Control Lab that is now a part of the curriculum for chemical engineering majors. In the lab, Lamar instructors can recreate the control room environment of a chemical processing plant to provide hands-on experience without ever leaving the classroom. Students gain experience monitoring the functions of the control room and get practice in solving problems that will occur. With this equipment, instruc-

tors can program specific types of process failures, which the students must recognize and resolve.

"We can simulate a chemical process plant's control-room environment, including those dynamic interactions, without the actual facility," said Peyton Richmond, associate professor in the chemical engineering department at Lamar. "Those operator consoles are central to operating any type of chemical facility."

The Dan F. Smith Department of Chemical Engineering offers the Bachelor of Science degree, two options for the Master of Science degree, the Doctor of Engineering degree, and in 2007 graduated Lamar's first Ph.D. student in the new doctoral program in chemical engineering. The program was ranked first in the nation in 2006 for the total number of master's degree graduates and second in the nation in 2007.

"Dan Smith has been a long-time huge supporter of the College of Engineering in many ways," said Jack Hopper, dean of the college. "This generous endowment will provide the opportunity to make great strides in the intellectual capacity and cutting-edge research in the chemical engineering department. This gift will give the department a high profile across the nation because of the name recognition of Dan Smith."



## View from the Press Box

Crowds of exuberant fans at Cardinal Football games will cheer on the Red and White on the W.S. "Bud" Leonard Field ... overhead, legions of sports reporters will gather the latest stats, analyze the strategies and capture spectacular highlights in the Dan F. and Sandra A. Smith Press Box in the newly named Provost-Umphrey Stadium.

The genesis of the \$1 million gift toward football was a conversation where President Simmons "brought me up to date on what was going on with football and campus life," Dan Smith said.

"My wife and I dated for a short period of time before we became engaged and that was during basketball season, and we made good use of those student passes," Smith said. "For poor students like us that was our date."

While the sport is different, making the connection is a slam dunk. Enjoying athletics together became a part of their shared college experience and one they would always treasure, he said.

"Earl Dow played on the team that year, and they beat the University of Houston (71-65 in overtime) after UH had beat UCLA. So that was a pretty neat year."

"If you're missing out on sports then you're probably missing out on some students you could recruit who are looking for that as a part of student life," Smith said. Not having a football team has created "a hole since we discontinued it."

"Students will really enjoy having football as a part of student life," Smith said.



## Promise Program covers tuition, fees

Lamar University will fund all fall and spring tuition and fees for undergraduate students who have a family income of \$25,000 or less.

PROMISE

Eligibility for the Lamar Promise Program in the 2009-2010 academic year requires incoming freshmen to be Texas residents, be admitted to the university, be Pell Grant-eligible and have completed the financial aid application process by April 1, 2009. After April 1, 2009, students who have met the required conditions will be awarded grant assistance on a funds-available basis.

To cover additional expenses, such as textbooks and room and board, students may be eligible for additional funds through federal or private loans and the Federal Work Study program.

To participate in the Lamar Promise Program, applicants must be dependent students per Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) dependency requirements and have a household adjusted gross income, per IRS regulations, of no more than \$25,000. More information on the Lamar Promise Program is available by contacting the admissions office at (409) 880-8888.



## Mathematics inaugurates conference

The Department of Mathematics hosted a regional conference Feb. 28 on “Probability, Statistics and Related Areas,” organized by the department’s graduate research committee.

The conference provided an opportunity for academics, industry researchers and graduate students to present their work and exchange ideas. About 50 participants from universities and colleges in Texas, Louisiana and neighboring states, including distinguished professors and scientific personalities, graduate students and undergraduate students attended the inaugural conference.

## LU strengthens admissions standards

Beginning Jan. 1, 2009, Lamar University strengthened its admissions standards for students entering from high school to include more stringent requirements for scores on either the College Board’s Scholastic Aptitude Test, better known as the SAT, or the ACT college entrance exam. The chart shows the current standards.

Students presenting GEDs, those graduating from high schools that do not provide class ranking and those who are home schooled must have a minimum ACT score of 20 or SAT

combined math and critical reading score of 930 for unconditional admission. Under the previous standards, no minimum scores were required on the ACT or SAT for applicants in the top half of their graduating classes. For applicants in the third quartile, ACT scores of 21 or SAT scores of 1000 were required. For applicants in the fourth quartile, a minimum ACT score of 24 or SAT score of 1100 was required for unconditional admission.

Additional requirements for unconditional admission or individual approval admission are available on the web at [www.lamar.edu/admissions](http://www.lamar.edu/admissions).

High School Class	Minimum Score Requirement	
	ACT	SAT
Top 10 percent	None	None
11 to 25 percent	17	800
2nd quarter	18	850
3rd quarter	23	1050
4th quarter	29	1200

## More than 600 shift tassels

Lamar University conferred 629 degrees during fall commencement Dec. 20. Graduates numbered 625, with four earning two bachelor’s degrees each. Trisha Pollard, vice chairman of The Texas State University System board of



regents, delivered the keynote address. Six students attained perfect 4.0 grade-point averages to share Plummer Award honors as the top academic graduates in Lamar’s class of December 2008. Hurricane Ike interrupted classes for 10 days in September, but the ceremony went on as scheduled, thanks to a compacted class schedule.

Earning the Plummer Awards were Lacy Nicole Gallier of Lumberton, who earned a degree in sociology; Jason Lee Holliday, Beaumont, general studies; Cynthia Jones, Nederland, interdisciplinary studies; Brenna Sue Pickard, Nederland, biology; Natasha Davis Tidwell, Beaumont, psychology; and Cynthia Renee Wyatt, Orange, interdisciplinary studies.



## Nursing grads get perfect score

The JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing at Lamar University is leading the way for the nursing community by preparing students for careers in health care. The department’s May graduates were the first cohort to complete the new bachelor of science in nursing curriculum implemented in spring 2006.

After completing degree requirements through didactic courses, laboratory assignments and clinical experience, graduates must meet criteria established by the Texas Board of Nursing in order to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses. Graduates must pass this exam in order to receive licensure to practice professional nursing.

Under the direction of Eileen Deges Curl, chair of the Dishman Department of Nursing, 100 percent of the graduates passed the state board exam for RN licensure. “This is an outstanding compliment to our department faculty and clinical agencies, as well as validating the quality of our new curriculum,” Curl said.

In addition, two of the recent graduating classes pursuing associate degrees attained a 100 percent pass rate on their state board exam.



## Astronaut Sally Ride and ExxonMobil invite girls to explore science

Sally Ride, physicist and America’s first woman in space, touched down on campus Feb. 28 to inspire local girls to dig into hands-on science at the Sally Ride Science Festival. The festival brings science to life and inspires upper elementary and middle-school girls to think about the vast range of careers in science

Co-presented by ExxonMobil and Lamar University, the festival brought together hundreds of students, parents and teachers for a day of science and socializing. The festival featured an inspiring talk by Ride and discovery workshops for students given by local scientists and engineers. Parent and teacher workshops shared ways to support students’ interests in science and math.

Since 2001, Sally Ride Science has been hosting festivals across the country at college campuses like California Institute of Technology, Rice University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. These unique events support and sustain girls’ natural interests in science and technology and help catalyze a change in cultural perceptions of girls and women in these endeavors.



## Spring Open House previews college life

More than 2,200 high school students, their parents and college transfers learned about all Lamar University has to offer—from the classroom to campus life—during Spring Open House Feb. 21.

“This day really is an informative and fun day for anyone interested in a college career, particularly at Lamar University,” said Jim Rush, director of academic services. “All aspects of the university are represented—academics, financial aid, clubs, athletics. It’s a golden opportunity to do it all in one Saturday morning.”

Lamar also hosts a Fall Open House, which attracted more than 1,900 students and guests.



## Faculty notes

The American Journal of Physics will publish a paper written by **Christian Bahrim**, associate professor of physics and electrical engineering, and electrical engineering doctoral student **Wei-Tai Hsu**. The paper, "Precise Measurements of the Refractive Indices for Dielectrics Using an Improved Brewster Angle Method," describes how they designed a relatively inexpensive setup to reach a measurement precision of the index of refraction for dielectric materials that is 100 times better than the most accurate experiments available until now . . . At the 16th annual Beaumont History Conference, **John Storey** '61, professor and chair of the Department of History, discussed "Religion in Texas in the 20th Century," and **Mary Kelley**, associate professor of history, spoke on "Philanthropy in Texas in the 20th Century." Both topics are derived from their recent book, *Twentieth-Century Texas: A Social and Cultural History*. **Judy (Walker) Linsley** '67, '77, adjunct instructor of history at Lamar, developed the program. Linsley is chief of interpretation and education at the McFaddin-Ward House . . . **Prince Thomas**, associate professor of art, has been invited to sit on the panel, "The Position of the Artist in a State of Plurality," in conjunction with a group exhibition showing his works at the Queens Museum in New York. Thomas' work is also scheduled to open at the National Library of Argentina as part of an exhibition titled, *The Last Book Project* . . . **Kay Abernathy** '88, associate professor of educational leadership, is the recipient of three appointments: chair of the School Administrator Technology Task Force of the National Council for Professors of Educational Administration, national examiner for Educational Technology Facilitator Programs for the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education, and chair of the Louisiana Computer Using Educators Awards Selection Committee . . . Undergraduate student teams in the Department of Marketing and Management course in entrepreneurship develop business plans for products with commercial potential. A recent team directed by **Jeff Dyson**, instructor of marketing and management, developed a business plan for "no-mor-clog," a drain modification for ice chests that is being marketed regionally and nationally . . . The sculpture of associate professor of art **Kurt Dyrhaug** was included in recent exhibitions at the Xavier University Art Gallery in Cincinnati; the Marin Museum of Contemporary Art in Novato, Calif.; the Edward Hopper House Art Center in Nyack, N.Y.; the Craven Arts Council & Gallery in New Bern, North Caro.; the Shore Institute of the Contemporary Arts in Long Branch, N.J.; and the Metals Museum in Memphis, Tenn. . . . **Ana Christensen**, associate professor of biology, has been appointed to the Texas Academy of Sciences board of directors as one of three academic directors. Her three-year term will provide an opportunity to influence the direction and activities of the academy, the mission of which is to "promote scientific research among the colleges and universities of the state of Texas, to promote undergraduate research, and to enhance the professional development of its members."



## LU receives \$800,000 NSF grant

America needs more leaders in science, technology, engineering and math to stay competitive globally. Thanks to a new grant from the National Science Foundation, Lamar University will be able to play a bigger role in recruiting talented students into these high-demand, high-paying fields.

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program (STEP) grant funds Lamar's Students Advancing through Involvement in Research Student Talent Expansion Program (STAIRSTEP) program for \$800,000 during four years, with additional fifth-year funding possible.

The STEP program was developed in response to several trends recognized in the American Competitiveness Initiative Act released by the U.S. Congress in 2006. About half of the nation's science and engineering workforce is older than 40, and increasing numbers are nearing retirement age. Concurrently, there is growing demand for scientists and engineers in emerging technologies. The U.S. must produce more graduates to remain competitive with countries that are surging in their production of scientists and engineers.

Lamar's STAIRSTEP program is designed to increase the number of students receiving baccalaureate degrees in computer science, chemistry, physics, geology, earth science and mathematics at Lamar. The program engages and develops students through an undergraduate experience that includes research, mentoring, tutoring, outreach, support and other activities designed to enhance the students' learning experience. This includes women and minorities underrepresented in science and technology fields, as well as low income and first-generation college students.

"STAIRSTEP seeks to engage and develop these students through an enriched undergraduate experience and transform them into a powerful force for recruiting other students into these important fields," said Peggy Doerschuk, professor of computer science and program director. STAIRSTEP students are paid to perform research and outreach for an average of 10 hours per week and will work in teams under the direction of science faculty who serve as mentors. STAIRSTEP students will gain experience in teamwork, leadership, writing papers and making professional presentations.

More information on the STAIRSTEP program is available by contacting Doerschuk, (409) 880-8782.



## LU teams up with LIT for critical-care simulation

The JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing and Lamar Institute of Technology collaborated in learning experiences to emulate real-life critical-care situations Nov. 11 and 18.

The nursing department implemented the program as an innovative way for Lamar nursing students to learn about interdisciplinary healthcare collaborations, said Eileen Deges Curl, chair of the Dishman Department of Nursing. The department invited LIT emergency medical technicians, paramedics and respiratory therapy students to participate in the simulations with LU nursing students. LeAnn

Chisholm, simulation coordinator in the nursing department, developed simulated experiences patterned after real-life emergencies.

"This type of high-tech, interactive, interdisciplinary learning experience promotes patients' safety in hospitals after these students graduate because they have had realistic learning experiences during school," Curl said. As part of the process, the simulation was projected onto a large screen in Room 103 for peer reviewers. The nursing department is gathering evaluation data from all student participants for later dissemination.

## Survey shows diverse student learning environment at LU

Results from a national survey of college students are helping Lamar University identify areas of strength in engaging students and areas to focus on as part of continuing efforts to better serve students and the community.

Lamar University was one of 722 four-year colleges and universities across the United States to participate in the National Survey of Student Engagement this year. The survey gathered information from randomly selected first-year and senior students at each institution.

"We're using the information to design and implement programs to help faculty get students more seriously engaged in their learning at Lamar University," said Tom Matthews, assessment coordinator.

According to survey results, 54 percent of LU freshmen reported engaging in serious conversations with students of other races or ethnicities, which were classified as an "enriching educational experience," compared to 51 percent at other southwestern public universities. Among seniors, 64 percent of LU students reported such conversations compared to 56 percent at peer universities in the Southwest.

Lamar also received high marks for relationships between students and faculty members. Among seniors, 81 percent of LU students positively rated their relationships with faculty members compared to 73 percent at other southwestern public universities.

As part of its accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Lamar University is required to implement a program to improve the student learning experience. Matthews said the survey results would be a valuable tool in developing such programs.



## Lecturer speaks about bionic ear

Sigma XI, the Lamar University chapter of the Scientific Research Society, hosted Emily Tobey, the Sigma Xi 2009 National Distinguished Lecturer, Feb. 10.

Tobey, professor and Nelle C. Johnston Chair in communication disorders for the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences at the University of Texas at Dallas, presented a lecture titled, "The Bionic Ear: Intersection of Technological Advances, Communication and Societal Change."

Tobey is currently examining the development of speech in cochlear-implemented children and cortical responses to auditory signals through functional brain imaging techniques. Her laboratory also conducts a number of basic and applied studies regarding technology for persons with hearing impairments.



EMILY TOBEY



## At the podium

### ExxonMobil Executives in Residence

The College of Business hosted alumnus **Thomas Anderson** '78, '80, president of Baker & O'Brien Inc., a professional consulting firm serving the oil, gas, chemical, pulp and paper, and power industries, as the ExxonMobil Executive in Residence. His focus at Baker & O'Brien includes mergers and acquisitions, plant performance evaluations, crude and products trading studies, litigation support, refinery LP analysis and improvement initiatives for petroleum processing facilities.

Anderson spoke Feb. 3 about "Vulnerabilities in the U.S. Petroleum Refining and Product Distribution Infrastructure," sharing his 38 years of experience in the petroleum industry, including refining, natural gas processing, petrochemicals, pulp and paper, and petroleum products distribution and marketing throughout the world.

Anderson's refining career began with Gulf Oil, where he worked at refineries in Port Arthur and Cincinnati. Later, he worked for Saudi Aramco in Saudi Arabia, where his assignments included facility planning studies and expansion of crude oil export capacity by 3 million barrels per day. After joining Mobil Oil in 1977, he was involved in linear program optimization studies of Mobil's refinery operations, including Beaumont. He also participated in Mobil's task force to evaluate a \$1 billion heavy crude expansion at the Beaumont refinery. He holds a degree in chemical engineering from Texas A&M University and an M.B.A. from Lamar University.



LARRY ACKER



BETH GALLAGHER

### Administaff VP shares the value of intrapreneurs

Alumnus **Randall McCollum** '68, '69, senior vice president of strategic alliances for Administaff, the nation's leading professional employer organization, visited campus Nov. 6 as an ExxonMobil Executive in Residence. His lecture was titled "The Value of Intrapreneurs in the Landscape of the 21st Century." Administaff serves as a full-service human resources department for small and medium-sized businesses throughout the United States.

Before joining Administaff in 1997, McCollum was vice president and general manager of the corporate division of Neiman Marcus. He also served as vice president of Tiffany & Co.'s corporate division and managed sales operations for Xerox Corp. He earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Lamar University, where he led the football team as quarterback, leading the Southland Conference in passing. As a graduate assistant while earning his master's, he helped coach both basketball and football.

### Google infrastructure manager visits

The College of Business hosted Google's websearch and video infrastructure manager **Sandeepan Banerjee** as speaker for the ExxonMobil Executive in Residence Program Oct. 23. Google is widely recognized as the world's largest search engine, an easy-to-use, advertising-supported, free service that returns relevant results. Before joining Google Inc., he spent 10 years at Oracle Corp. and has won several awards for innovation and impact.



LARRY ACKER

The ExxonMobil Executive in Residence Program funds campus speakers for business majors in a variety of business-related industries through a generous grant from the ExxonMobil Corp.

## PR professionals share solutions

The Department of Communication hosted its third annual "Public Relations Professionals Series" in November. "This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in public relations to meet three very different PR practitioners, learn about their backgrounds, the demands they face and the issues they confront daily," said Paul Hemenway, professor of communication.

Art Museum of Southeast Texas Public Relations Coordinator **Melissa Tilley** discussed the challenges facing PR in a nonprofit organization. Dallas PR firm BlueCurrent partner **Rob Martin** spoke about the challenges facing PR in a boutique agency. BlueCurrent clients have included Shell Oil, T.G.I. Friday's, Chili's, Blockbuster and Dell Computer. Entergy Communications Specialist **Debi Derrick** '81 discussed the challenges facing PR in the corporate and utility sectors. Derrick has served as a spokesperson for Entergy during hurricanes that have visited Southeast Texas.

## Academic Lecture Series

### Ice cream mogul shares taste of success

The College of Business welcomed **Jerry Greenfield**, co-founder of Ben & Jerry's Homemade Inc., as a speaker for the Academic Lecture Series Feb. 17. Greenfield and long-time friend and business partner Ben Cohen are the men behind one of the most talked-about success stories in America.



BRIAN SATTLER

Together, they built a storefront venture into a \$300-million ice cream empire by turning social responsibility and creative management into strengths instead of weaknesses. Greenfield delivered a rousing tribute to America's entrepreneurial spirit, full of anecdotes and radical business philosophy, while sharing the great sense of fun that is the company's hallmark along with samples of their famous ice cream during the free public lecture. With his best seller, *Ben & Jerry's Double-Dip: Lead with Your Values and Make Money, Too* (co-authored with Cohen), Greenfield created both a nuts-and-bolts guidebook to the promise and pitfalls of "values-led" business and an inspiring wake-up call about the growing international influence of the "socially conscience" or "mission-driven" corporation.

### Astronaut explores harvesting the moon

**Harrison "Jack" Schmitt**, a geologist, former U.S. Senator and NASA astronaut, spoke about a "Return to the Moon: Exploration, Enterprise and Energy" March 31 as part of the Academic Lecture Series.



JACK SCHMITT

Schmitt was the 12th person to walk on the moon, and, of the nine living persons to have walked there, he and his crewmate Eugene Cernan were the last two to do so.

"He is an ardent supporter of return lunar missions and actively contributes to science and engineering studies for the purpose of building a human outpost on the moon," said Jim Jordan, chair of the Department of Earth and Space Sciences.

Schmitt recently completed three years service as chair of the NASA Advisory Council, whose mandate is to provide technical advice to NASA Administrator Michael Griffin. Under Schmitt's leadership, the council developed and submitted more than 100 recommendations to the NASA administrator in the areas of aeronautics, audit and finance, exploration, human capital, science and space operations. Schmitt is an adjunct professor of engineering physics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is the founder and chairman of Interlune Intermars Initiative Inc., an organization to advance the private sector's acquisition and use of lunar resources. A prime interest in returning to the moon is that it could be used as a source of helium-3, a rare isotope of helium that can be used as a fuel for nuclear fusion reactors.

He was backup lunar module pilot for Apollo 15. On his first journey into space, Schmitt occupied the lunar module pilot seat for Apollo 17—the last scheduled manned Apollo mission—December 6-19, 1972. This last Apollo mission broke several records set by previous flights, including the longest manned lunar landing flight, longest lunar surface extra-vehicular activities, largest lunar sample return and longest time in lunar orbit.

The Academic Lecture Series is hosted on a rotational basis by each of Lamar's colleges and is paid for by student service fees.



## Beyond the classroom

**Engineers design camera, escaladder . . .** Electrical and mechanical engineering students received a number of awards at the Texas Space Grant Consortium (TSCG) Design Challenge Showcase in League City, where they competed against teams from Rice University, Texas A&M and Texas Tech University Nov. 24. The electrical engineering team, SolCam—comprising seniors **Benjamin Webb** of Vidor, **Tristan Oswald** of Lake Jackson, and **Robert Adams** and **Grant Rivera** of Lumberton—won four awards: best higher-education EPO activity, runner-up for team website, third place in poster presentation and second place in project model.

The mechanical engineering team, Lamar Levitators—seniors **Jonah Cherry** of Buna, **Carl Ford** of Vidor, **Jason Lewis** of Dumas, **Kristi Townsend** of Nederland and **Jaci Wright** of Dayton—won best meeting presentation and placed third in oral presentation. For the challenge, students propose, design and fabricate a solution to a topic of importance to NASA, taking the topic from idea

to workable design. “The showcase adds the feeling of a new level of importance to our project by demonstrating to us that what we are doing is more than just an exercise in engineering design,” Cherry said. “Rather, it is an approach to finding a solution to a real-life problem that is being evaluated and considered by those directly involved in those situations.”

Cherry’s team is designing a method to transport astronauts from the redesigned lunar lander to the surface of the moon during manned missions set to begin in 2020. During the lander’s redesign, the crew’s cabin was relocated, creating a 20-foot drop from the cabin to the moon’s surface. The team’s solution, a cross between an escalator and a ladder, is called an ‘escaladder.’ “The escaladder would provide a unique solution to the issue of incapacitated crewmembers and has the added benefit over a typical fixed ladder by allowing transport of tools and light cargo from the airlock to the lunar surface,” Cherry said.

SolCal’s design project is a portable camera capable of seeing beyond the visible spectrum, Rivera said. The camera can see reflected light not visible to the naked eye and gives astronauts the ability to determine an unknown material’s possible composition. The camera is designed to withstand ambient space radiation, a concern during space missions because it leads to the destruction of electronics not designed to withstand it. The camera, if implemented by NASA, could replace the current cargo bay cameras used on space shuttles. “The current design is very bulky and has a very low image quality,” Rivera said. “Our new camera would be a fraction as large, have much better image quality and hopefully the same reliability in the space environment.”



SolCam team members demonstrate their device: from left, Tristan Oswald, Grant Rivera, Ben Webb and Robert Adams.



Jacob Wallace of Groves, James Carnley of Orange and Ric Guidry of Groves.

**Computer science students place in Top 20 . . .** Computer science undergraduates placed in the Top 20 at the recent Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming South Central USA Regional competition at Louisiana State University. Birds of Prey, one of two teams representing Lamar at the IBM-sponsored competition, placed 19th overall out of 68 teams from Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. They competed against 25 other undergraduate teams and 42 graduate teams, including one from Lamar. The team—comprising **James Carnley** of Beaumont, **Ric Guidry** of Port Neches and **Jacob Wallace** of Groves—was one of only five undergraduate teams to place in the Top 20. “They outperformed some teams from other universities, such as the University of Texas at Dallas, Texas A&M, University of Texas at Austin, Baylor University, Louisiana State University and Rice University,” said their coach Stefan Andrei, assistant professor of computer science. The teams, undergraduate and graduate alike, were given one computer to work on and nine challenging problems to solve within five hours . . . **Chemical engineering students net honors . . .** Three Lamar University students earned top honors in the 2008 American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) National Student Design Competition Nov. 16-21. This year’s competition, which included schools from throughout the country, allowed students to display the research involved in designing a coal-to-methanol conversion process. Led by **Carl Yaws**, research advisor and professor of chemical engineering at Lamar, **Wesley Biddle** of Beaumont, **Andrew Kemmerling** of Lake Jackson and **Edward Soliz** of Freeport won a \$300 Safety and Chemical Engineering Team Safety Award. Lamar’s safety record is particularly outstanding, with past entries winning consecutively from 2005-2008 . . . **Burnes receives paleontology scholarship . . .** **James Burnes**, a geology and history double major, was recently recognized by the paleontology section of the Houston Gem and Mineral Society as the inaugural recipient of the Irene Hoffman Paleontology Scholarship. Hoffman served as the curator of paleontology for the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Burnes, a resident of Fred, served as a paleontology field assistant the past two summers on a project conducted by **Jim Westgate**, professor of earth and space sciences, in the Uinta Basin of northeast Utah studying 42 million-year-old vertebrate fossil remains.

## McNair Scholars present research at symposium

Fourteen McNair scholars presented the culmination of their year-long research projects to the university and the community at the ninth annual McNair Scholars Research Symposium Nov. 4.

The symposium, including the 15-minute time allotment, is designed to prepare students for their presentations at various national conferences, said Daniella Medley, executive director of the program.

The 2008-2009 McNair Scholars are **Lucas Brown** of Woodville; **Rachel Dennis**, **Keisha Guidry**, **Christopher Jarmon** and **Rachel Quinn** of Beaumont; **Mary Guillory** of Port Arthur; **Sarah Hale** of Nederland; **Kristin Ipes** of Newton; **Callie Summerlin** of Groves; **Felicia McAdams**, **Eyerusalem Mulatu**, **Travishia Pickens** and **LaShanda Sullivan** of Houston; and **Luis Dominguez** of Los Angeles.



The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, known at Lamar as the McNair Scholars Program, was established by the Department of Education in 1986 and named for astronaut and Challenger space shuttle crewmember Ronald McNair. “The program is an undergraduate research program, federally funded by the Department of Education, for low-income, first-generation or underrepresented students in graduate education,” Medley said.

## Students take prizes in gingerbread competition

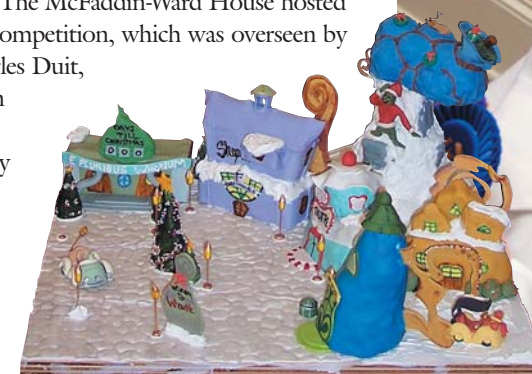
Lamar University students won four of five top places in the 2008 Gingerbread Charity Competition benefiting Buckner Children and Family Services in December.



**Jennifer Weitzel** of Cleveland earned first place and took honors as best of show for *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*; **Jose Perales**, Beaumont, second place, *Ginger Hacienda*; and **Sendi Gardner**, Port Arthur, third place, *Garsen House*.

The McFaddin-Ward House hosted the competition, which was overseen by Charles Duit,

chef instructor at Lamar. The Golden Triangle Chapter of the Texas Chefs Association and the Lamar University Hospitality Program sponsored the competition.



JENNIFER WEITZEL





Cathy and Richard Price enjoy the festivities surrounding the Distinguished Alumni Awards.

A rare, before-Christmas snow early Dec. 11 blanketed campus and surrounding townscape, covering all, including the dining hall, in 2 to 4 inches of seldom-seen white flakes.



Betty Nellius and her son Marty join with alumni and friends to congratulate the new inductees.



Dan F. and Sandra Smith join their daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren in front of new signage, unveiled March 19, marking the Dan F. Smith Department of Chemical Engineering at Lamar University. Pictured, from left, are daughter Brooke Lenker; Dan F. Smith; grandsons Ethan and Camden; Sandra Smith with granddaughter Abigail Kate; and son-in-law Matt Lenker. The Lenkers live in Kingwood. The Smiths' son, Andrew, and daughter-in-law Lindsay, of Van Nuys, Calif., were unable to attend.



Brenda (Long) '68 and alumni advisory board member Ron Jackson '70 joined a crowd of more than 150 well-wishers at the Distinguished Alumni Awards.



Lamar University's A Cappella Choir and Grand Chorus celebrated the Yuletide spirit at the annual *Lamarissimo!* holiday concert Dec. 7 in the Jefferson Theatre with centuries-old classics and best-loved carols. The acclaimed series of off-campus concerts is in its 19th year, and Michael Peters made his *Lamarissimo!* debut as conductor of the choir and chorus.



Entrepreneur, venture capitalist and Distinguished Alumnus Jack Gill '58 and his wife, Linda, traveled to campus for the 2008 Distinguished Alumni awards banquet.



Alumni advisory board past president and Distinguished Alumna Paula (Tate) O'Neal '69, '79, left, joins board member Clayton Lau III '69 and her daughter and fellow board member Kelli (O'Neal) Savage '94, '99, to witness the induction of three new members as Distinguished Alumni.



Daylyn Turner '07, training manager of JK Chevrolet, joins his wife, Bilalah (Wallace) '06, and daughter, Alaya, before the *Lamarissimo!* holiday choir concert. JK has sponsored the Yuletide performance for several years.



Scott Deppe, director of bands, takes the helm as conductor for opening performance of the *Lamarissimo!* concert series.



Trisha Pollard, vice chair of The Texas State University board of regents, delivered the commencement address during December's graduation ceremony. Here, she joins President Jimmy Simmons and First Lady Susan (Williams) '68 at a brunch in her honor following the ceremony.



Tommy and Joe Vance are the guests of honor at the *Red and White Le Grand Bal*, hosted March 21 by the Lamar University Friends of the Arts to benefit the College of Fine Arts and Communication. Hundreds of guests joined in honoring them for their contributions to Lamar and the community. Albert Nolen chaired the event.



2008 Distinguished Alumnus Bart Simmons '78, '79, and his wife, Martye (Sculley) Simmons '78 share the evening with family members: standing, from left, daughter-in-law Kimberly, whose husband, Grant, could not attend; son Andrew; son Trent; and his fiancé, Holly Hayes.



Alumni advisory board member Norma (Roddy) '75 and Alan Sampson '68 take their seats for the Distinguished Alumni Awards banquet.



Before leading the attendees in singing the alma mater as she traditionally does each year at the Distinguished Alumni Awards banquet, Charlene Leonard '53 and her husband Bud '50, '53, '76, named Distinguished Alumnus in 2000, welcomed three new honorees into the elite group.



2008 Distinguished Alumnus Don Lyle '06 HD and his wife, Maryann (Johnson) '65, are joined by Don's sister-in-law, Frankie (Jordan) Johnson '88.



2008 Distinguished Alumna Madelyn (Davis) Hunt '69, and her husband, Travis, center, joined by her brother George Davis III '01 and his wife Gail, left, and her sisters Vivian (Briscoe) Ballou '92 and Susan McDaniel, far right.





# Reptiles hold healing promise

175 million years yields super immunity

By Brian Sattler

**T**here is a battle raging, a life-and-death struggle against an adaptive, elusive, unrelenting enemy. It's not the war on terror. It is man against microbe in a world war where opportunistic invaders have been aided and abetted by careless overuse of antibiotics and one-time wonder drugs that have lost their potency against pathogens. It is a war against time.

Today, science is desperately searching for new immunological approaches both in high-tech laboratories and exotic locales. New answers are sought in virgin rainforest and deep ocean swells, but it could be that the next big "secret weapon" in this war is lurking in the bayous of Southeast Texas and Louisiana.

Alligators might make most people think of life-threatening injuries, but to biochemist Mark Merchant '88, they could yield new ways of healing. Merchant has found that alligators—and their immune systems—could someday help us in our fight against infection.

The grandson of a Cajun rice farmer, Merchant grew up hunting and fishing along the Louisiana and Southeast Texas coasts, and he has seen plenty of alligators. Now an associate professor of biochemistry at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, La., he has great admiration—and healthy respect—for these fiercely territorial reptiles.

"They fight," Merchant said. "They tear limbs off each other, and it's very common for us to catch alligators that are missing limbs. Despite the fact that they live in this environment with all these microbes, they heal very rapidly and almost always without infection."

Virtually unchanged for more than 175 million years, the reptiles' aggressive lifestyle puts a selective pressure on them. "You adapt, or you die. You either have to back off your lifestyle, or you adapt by developing some kind of immune system to fight the bacteria that you live around, because if you're going to have a lot of these terrible wounds and be exposed to all the bacteria in the area, you're going to need to have very good defense mechanisms."

"We think that part of that defense mechanism will be able to help us as humans and that modern molecular medicine

should be able to benefit," Merchant said.

Powerful infection-fighting proteins—short chains of amino acids known as antibiotic peptides—could help fight against antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Active proteins extracted from alligators' white blood cells have been found to kill a variety of bacteria and fungi. Merchant has shown that peptides can kill the herpes simplex virus, as well as fungal diseases and a broad range of bacteria, including MRSA (methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus) the lethal "super bug" that is becoming increasingly resistant to current antibiotics. He presented his findings at the annual meeting of the American Chemical Society.

"We're taking advantage of millions of years of Mother Nature's product development. We do need a new class of drugs. That's what is exciting—this wouldn't just be a new drug but potentially a new class of drugs that work by a completely new class of mechanisms," Merchant said. It may be difficult to meet the challenges of adapting peptides for clinical use, but, despite this, antibiotics containing alligator-blood-derived proteins could be on our shelves in 10 years, Merchant said.

## Interest in immunology

Researching alligators wasn't Merchant's focus, just one of several areas of interest when he first came to McNeese. But after fruitless Internet searching on the topic of alligators and infection, he soon realized that he had found an opportunity. "I kept thinking I wasn't putting in the right research terms, but it became apparent that no one ever broached this issue."

"They always say in research that all the good ideas have already been taken," Merchant said. "That's not necessarily true. I landed on a gold mine. We started collecting publication-quality data from day one."

Today, Merchant's discoveries have drawn an unprecedented international spotlight to the university and have resulted in scores of published papers, dozens of presentations and lots of media attention as well. As the knowledge base grows, Merchant's research may yield "antibiotics that you take orally, but potentially also antibiotics that you could use topically on



BRIAN SATTLER





**You have a stark contrast in new modern molecular medicines and these ancient reptiles, a pretty interesting contrast.**

—MARK MERCHANT

wounds, such as diabetic ulcer wounds, burns and things like that. Be it topical or internal, we hope that we can isolate some protein that has antibiotic activity that would avert infection to give time to heal.”

Merchant graduated from Nederland High School in 1984 and entered Lamar University pursuing a double major in biology and chemistry. He still lives in Nederland, where his wife, Jennifer (Cabra) ’88, who graduated Lamar with a degree in interior design, now teaches special-needs children in the Nederland and Port Neches school districts. The couple has a son, 17, and two daughters, 15 and 6.

“When I started my senior year at Lamar, I didn’t have any aspirations of getting a Ph.D. That was an 11th-hour decision for me after prodding by some Lamar faculty who had encouraged me because I had shown a propensity for research.”

Merchant enjoys keeping up with his LU professors—now colleagues in academe—and has high praise for them, but especially for the late Hugh Akers, who sparked his interest in biochemistry.

“I worked in his lab as an undergraduate,” Merchant said. “I was going to go get a job at one of the plants, but Dr. Akers said, ‘Hey, you’ve really taken a shine to the research. Have you thought about going to grad school? Have you thought about going to med school? At least consider that.’”

“And so I did. I couldn’t believe I was applying; I wasn’t ready for four more years of school. But it was the best decision I’ve ever made,” Merchant said.

He attended graduate school at Texas A&M, graduating in 1992, and then spent three and a half years as a post-doctoral fellow at University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. “I sometimes joke that I’ve got a 100-mile rope around my neck,” Merchant said.

At UTMB, Merchant studied heavy-metal-induced stress genes. “My first loves

are molecular biology, genetic engineering and gene expression. We were looking at the molecular biochemical mechanisms of how genes are turned on and off inside our cells.”

Merchant then came to Beaumont as a research and development lab manager for Helena Laboratories from 1996 to 2001 before the lure of research and teaching drew him to McNeese. There, he is passionate about his dual role, finding it so enjoyable he doesn’t consider it work. “I get to go into the lab and teach and do alligator research. That’s not work. I can teach students 10 times more in the lab than I can in the classroom,” Merchant said. “You can really see the light bulbs come on in the lab. That excites me to no end.” Eight undergraduates and two graduate students work with alligator-related projects in Merchant’s lab.

“For several years, we looked at innate immunity and acquired immunity,” Merchant said. “Innate immunity is the branch of the immune system that does not require previous exposure. It is the first line of defense, always in a semi-active state ready to go to work. It is less specific in its target but more quick acting, designed to hold an infection at bay to allow acquired immunity opportunity to gear up.”

Much of Merchant’s research is on blood drawn from populations, not from individual animals, typically pooling blood from 10 or 15 samples and taking averages. They have also looked for variations within a population, Merchant said. While a captive population of alligators is readily available across town, most collection from the wild is done in the summer or during winter breaks.

One current study focuses on phospholipase A2, an enzyme providing innate immunity in alligators that is also present in humans. Interestingly, the enzyme isn’t found in newly hatched alligators, but, by one year of age, it is a part of their repertoire of resistance. Merchant, with his undergraduate and graduate assistants, is

studying the development of the serum-complement system using three groups of hatchlings under differing conditions. Thus far, they’ve found that slower-growing, outdoor-kept hatchlings develop the enzyme much faster, while their heat-lamp-hogging counterparts grow up to six times faster, but develop the immunity much later. A third group in the latest round of experiments has the addition of ultraviolet light. The results are pending.

Merchant’s research interests are finding funding from a variety of sources, including the university and the National Science Foundation. A National Institutes of Health grant, with a co-investigator at LSU, is pending.

In 2002, Merchant was introduced to the Crocodile Specialists Group, a worldwide research consortium concerned with crocodilian conservation, preservation, management and research. Since that time, he has been a frequent presenter at meetings around the world and has linked with colleagues in the U.S., Australia, France and Bolivia, setting up collaborative research with croc-expert Adam Britton of Big Gecko, a wildlife consultancy in Darwin, Australia, and caiman-experts Luciano Verdade and Pablo Siroski in Brazil and Argentina, respectively. In doing research in comparative biochemistry, Merchant is finding more similarities than differences between the species. In just three years, he has made presentations in 11 countries on four continents. Merchant enjoys sharing findings with “people who really care about this stuff, and that has opened up all these collaborations and sources of funding outside the country.”

“You have a stark contrast in new modern molecular medicines and these ancient reptiles, a pretty interesting contrast,” Merchant said as he held a handful of squirming alligator hatchlings. “They may have something to offer us. Who knows?”

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## KAYLA NGUYEN



BETH GALLASPY

Some people can pinpoint a specific event or circumstance when they realized exactly what they wanted to do with the rest of their lives. Senior biology major Kayla Nguyen of Beaumont knew she wanted a career in medicine.

Her decision to become a doctor stems from watching her grandmother and mother battle cancer. As a child, she went with her grandmother to treatments, often observing how sick and exhausted her grandmother became afterward. When her mother was diagnosed with cancer two years ago, she accompanied her to chemotherapy and radiation treatments. The passion and dedication she observed from the hospital staff caring for her mother cemented her decision to become a physician.

“I knew I wanted to help someone as they helped my mom and grandmother,” she said. “I truly want to provide for people and be someone they can count on.”

She said her mother’s diagnosis was a major obstacle but that her optimistic outlook during treatment kept her from giving up. “She always had a positive attitude, and that made me realize that I can’t give up on my dream of becoming a physician,” she said.

Nguyen receives help in achieving her goals from the Joint

Admission Medical Program. The program was created in 2001 by the 77th Texas Legislature to assist highly qualified, economically disadvantaged students pursuing careers in medicine. The program provides a variety of services to participants, including mentoring, assistance in preparing for medical school, stipends to attend summer internships, undergraduate scholarships, guaranteed admission into Texas medical schools and scholarships for medical school.

Nguyen completed a summer internship at the Texas A&M Medical Health and Science Center in 2008. During the six-week program, she shadowed physicians and took classes in neuroscience and organic chemistry. “This experience was unforgettable, and I would not have had the opportunity to participate in the program without JAMP,” she said.

Nguyen enjoys recreational activities such as sports, photography, reading and scrapbooking, but she is also committed to giving back to her community. She volunteers at Memorial Hermann Baptist Hospital on the pediatric floors and serves as a religious education assistant at St. Joseph’s Church in Beaumont.

Nguyen will graduate from Lamar in December 2009 and plans to attend medical school immediately. After completing her residency, she hopes to open her own pediatric clinic. —CE

**“I truly want to provide for people and be someone they can count on.”**

”

KAYLA NGUYEN



# Navigating new horizons

By Brian Sattler

When his great-uncle opened his suitcase, A.L. (Tom) Giannopoulos '62 knew his ship had just come in.

Growing up in the city of Tripolis in the Peloponnese region of southern Greece, Giannopoulos knew that his father's shoe store business, while able to provide a good life for the family, offered little hope of fulfilling his dream of attending college in America.

As a teen, Giannopoulos dreamed of coming to the United States. A good student, he enjoyed watching American movies and playing basketball and was becoming somewhat "Americanized."

The Greeks had suffered not only through the ravages of World War II, but also through bitter fighting between democratic and communist forces. The nation's economy began to rebuild with help from the Marshall Plan, and, in the 1950s, Greece saw growth exceeding Europe at large and even rivaling that of post-war Japan. Educational opportunities, however, were still limited.

Giannopoulos was seeking sponsorship—a requirement at the time for international students seeking study in America—when he learned of his great-uncle and that he was coming to Greece to visit. He petitioned his parents to have him stay in their home. "I was an opportunistic kid. I said to my mother, 'We're going to have him stay with us, not in a hotel, so I can talk him into a sponsorship.'"

"He arrived, of course, with a suitcase and had these beautiful shirts all in packages and a pair of pants for every day, which in Greece and Europe at the time was unusual. You wore one pair of pants for a week and often the same shirt. He had all these beautiful shirts, and I'm saying to myself, 'This is my meal ticket to success. He's filthy rich. It's unbelievable.'"

Giannopoulos applied to the engineering schools his library research disclosed. Lamar responded, in part based on his sponsorship. After he passed the requisite language tests, Giannopoulos made the trip, arriving in Houston in February 1958.



Tom Giannopoulos, left, enjoys a break with friends at the Schooner.



That is when he discovered that his great-uncle had "zero dollars" to his name. He worked at the Schooner Restaurant in Nederland. He picked up the help from Port Arthur and the adjoining area in the company car. He didn't own a car, and he lived with other employees in a house behind the restaurant."

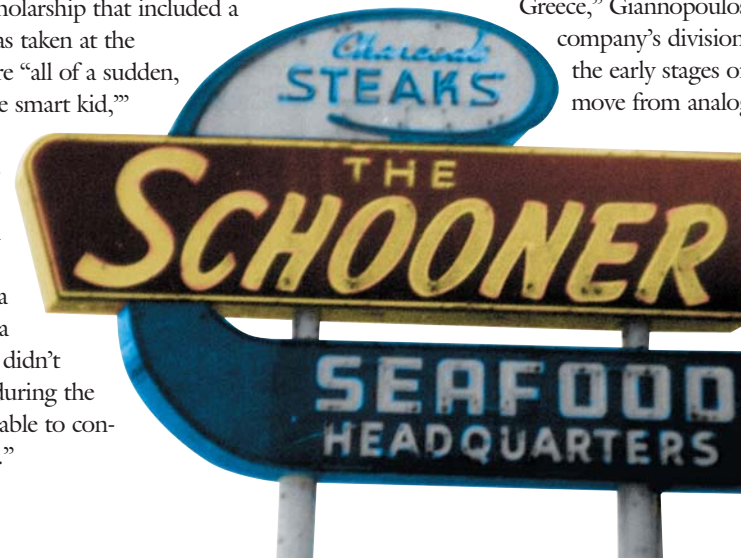
While the situation was not as he had imagined, Giannopoulos did have his sponsor, the restaurant's owner, Jim Megas. "It was a lot of luck on my part that Mr. Megas decided to support me," Giannopoulos said. "He was my meal ticket to the States."

Culture shock continued when Giannopoulos came on campus to register. "When I arrived, everybody was dressed in cowboy things—boots, jeans, hats and chaps," Giannopoulos said. "I thought, 'What have I done?' Then I discovered it was 'Western Week,' and I was a little happier about my choice."

For the first six months, Giannopoulos lived with his great-uncle in the home behind the Schooner, hitchhiked to Lamar to attend morning classes, then worked afternoons and evenings at the restaurant. On weekends, he worked as a night watchman at a steel forging shop. "I didn't sleep at all," he said. "I needed the money. I was paid \$50 a month, the going rate at the time."

Getting to school meant riding his thumb. One day, his benefactor was Celeste Kitchen, the registrar at Lamar. As their route and schedule coincided frequently, the two became fast friends. When Giannopoulos posted straight A's his first semester, she helped him secure a scholarship that included a dorm room. Notice was taken at the Schooner as well, where "all of a sudden, I became known as 'the smart kid,'" Giannopoulos said.

Later, through his academic performance at Lamar, he landed an opportunity to work during the summer at a refinery, earning \$400 a month. "That meant I didn't have to work so hard during the school year, and I was able to concentrate on my studies."



As an electrical engineering major, Giannopoulos remembers well the college dean, Lloyd Cherry, and Lyle Bohrer, then assistant professor, as well as the cadre of students with whom he helped establish Lamar's chapter of Eta Kappa Nu international honor society for electrical engineers.

"My father and my family gave me the work ethic that made me a good student, but that continued with Dr. Cherry and the faculty I met at Lamar," Giannopoulos said. "It continued too with the other students that I was close to. If you look at the names of that first group of Eta Kappa Nu members, there are some potent individuals. I owe Lamar a lot."

As graduation neared, Giannopoulos attended a campus job fair and interviewed with recruiters from a number of leading companies—General Electric, Boeing, Collins Radio, Westinghouse—but what interested him most was NASA. Uncertain whether he could work at the agency without U.S. citizenship, Giannopoulos asked the question and was repeatedly assured that it would not be a problem. With acceptance letters in hand, he drove to Virginia, only to learn from the human resources director there that he could not take the job (and that the author of his worthless acceptance letters was no longer employed there). He made the long drive back to Texas.

"At that age, you never give up," Giannopoulos said. "I started writing letters to all those companies, and Westinghouse was the first that came back with an offer."

He soon found himself in Pittsburgh, Pa., and became reacquainted with several Lamar graduates who preceded him in landing spots with the \$10 billion company. Second only to General Electric, Westinghouse was one of the top 15 American companies in revenue. Giannopoulos entered its demanding training program, soon heading to his first assignment at Westinghouse's large motors division in Buffalo, N.Y. "It was the dead of winter, and I had never seen so much snow, ever, not even on the top of mountains in Greece," Giannopoulos said.

Instead, sought a position with the company's division at the forefront of computer systems and the early stages of digital controls. There, he helped in the move from analog controls to digital controls in major applications, including power plants, wastewater treatment plants, nuclear power plants, electric utilities and train controls.

He worked in the division about five years as an engineer, then development engineer at the forefront of software and hardware development. "We started incorporating our





solutions into nuclear power plants, making sure everything went well, both from a control perspective and a start-stop perspective,” Giannopoulos said. From 1965 to 1980, he traveled around the world, supporting Westinghouse control applications in the U.S. as well as France, Sweden, India, Australia and Hong Kong. “It was a fun time for our division and for me personally,” Giannopoulos said.

At one point, Giannopoulos was the highest-ranking foreigner at Westinghouse Electric, by then a \$17 billion company. It wasn’t an easy climb. “There was a lot of discrimination in the 1960s and ’70s for anybody who was different,” Giannopoulos said. “To have progressed to that level, to be one of the Top 100 executives in the company and to attend the top echelon of meetings in Naples, Fla.—I attribute that to Lamar and to the exposure I got there,” Giannopoulos said.

In late 1989, during the post-Reagan-years’ military draw-down, he was asked to accept a new assignment—helping Westinghouse find ways to transform technologies developed for the defense sector into commercial applications. He accepted the job and made the move from Pittsburgh to Baltimore to serve as vice president of three divisions in the defense group, with the goal of taking its commercial applications revenue from zero to \$500 million by 1995.

One entity now under his purview was MICROS Systems Inc., a Columbia, Md.-based \$15 million to \$18 million publicly traded company. At the time, Westinghouse owned 30 percent of the company and did not have a controlling interest. The majority of its product was “substantially basic cash registers, and it was losing money.”

“I thought, ‘This is a cash register company. What does it have to do with commercializing technologies?’ My boss said, ‘I don’t care, just do something with it.’ That was my entry into MICROS Systems,” Giannopoulos said.

Westinghouse acquired the additional 37 percent that was available, giving it the ability to put members on the board of directors. Giannopoulos added his chief accountant and one of three division managers to the board, “and we started looking to see how we could grow the company.”

In March 1993, the chief executive officer of MICROS died suddenly, and Giannopoulos stepped into an active role as CEO. Later, Westinghouse brought in a new outside CEO but then decided to sell the company in 1995. Giannopoulos negotiated to leave Westinghouse to become president and chief executive officer of MICROS, bringing with him a few key individuals.

From 1993 to 1995, Giannopoulos had grown the company’s revenues to between \$50 million and \$55 million and put in place a strategic plan “that got us where we are today—almost a \$1 billion company.” The company has grown from 100 to 4,800 employees and now has more than 80 wholly or majority-owned subsidiaries and branch offices and 115 distributors in 45 countries. “The success belongs to everybody here,” Giannopoulos said.

Stock prices in the early 1990s were 20 cents to 50 cents, and,

“  
We’ve become a major player in  
the three industries: restaurants,  
hotels and retail.”

—TOM GIANNOPOULOS



before the recent drop in the markets, had reached \$280 to \$300 equivalent allowing for the splits, Giannopoulos said. The company’s market value had grown from \$100 million to \$3.5 billion. “If you had invested \$100,000 in 1990, in June of this year it would have been worth \$64 million,” Giannopoulos said.

“We just announced second-quarter numbers that were very profitable,” he said. “We beat our numbers from a year ago—that’s unheard of in today’s environment. Our shareholders are still very happy. Even in today’s market, we continue to produce for them.”

“We have good customers; we hustle; and we continue to do rollouts that we had planned,” Giannopoulos said.

Today, MICROS is the global leader in the restaurant industry, with more than 310,000 installations worldwide. MICROS provides restaurant information systems with hardware and software for point-of-sale and operations, including back-office applications like inventory, labor and financial management. MICROS’s restaurant clients include HMS Host, Ruby Tuesday’s, Burger King, Auntie Anne’s, Whitbread, the Wynn Casino and Resort, Hilton Hotels and more.

“The heartwarming thing to me is going to the airport at Istanbul, Turkey, and seeing MICROS equipment all over the place, seeing MICROS equipment in Alpine villages in Austria, in train stations, gift shops, sports arenas, ballparks, theme parks and the majority of the global hotel chains,” Giannopoulos said.

MICROS’ strategy sought to expand into the hotel arena in the mid-1990s, buying a small German company and growing it from \$15 million to \$300 million in revenues. MICROS-Fidelio International has become the industry standard with more than 25,000 installations worldwide. Its enterprise solutions include multi-property, fully integrated hotel systems encompassing property management, sales and catering, central reservations, revenue management and more. Clients include InterContinental Hotels Group, Shangri-La Hotels, Best Western, Four Seasons, Fairmont Hotels, Le Meridien Hotels, MGM Mirage and Travelodge.

MICROS most recently expanded into the retail sector and already has MICROS-Retail solutions in 33,000 stores in 10 countries. The company’s analytic solutions process data at a corporate level for an additional 60,000 stores. MICROS’ retail customers include Aeropostale, Barney’s New York, Bed Bath & Beyond, Staples, Starbucks Coffee, Talbots and Timberland.

“We’ve become a major player in the three industries: restaurants, hotels and retail,” Giannopoulos said.

“I called the Schooner a few months ago and talked with Maria Megas, the granddaughter of Mr. Megas. She said, ‘We use your equipment and love your equipment,’” Giannopoulos said. “That’s heartwarming.” A recent graduate of Southern Methodist University, she is now a sales executive with MICROS at its Houston office.

It seems the ship of opportunity still sets sail from the Schooner.

# Grant hones treatment, helps children

Southeast Texas is rich in cultural diversity. The confluence of dialects among cultural and ethnic groups such as African-American, Cajun and Hispanic, as well as the Texan’s legendary drawl, make for an interesting mix of language nuances and speech patterns in children. Unfortunately, language impairment in Southeast Texas children isn’t restricted to any dialect or cultural background, and clinical therapists must account for these factors when diagnosing and treating the disorders.

Monica Harn, associate professor of speech and hearing sciences, is the principal investigator for a National Institutes of Health grant to determine the effectiveness of a specialized manual treatment intervention. The \$150,000, two-year grant is directed toward testing and providing therapeutic treatment for pre-school and elementary students who have difficulties with forming words, word order and linguistic meaning.

“The speech and hearing department has satellite clinics in Port Arthur and Orange, where our graduate students are working with language-impaired students,” Harn said. “The research project is progressing very well because the special-education directors, principals, teachers and speech-language pathologists have been so positive and helpful in Port Arthur ISD and Little Cypress-Mauriceville CISD.”

The research seeks to gauge the effectiveness of a treatment intervention known as Addressing Multiple Aspects of Language Simultaneously. Lamar speech and hearing graduate students will administer the intervention therapy to a targeted population of 50 students in this unique randomized clinical trial. The approach has rarely been used for language impairment interventions, and this research will significantly contribute to the body of knowledge in the field.

“There is a considerable shortage of certified speech therapists in this region and throughout Texas,” Harn noted. “This pervasive shortage means speech therapists must know what treatments and interventions are most effective in the least amount of time possible.”

The intervention therapy holds great promise for therapists to seek to help language-impaired students efficiently and effectively. Lamar students engaged in this research collect and analyze data from the interventions and extrapolate those findings to the broader population of students. The knowledge and experience graduate students gain by conducting these interventions will help them become more skilled in serving diverse cultures in their professional careers.

“Addressing the needs of children with language disabilities in regions where variant dialects are spoken meets a primary goal of reducing health disparities across different segments of the population,” Harn said. “This research is so important because it promotes the health of people with disabilities, prevents secondary conditions derived from language impairment and eliminates disparities between people with and without disabilities.”—LA



LARRY ACKER

“  
There is a considerable  
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throughout Texas.”

—MONICA HARN





# ... and strike up the Big Red Band

## Catch Cardinal spirit . . .

**B**renda Griner '87, '03, has fond memories of the spirit and traditions that surrounded Lamar University football. Now, she eagerly anticipates a new and exciting era of Cardinal spirit.

Griner is the artistic director of Lamar's Spirit Team—a group that is spreading its wings in preparation for the return of football in 2010.

"I am truly a Cardinal, and, when I attended Lamar, we still had football," said Griner, a Port Neches resident who earned a bachelor's degree in dance and, later, a master of science degree. "This is an exciting time, seeing all the traditions about to be brought back. It's wonderful for campus—and the community—to experience Lamar's growth."

And, Griner said, Southeast Texas dancers and cheerleaders have a golden opportunity to be part of the action. "If you were here in the '80s, you remember that time. I can't wait to see how this affects the look and spirit of the university. It will bring a lot of new opportunities to high school dancers

and cheerleaders who might otherwise leave the area."

The new Spirit Team "will have to do it all," Griner said. "We have a lot of talent. We're looking for dancers who cheer and cheerleaders who dance."

Griner, her assistants and Spirit Team officers are visiting area high schools as the quest for new team members expands. Lamar also is offering Spirit Team "prep" classes to Lamar students as well as to middle school and high school dancers and cheerleaders.

After one season of scrimmages, the



Cardinals will launch their first official season in 2010. By then, plans will be in place for the new Spirit Team with its various divisions, such as a dance team and cheerleaders. More auditions are scheduled between now and then, adding to successful expansion that began with tryouts in fall 2008.

The current Spirit Team is an elite Division 1 dance team that performs at all home basketball games as well as various community events.

In addition to serving as the Spirit Team's artistic director, Griner is associate director of programs for Lamar Recreational Sports. She has performed as a professional dancer and choreographer all over the world. Her career as an entertainer includes movies, VH1, cruise ships, musicals and opera companies.

Additional information is available from Griner at [bggriner@my.lamar.edu](mailto:bggriner@my.lamar.edu).

“This is an exciting time, seeing all the traditions about to be brought back.”

—BRENDA GRINER

**T**he “grandest band in the land”—is on the way back. And then some. As Scott Deppe '90, Lamar's director of bands, sees it, the musicians who strut their stuff on the W.S. “Bud” Leonard Field at Provost-Umphrey Stadium in 2010 will create a “panorama” of entertainment for students and alumni alike.

“I want the marching band here to be something different. When you turn on TV or see other colleges, they have almost a prescribed performance. They'll march, they'll stop and play and they'll march,” Deppe said. “We would like to integrate it into more of a panorama—a visual and musical portrait that is almost a non-stop experience.”

After earning a master of music education degree from Lamar, he returned almost two decades later to find about 80 students enrolled in the band program. Those numbers have already increased to 100-plus.

“Realistically, we'll probably have about 150 to start that first year of football—though we're shooting for 200 to 250,” he said, adding “it would be nice” to restore levels of the 1970s when the Mighty Cardinal Marching Band was 350 musicians strong. “We hope the energy will still be there. We'll shoot for the stars and hope we get close to our goal.”

“Football will bring back not only the sport, but also some wonderful entertainment,” he said. He also envisions the games and band performances as outreach and recruitment opportunities for Lamar—attracting visiting school ensembles to join the Cardinal band on the field and in the stands. The prospect holds many benefits, not the least of which, he said, “is to allow those students to have a collegiate experience and also to excite them about Lamar.”

Deppe has been actively recruiting since he arrived in August 2008, visiting schools and conducting clinics and workshops. On the Lamar campus, the last

weekend in January brought the first in a series of scholarship auditions in the Department of Music, Theatre & Dance.

“The excitement in the schools is with the band directors themselves, who are almost all from around here and are former Lamar band students,” he said. The band directors are spreading the word that the marching band is coming and that opportunities are available for their students.”

Meanwhile, Deppe is putting on another hat, as uniform designer, and he'd like to come up with “cutting-edge” marching attire. “Uniforms have gotten really flashy. Cutting-edge to me is something simple and striking.”

After meeting with uniform companies, he will bring final designs back to the university for a decision.

Deppe is also shopping for instruments, with the first influx coming soon. “We have nothing for marching band, so we have to get percussion, and we have to get sousaphones. That's exciting.”

As for entertainment, Deppe promises: “We don't want to do the same-old same-old. We want to create something new and inviting to all.

We're looking to be innovative. We'll do several shows a year to appeal to different crowds, and we've talked about different genres of music,” Deppe said.

One idea is to revisit Lamar's most recent football era with tunes from the 1970s and '80s—“the style, the music of the time, to spark some memories for alumni.”

Halftime performances would integrate aspects of music, drill design and choreography.

“That's going to be a major upheaval of style,” he said. “We want to bring back old standards . . . then find tunes current with students now—and come up with some cheers and moves in the stands that will become the new Lamar tradition.”

As a longtime high school band director, Deppe had occasion to visit with scores of band directors from throughout the region, “and they were awestruck when they spoke so fondly of Lamar University. “Through ups and downs, the alumni are proud of Lamar. They convinced me to come to Lamar, that it was a special place.” —LW



Drum major Lanny Ross Graham -69 from 1966 Lamar yearbook.



# HOMECOMING 2009 RED, WHITE & YOU



**1.** Mary Smith and BeBe (Ford) Robinson '79 **2.** Toni (Huch) '77 and David Bost '76  
**3.** Frances (Wimberly) Alberto '56, '74, Wanda (Cruse) Landrey '56, '71, Bud Leonard '50, '53, '76, and Charlie Alberto -76 **4.** Celeste Salhab '78, '81, left, and Tamara (Bonura) Spell '92 **5.** Marilee (Fortune) Johnson '03, and Miranda (Fortune) Walker '97 **6.** Laura (Taylor) McMurray '66 and Connie Berry **7.** President Jimmy Simmons and Paul Jones '70, '92 **8.** Kevin '85, '93, and Jill (Taft) Roy '90 and Sharon (Smith) McCabe '83, '89  
**9.** Anthony '72 and Phyllis (Freeman) Stewart '67 **10.** Luther Childress '59, Jerry Zoller

'59, '68, and Elvis Davis '50, '55 **11.** Charles '59 and Eleanor Garrett with Vice President for Advancement Camille Mouton **12.** Roy West '56 and Wayne '60 and Beverly (Die) Seay '58 **13.** Truett Smith '59, Dean Jack Hopper and Luther Laminack '58 **14.** Sally (McDonald) House '59, '67, President Jimmy Simmons, First Lady Susan (Williams) Simmons '68 and Dot (Tudor) Cogswell '59, '90 **15.** Mayor Becky Ames, Head Football Coach Ray Woodard, Penne Woodard and Rodney Ames **16.** Odis -68 and Lois Booker **17.** Don '55 and Mary Kay Coleman **18.** Elwyn Seay '58, John Zerko -58, Lee Jackson

'59 and Larry '63 and Mikki Augsburger **19.** Guard Skyler Williams sinks the ball.  
**20.** Homecoming court: James Moore, an electrical engineering major from Beaumont; Mandy Anderson, kinesiology, Beaumont; Queen Esther Gyambibi, health, Houston; King Marlan Parker, criminal justice, Houston; Natalie Griffith, communication, Port Arthur; and Kary Jackson, marketing, Houston **21.** The Lamar delegation to City Council included, Head Men's Basketball Coach Steve Roccaforte '89, Lady Cardinal basketball alumna Audrea Samuel '06, Lady Cardinals' Assistant Coach Sondra Ancelot-Lundvick '94, '05,

Cardinal player Skyler Williams, Lady Cardinals Jenna Plumley and Myriam Igoufe, player T.J. Riley, former trainer Dan Shaddock '62 and Cardinals basketball alumnus B.B. Davis -81. Lamar's Big Red mascot is in the foreground. **22.** Pat and Billy '58 Tubbs **23.** Forward Ashton Hall helps hold off Northwestern, leading the Cards to an 89-67 homecoming victory **24.** The Spirit Team honors the play. **25.** Big Red thanks a young fan for cheering the Cards to victory. **26.** Kurt David '98 and Jenny Placette '01 **27.** Honors Program students paint on the red and white . . . and win the Spirit Award.



‘Tubman’ takes stage



In honor of Black History Month, Lamar presented Melissa Waddy-Thibodeaux in her one-woman show, *The Resurrection of Harriet Tubman for Literacy on the Underground Railroad*, Jan. 30 in the University Theatre. An actor, storyteller and playwright, Waddy-Thibodeaux was a finalist for the Humanities Texas Award, honored for her portrayals of Tubman and Rosa Parks. In addition to presenting her historically based dramatic re-enactment, she conducted an interactive workshop for Lamar theater majors, who then performed with her on stage.

Artful assistance

Lamar Theatre presented Carter Bean’s Tony-nominated satiric comedy *The Little Dog Laughed* Nov. 6-11—with proceeds benefitting the Southeast Texas Food Bank. Admission was free with donation of three canned goods or other non-perishable items to the food bank, whose pantry was depleted because of Hurricane Ike. The effort collect-

Spring Arts Calendar

**April 2-22** *Better Than Ever: Women Figurative Artists of ‘70s SoHo Co-op*, Dishman Art Museum; reception 7-9 p.m. April 3.

**April 16-17** Lamar University Spring Dance Concert: *AttenDANCE*, 7:30 p.m., University Theatre,

**April 23** *Lamarissimo!* Cardinal Singers and Lamar Dance Company, 7:30 p.m., Julie Rogers Theatre.

ed 793 pounds of food, which will feed more than 460 needy people in Southeast Texas.

Continuing Hurricane Ike relief, the Lamar Puppet Theatre donated proceeds from its performance at Dickens on the Strand to the Galveston Historical Foundation. The Dec. 6-7 holiday celebration marked the 17th appearance by the Lamar troupe, dressed as Victorian-era ragamuffins who beg coins from festival guests. In the past, the group has raised thousands of dollars for Lamar scholarships. As for the change in beneficiaries, “We feel this is the least we can do to help our friends in Galveston recover from the disaster,” said associate professor Kelly Draper, who has directed the Lamar Puppet Theatre since its inception in 1991.

The Southeast Texas Food Bank also benefitted from the Nov. 8 premiere of *Do You*, an independent film/Web series presented by G Sharp Productions in partnership with CG: Studios. Gordon Williams ’98, studio operations manager, co-produced *Do You* with C. Wyatt Cagle ’03. Those attending the event contributed to the food bank. Filmed in Southeast Texas, the movie examines race relations as prejudices arise in unexpected places, leaving a young couple to navigate troubled waters to maintain their love. Williams and Cagle have written, produced, edited or contributed to a number of award-winning projects, all originating in Southeast Texas.

Compositional carillon

When Nick Rissman and his music composition students decided to form a contemporary music ensemble three years ago, they

Jacqueline Gawer and Jonathan Williams starred in *The Little Dog Laughed*



didn’t have far to go for a name.

“We took our inspiration from the area we live in,” said Rissman, associate professor of music. “Traditionally, a carillon is a bell tower, something that makes music. This is an industrial area, and we celebrate that background. The Industrial Carillon grew out of and reflects Southeast Texas.”

On Oct. 28, the multi-media/multi-disciplinary series featured five composers who have degrees in composition from Lamar: Jack Benson ’04, George Gidley ’06, Kelli Hall ’04, Joel Love ’07 and Carl Richardson ’05. Each put together a short film that introduced his or her piece and gave the audience a window into the creative process.



**April 30- May 4** Lamar Theatre presents *The Rocky Horror Show*, University Theatre, 8 p.m., with 2 p.m. matinee May 3.

**April 30 - May 14** Senior Thesis Exhibition, Dishman Art Museum, reception

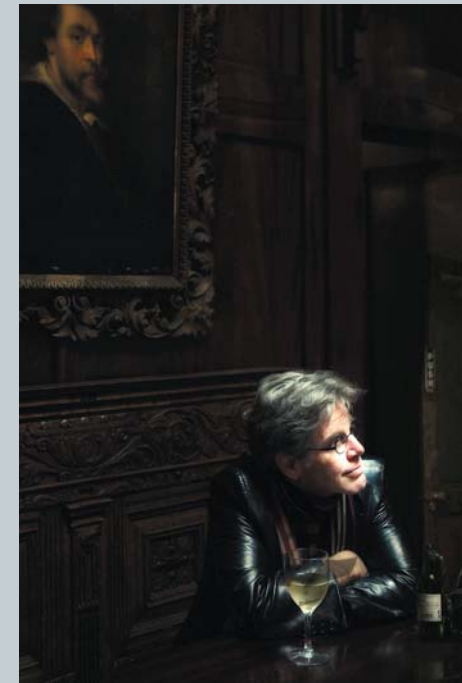
7 p.m. May 1.

**May 3** Choral Concert, featuring Lamar University A Cappella Choir and Grand Chorus, 6 p.m. First United Methodist Church, Beaumont, 6 p.m.

**May 5** Lamar Civic Orchestra, 7:30 p.m., Setzer Student Center Ballroom.

**June 9** Dancing with the LU Stars, University Theatre. (Details to be announced.)

Keith Carter honored in Washington and Austin



He has exhibited in galleries around the world, but finding a home in the permanent collection of the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., is an honor that holds a special place in Keith Carter’s heart.

Carter, University Professor of Art, earned this distinction when the gallery recently acquired three of his photographs of the late playwright and screenwriter Horton Foote. A native of Wharton, Foote won Academy Awards for the screenplay of *Tender Mercies* and the adaptation of *To Kill a Mockingbird* for the big screen.

Foote’s other honors include the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for his play *The Young Man From Atlanta*. In 2000, President Bill Clinton awarded him the National Medal of Arts.

“Horton was a national treasure,” says Carter. “He was a wonderful guy, a sweet, civilized, intelligent man.”

The two had been friends since 1987, when

Michelle, are fans of his work.

“It’s an amazing story,” Carter says.

“The picture is a social commentary on poverty and race in America.”

KEITH CARTER

“Someone in Colorado sent me a copy of the *Time-Life* book, *The American Journey of Barack Obama*, with a note to ‘see page 96.’ I turned to that page and found a picture of Mr. Obama and his wife at their home in Chicago.

A print of one of my pictures is hanging on the wall over their bookcase.”

The photograph of an African-American woman standing in a cotton field is imbued with deep meaning. Carter took the picture, titled *Garlic*, as part of a series made possible through the



Foote wrote the introduction for Carter’s first book of photographs, *From Uncertain to Blue*.

In addition to the National Portrait Gallery, Carter’s photographs may have another important home in Washington: the White House. Carter recently learned that President Barack Obama and his wife,



is a social commentary on poverty and race in America,” he says of *Garlic*, which has

long been one of his personal favorites. “The woman in the photo had just yanked stalks of garlic from a subsistence garden she maintained when I took the picture. It speaks volumes about our new president that this type of documentary portrait is the art his family displays in their home.”—SF

TEXAS MEDAL OF THE ARTS

Carter will be honored this April with the prestigious Texas Medal of Arts Award presented by the Texas Cultural Trust in order to celebrate the creative excellence, diverse talents and stellar artistic contributions of Texans. Honorary chair Gov. Rick Perry will award this year’s recipients at a ceremony on April 7 at the Long Center for the Performing Arts in Austin. Past Texas Medal of Arts Award winners include Van Cliburn, Tommy Lee Jones, Willie Nelson, Walter Cronkite and Bill Wittliff.

Other Recent Honors

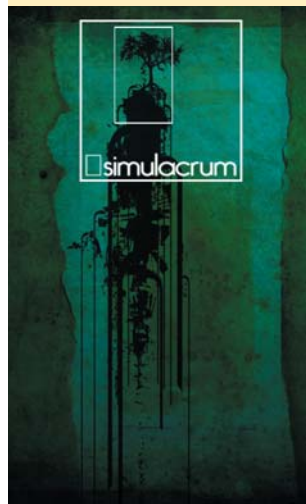
- 2009 Artist of the Year Award, Southeast Texas Arts Council
- 2009 Artist of the Year Award, Cultural Arts Council of Houston
- Juror: Texas Photographic Society’s 23rd Annual Members’ Only Show





## ArtsNotes

Lamar's A Cappella Choir joined an elite group of ensembles last fall in performing at the National Collegiate Choral Organization's biannual conference at Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music. It was the first time in Lamar history that a choral ensemble was selected to perform at a national convention—and just 10 schools were represented nationwide. The *Choral Music of the Americas* program featured compositions from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Mexico and the United States. **Eduardo Garcia-Novelli** conducted the ensemble in his final role as Lamar's director of choral activities . . . The Department of Music, Theatre & Dance is hosting veteran Houston trumpet player **Dennis Dotson** as artist-in-residence for 2008-2009. Dotson is conducting a series of jazz workshops and also was featured at Lamar's fall jazz concert Nov. 25 when his combo joined Lamar Jazz Bands "A" and "B" for the performance. Dotson has played professionally for 40 years and is active in jazz and commercial circles. He has performed with the Houston Symphony Orchestra and as a sideman on numerous recordings. He teaches at the University of Houston and Houston Community College . . . A unique exhibition by December graduate **Tommy "T.J." McRight** of Orange cast a series of dazzling computer-generated images on the walls of the Dishman Art Museum's upper and lower galleries. Titled *Simulacrum*, McRight's senior thesis addressed the assimilation between fine art and graphic design and the ephemeral nature of digital art. The artist presented the works Dec. 12, with an archived presentation available to museum visitors the



SHARON FORBET

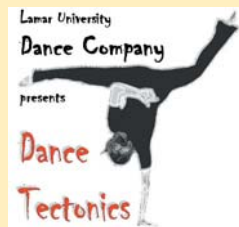
LAMAR'S A CAPPELLA CHOIR

subsequent week . . . **R.S. "Sam" Gwynn**, professor of English, placed second in a national competition of poems commemorating the inauguration of President Barack Obama. Conducting a "Poem Challenge" on its Web blog, *The Best American Poetry* invited poets across the country to participate. Gwynn's *An Inaugural Prayer* finished "a strong second" in the competition, according to the Web posting of the winners. To be eligible, each poem had to consist of four quatrains, had to include at least three words from a prescribed list (honor, integrity, faith, hope, change, power) and had to lift a line from *The Best American Poetry 2008*. Mark Strand, a former guest editor of *The Best American Poetry*, judged the 50 poems submitted . . . A solo exhibition by award-winning photographer **Richard Ashmore**, instructor of earth and space sciences, showcased Ashmore's work Oct. 25-Nov. 11 at Orange Savings Bank. *Beyond the 100th Meridian: Panoramic Views of the American West* featured panoramic photographs from Texas, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah—images from scientific explorations of the Southwest. The exhibition marked the second time he has exhibited in his hometown. Since 2006, Ashmore has presented his work in 22 exhibitions, including six national juried exhibits in which he earned two first-place awards . . . Lamar public radio KVLU will join Collette Vacations next fall to host a travel tour of Ireland. The 10-day *Shades of Ireland* tour departs Sept. 27 for the Emerald Isle and will include such destinations as Limerick, Killarney and Dublin, along with stops at the Blarney Stone and Kingscourt castle. April 27 is the deadline to register for the tour. For additional information, call **Melanie Dishman** at (409) 880-8164 . . . In other KVLU news, *The Radio Reader* has returned to the airwaves. The program, hosted by **Dick Estell**, airs from noon to 12:30 p.m. weekdays, replacing *Day to Day*, which National Public Radio cancelled because of budget shortfalls. **Jason Miller's** *Afternoon Jazz* moves up to 12:30 p.m. . . . Prompted by the rising popularity of dance—thanks, in part to television reality shows—the Lamar

Repertory Dance Theatre presented a demonstration and lecture on the history of American dance Nov. 23, sponsored by the Texas Artists Museum in Port Arthur. The program took the audience on a tour of dances that span the 20th century, including post-modernism, ballet, modern dance, jazz dance and tap. Under the direction of assistant professor

**Michelle Ozmun**, Lamar's newest dance company is dedicated to educating dance artists, fostering dance arts appreciation in the community and expanding dance arts experiences . . . The Lamar University Dance Company presented *Dance Tectonics*—an evening of dance works from faculty, students and guest artists—Nov. 20 and 21 in the University Theatre. Dancers from Tarrant County College Northwest Campus joined Lamar artists for an evening of ballet, modern dance, jazz, tap and world dance forms . . . Lamar Theatre presented David Auburn's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama *Proof* Feb. 12-17 in the Studio Theatre. The play explores themes of trust, genius, insanity and love . . . Poet **Chelsea**

**Rathburn**, whose first full-length collection won the 2005 Richard Wilbur Award, read from her work Dec. 3 in the Dishman Art Museum lecture hall. Sigma Tau Delta, English honor society, hosted a reception where Rathburn signed her award-winning poetry collection, *The Shifting Line*. The volume has earned praise as "a remarkable debut" and "exceptionally fine and promising." Rathburn's poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *Poetry*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *the New Criterion*, *Hudson Review* and *Pleiades*. A Miami native and marketing writer by trade, she lives in Atlanta.



CHELSEA RATHBURN

# Suiting up

## Lamar makes history with first football-signing class in 25 years

Lamar University Head Football Coach Ray Woodard and his staff announced that 25 student-athletes have signed National Letters of Intent to play football at Lamar beginning in the fall of 2009.

In what Woodard describes as a 'line-heavy' group with 13 combined offensive and defensive linemen, the defense gained the most with 14 players, while the offense added 11 to its side of the ball.

"I thought our coaches did an outstanding job, and I was proud of the way they represented Lamar University in the schools and homes of the recruits and with their families," Woodard said. "They are all to be commended for their efforts."

"I like the fact that we have a lot of players up front," he added. "I think we got the best 25 players available to us. I like the mix of local and Houston-area players. There is a good mix of junior college and high school guys among the 32 total signees. It's only a start, but a great start."

From the day he was announced as Lamar's head coach in May, a point of emphasis was recruiting from the Golden



Triangle region of Southeast Texas. A total of eight players (11 if you count the three from Livingston) are from the historically talent-rich area, including four from Beaumont. An additional 11 are from the greater Houston area and one each from the Dallas area, Mississippi and New York.

A group of seven mid-year junior college signees were announced in December.

That group includes a player from the Golden Triangle and two from East Texas.

This class marks the first group of spring signees at Lamar since the 1989 signing class. Lamar will return to the practice field beginning this fall with the first games scheduled for the fall of 2010. —BH

## Student-athletes earn Academic All-Conference honors

Volleyball seniors Shalayne Blythe and Ashley Todd have been named to the 2008 Southland Conference Volleyball All-Academic Team.

Blythe, an interdisciplinary studies major, was an automatic selection to the first team after earning CoSIDA Academic All-District VI University Division third-team honors earlier in the season. A native of Port Neches, she was named to the Southland Conference All Tournament team after helping the Lady Cards to the tournament title.

Todd, a senior exercise science major, was named to the second team. The Corpus Christi native earned second-team all-conference honors as a setter for the Lady Cardinals. Along with their academic success, Blythe and Todd helped lead the Lady Cardinals to their first appearance in the NCAA tournament since 1993. Lamar volleyball finished the season with a 17-12 record and a second-place finish in the SLC.



ASHLEY TODD

## Standout named SLC Student-Athlete of Year

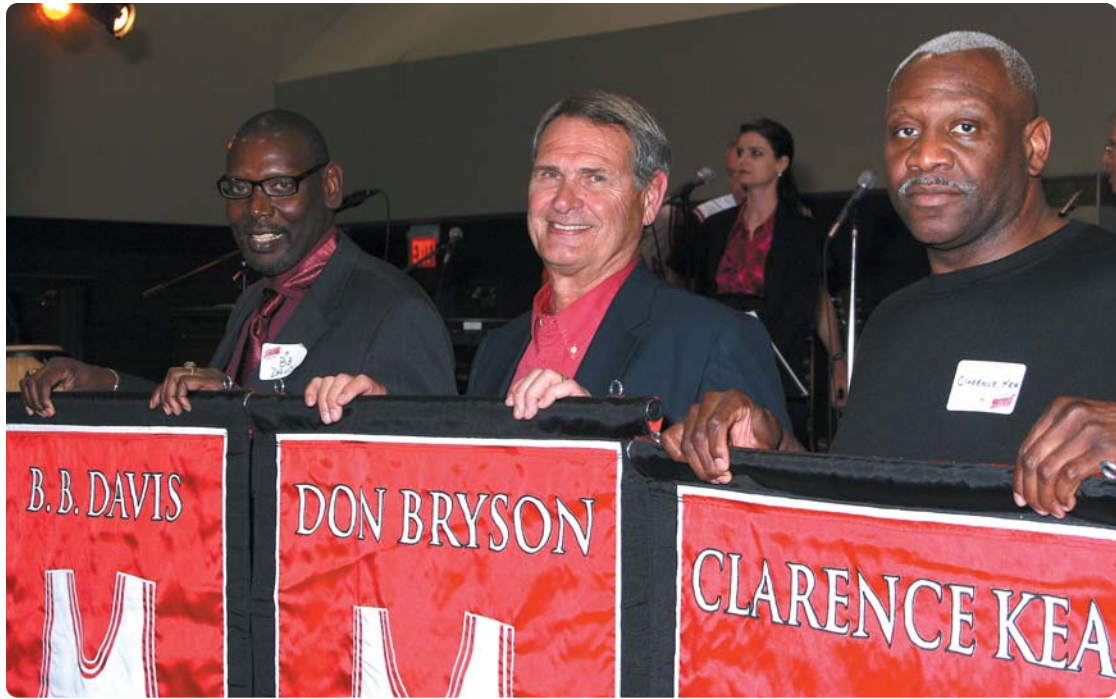
Cross country standout Samuel Kosgei has been named the Capital One/Southland Conference Men's Cross Country Student-Athlete of the Year.

Kosgei, a native of Kapchorwa, Uganda, and health major, posted a 3.20 grade-point average. The senior earned All-America honors with a 37th-place finish at the NCAA Championship Nov. 24 in Terre Haute, Ind. He covered the 10,000-meter course in a time of 30:09.4 to become the third All-American in school history. Kosgei won the conference championship Nov. 3 and was named the Southland Conference men's cross country athlete of the year.



SAMUEL KOSGEI





# Three star players honored with jersey retirement

Don Bryson, B.B. Davis and Clarence Kea are the first honorees in school history

All those conference championship banners hanging in the rafters of the Montagne Center now have company. Lamar University retired jerseys of three former men's basketball players Feb. 20 during the Former Players Reunion banquet at Homecoming. Don Bryson (No. 13), B.B. Davis (No. 52) and Clarence Kea (No. 54) left a lasting impact on the tradition-rich Lamar program.

"The retirement of jerseys is long overdue," Tubbs said. "We formed a committee that set the criteria for consideration, and it selected this inaugural class. All three jerseys we are retiring were unanimous selections." The jerseys were unveiled in the Montagne Center at halftime of the Cardinals' winning game against Northwestern State Feb. 21.

Bryson, a three-year letterwinner from 1962-65, put together an outstanding senior season in 1964-65 that culminated in being named third-team Associated Press (AP) All-America, becoming the first Cardinals' player to earn All-America honors. A native of Rosenberg, Bryson was a two-time All-Southland Conference performer, and he still ranks among the all-time leaders in school history in several

categories. He is the school's all-time leader with three games in which he scored 20 or more points and grabbed 20 or more rebounds. Bryson helped Lamar post a 59-17 (.776) record during his three-year career. In 1962-63, the Cardinals won the Lone Star Conference championship, and, in 1963-64, Lamar won the inaugural SLC championship and placed third at the NCAA College Division tournament.

Davis, a four-year starter for the Cardinals from 1977-81, helped Lamar win four straight Southland Conference championships and appear in three straight NCAA Tournaments during his tenure. The Beaumont native's name graces several categories in the record book. His 75 blocked shots in the 1979-80 season still ranks as the best single-season total in school history. He is the only player in school history and currently one of 98 Division I NCAA players to score 2,000 points and grab 1,000 rebounds in a career. Davis helped Lamar post an 18-9 record in 1977-78 and win the SLC championship. The Cardinals posted a 23-9 ledger in 1978-79, won the SLC title and advanced to the Division I NCAA Tournament for the first time in school history.

Lamar was 22-11 in 1979-80, won the SLC championship and advanced to the NCAA Sweet 16 after defeating No. 4-ranked Oregon State, which is still the highest ranked team the Cardinals have defeated in school history. The Cardinals posted a 25-5 record in 1980-81, won the SLC title and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament. Lamar compiled an 88-34 (.721) overall record and a 33-7 (.825) mark in SLC games during his tenure.

Kea, a four-year starter for the Cardinals from 1976-80, helped Lamar win three SLC championships and appear in the first two Division I NCAA Tournaments in school history. A native of Wilmington, N.C., Kea still ranks among the all-time leaders in school history in several statistical categories. He led the Cardinals in scoring and rebounding as a freshman in 1976-77. He holds two of the Top-10 single-season rebound totals in school history. He led the team in field goal percentage all four years he played and in rebounding twice. Kea helped Lamar compile a 75-46 (.620) overall record and a 31-9 (.775) mark in SLC play during his career. The Cardinals captured SLC titles in 1978, 1979 and 1980. Lamar, which posted a 22-11 record in 1978-79, advanced to the NCAA Tournament where it defeated nationally ranked Detroit in the first round on the strength of his 33-point, 19-rebound effort. The Cardinals advanced to the NCAA Sweet 16 in 1980. —BH

**The retirement of jerseys is long overdue.**

—BILLY TUBBS

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

Send us your news:

Write to Cadence, P.O. Box 10011, Beaumont, TX 77710, e-mail [cynthia.hicks@lamar.edu](mailto:cynthia.hicks@lamar.edu) or call (409) 880-8421.

## 20s

**Jean (Venza) Sowers** '27, A.A. general studies, earned a bachelor's degree in education from Sam Houston State University. Her 100th birthday was celebrated at the Beaumont Civic Center. She lives in Beaumont.

## 40s

**Jerry Ward** '43, A.A. general studies, received a B.S. in physics from Caltech and worked for 25 years for North American Aviation. He earned a master's degree from the University of California-Los Angeles and worked for the U.S. Department of Transportation. He taught undergraduate courses at MIT and worked for the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, later joining Rockwell International to work on ballistic missile defense and the technology for self-driving cars. He co-authored a book, *Tomorrow's Transportation: Changing Cities, Economies, and Lives*. He and his wife, Penny, live in San Diego, Calif.

**Dr. James Thompson** '48, A.A. general studies, earned his medical degree in 1950 and is now retired. He lives in San Marcos.

**Raymond George** '49, A.A. general studies, is retired and lives in Denton with his wife, Shirley.

## 50s

**Bill Strang** '55, B.S. geology, and his wife, **Carolyn (Johnston) Strang** '65, B.S. elementary education, are both retired from teaching careers and live in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

**Dr. John Farnie** '57, B.S. biology, earned a master's degree in 1961 and D.D.S. in 1965. His practice is in Austin, where he lives with his wife, Ann.

**Bill Foster** '57, B.S. chemical engineering, played football for Lamar University, is retired and lives six months of the year in Australia and six months in the United States.

**John Herring** '57, B.S. chemical engineering, lives in Linden with his wife, Jackie.

**Charles Simmons** '57, B.S. health and physical education, teaches in the Brookeland school district and lives in Hemphill with his wife, Lavella.

**Albert Chandler** '58, B.S. history, is lead instructor at the Professional Golf Academy in Columbia, Mo.

**LeRoy Schlechte** '58, B.S. chemical engineering, is retired and lives in Kerrville with his wife, Joyce.

**John Bedsole** '59, B.S. mechanical engineering, retired from Texaco, lives in Dallas and is remodeling a 1951 house as a hobby.

**Fauzy Ghareeb** '59, B.S. chemistry, retired after 31 years of teaching and lives in McLean, Va., with his wife, Lorraine.

**Michael Matheny** '59, B.S. history, earned a law degree at the University of Texas. He practices law in Beaumont where he lives with his wife, **Sarah (Sims) Matheny** '61, B.S. elementary education, she is an assistant professor of professional pedagogy at Lamar University.

**James Moore** '59, B.S. geology, is chief executive officer for Evans Standard in Cranfills Gap, where he lives.

**Fred Smith Jr.** '59, B.S. sociology, earned advanced degrees, including a doctorate, and is guidance counselor at Community Christian School in Orange. He lives in Buna.

**Thomas Willard** '59, B.S. chemistry, is professor emeritus at Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Fla., where he lives with his wife, **Barbara (Youngblood) Willard** '59, B.S. elementary education. They will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in May 2009.

## 60s

**Dr. John Erwin** '60, B.S. biology, earned a medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and retired from the Family Diagnostic Medical Center. He is the mayor of Hillsboro, where he lives.

**Rodney Mutschler** '60, B.B.A. management, is president of Elder Distributing Co. in Victoria, where he lives with his wife, Lynn.

**Joe Wilson** '60, B.S. geology, is retired and spends his summers volunteering with the National Park Service. He and his wife, Judy, live in Tyler.

**James Wise Sr.** '61, B.S. industrial engineering, is retired and lives in Dunkirk, Md., with his wife, Ruby.

**Bob Boldt** '62, B.S. industrial engineering, retired from Alcatel. He and his wife,

Margaret, live in Richardson.

**Louis Caveness** '62, B.S. secondary education, is a real estate agent at Arrowhead Creek Realty in Rusk, where he lives with his wife, **Stephanie (Cox) Caveness** '69, B.A. English.

**Hubert Doyen** '62, B.S. mathematics, is retired and lives in Austin.

**Marita Garin** '62, M.A. English, published a book, *Southern Appalachian Poetry: An Anthology of Works* by 37 poets. She lives in Black Mountain, N.C.

**Lillian (Gilbert) Jackson** '62, B.S. home economics, is retired from Lyondell and lives in Deer Park with her husband, Tom.

**Frances (Roush) Massey** '62, B.S. elementary education, owns Massey Consulting and lives in Kennebunkport, Maine, with her husband, Nick.

**James Murphy** '62, B.B.A. accounting, is retired and lives in Spring with his wife, Lucy Ann.

**Neal Pickett** '62, B.B.A. economics, has his own law practice in Houston, where he lives.

**Daniel Shaddock Jr.** '62, B.A. sociology, retired from the national YMCA staff as president/CEO after holding executive positions in Alabama, Louisiana and Tennessee. He also pastored churches for 20 years in both Georgia and Florida. He lives in Wildwood with his wife, Sandra.

**James Wilson** '62, B.S. secondary education, retired from IBM as senior systems engineer and lives in Lindale.

**Susan (Harwell) Adger** '63, B.S. sociology, published a book, *A Quiet Voice*, with Eugene Hairston and also wrote *Write A Story for Your Child*. She lives in Dundedin, Fla.

**John Davis** '63, B.S. sociology, is pastor of Andover Newton Theological School in Atascadero, Calif., where he lives.

**Keith Mills** '63, B.A. history, earned an educational doctorate in 1975. He is retired and lives in Avon, Ind., with his wife, Nancy.

**Bobby Moore** '63, B.S. elementary education, earned a master's degree and a doctorate from North Texas State University. He retired in 2005 from a career in education, primarily at the University of Southern Mississippi. He received a teaching excellence award three times. He lives in Hattiesburg, Miss., with his wife, Rose Marie.

**William Oliver** '63, B.B.A. management, is retired and lives in Montgomery with his wife, Janet.

**Alan Tipton** '63, B.A. mathematics, earned a doctorate in wildlife ecology-computer simulations and is director of institutional research at Texas A&M-Kingsville, where he lives with his wife, Carol.

**Robert Tolar** '63, B.S. mathematics, is a professor at College of the Canyons in Valencia, Calif., where he lives.

**Bill Willis** '63, B.S. kinesiology, earned a master's degree from Stephen F. Austin University. He was a teacher/coach in public school and college including 26 years Temple College. He was coach of the year in 2001 when the golf team won the national championship, and he was inducted into the NJCAA Hall of Fame in 2003. He lives in Harker Heights with his wife, Karen.

**Dr. Rex Anderson** '64, B.S. biology, is chief executive officer of NeuroMedical Institute for Age Management in Abilene, where he lives.

**Morris Edelson** '64, B.A. English, '65, M.A. English, earned his doctoral degree at the University of Wisconsin. He is a science grant editor at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and a professor at Houston Community College in Houston, where he lives with his wife, Dr. Melissa Bondy.

**Dr. Thomas Hayes** '64, B.S. biology, earned his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston in 1967 and lives in Charleston, W.Va.

**Vicky (Rowland) Kidwell** '64, B.S. elementary education, retired from teaching and lives in Seabrook with her husband, Don.

**Alton Landry** '64, B.B.A. management, is president of Greater Houston Port Bureau. He and his wife, **Sallie (Talbert) Landry** '63, B.B.A. secretarial science, live in Houston.

**Sherry Lawrence** '64, B.S. biology, retired from a career in two Houston hospitals and is editor of Coryell Kin, a quarterly publication of the Coryell County Genealogical Society. She lives in Gatesville.

**Fred McKinley** '64, B.A. government, '87, M.A. history, retired as supervisory criminal investigator for the Louisiana attorney general's office and has written and published three books. He lives in Burleson.

**Herman Weber** '64, B.A. political science, earned a master's degree in public administration from Cornell University. He retired as human resources director after a 25-year career with the city of Pasadena. Since then, he has served as interim human resources director and is a part-time insurance agent. He lives in Pasadena with his wife, Lori.

**Edward Williams** '64, B.S. mechanical engineering, is retired and lives in Sun City, Ariz.

**Harvey Barker** '65, B.B.A. accounting, is retired and lives in Round Rock with his wife, Joyce. He has five sons.

**William Barnes** '65, B.S. secondary education, earned a master's degree in education from the University of North Texas. He retired from a 37-year career in education and lives in Haslet with his wife, Janice.

**Norman Bell** '65, B.B.A. accounting, retired to Mexia, where he lives with his wife Kathy. They plan to travel by recreational vehicle.



**Tanga (Riggs) Crews** '65, B.A. history, is Nov Net director in the Floresville school district, where she lives with her husband, **James Crews** '69, B.S. secondary education.

**David Davenport Jr.** '65, B.A. political science, earned a law degree and retired as regional counsel for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. He lives in St. Louis, Mo., with his wife, Sandra.

**Dr. Robert English** '63, B.S. biology, earned a dental degree from the University of Texas in 1968. He is a dentist in Fort Hood and lives in Nolanville.

**Dorothy (Warren) Herring** '65, B.S. elementary education, earned a master's degree in education in 1972 and lives in Baytown.

**Ann (Borden) Teel** '65, B.S. elementary education, earned a master's degree in library science in 1995. She is district librarian for Hillsboro school district, where she lives with her husband, David. They have two sons and one daughter.

**Gayle Williams** '65, B.B.A. marketing, is retired and lives in Houston with his wife, Fay.

**Cliff York** '65, B.B.A. accounting, is retired and owns a small antique business in Wallis. He and his wife, Bertha, live in East Bernard.

**Craig Jennings** '66, B.S. sociology, is retired district manager for General Motors and lives in Gonzales, La.

**Rouel Rothenberger Jr.** '66, B.S. secondary education, was honored by The Bank of America Charitable Foundation at its fifth annual Neighborhood Excellence Initiative awards Oct. 14 in Fort Worth. He and his wife, **Cheryl (Cook) Rothenberger** '66, B.S. elementary education, live in Azle.

**Robert Eastham** '67, B.S. sociology, earned a master's degree from St. Edwards University-Austin and works in regional outreach for the United Way capital area. He lives in Dripping Springs.

**James Eskridge** '67, B.A. sociology, earned his master's degree from Ball State University. He retired as associate director of compensation and benefits at the Boy Scouts of America national office after 34 years of service. He lives in Irving with his wife, Kathryn.

**John Herring** '67, B.S. mechanical engineering, is in mechanical sales and lives in Raleigh, N.C.

**George Lemley** '67, B.S. sociology, earned a master's in social work from Louisiana State University in 1970 and retired as a Texas state employee.

**James Lewis** '67, B.B.A. accounting, retired after 37 years in the steel container business and lives in Garland with his wife, Kathy.

**John Mayfield** '67, B.B.A. management, is retired and lives in Spring with his wife, Susan.

**Ron Sullivan** '67, B.S. commercial art, is leaving a 24-year career leading his own firm,

Sullivan Perkins Inc. in Dallas, to pursue fine art full time. He and his wife, JoEl, live in Garland.

**Rebecca (Werner) Veldman** '67, B.A. sociology, has taught special education and elementary students for 25 years and lives in Aiken, S.C.

**Bill Coffey** '68, B.S. history, earned a law degree from the University of Texas and is partner at Coffey and Browne LLP. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, **Bickie (Cain) Coffey** '78, B.S. home economics, '84, M.Ed. elementary education, who teaches in the Beaumont school district.

**David Holstead** '68, B.B.A. general business, and his wife, **Reva (Bullock) Holstead** '65, certif. vocational nursing, '77, B.S. elementary education, live in Bulverde. David is retired from Wells Fargo Bank, and Reva is retired from the Port Neches Groves school district.

**Randy Kimler** '68, B.S. government, '77, M.P.A. public administration, retired in May 2008 as city manager of Port Neches where he lives with his wife, Janice.

**Katherine Landolt** '68, B.A. French, teaches at the University of Washington and lives in Seattle.

**Patrick Larsen** '68, B.B.A. management, earned a master's degree in fine arts from Stephen F. Austin University and was selected to design an ornament for the official White House Christmas tree. He and his wife, Patricia, attended a special unveiling ceremony for the tree with First Lady Laura Bush. He taught art at the University of Central Arkansas for 38 years and lives in Conway, Ark.

**Rep. Jim McReynolds** '68, M.A. history, was appointed by Gov. Rick Perry to the Crime Victims Institute Advisory Council. He earned a Ph.D. in history from Texas Tech University and serves on the National Conference of State Legislatures Agriculture and Rural Development Standing Committee. He lives in San Augustine.

**Tom Rice** '69, B.B.A. management, was appointed by Tri-Isthmus Group, Inc. to head its Oklahoma-based subsidiary, Southern Plains Medical Group Inc. He earned a master's degree in health administration from Duke University and lives in Edmond, Okla.

**Rosalyn (Morrell) Wells** '68, B.E.A. graphic design, retired after 30 years with KBR (formerly M.W. Kellogg). She resumed her career as an artist and exhibited a one-woman show at Archway Gallery in Houston, where she lives with her husband, Tom.

**Eddie Bernard** '69, B.S. physics, earned a master's degree and Ph.D. from Texas A&M in physical oceanography and is director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle. He is the first NOAA scientist to be awarded a Service to America Medal for his work in establishing an international tsunami detec-

tion and forecast system. He and his wife, **Shirley (Fielder)** '70, B.S. elementary education, live in Bellevue, Wash.

**Robert Burnett Jr.** '69, B.A. economics, earned a law degree in 1975 and is director/manager/consultant for Burnett Associates in Beaumont, where he lives.

**Allie Callihan** '69, B.B.A. management, and his wife, Bonnie, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Sept. 27, 2008. They live in Beaumont.

**Bill De La Garza** '69, B.A. government, earned a law degree, and his practice is at Bill De La Garza & Associates in Houston. He lives in Friendswood.

**Larry Ferguson** '69, B.S. biology, retired as regional director of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in Waco. He and his wife, Penny, live in Lorena.

**Curtis Koonce** '69, B.S. biology, earned his pharmacy degree from the University of Houston and is a clinical pharmacist for the state of Texas. He lives in Pollok with his wife, Linda.

**Madeline (Chatelain) Muir** '69, B.S. secondary education, teaches at St. Thomas More School in Baton Rouge, La., where she lives with her husband, Clifford.

**Robert Nelson** '69, B.S. sociology, is president of RAN Enterprises Inc. and lives in Plano.

**Barbara Smith** '69, B.S. elementary education, is a retired teacher from Anahuac school district, where she lives.

**Edwin Wooldridge** '69, B.A. sociology, is vice president at J.P. Morgan Chase in Houston and lives in Katy.

## 70s

**Barbara Comeaux** '70, B.S. health and physical education, '74, M.S. kinesiology, is continuing her successful volleyball coaching career of 38 years at Port Neches-Groves High School with a career match record of 1,001 wins, making the Port Neches-Groves program one of the most successful programs in the state of Texas. She lives in Nederland.

**Willie Mae (Thomas) Elmore** '70, certif. vocational nursing, '77, A.A.S nursing, was named an Unsung Hero 2008 by the Port Arthur News. She has written a book to help children retain their hope and self esteem and provides Kwanzaa celebrations for children at Christmas. She lives in Port Arthur.

**Gregory Kohler** '70, B.S. health and physical education, is owner of G and J Associates in Houston, where he lives with his wife, Joyce.

**Jack Mitchell** '70, B.B.A. marketing, is in sales for Carhartt and lives in Hempstead with his wife, Suzanne.

**Carol (Armstrong) Sigona** '70, B.B.A. marketing, and her husband, Pete, were named

Unsung Heroes 2008 by the Port Arthur News. They are owners of K-9 Obedience and have stayed behind and boarded animals for evacuees during recent storms. She lives in Groves.

**Ann (Morgan) Styles** '70, B.A. English, retired as assistant regional director at the Texas Workforce Commission and lives in Cedar Park with her husband, James.

**Lynn (Pregler) Bullard** '71, B.A. sociology, is a counselor in the Alief school district. She lives in Houston with her husband, **Randy** '72, B.S. health education.

**Ron Couvillon** '71, B.B.A. management, is marketing specialist for Southern Champion Tray in Chattanooga, Tenn. He and his wife, Joan, live in Hixson, Tenn.

**George Grimes** '71, B.G.S. liberal arts, earned a Ph.D. in psychology and is a psychologist in Houston. He lives in Kemah.

**Karen (Paul) Guzma** '72, B.S. elementary education, is retired and living in Wilmington, Del., with her husband, Keith.

**Don Rainey** '71, B.S. kinesiology, '72, M.S. kinesiology, is director of physical fitness and wellness at Texas State University and lives in Driftwood.

**Harry Rupp III** '71, B.S. sociology, retired and moved to his farm in Romayor with his wife, **Betty (Cromer) Rupp** '68, B.S. home economics.

**J. Michael Turner** '71, B.S. electrical engineering, has been named to the board of directors of Zeugma Systems, a privately held telecommunications equipment supplier. He is retired from SBC and has a telecommunications consulting business. He and his wife, **Bette Turner** '70, B.B.A. marketing, live in Dallas.

**Cherie (Roux) Warner** '71, B.B.A. secretarial science, '72, M.B.A. business administration, is a 27-year educator who teaches freshman English at Monsignor Kelly Catholic High School and was recently honored with a classroom teacher award from the Beaumont A&M Club. She lives in Orange.

**Mike Webb** '71, M.B.A. business administration, is program underwriting manager for Transpac Managers Inc. in Dallas. He lives in Mesquite.

**The Honorable Robert Wortham** '71, B.S. government, earned his law degree from Baylor University and was recently honored with the Dr. Richard L. Shorkey Award, recognizing his work with the Shorkey Center, a non-profit United Way agency that provides services for children with special needs. He and his wife, Karen, live in Beaumont.

**David Chance** '72, B.B.A. management, is attending Trinity Theological Seminary and lives in Hornbeck, La.

**Mike De Nero** '72, B.B.A. marketing, owns California Sunsations Inc., an importer and wholesale supplier of promotional products worldwide. He lives Ranch Belego, Calif.

**Deborah Dye** '72, B.S. elementary education, retired as a high school principal after 31 years in education and lives in Montgomery with her husband, Nellis.

**Larry Harrison** '72, B.B.A. accounting, earned a law degree in 1975 from St. Mary's School of Law. He served as president of the Fort Bend County Bar Association in 2006 and was founding president of Fort Bend Lawyers Care in 2007, which is a pro bono legal organization for the financially needy. He served the Sugar Land Charter Review Commission in 2008 and is an adjunct professor at the Sugar Land campus of University of Houston-Victoria.

**Quenton Jackson** '72, B.S. mechanical engineering, is account manager at Monsanto in Senoia, Ga., where he lives with his wife, Joyce.

**Paul Kattawar** '72, B.S. electrical engineering, retired from the Department of the Navy in South Carolina.

**Kenneth Palmer** '72, B.S. electrical engineering, works as an electrical engineer in the Houston office of Smith Seckman Reid Inc. and is responsible for lighting, emergency power and power distribution. He lives in Houston.

**John Sehon III** '72, B.B.A. accounting, is agency principal for Allstate insurance in Houston, where he lives with his wife, Deborah.

**Sister Paulette Shaunfield** '72, B.S. medical technology, was a Catholic sister for 55 years and is now retired, living at the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word main convent in Houston.

**Douglas Wagner** '72, B.S. industrial engineering, owns Douglas K. Wagner Professional Services and lives in Houston with his wife, Cathy.

**Dick Williams** '72, B.B.A. management, earned a law degree from South Texas College of Law and lives in Kemah with his wife, Sandra.

**James Choate** '73, B.B.A. general business, is owner and operator of Cypress-Fairbanks Funeral Home in Houston, where he lives. He spends weekends at his ranch in Round Top.

**Dan French** '73, B.A. economics, is a professor in the College of Business at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Mo., where he lives with his wife, Janet.

**Jim Goza** '73, B.S. biology, '77, M.Ed. school administration, teaches at Memorial High School in Port Arthur. He and his wife, **Trudy (Loyd) Goza** '76, B.B.A. accounting, have four children.

**Bill Hecht Jr.** '73, B.B.A. accounting, '90, M.B.A. business administration, was named to the 2009 board of directors for the Better Business Bureau of Southeast Texas, and serves as an executive committee member. He is chief financial office of Christus Hospital St. Mary and lives in Nederland.

**Jane Kelley** '73, B.S. elementary education, is landman for Citrus Energy Corp. in Plano. She lives in Irving.

**Jorge Quijano** '73, B.S. industrial engineering, '74, M.E. engineering, is executive vice president of engineering and program management for Autoridad del Canal de Panama. He headed the operations of the Panama Canal from 1999-2007 and now heads the Panama Canal expansion program. He and his wife, Marcia, live in Panama.

**Alice (Miller) Spacek** '73, M.Ed. guidance and counseling, was named the 2008-2009 Dr. Jamesanna Kirven Outstanding Counselor by the Texas Counseling Association. She lives in Elkhart.

**Elizabeth (Perkins) Springer** '73, B.S. elementary education, is owner of Springer Properties in Sanger, where she lives with her husband, John.

**Brenda (King) Squires** '73. B.S. home economics, is branch manager and vice president of the Sealy branch of Capital One Bank. She and her husband, **Dennis Squires** '73, B.S. biology, live in Katy and have one daughter, Lauren.

**Owen Youngblood** '73, B.S. geology, retired as development operations manager at Hewlett Packard Co. He lives in Dallas with his wife, Janna.

**Warren Clark** '74, B.A. government, earned his law degree from Texas Tech and owns a law practice in Amarillo, where he lives.

**George Frissell** '74, B.A. history, was featured teacher in the Columbia Daily Tribune for his dedication to education, which includes special classes he designed in classical ideas and world religions. He also sponsors the DEST Club, which studies South Asian cultures; a chapter of Amnesty International and a quarterly Speak Your Mind series. He lives in Columbia, Mo.

**Albert Haynes** '74, B.S. industrial engineering, is senior pastor at Bethany Missionary Baptist Church in Dallas. He lives in Hickory Creek.

**Thomas Hicklin** '74, A.A.S. police science, retired as assistant chief of police of the Nederland Police Department after 34 years of service. His wife, **Claudia (Robertson) Hicklin** '77, B.S. home economics, teaches kindergarten in the Hampshire-Fannett school district. They have two daughters, **Kayla (Hicklin) Russell** '05, B.M. music, and **Alisa Hicklin** '02, B.S. political science.

**Gregory Kirkland Sr.** '74, B.S. geology, transferred in February 2008 from Anchorage, Alaska, to Denver, Colo., to accept a promotion to senior geological advisor with Forest Oil Corp. He is responsible for Arkoma Basin exploration and development of oil and gas.

**Hedy (Mayer) LeBlanc** '74, B.B.A. accounting, and her husband, **David LeBlanc** '76, B.B.A. accounting, live in Plano.

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

# Distinguished Alumni nominations requested

The Distinguished Alumni Awards are the highest honor presented to Lamar University alumni. Each year, the Alumni Advisory Board appoints an awards selection committee to review all nominations and make the awards selections.

All Lamar University alumni and friends are eligible to submit nominations for Distinguished Alumni Awards. Eligibility requirements are as follow:

- the candidate must be a graduate of Lamar University who is distinguished in his or her chosen profession or life's work;
- the candidate must be a person of such integrity, stature and demonstrated ability that faculty, staff, students and alumni will take pride in and be inspired by his or her recognition; and
- the candidate must be an individual who, in deed and in action, recognizes the importance of his or her education at Lamar and whose interest and loyalty are evident.

The Distinguished Alumni Awards Committee is especially interested in receiving nominations for Distinguished Young Alumni (alumni who are younger than 45) and for alumni whose distinguished careers are in service to their community.

The deadline for nominations for the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Awards is April 30, 2009. Please send your nomination to:

Lamar University  
Distinguished Alumni Awards Committee  
Office of Alumni Affairs  
PO Box 10005  
Beaumont, TX 77710  
Via e-mail: Alumni@lamar.edu • Via fax: (409) 880-8924

**Shirley (Howard) Lonnett** '74, certif. vocational nursing, is retired from a 33-year career at Christus Hospital St. Mary . She lives in Port Arthur and has four children.

**Paul Skinner** '74, B.B.A. management, was named to the 2009 board of directors for the Better Business Bureau of Southeast Texas, and serves as an executive committee member. He is owner of Star Graphics and lives in Sour Lake.

**Terry Weatherford** '74, B.S. electrical engineering, is retired from ExxonMobil. He and his wife, Wanda, live in Nederland.

**Philip White** '74, B.S. chemical engineering, is a consulting engineer for the Washington division of United Research Services and lives in Houston with his wife, **Josie (Solito) White** '70, certif. secretarial science.

**Diane (Darville) Abshier** '75, B.S. elementary education, teaches at All Saints Episcopal School in Beaumont, where she lives with her husband, **Stephen Abshier** '74, B.B.A. marketing, who is chief operations officer at Outreachhealth Health Services.

**Sam Arledge** '75, B.S. psychology, is president and chief executive officer for Manufacturers Distributor in Odessa, Fla. He lives in Lutz, Fla.

**Nicholas Carter** '75, B.B.A. accounting, has been named president and chief executive officer of Arabian American Development Co. effective July 1, 2008.

**Jean Garza** '75, A.A.S. dental hygiene, is a registered dental hygienist for the University of Texas Dental Branch in Houston. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Barney. Their son, **Christopher Garza** '04, B.S. political science, '08 M.B.A. business administration, is also a Lamar alumnus.

**Mary Ann (Richard) Jaynes** '75, secondary education, will serve on theTexas Education Agency's student assessment division educator committees, which review field test data and develop new test items. She teaches in the West Orange-Cove school district and lives in Orange.

**Octavio Laguna** '75, A.A.S. welding, is chapter commander of the military order of the



Purple Heart chapter 1991 in Beaumont and is on the hospital visitation team to support wounded soldiers from the 506th Airborne. He lives in Kirbyville with his wife, Ryna.

**John Pinto** '75, B.S. psychology, '79, M.S. psychology, earned a doctorate degree in social psychology from Oklahoma State University. He is a professor at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa.

**Jim Stark** '75, B.S. biology, is a pharmaceutical representative for 3M. He lives in Greenwell Springs, La., with his wife, **Judith (Landry) Stark** '75, B.S. home economics, who teaches at Clinton High School in Clinton, La.

**Kenneth Wooley** '75, B.A. history, is a minister and lives in Temple with his wife, Sylvia.

**Frances (Babovec) Drodgy** '76, M.S. home economics, is principal of St. Mary Catholic School in Orange. Upon her retirement as director of the Early Childhood Development Center at Lamar University, she began volunteer work at St. Mary. She lives in Orange.

**Dianne (Ewell) Fleming** '76, B.S. home economics, is assistant superintendent for the Crosby school district, where she lives with her husband, Richard.

**Randy Fuller** '76, B.S. communication, is traffic and news anchor for Metro Networks in Los Angeles, Calif., where he lives.

**David Luther** '76, A.A.S. mid-management, is chief appraiser for the Jasper County appraisal district and lives in Jasper.

**Tom Noyola** '76, B.S. criminal justice, '05, M.S. applied criminology, was selected by The Texas State University System Foundation as a recipient of the "Grow Your Own Scholarship," toward the completion of his doctoral degree. He is a member of the Lamar Institute of Technology faculty and lives in Groves.

**Larry Beaulieu** '77, B.S. communication, was inducted into the Silver Circle of the Lone Star Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. The Silver Circle recognizes an elite group of professionals recognized by the chapter who have devoted a

quarter of a century or more to the television industry and who also have made a significant contribution to broadcasting. He is vice president and general manager of KFDM-TV Channel 6 and lives in Beaumont, with his wife, Nancy.

**James Black** '77, B.S. health education, is golf coach at New Mexico Junior College in Hobbs, N.M., where he and his wife, Patricia, live.

**Mary (Touchstone) Bordelon** '77, B.S. elementary education, earned a master's degree in 1984 and is owner/consultant of TAK-STRAIN. She lives in Brookeland.

**Oma Cox** '77, A.A.S. drafting technology, is president of O.C. Services Inc. in Brandon, Miss., where he lives with his wife, Amy.

**Tom Gallier Jr.** '77, B.S. biology, '83, M.P.A. public administration, is general manager for El Dorado irrigation district in Placerville, Calif., where he lives with his wife, Kathleen.

**Chuck Kennedy** '77, M.B.A. business administration, is a consultant for DG by Design in Inver Grove Heights, Minn., where he lives.

**Kassem Maged** '77, B.S. civil engineering, is vice president of the West Africa division for Global Industries. He and his wife, Dena, live in Atascosita.

**Steven Moore** '77, B.S. music, '80, M.M. music, is owner of The Saurus Co. and lives in Alvin with his wife, Darla.

**Sara (Gossett) Rush** '77, B.S. special education, teaches in the Orange County public schools in Orlando, Fla., where she lives with her husband, **Kenneth Rush** '77, B.S. speech. Kenneth is director of theater with the same school district.

**Mary (Schmitt) Sautter** '77, B.S. secondary education, '81, M.Ed. secondary education, is a retired educator who lives in Merryville, La.

**Becky (Sheffield) Escamilla** '77, B.S. secondary education, is principal of Whittier International Elementary School in Boulder, Colo. Built in 1883, it is an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program School and the oldest continually operating school in Colorado. Her husband, **Terry** '77, B.S. psychology, '88, M.S. computer science,

earned a Ph.D. in computer science from Texas A&M University and has been with IBM for 16 years. He is senior technical staff member and chief architect for security strategy and architecture in the office of the CIO. In 2008, the Society of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists honored him with a Bravo Award, which recognizes excellence among the best and brightest Latino engineers and scientists.

**Edward Tanner** '77, B.A. political science, is staff attorney for the 9th Court of Appeals and lives in Nederland.

**Robert Zollinger** '77, B.G.S. general studies, is a teaching assistant at Fort Wayne community schools in Indiana.

**Steve Moore** '78, B.S. communication, was named board president of the Country Music Association. He is senior vice president of AEG Live!, a subsidiary of Anschutz Entertainment. He lives in Arrington, Tenn.

**Mark Russo** '78, B.B.A. accounting, is customer service manager for Entergy-Texas and was elected to the board of directors for the Better Business Bureau for Southeast Texas. He lives in Beaumont.

**Bekki (Neinast) Sims** '78, B.S. art education, retired from the Goose Creek school district and lives in Houston with her husband, Ron.

**Ray Agah** '79, B.S. industrial engineering, is vice president of Save Mart Supermarket in California. He lives in Modesto, Calif.

**Darla Bird** '89, B.S. secondary education, is a diagnostician in Johnson County. She lives in Hillsboro.

**Pamela (Hinton) Choate** '79, B.S. secondary education, '86, B.A. sociology, was a participant in a July Discovery Educator Network professional development event in Silver Spring, Md. She is employed in the Port Neches-Groves school district, where she lives.

**Joe Dodson** '79, B.A. government, earned a law degree from the University of Houston and is an attorney at Dodson Law Offices. His wife, **Sharon (Gillespie) Dodson** '79, A.A.S. nursing, is the school nurse at Vincent Middle School in the Beaumont school district, where they live.

**Charles Feagin** '79, B.S. criminal justice, is a deputy correction officer for Jefferson County. He lives in Village Mills with his wife, Susan.

**Cindy Garriott** '79, B.S. elementary education, '81, M.Ed. elementary education, is director of special services in the Deweyville school district. She lives in Orange.

**Tom Grant** '79, B.B.A. accounting, is area president for East Texas at Regions Bank. The area includes Tyler, Longview and Kilgore. He lives in Tyler.

**Fay (Broussard) McCrocklin** '79, A.A.S. radiologic technology, is director of the Endoscopy Center of Ocala in Ocala, Fla., where she lives.

**Jolene (LaShute) Ortego** '79, M.Ed. supervision, has retired as executive director of communications and public relations in the Beaumont school district, where she was employed for 30 years. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Dale, Regents Professor of chemistry and physics at Lamar.

**Michael Portacci** '79, B.B.A. accounting, earned a master's degree from Trinity University and is president of operations for Community Healthcare Systems. He lives in Franklin, Tenn.

**Linda (Smith) Rowe** '79, B.S. sociology, is an agent for State Farm Insurance in Tyler, where she lives.

**Nancy (Heckaman) Worthington** '79, B.S. industrial technology, is owner of Classic Forms and Products Inc. in Beaumont. The business recently won a 2008 Print Excellence And Knowledge (PEAK) award in the annual competition sponsored by Print Solutions Magazine.

## 80s

**Kathy (Weldon) Boehm** '80, B.S. chemical engineering, is unit manager at DuPont. She and her husband, Gerald, live in League City.

**Betty (Jacob) DeRieux** '80, B.A. English, earned a law degree from University of Houston and is a partner/attorney at Capshaw DeRieux LLP in Gladewater.

**Tommy Fain** '80, B.M. music education, is seventh and eighth grade band director in Lake Dallas school district. He and his wife, Anita, live in Plano.

**David McArthur** '80, B.S. music-instrumental, '85, M.M. music, is director of bands at Stratford High School. He lives in Houston.

**Beverly (Stiegler) Parker** '80, M.A. government, was a finalist for Port Arthur's Citizen of the Year. She is a retired educator from Lamar State College-Port Arthur. She lives in Port Arthur.

**Reggie Rother** '80, B.B.A. marketing, is regional sales manager for Astellas Pharma US. He lives in McKinney.

**Jill Scoggins** '80, B.S. communication, is assistant vice president for media communications at Baylor University. She and her husband, David Widener, live in Waco.

**Jay Trahan** '80, B.S. government, is economic development director for the city of Orange. He and his wife, Carla, and son, Cade, live in Orange.

**Beth (Paul) Watson** '80, B.S. secondary education, '86, B.S. electrical engineering, is an electrical engineer at TOTAL Petrochemicals in Port Arthur. She lives in Orange.

**Patrick Wright** '80, B.G.S. general studies, M.A. English, is an associate foreign professor at Yeungnam University in Gyeongsan, Korea.

**Joanne Brown** '81, B.S. sociology, is director of development and executive director of the LIT Foundation. She lives in Beaumont.

**Mark Sturrock** '81, A.A.S. diesel mechanics, is maintenance technician at BAE Systems in Cordova, Ala. He lives in Parrish, Ala.

**Kenneth Wall** '81, B.S.W. social work, earned a master's degree and law degree at the University of Texas. He is an attorney and an instructor of law for the University of Houston in Houston, where he lives.

**Daniel Bell** '82, B.B.A. general business, is vice president and senior branch manager of MCT Credit Union and was elected to the board of directors of the Better Business Bureau for Southeast Texas. He lives in Lumberton.

**Rosemary (Perez) Fontenot** '82, B.B.A. office administration, works in accounts payable at M&I Electric Industries. She has two daughters, one son, and lives in Beaumont.

**Van Wigginton** '82, B.S. government, '84, M.P.A. public administration, earned a law degree from University of Houston and is department chair at San Jacinto College. He lives in Houston.

**Zane Barra** '83, B.S. speech, '90, B.M. music education, is an educator in the Humble school district, where he lives.

**Gerald Garcia** '83, B.S. electrical engineering, is principal SoC design engineer at NXP Semiconductors in Austin, where he lives.

**Deborah (Seiver) Gernentz** '83, B.B.A. accounting, is owner of Gernentz Associates in Port Arthur, where she lives.

**Angie Romano** '80, B.S. elementary education, '83, M.Ed. supervision, is English reading language arts curriculum coordinator in the Splendora school district. She lives in Montgomery.

**Charles Taylor Jr.** '83, B.B.A. accounting, has been appointed president and chief executive officer of Americatel. He lives in Dallas.

**Susan (Swendig) Wisenbaker** '83, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a mechanical engineer at DuPont. She and her husband, Robert, live in Nederland.

**Charles Burns** '84, M.S. kinesiology, is a teacher with the Department of Defense Education Agency in Okinawa, Japan, where he lives. He is retired from the Army Reserves.

**Bill Carden Jr.** '84, B.S. geology, owns Novrosky's in Lumberton. The business was selected as Lumberton's Business of the Year for 2008. He and his wife, **Pinky (Tortorice) Carden** '74, B.S. computer science, live in Beaumont.

**James Dorrell** '84, B.S. electrical engineering, was named director of F-35 improvements and derivatives at Lockheed Martin. He lives in Willow Park.

**Cale Ferguson** '84, B.S. geology, is president of MountainView Supply Inc. and lives in Beaver, W. Va.

**Rudy D. Martinez** '84, B.S. mechanical engineering, earned a master's and a doctorate from the University of South Carolina and is now a faculty member at Texas A&M-Galveston, where he lives.

**Mike Montanari** '84, B.S. electrical engineering, is vice president of sales in the southern region for Square D/Schneider Electric. He and his wife, **Rebecca (Townasley) Montanari** '85, B.A. history, live in Cedar Park.

**Jennifer (Bernard) Miller** '84, B.S. secondary education, was named Teacher of the Week by the Laneville school district where she teaches high school English and all levels of English as a second language for the district. She lives in Longview.

**Billye (Hooper) Potts** '84, B.S. secondary education, '89, M.Ed. counseling and development, is executive director of the Association of Student Judicial Affairs and lives in Louisville, Ky., with her husband, **Joe** '96, M.B.A. business administration.

**Mark Rees** '84, B.B.A. accounting, is group fitness department head for Life Time Fitness in Skokie, Ill. He lives in Chicago.

**Lamont Robinson** '84, works for Hometown Roofing in Omaha, Neb., where he lives.

**Kelley (Green) Smith** '84, B.B.A. accounting, is a self-employed certified public accountant, living in Houston with her husband, Thomas.

**Diane (Gracia) Woodall** '84, B.S. psychology, lives in Vidor with her husband, **Carl** '79, A.A.S. drafting technology, who is a support specialist for the U. S. District Court.

**Sandra (Rosengrants) Ford** '85, M.S. deaf studies/habilitation, is an independent sales director with Mary Kay cosmetics and lives in Fort Worth.

**Jackie (Koh) Nathanm** '85, B.S. computer and information science, is a manager at Spectra Energy in Houston, where she lives.

**Roy Osborn** '85, B.S. mechanical engineering, has assumed command of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

**Wendy (Copeland) Owen** '85, B.S. biology, earned a bachelor's degree in special education from the University of Texas and began a career as a teacher of middle school students with severe/multiple disabilities. She is a mental health counselor and teacher for CORE Healthcare/Early Head Start in Wimberley, where she lives.

**Gail (Hopkins) Adams** '86, B.S. nursing, is chief executive officer at Texas Orthopedic Hospital in Houston.

**David Galloway** '86, B.S. physics, is senior scientific editor at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., where he lives.

**Katherine (Pratt) Hearn** '86, B.S. elementary education, was an educator in public schools for 18 years and recently graduated from University of Houston Health Science Center with a bachelor of science in nursing.

# Four inducted into Educator Hall of Fame



me to have a positive effect on children. I know I make a difference."

Sims earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education in 1970 and the master of education in 1976. She teaches fifth-grade science at Cryer Intermediate School in Conroe. Sims is the science department team leader and has developed the science scope, sequence curriculum and benchmark testing for fifth-grade science. "I seek to inspire and teach my students to be

lifelong learners, and my students will inspire and teach me all my life," she said.

Finch received her bachelor's degree in education from North Texas State University and then earned a master of education degree from Lamar in 1997. She completed her superintendent's certification at Lamar in 2001. She has taught second through fifth grade and is director of elementary curriculum and instruction for Little Cypress-Mauriceville Consolidated ISD. Finch was twice named Teacher of the Year at Jones Elementary in West Orange-Cove ISD and nominated for District Teacher of the Year. She has coordinated and designed electronic lesson plans for teachers and is responsible for the Acceleration and Title 2 grants. "Each

position has been very different in many ways but has given me the opportunity to work with the teachers, students and the community," she said. "I absolutely love what I do."

Starcke earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Lamar in 1961 and was a football letterman. Before retiring, he taught math at Port Neches-Groves before transferring to South Park High School to teach math and coach baseball. Under his leadership as principal, South Park initiated programs to challenge all levels of students. He has received many awards, including recognition in Who's Who in American Education and as Outstanding Secondary Educator of America. He was a nominee for the Beaumont Chapter of the Texas A&M Club's Teacher of the Year award. His philosophy is to never forget that the purpose of school is to effectively educate our youth.

The Educator Hall of Fame is an annual event hosted by the College of Education and Human Development to honor Lamar graduates for their hard work and dedication to education. More information is available by contacting Sarah Matheny, Induction Committee chair, (409) 880-8702.



**Rhonda (Jordan) Johnston** ’86, B.S. elementary education, teaches math in the Warren school district, where she lives with her husband, Scott.

**Michael Osborn** ’86, B.S. oceanographic technology, is director of marine mammals and birds at Mystic Aquarium and Institute for Exploration in Mystic, Conn. He and his wife, Laura, live in North Stonington, Conn., with their adopted daughter from China. They are starting the foster-to-adopt program in the state of Connecticut.

**Joni (Marriott) Phariss** ’86, B.B.A. marketing, is vice president of human resources for the YMCA of Greater Houston. She and her husband, Randall, live in Houston.

**Levi Williams III** ’86, B.S. law enforcement, is a special education teacher in the Dallas school district and lives in Mesquite.

**Tim Wright** ’86, A.A.S. industrial electronics technology, ’04, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a supervisor at Entergy. He lives in Mandeville with his wife, **Felicia (Oberg) Wright** ’04, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences. She is a clerk at Entergy.

**Barry Bryant** ’87, A.A.S. refrigeration and air conditioning technology, was named to the 2009 board of directors for the Better Business Bureau of Southeast Texas, and serves as an executive committee member. He is sales manager of Bill Clark Pest Control and lives in Beaumont.

**Marjorie (Mansfield) Gausepohl** ’87, B.S. biology, is a chemist at Arkema Inc. in Beaumont. She and her husband, Jason, have son, Josiah Daniel, born Oct. 23, 2008.

**Daniella Irlé** ’87, B.S. kinesiology, is associate athletic department and senior women’s administrator at the University of North Dakota. She lives in Grand Forks.

**Sam Moore** ’87, B.M. music education, is director of bands in the Hamshire-Fannett school district where he lives with his wife, **Vickie (Villemez) Moore** ’85, certif. office administration.

**Gwen (Effler) Traylor** ’87, M.Ed. supervision, earned an educational doctorate in curriculum and instruction, language arts, reading and literature from the University of Houston. She and her husband, Ronald, are professors at Southeastern Louisiana University. They live in Hammond, La.

**Kay (Nolte) Abernathy** ’88, M.S. educational leadership, earned her educational doctorate at Texas A&M University in 2002 and teaches at Lamar University.

**Sheryl Cannon** ’88, B.S. mathematical science, teaches at Ozen High School in the Beaumont school district, where she lives.

**Mary Ann (Escamilla) Capo** ’88, B.B.A. accounting, lives in Houston with her husband, **Edward Capo** ’88, B.B.A. accounting, who works at Reliant Energy.

**John Henderson** ’88, B.B.A. management, is risk safety specialist for the city of Wichita Falls. He lives in Holliday with his wife Tammy.

**Karen (Saenz) Massaro** ’88, B.S. kinesiology, teaches physical education in Middleton, R.I., public schools, where she lives with her husband, John-Paul.

**Betty McCall** ’88, B.S. sociology, has been granted tenure at Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pa., where she is an assistant professor in the sociology and anthropology department.

**Lisa (Bowen) Meshell** ’88, B.B.A. general business, ’97, B.B.A. office administration, works at Spindletop MHMR Services and lives in Beaumont.

**Phillip Saperstein** ’88, B.B.A. marketing, is a financial advisor for Edward Jones Investments in Orange, where he lives with his wife, **Leigh (Smith) Saperstein** ’87, B.S. elementary education.

**Dave Walker** ’88, B.G.S. general studies, is program manager for PAE Lockheed Martin at Kandahar Airfield in Kandahar, Afghanistan. His wife is **Vanessa (Hunter) Walker** ’79, certif. vocational nursing.

**Danny Badeaux** ’89, B.B.A. general business, is director of operations for Sherwin Williams in Garland and lives in Allen.

**Craig Bailey** ’89, A.A.S. computer drafting technology, ’97, A.A.S. process operating technology, is process operator at Invista Sabine River Works in Orange. He and his wife, **Christella (Guidry) Bailey** ’90, A.A.S. computer drafting technology, live in Port Arthur.

**Susan Cedars** ’89, B.S. psychology, earned a master’s degree in clinical psychology from Northwestern State University and is a research analyst for Harris County Pretrial in Houston, where she lives.

**Sharon Duke** ’89, B.S. elementary education, teaches in the Hamshire-Fannett school district. She lives in Beaumont.

**Jim Fults** ’89, B.B.A. accounting, is refinery accounting supervisor at Citgo Petroleum in Houston. He and his wife, Robin, live in Magnolia.

**Mac Hopkins** ’89, B.B.A. accounting, is a certified public accountant for England Co. in Houston, where he lives.

**Jamie (Broussard) Packman** ’87, B.S. sociology, ’89, B.S. home economics, ’89, M.S. home economics, was a visiting professor last summer in the Department of Nutrition at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif. She is an adjunct professor at Lamar and owns a nutrition and anti-aging consulting company. She lives in Nederland with her husband, Ronnie, and their two children.

**Kathy Portie** ’89, B.S. communication, ’94, M.A. visual arts, is sports editor, chief reporter and photographer at Big Bear Grizzly newspaper in Big Bear Lake, Calif., where she lives.

**Anne (Fisher) Winslow** ’89, B.S. nursing, was inducted as a nurse leader in Lamar University’s Kappa Kappa Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society of Nursing. She is nurse practitioner for Stat-Care and lives in Beaumont.

90s

**Cheryl Caruthers** ’90, B.S. elementary education, teaches in the Spring Branch school district and lives in Houston.

**Rodney Cavness** ’90, B.S. kinesiology, ’94, M.Ed. school administration, earned a Ed.D. in administration and supervision from the University of Houston. He is superintendent of schools in Evadale. He and his wife, Tanya, have six children and live in Beaumont.

**Srinivasa Chittaluru Sr.** ’90, M.E. civil engineering, is group manager for Microsoft and lives in Hyderabad, India, with his wife, Nagasudha.

**Lloyd Crosby** ’90, B.S. secondary education, teaches chemistry at West Brook High School in Beaumont. He lives in Orange.

**Rodney Harrison** ’90, B.S. criminal justice, is chief deputy with the Orange County sheriff’s office. He lives in Nederland.

**Jared Schultz** ’90, B.B.A. accounting, is owner of Vantage Solutions in Missouri City, where he lives with his wife, Twana.

**Paige (Cummings) Wardell** ’90, B.A. political science, is legal assistant and firm administrator for the law offices of her husband, Ronald Wardell. They live in Houston.

**Julie (Gleason) Alford** ’91, B.A. English, M.Ed. counseling and development, is a senior academic advisor at Lamar University. She lives in Orange with her husband, Robert.

**Arlene (Glaze) English** ’91, B.S. family and consumer sciences, is a real estate agent with Martha Turner Properties in Nassau Bay and has earned top-producing honors as well as appointment to the company’s Circle of Excellence.

**Antionette Kelly** ’91, B.S. psychology, is program director at Girls’ Haven Inc. in Beaumont, where she lives. She is president of the Beaumont graduate chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

**Louise (Fielders) Linder-Hall** ’91, B.S. secondary education, teaches special education in the Silsbee school district, where she lives.

**Denise Moore** ’91, B.S. psychology, is lead program manager for the Health and Human Services Commission in Houston, where she lives.

**Lisa Roach** ’91, A.A.S. child care and development, is an accounting associate at Lamar University in Beaumont, where she lives.

**Carla (East) Rocha** ’91, B.B.A. marketing, is sales project manager at Hewlett Packard in Houston. She and her husband, Rodolfo, live in Tomball.

**Michael Torres** ’91, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is director of sales force effectiveness for Ferring Pharmaceuticals of Parsippany, N.J. He lives in Houston.

**Wendy (English) Goldsworthy** ’92, B.S. communication, is a production representative at NBC Universal in Universal City, Calif. She lives in Tujunga, Calif.

**Kim Brown** ’93, B.S. chemical engineering, earned a law degree from South Texas College of Law. She is an associate at Howrey LLP in Houston.

**Claudia (Mink) Fitzgerald** ’93, B.S. political science, is supervision officer for the Liberty County Community Supervision and Corrections Department and lives in Dayton.

**Rhonda Mack** ’93, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches in the Buna school district, where she lives.

**Debra Peltier** ’93, B.S. kinesiology, has been named Coach of the Year by the Beaumont Enterprise. Her volleyball team at Hamshire-Fannett High School won the Class 3A regional semifinals against Robinson. She lives in Beaumont.

**David Rodriguez** ’93, B.B.A. general business, is owner of C Video and Farmers Rodriguez Insurance Agency in Beaumont.

**Paul Lemoine** ’94, B.S. criminal justice, is the new chief of police in Port Neches, where he lives. He has been in the Port Neches police department for 22 years.

**Suzy (Simon) Moore** ’94, B.S. communication, is senior account manager for Accudata Systems Inc. in Houston. She and her husband, Coy, and daughter, Morgan, live in Fulshear.

**Mary-Dionne (Jackson) Onyema** ’94, B.S. psychology, teaches in the Clint school district. She is enrolled in a graduate psychology program and lives in Horizon City with her husband, Kingsley.

**Kyle Campise** ’95, B.S. communication, earned a master’s degree in Christian education and is associate pastor at Ridgewood Church in Port Arthur, where he lives with his wife, Trisha.

**Mary Kate Flanagan** ’95, B.S. communication, lives in Houston and is pursuing a master’s degree from Tulane University.

**Jennifer Gamez** ’95, B.B.A. general business, is a legal assistant at Johanson Fairless. She lives in Sugar Land.

**Dr. Peter Hu** ’95, M.S. biology, earned a doctorate from Touro University International and is program director at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

**Tamara (Downs) Perkins** ’95, B.S. criminal justice, is a carrier for the U.S. postal system and lives in Kirbyville with her daughter.

**Paula (Moore) Pilant** ’96, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is an educator in Anahuac school district. She and her husband, Sammy, live in Winnie.

**Sarah (Crisman) Kirksey** ’97, B.S. environmental science, has been reappointed as environmental investigator for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. She lives in Beaumont.

**Joseph Pace** ’97, B.S. political science, ’98, B.S. sociology, ’04, M.P.A. public administration, is municipal court supervisor in Copperas Cove, where he lives with his wife, Lori. He serves as chair for the city’s Initiative Committee.

**Cindy (Dinkins) Partin** ’97, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, ’99, M.Ed. counseling and development, and Christopher Partin, married on Aug. 23, 2008. She is a psychotherapist at Memorial Hermann Baptist Hospital in Beaumont.

**Jeri Rainey** ’97, B.B.A. accounting, is finance director for the city of Sachse and lives in Lewisville.

**Ward Willis** ’97, B.S. health education, is deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and the Horn of Africa Campaign for the Air Force. He is the officer in charge of network operations in the Middle East.

**David Wong** ’97, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is women’s head tennis coach at Lamar University. He and his wife, **Melissa (Miller) Wong** ’82, B.B.A. management, live in Port Arthur. She is business manager for the Nederland school district.

**Tiffany Benefield** ’98, B.B.A. human resource management, is the computer-assisted telephone interviewing center manager at Decision Information Resources Inc. and lives in Richmond.

**Chris Boerger** ’98, B.S. computer science, is a software engineer at Lockheed Martin in Houston. He lives in Pearland with his wife, Elizabeth.

**Shannon (Simon) Frugia** ’96, B.S. deaf education and communication disorders, ’98, M.S. audiology and communication disorders, is director of audiology for Southeast Texas Ear, Nose and Throat in Beaumont, where she lives with her husband, **Jason** ’02, B.B.A. management information systems. He is an educator with the Vidor school district.

**Maria (Cevallos) Gomez** ’98, B.S. communication, is a bilingual teacher in the Houston school district. She and her husband, **Pablo** ’98, B.F.A. graphic design, live in Houston. Pablo is web designer and videographer for Methodist Hospital. They have two children.

**Derell Jackson** ’98, B.S. chemical engineering, is a zone engineer for Air Liquide Americas in Pasadena. He lives in Houston with his wife, **Monica (Carter) Jackson** ’08, B.B.A. management.

**Deborah (Wiggins) King** ’98, B.G.S. general studies, is a first-grade teacher at Eugene Field Elementary in the Beaumont school district and was recently honored with a



Bernard’s initiative awarded

At a recent gala in Washington, D.C., Eddie Bernard ’69, director of the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, was awarded a Homeland Security Medal as one of eight Service to America Medal recipients. Bernard created a tsunami detection system that has dramatically increased warning times and decreased the risk of catastrophic loss of life.

The Service to America Medals (Sammies) awards program pays tribute to America’s federal work force, highlighting those who have made significant contributions to our country. Honorees are chosen based on their commitment and innovation, as well as the impact of their work on addressing the needs of the nation.

classroom teacher award by the Beaumont A&M Club. She lives in Beaumont.

**Tonjala Seals** ’98, B.S.W. social work, earned a master’s degree in social work from the University of Houston and works at the Veterans Hospital in Houston. She lives in Pearland.

**Misty Segura** ’98, B.B.A. general business, earned a law degree from South Texas College of Law and is employed as an attorney at Kerr Hendershot, PC, in Houston, where she lives.

**Gary Spears Jr.** ’98, B.A. history, is a sergeant with the Rice University police department. He and his wife, **Christina (Steed) Spears** ’04, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, live in Dayton.

**Shannon (Richard) Chopp** ’99, B.S. biology, ’03, A.A.S. nursing, and Ceasear Chopp Jr. married June 23, 2008. She is employed by the Harris County Hospital District, and they live in Humble.

**Johnny Ellegan** ’99, B.G.S. general studies, is regional marketing director of Daybreak Venture and lives in Richmond with his wife, Jennifer.

**Chuck Harris** ’99, B.S. hospitality administration, reopened the Spindletop Steakhouse and Continental Cuisine restaurant on Crockett Street. He is one of three American Culinary Federation-certified chefs in Southeast Texas. He lives in Nederland.

**Sandesh Hegde** ’99, M.E.S. engineering science, is director at Bain Capital in Boston, Mass. He lives in Brookline, Mass., with his wife, Roshni.

**Richard Knox** ’99, B.S. criminal justice, is project manager for ScTex Construction Corp. and lives in Beaumont.

**Pam Sterling** ’99, B.A. English, ’99, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, ’01, M.E. special education, ’03, M.E. educational leadership, is a diagnostician in the Goose Creek school district.

**Xiaomei Wang** ’99, M.E. chemical engineering, is a project manager for Lummus Technology in Houston, where she lives.

**Andrea (Stevenson) Williams** ’99, B.S. criminal justice, is a customer service representative for the Texas Department of Public Safety. She lives in Houston.

00s

**Carrie Broussard** ’00, B.S. communication, is a cardiovascular and diabetes pharmaceutical sales representative for Merck and Co. Pharmaceuticals Inc. and lives in Houston.

**Benjamin Burnett-Smith** ’00, B.B.A. marketing, is company manager of Mamma Mia! Las Vegas. He and his spouse, Wright, live in Las Vegas.

**Stacy Clark** ’00, B.M. music, ’08, M.M. music, is director of bands for the La Vernia school district. She lives in San Antonio.

**April Denning** ’00, B.S. chemistry, teaches in the Beaumont school district and lives in Vidor.

**Jessica (Nolan) Hallmark** ’00, B.S. communication, received her law degree from South Texas College of Law and is an attorney with the Law Office of Rocky Lawdermilk. She



Take me out to the ballgame  
But first, let’s tailgate!

Food • baseball giveaways • free tickets to the game

Lamar University alumni will be “cooking out” at Vincent-Beck Stadium before the Lamar vs. UT Arlington baseball game.

All Lamar alumni are invited to come join the fun in the ballpark picnic area.

Tailgate 5:30  
Game time 6:30 pm  
May 8, 2009  
Vincent-Beck Stadium

For further information or to RSVP, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs (409) 880-8921 • (800) 298-4839  
rsvpAlumni@Lamar.edu

lives in Beaumont with her husband, **Stephen Hallmark** ’99, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, and daughter, Lucy.

**Chris Johnson** ’00, B.S. kinesiology, is associate head coach at Pennsylvania State University. He and his wife, Gigi, live in State College, Pa.

**Georgiana Pickerill** ’00, B.S. nursing, was inducted as a nurse leader in Lamar University’s Kappa Kappa Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society of Nursing. She lives in Nederland.

**Jennifer (Romero) Wallace** ’00, M.PA. public administration, is assistant director of planning for Calcasieu Parish Police Jury in Lake Charles, La., where she lives.

**Mohammed Sharifuzza** ’00, M.E. civil engineering, is project engineer at Captec Engineering Inc. in Stuart, Fla. He lives in Port St. Lucie, Fla., with his wife, Sydea.

**Henry Eluebo** ’01, B.S. nursing, is an administrator at Solid Care Home Health Inc. in Frisco.

**Wyatt Nash** ’01, B.EA. studio art, and **Robert Deeds** ’99, B.EA. studio art, have combined talents and resources with several other artists and opened the Texas Firehouse in Long Island City as an exhibit venue for local artists. Nash and Deeds were involved in a similar project in Houston called Raw Space. Nash lives in Long Island City, N.Y., while Deeds lives in Silsbee.

**Mohammed Nasir** ’01, M.E. civil engineering, is project engineer at Calvin-Giordana Associates, Inc. in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He lives in Davie, Fla., with his wife, Sadia.

**Collin Shellenberger** ’01, B.S. criminal justice, earned a law degree from Texas Tech University and is an attorney at Germer Gertz LLP. He and his wife, Sharla, live in Beaumont.

**Lori (Kolander) Slocum** ’01, B.B.A. management, earned a law degree from South Texas College of Law and joined the firm of Brent Coon and Associates in Beaumont, where she lives.

**Kenyon Spears** ’01, B.S. communication, is associate head basketball coach at Wagner College in Staten Island, N.Y., where he lives.

**Jennifer Womack** ’01, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches in the Buffalo school district where she lives.

**Mary (Scott) Young** ’94, A.A.S. supervision, ’01, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is senior customer service specialist at Entergy in Beaumont, where she lives with her husband, Patrick.

**Colletta (Conner) Gomes** ’02, B.S. interior design, is an associate at Montgomery Roth Architecture & Interior Design LLC in Houston.

**Byron Fischer** ’02, B.B.A. marketing, is a sales representative for Vulcan Materials and lives in San Antonio.

**Joshua Home** ’02, B.B.A. marketing, is plant manager for Cintas Corp. in Corpus Christi, where he lives.

**Tom Kelly Jr.** ’02, B.S. chemical engineering, is project manager for Norit Americas and lives in Marshall.

**Dottie (McIntyre) LeBlanc** ’02, B.S. communication, is a respiratory sales specialist for Reckitt Benckiser in Daphne, Ala.

**Jerrilynn Miller-Hollier** ’02, B.S. communication, is a teacher/adviser in the Port Arthur school district and lives in Bridge City.

**Bonnie (Gerald) Peveto** ’02, B.B.A. general business, teaches math in the Buna school district, where she lives.

**Lindsey (Siewert) Price** ’02, B.A. history, teaches modern world history and social conscience at Marantha High School in Pasadena, Calif., where she lives with her husband, Matthew, who is community life pastor at Christian Assembly in Los Angeles. She plans to take a group of juniors and seniors on a Holocaust in Europe tour this June.

**Naratip Santittissadeekorn** ’02, M.E. electrical engineering, ’04, M.S. mathematics science, ’04, D.E. electrical engineering, received a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of New South Wales in Kingsford, New South Wales, where he lives.

**Chanh Truong** ’02, B.B.A. marketing, ’04, M.B.A. business administration, is business analyst at Triplex Consulting. He lives in Bellevue, Wash.

**Pravin Venkatachalapathy** ’02, M.E. mechanical engineering, is an Oracle consultant living in Chennai, India.

**Lauren (Bachelot) Martin** ’03, B.S. interior design, and Shane Martin married Nov. 15, 2008, and live in Beaumont.

**Joyce Broussard** ’03, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is director of religious education at San Jose Mission church in San Antonio. She lives in Windcrest.

**Lacy Cooper-Bell** ’03, B.S. earth science, ’07, B.S. geology, is a geotechnician for ExxonMobil in Houston. She lives in Dayton with her husband, Brian.

**Marci (Waller) Coryell** ’03, B.B.A. management, is a professional sales representative for Pfizer. Her husband, **Don Coryell** ’98, B.S. communication, is associate athletic director for external affairs for Texas State University in San Marcos. They live in Martindale.

**Jane (Murphy) Crenshaw** ’03, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches kindergarten in the Willis school district. She and her husband, Nathan, live in Montgomery.

**Curtis Cummings Jr.** ’03, B.S. industrial technology, married Ashley Dawn (Williams) Aug. 16, 2008. He is employed by Enterprise-Rent-A-Car and the couple lives in Houston.

**Ethel (Means) Fields** ’03, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a foster care worker for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services in Buna, where she lives.

**Joe Hebert** ’03, B.A. English, is employed at Jimmy Swaggart Ministries in Baton Rouge, where he lives with his wife, **Amanda (Steeves) Hebert** ’05, B.B.A. finance.

**Micah Hoffpauir** -03, was named Chicago Cubs Player of the Year. He was called up to the majors May 18, 2008, by the National League Central Division and immediately made his way into the lineup that day in a game against Pittsburgh. He and his wife, **Tiffany (Ballard)** ’04, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, live in Jacksonville.

**Bradley Johnson** ’03, B.B.A. marketing, is national account sales representative for Bosch and lives in Dallas.

**Naveen Khammampati** ’03, M.E. engineering, is a civil engineer at ABMB Engineers in Baton Rouge, La., where he lives with his wife, Neelima, and child, Kashyap.

**Jessica (Meier) Legutki** ’03, B.S. nursing, works at The Outer Banks Hospital in Nags Head, N.C. where she lives with her husband, Todd, and child, Uriah. Todd is in the Coast Guard.

**Leslie Magdalen**o ’03, M.A. visual arts, is an instructor at the Art Institute in Houston, where she lives. She earned a master of fine arts degree in painting from Stephen F. Austin State University.

**Clarice Nelson-Aranda** ’03, M.S. speech pathology, owns CAN Communicate Therapeutic Services in Houston, where she and her husband, Jimmy, live with their son, Isaias.

**Monish Pachchigar** ’03, M.B.A. business administration, is business analyst at JP Morgan Chase in Wilmington, Del. He lives in Chadds Ford, Pa.

**Tiffany (Clark) Randolph** ’03, B.S. biology, is a teacher in the Tomball school district and lives in Cypress, with her husband, John, and son.

**Amanda (Carter) Ternes** ’03, B.B.A. accounting, lives in Lumberton with her husband, **Andrew Ternes** ’02, B.B.A. marketing, who is head golf professional at the Beaumont Country Club.

**Matt Alvarado** ’04, kinesiology, teaches in the Cypress-Fairbanks school district and coaches football and track. He and his wife, Blair, live in Cypress.

**Melissa (Huynh) Conrad** ’04, B.S. industrial engineering, is a reactor mechanical operator for the Navy in Norfolk, Va.

**Damon Derrick** ’04, B.B.A. marketing, is staff attorney for Stephen F. Austin State University. He earned his law degree from University of Mississippi and lives in Nacogdoches with his wife, **Jaime** ’04, B.B.A. human resource management.

**Leslie (Blanchard) Duerr** ’04, B.S. criminal justice, teaches kindergarten in the Cleveland

school district. She and her husband, Timothy, live in Humble, where he is a respiratory therapist.

**Patricia Eaves** ’04, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is a first-grade teacher in the Newton school district. She lives in Kirbyville.

**Lisa (Reid) Hansen** ’06, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is an academic advisor for Lamar University’s College of Arts and Sciences. She and her husband, **Keith Hansen** ’63, B.S. chemistry, live in Beaumont. He is department chair and professor of chemistry and physics at Lamar.

**Greg Strader** ’06, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a management trainee for Enterprise Rent-A-Car in Orange. He lives in Beaumont.

**Richard Johnson** ’07, B.S. communication, is broadcast director for Cornerstone Media Inc. in Beaumont, where he lives with his wife, **Marilee (Fortune) Johnson** ’03, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, who teaches in the Beaumont school district.

**Brooke (Dickerson) Mason** ’04, B.B.A. management, is remarketing account manager for Enterprise Rent-A-Car in Shreveport, La. She and her husband, Doug, live in Bossier City, La.

**Richie (Mendoza) Rowley** ’04, B.B.A. marketing, and Zach Rowley married Nov. 29, 2008. The couple lives in Beaumont.

**Patricia Nauman** ’04, M.Ed. school administration, is principal in the Round Top-Carmine school district. She has been in education for 20 years. She and her husband, Lance, have two children and live in Carmine.

**Veronique (Marroqiuin) Padalecki** ’04, M.B.A. business administration, is hospital account manager for Wyeth. She and her husband, Jeffery, and daughter, Juliette Michelle, live in Dallas.

**Shante (Scott) Phillips** ’04, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches in the Beaumont school district. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, **Jon** ’03, B.B.A. general business, their daughter, Laila, and son, Lathan.

**Catherine (Plunk) Mauer** ’04, B.S. political science, and Patrick Mauer married Sept. 27, 2008, in Destin, Fla., and live in Silsbee.

**Summer Schwertner** ’04, B.B.A. management information systems, ’05, M.B.A. business administration, is a buyer for e.Sullivan Advertising & Design Inc. She lives in Port Neches.

**Erin (Duyka) Siaotong** ’04, B.G.S. general studies, is respite coordinator at United Cerebral Palsy of Houston. She lives in Missouri City.

**Shelley Stanley** ’04, B.S. studio art, is a receptionist for Maida Insurance Agency and lives in Buna.

**Bart Stockton** ’04, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, lives in Dallas and is associate broker for Keller Williams Elite Realty and

transaction manager for The Mike Miller Group.

**Maura Sullivan** ’04, B.G.S. general studies, earned her master’s degree in medicine/physician assistant from Western Michigan University and is an emergency room assistant in Kalamazoo, Mich. She and her husband, Dennis Sorensen, live in Portage, Mich.

**Roxanne Trahan** ’04, B.G.S. general studies, is assistant manager for Sherwin-Williams in Lake Charles, La.

**James Treadway** ’04, B.A. history, earned a law degree from South Texas College of Law and works for Dylewski Associates in Houston, where he lives.

**Kaylynn (Bauman) Wolfford** ’04, B.B.A. finance, owns Wolford Insurance Agency. She and her husband, Trent, and live in Baytown.

**Felicia Alexander-Branch** ’05, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, was named an Unsung Hero 2008 by the Port Arthur News. She lives in Port Arthur.

**Kevin Barbay** ’05, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, is assistant coach for quarterbacks and wide receivers at Texas A&M-Commerce. He and his wife, Kacie, live in Rockwall.

**Bryan Brassard** ’05, B.G.S. general studies, is choir director in the Vidor school district. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Genevieve (Nutt) Brassard, who is a Lamar student.

**Raj Burra** ’05, M.E. mechanical engineering, is a mechanical engineer at Jacobs Engineering Group in Houston, where he lives.

**Tara (Beard) Duval** ’05, M.B.A. business administration, is technology writer at DeLaune Associates in Austin. She lives in West Lake Hills.

**Bindu Gaddam** ’05, M.E. chemical engineering, is process engineer at Bechtel Corp. in Houston, where she lives.

**Rachel Gibbs** ’05, B.S. psychology, is a physical therapist at Christus St. Patrick Hospital in Lake Charles, La.

**Kristin (Bradford) Hart** ’05, A.A.S. nursing, is a registered nurse at Texas Oncology in Beaumont, where she lives.

**Roxanne Homuth** ’05, B.B.A. marketing, is co-manager of Body Central in Beaumont. She lives in Port Neches with her husband, **Charlie Cloudy** ’06, B.B.A. finance.

**Blake Hopper** ’05, B.S. political science, is a field representative for U. S. Rep. Ted Poe in Beaumont. He lives in Nederland.

**Katelyn (King) Fertitta** ’05, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, lives in Houston with her husband, **Clark Fertitta** ’04, B.B.A. accounting, who is a tax attorney for ExxonMobil.

**Amanda (Lind) Kimble** ’05, B.M. music, is an associate of patient concierge at e+Healthcare. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Martin.

**Joy Krueger** ’05, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is a first grade teacher living in Houston.

**Ashley (Martin) Chastant** ’05, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches in the Beaumont school district and lives in Lumberton with her husband, Stuart.

**Kristin Mattingly** ’05, B.B.A. accounting, ’05, B.B.A. finance, is an accountant for the city of Beaumont. She lives in Lumberton.

**Jayson Merren** ’05, B.S. kinesiology, is a teacher and coach for the Houston school district. He lives in Katy.

**Julio Perez** ’05, B.S. chemical engineering, is a process design engineer at ExxonMobil in Beaumont, where he lives.

**Stephanie (Boehm) Reynolds** ’05, B.B.A. accounting and finance, lives in Webster with her husband, Daniel.

**Ashley Stone** ’05, B.G.S. general studies, is a member services representative for the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners in Austin, where she lives.

**Dawn Stout** ’05, B.S. communication, is account executive of media/publicity for Imaginuity Creative and lives in Orange.

**Justan Thibaux** ’05, B.S. industrial technology, is manager at Sherwin-Williams in Bay City, where he lives.

**Rachel Wall** ’05, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is in her fourth year of teaching and was voted teacher of the year in Spring, where she lives.

**Justin Westmoreland** ’05, B.S. chemical engineering, is optimization engineer at BASF in Port Arthur. He and his wife, **Verna (Sheppard) Westmoreland** ’07, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, live in Beaumont.

**Donna Williams** ’05, B.M. music, is band director in the Bridge City school district. She lives in Nederland.

**Damon Wright** ’05, B.A. biology and Spanish, is a radiation therapist at Cy-Fair Cancer Center in Houston where he and his wife, Jodie, live with their son.

**Christy Adams** ’06, B.S. nursing, is a registered nurse at Memorial Hermann Hospital. She lives in Spring.

**Marissa Carr** ’06, B.G.S. general studies, works at Stone Partners Inc. in Houston, where she lives.

**Carolyn Cross** ’06, B.S. communication, is an educator in the Aldine school district. She lives in Houston.

**Jackie Dotson** ’06, B.B.A. general business, ’08, M.B.A. business administration, is a revenue analyst for Golden Pass LNG and lives in Nederland.

**Bharath Eaga** ’06, M.E. chemical engineering, is project engineer at ABS Consulting in Houston, where he lives.



# Terra Cotta Warriors: Guardians of China’s First Emperor

After building the first Great Wall of China, what do you do for an encore? Re-invent death. China’s First Emperor, the boy king who united the country in 221 BC and began construction of the first Great Wall, was not only obsessed with building but also a fanatic about death. After experimenting with potions to prolong his life, the megalomaniac king resigned himself to death on his own terms. Beginning at age 13, and for the next 38 years, he assigned over 700,000 workers to build an enormous mausoleum with life-size terra cotta warriors to protect him throughout eternity. Now, the Museum of Fine Arts Houston presents the largest exhibit of Emperor Qin’s Terra Cotta Army ever seen outside of China. This terra cotta army of soldiers, servants, musicians, acrobats and animals silently remained underground for two thousand years. Until, in 1974, Chinese farmers digging a well made the startling discovery of a terra cotta head. Now is your once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see one of the 20th century’s greatest archaeological finds, often referred to as the Eighth Wonder of the Ancient World.

Lamar University Alumni are invited  
Reception 6 pm • June 18, 2009  
Butterfly Room • Houston Museum of Natural Science  
followed by a program and tour of  
the Chinese Terra Cotta Warrior exhibit.  
\$10 registration fee.

More information and to RSVP  
Office of Alumni Affairs  
(409) 880-8921 • (800) 298-4839  
Alumni@Lamar.edu



We will miss...

**Jason Eharb** '06, B.A. history, is owner of and head instructor at Texas Punishment Crew where Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu is taught. He is the only Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu black belt in Southeast Texas and lives in Beaumont.

**Jennifer Ghee** '06, B.S. health education, is associate manager of the American Diabetes Association in Houston. She lives in Stafford.

**Jared Gilthorpe** '06, B.A. political science, lives in Channelview, with his wife **Brooke (Hoosier)** '02, M.B.A. business administration, who works for the Galena Park school district.

**Lori (Smith) Goulas** '06, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches in the Little Cypress-Mauriceville school district. She and her husband, David, live in Mauriceville.

**La Kethia (Noel) Guidry** '06, B.S. communication disorders, is a speech therapy assistant in the Anahuac school district, where she lives.

**Charla (Williams) Holeman** '06, B.G.S. general studies, owns and operates Whiskers and Wet Noses. She lives in Beaumont.

**Amy (Deaton) Howard** '06, B.B.A. human resource management, '08, M.B.A., business administration, is data coordinator for Bechtel. She lives in Nederland with her husband, Adam. They had planned to marry Sept. 20 in Beaumont, but Hurricane Ike relocated their ceremony to a sailboat in Orange Beach, Ala., on the same day.

**Natasha (Weatherford) Keith** '06, B.S. family and consumer sciences-dietetics, is an accountant at Ohmstede Industrial Services Inc. and lives in Vidor.

**Lenora (Koonce) Lynn** '06, B.S. chemical engineering, is a process engineer at Dow Chemical in Angleton.

**Sterling McDonald** '06, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a mechanical engineer for CB&I Inc. and lives in Kountze.

**Zenobia Ozen** '06, B.B.A. human resource management, is the business office manager for Kaplan Higher Education in Beaumont. She lives in Port Arthur.

**Taruna Vanjani Patel** '06, M.E.S. chemical engineering, is an environmental engineer at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and lives in Atlanta with her husband, **Akash Patel** '07, M.S. computer science.

**Kimberly Pierce** '06, B.A. biochemistry, is senior research laboratory technologist for TBC-Brinadd in Houston, where she lives.

**Alexandra Rexes** '06, B.A. psychology, opened a Bath Junkie store in Atascocita. She is the daughter of **John Rexes III** '91, B.S. sociology, and **Gail (Parham) Rexes** '79, B.A. psychology, '94 M.S. psychology.

**Amanda Rowell** '06, B.S. communication, is an admissions representative at Lamar University and lives in Beaumont.

**Bhavin Sanghavi** '06, M.E. mechanical engineering, works for Bechtel Corp. and lives in Houston.

**Manish Sitlani** '06, mechanical engineering, is assistant manager for Suzlon Energy Limited in Baroda, Gujarat, India.

**Jason Wagner** '06, B.B.A. marketing, is a real estate development officer for MCT Credit Union. He and his wife, Amanda, live in Port Neches.

**Ashley (Benson) Bowling** '07, B.S. nursing, is employed with Christus St. Elizabeth in Beaumont, where she lives with her husband, Matthew.

**Katrina Cantu** '07, B.B.A. human resource management, is corporate human resource coordinator for Stewart Stevenson L.L.C. in Houston, where she lives.

**Dwayne Champagne** '07, B.B.A. finance, is a financial advisor at Law Financial Services in Nederland. He is married to **Jennifer (Way) Champagne** '07, B.B.A. who is a teller at Community Bank of Texas in Beaumont, where they live.

**James Clark** '07, M.S. deaf studies, is a special education teacher in the Wichita public school district where he lives in Wichita, Kan., with his wife, **Kimberly (Enos) Clark** '08, M.S. deaf studies.

**Amelia (Sonn) Clayton** '07, M.Ed. counseling and development, is master reading teacher at North Shore Senior High School in the Galena Park school district. She and her husband, Lonnie Ray, live in Webster.

**Jeannie Dupree** '07, B.S.W. social work, earned a master's degree in social work from Tulane University. She is director of social services for The Bradford at Brookside in Livingston.

**Srinivas Erukulla** '07, M.S. chemistry, is a medical scientist with Excellent Business Consultants Inc. in Seaford, N.Y. He lives in Lexington Park, Md.

**Amanda (Peveto) Gardovsky** '07, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches third grade in the Beaumont school district and lives in Orange.

**Stacy Hester** '07, B.S. communication, was selected as a 2008 Houston Texans cheerleader and lives in Houston.

**Client Holmes II** '07, B.S. mechanical engineering, is an associate engineer for Luminant in Tatum. He and his wife, **Sonya (Chalk) Holmes** '06, B.S.W. live in Longview where she is a licensed social worker for Longview Regional Hospital.

**Michael Holmes** '07, B.B.A. management, is a sales representative for Wholesale Electric in Port Arthur. He lives in Port Neches.

**Aaron Johnson** '07, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is global competency and recruiting manager at Canyon Offshore. He lives in Houston.

**Alfred Killen** '07, B.B.A. finance, is a deputy police officer for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and lives in Houston.

**Mickey Montondon II** '07, B.B.A. management, is outside salesman for Champion Rentals in Humble, where he lives.

**Laura (Payne) Clemmons** '07, B.S. interior design, is an assistant designer at Leslie Robinson Décor in Houston, where she lives with her husband, Eric.

**Radhe Sharma** '07, M.E.M. engineering management, is a project manager in Houston, where he lives.

**Daylyn Turner** '07, B.B.A. finance, is training manager at JK Chevrolet. His wife, **Bilalah (Wallace) Turner** '06, B.S. communication, teaches at South Park Middle School in Beaumont, where they live.

**Tony Allen** '08, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, teaches physical education at Jasper Junior High School. He lives in Kirbyville.

**Wesley Biddle** '08, B.S. chemical engineering, is a process engineer at Lyondell in Houston. He lives in Deer Park.

**Nick Cioci** '08, B.S. communication, has joined the staff of the Baytown Sun. He lives in Seabrook.

**Calvin Dickey** '08, B.B.A. human resource management, is a planner for DuPont in Orange. He and his wife, Bonnie, live in Orange.

**Hashem Hashemian** '08, Eng.D. electrical engineering, received his doctorate 33 years after his first class at Lamar. He owns a nuclear engineering consulting firm in Knoxville, Tenn. where he lives with his wife, Nazzzy, and their two children.

**Diztorsha Jefferson** '08, B.S. political science, teaches in the West Orange-Cove school district in Orange, where she lives.

**Kortney Johnson** '08, B.B.A. human resource management, is TAM coordinator for Mercer Consulting in Houston, where she lives.

**Shannon (Neal) Pankow** '08, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is project manager at IBM. She lives in Sour Lake.

**Jenny (Milner) Rawls** '08, B.S. nursing, is employed by Tomball Regional Hospital where she is interning in critical care. She lives in Spring with her husband, Dan.

**Cathy (Seidman) Warmack** '08, B.M. music, graduated cum laude at the age of 61, achieving a lifelong goal of finishing her degree. She teaches violin lessons after completing a 30-year career as an administrative assistant and lives in Beaumont.

**Jessica West** '08, B.S. communication, teaches second grade at Warren Elementary School in the Warren school district, where she lives.

Alumni

30s

**George Fecel Jr.**, '30, A.A., general studies, died Jan. 22, 2009.

**\*Harold "Nent" Hopkins**, '35, A.A., general studies, died Feb. 17, 2009.

40s

**Pat Gilbert** '40, A.A. general studies, died Nov. 22, 2008.

**Roy Biser Jr.** '41, A.A. general studies, retiree, died Nov. 10, 2008.

**Emma (Brockman) Hamm** '42, A.A. general studies, died Dec. 18, 2008.

**Mary (Eubank) Carper** '43, A.A. general studies, died Feb. 3, 2009.

**Patricia (Lybarger) Brown** '48, certif. general studies, died Jan. 30, 2009.

**Victor Finley** '48, A.A. general studies, died Sept. 18, 2008.

**David Garrett** '48, certif. general studies, died Dec. 19, 2008.

**James Clinton Brown** '49, certif. general studies, died Dec. 3, 2008.

**Harless Sinclair** '49, A.A. general studies, died Aug. 29, 2008.

50s

**Flo (Mazzola) Moore** '50, A.A. general studies, died Dec. 19, 2008.

**Geraldine (Paige) Flanagan** '51, certif. general studies, '54, B.S. home economics, died March 28, 2008.

**Floyd Cothern** '54, B.S. chemical engineering, died Sept. 25, 2008.

**Joanne (Reynolds) Gonzales** '56, '92, B.A. sociology, died Sept. 28, 2008.

**Johnnye (Epperson) Hile** '56, B.S. elementary education, died Oct. 5, 2008.

**Earl Smith Sr.** '57, B.B.A. general business, died Jan. 22, 2009.

**Kelvin Tibbetts** '57, B.S. mathematics, died Oct. 12, 2008.

**Jack Waltrip** '57, B.S. industrial engineering, died Jan. 18, 2009.

**Helen (Newsom) Kay**, '58, B.A. English, died Aug. 31, 2008.

**Donald Maraist** '58, B.S. biology, died Nov. 26, 2008.

**Billy McDonald** '50, A.A. general studies, '58, B.B.A. general business, died Nov. 16, 2008.

**Marie (Brandon) Parr** '58, B.S. elementary education died Nov. 5, 2008.

**John Barclay** '59, B.S. commercial art, died Oct. 4, 2008.

**Audrey Talbert** '59, B.S. elementary education, '69, M.Ed. elementary education, died Dec. 2, 2008.

**David Traywick** '59, certif. diesel mechanics, died Oct. 7, 2008.

60s

**Charles Burkett** '60, B.S. geology, died Dec. 24, 2008.

**Clifton Francis Jr.** '60, B.A. English, '62, M.A. English, died Oct. 17, 2008.

**Paul Prejean** '60, B.S. sociology, died Nov. 5, 2008.

**Jack Thornell** '60, B.S. electrical engineering, died Sept. 13, 2008.

**Shirley McDaniel** '61, B.S. elementary education, died Jan. 9, 2009.

**Robert Rosenbaum** '61, B.B.A. marketing, died Dec. 13, 2008.

**Helen (Garner) Purkey** '62, B.S. elementary education, died Sept. 29, 2008.

**James Brown Sr.** '63, died Jan. 4, 2009.

**Maggie (Collins) Howell** '63, certif. vocational nursing, died Dec. 6, 2008.

**Craig Ponder** '63, B.S. biology, died Jan. 3, 2009.

**Robert Sheppard** '65, B.S. electrical engineering, died Sept. 24, 2008.

**Jerry (Wood) Tierce** '65, M.Ed. elementary education, died Nov. 29, 2008.

**Beth (Jones) Eckman** '66, B.M. music education, died Dec. 16, 2008.

**Charles Lisman III** '66, B.S. music, died Dec. 13, 2008.

**Carolyn (Duplantis) Muehlemann** '66, B.S. sociology, died Dec. 22, 2008.

**Pamella (Ives) Shaver** '66, B.S. elementary education, died Jan. 27, 2008.

**Ben Wicker Jr.** '66, B.S. geology, died Dec. 6, 2008.

**William Deloney** '67, B.A. economics, died Nov. 30, 2008.

**Samuel Foutz** '67, B.A. political science, died Sept. 28, 2008.

**Sue (Warden) Gilmore** '68, B.S. elementary education, died Nov. 11, 2008.

**Ronald Domoneck** '69, certif. industrial electricity, died Dec. 8, 2008.

**Margaret Hynes** '69, B.A. English, '77, M.A. English, died Nov. 8, 2008.

**Kenneth Moses** '69, certif. machine tools, died Dec. 10, 2008.

**Donald Reitz** '69, B.S. geology, died April 26, 2008.

**Virginia (Studdard) Roberson** '69, B.A. marketing, died Dec. 22, 2008.

**Donald Gray** '63, B.S. secondary education, '70, B.B.A. management, died Jan. 12, 2009.

70s

**George Schuldt** '70, B.S. sociology, died Jan. 10, 2009.

**Paulette (Henry) Yowman** '70, B.S. psychology, '87, M.Ed. counseling and development, died Dec. 11, 2008.

**Terrell Claunch Jr.** '71, B.S. civil engineering, '75, M.E. civil engineering, died Sept. 25, 2008.

**Robert Hillyer** '71, certif. drafting technology, died Jan. 12, 2009.

**Shirley (Clark) Lee** '71, certif. vocational nursing, died Sept. 15, 2008.

**Ranee (Echols) Marshall** '71, certif. vocational nursing, died Jan. 9, 2009.

**Benny Prewitt** '71, B.A. French, died Nov. 9, 2008.

**Shelley (Alford) Chandler** '72, B.S. home economics, died Aug. 18, 2008.

**Phillip Craigen** '72, B.B.A. accounting, died Dec. 11, 2008.

**Cheryl (Morgan) Dowden** '72, B.A. history, died Jan. 27, 2009.

**Peggy (Washington) Francis** '72, certif. vocational nursing, '76, A.A.S. nursing, '88, B.S. sociology, died Nov. 19, 2008.

**Nelson Barnett** '75, A.A.S. business data processing, died Dec. 8, 2008.

**Judy (Summers) Boyette** '73, certif. vocational nursing, '89, A.A.S. nursing, died Sept. 23, 2008.

**\*Calvin Keating** '73, B.B.A. management, died Feb. 2, 2009.

**Mary Scott** '73, B.A. English, died Nov. 25, 2008.

**Herman Arnaud** '74, A.A.S. industrial electricity, died Jan. 15, 2009.

**Cynthia Bruening** '74, certif. vocational nursing, died Jan. 21, 2009.

**Philip Garrison** '74, B.S. health education, died Jan. 21, 2009.

**Robert Huebner** '75, B.A. history, died Dec. 15, 2008.

**Ronald Millican** '75, A.A.S. drafting, died Dec. 8, 2008.

**\*Jeanette (Isbister) Mills** '75, B.S. home economics, died Jan. 1, 2009.

**Shirley (McLean) Hughes** '76, B.S. elementary education, died Nov. 7, 2008.

**Thomas Markley** '77, B.B.A. accounting, died Aug. 27, 2008.

**Carlos Merren** '78, B.B.A. general business, died Dec. 25, 2008.

**Althea Hampton** '79, certif. vocational nursing, '86, A.A.S. food service management, died Nov. 6, 2008.

**David Rayon Jr.** '79, B.A. sociology, died Oct. 31, 2008.

**Wesley Shaw Jr.** '79, B.S. health education, died Dec. 18, 2008.

**Brenda Simmons** '79, B.S. nursing, died Dec. 5, 2008.

**Joseph Cheek** '82, B.S. chemical engineering, died Aug. 14, 2008.

**Floyd Harper Jr.** '79, certif. vocational nursing, '85, A.A.S. nursing, died Jan. 21, 2009.

80s

**Rohn Christopher Wenner** '83, B.B.A., marketing, died Feb. 27, 2009.

**Yvette (Harris) Wearren** '85, B.B.A. general business, died Nov. 8, 2008.

**Deanna (Wentworth) McKeon** '87, B.S. family and consumer sciences died Dec. 02, 2008.

**Charles Landry** '89, A.A.S. mid-management, '92, B.S. industrial technology, died Sept. 8, 2008.

**Phyllis (Crocker) Rogers** '89, B.S. elementary education, died Dec. 17, 2008.

90s

**Stacy (Manion) Kumar** '91, B.B.A. general business, died Nov. 18, 2008.

**\*\*Opal (Pierce) Dixon** '92, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '98, M.Ed. elementary education, died Oct. 11, 2008.

**Amy (Mangini) Hayes** '93, B.S. criminal justice, died Dec. 9, 2008.

**Jill Wooten** '96, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, died Oct. 24, 2008.

Faculty, Staff and Friends

**Joseph Baj**, retiree, died Jan.4, 2009.

**Jimmie Bird**, retiree, died Aug. 30, 2008.

**\*William Brock Brentlinger**, retiree, died Feb. 19, 2009.

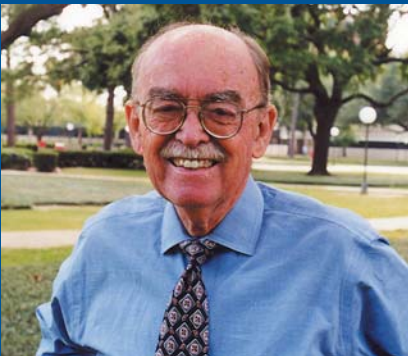
**Lairon Dowden Sr.**, retiree, died Sept. 5, 2008

**\*\*Rex Goode**, retiree, died Jan. 1, 2009.

**Martha Reed**, retiree, died Dec. 29, 2008.

\*Memorial contributions may be made to Lamar University, P.O. Box 10011, Beaumont, Texas 77710. Indicate individual being honored on check. (409) 880-8422

\*\*Memorial contributions may be made to Lamar University Foundation, P.O. Box 11500, Beaumont, Texas 77710. Indicate individual being honored on check. (409) 880-2117



WILLIAM BROCK BRENTLINGER 1926-2009

William Brock Brentlinger, who personified the spirit of Lamar University's mission of service to the community over four decades, died Feb. 19, 2009, at the age of 82.

Brentlinger was dean of the College of Fine Arts & Communication from 1969-92, interim president in 1992-93 and assistant to the president from 1993 until his official retirement in December 2005.

"It is a rare gift to experience even the briefest association with an individual of Brentlinger's caliber. His hallmarks are integrity, leadership, wisdom and quiet—yet monumental —talent for innovation and accomplishment," said Lamar President James Simmons, his colleague since Simmons joined the faculty of Brentlinger's college in 1970. "Lamar University is richer for his service, and I will always cherish his being a mentor, role model and friend."

As dean of fine arts and communication at Lamar, Brentlinger led the growth of Lamar's visual and performing arts, communication and the world-renowned speech and hearing programs. In 1971, he initiated efforts to establish Lamar's Friends of the Arts to encourage the work of talented young artists, musicians and actors; to increase public awareness and understanding of the arts; and to expand the cooperation between art educators and the various communities supporting Lamar.

Brentlinger's leadership and vision led to the debut of the annual Le Grand Bal fundraiser in 1975 and the dedication of the Dishman Art Museum in 1983. He also was instrumental in securing approval for Lamar public radio KVLU. He and Simmons, who succeeded him as dean, were founders in 1990 of the highly successful *Lamarissimo!* concert series, which will celebrate its 20th anniversary next season.

Memorial contributions may be made to Lamar University Friends of the Arts, P.O. Box 10011, Beaumont, Texas 77710.



# Where she belongs



By Beth Gallaspy

With four degrees from Lamar University, Anne Huff '83, '85, '93 believes in the power of education. As the first female chief of the Beaumont Fire Department, she strives to instill that respect for continued learning and training at the department she joined in 1986 and has led for almost a year.

"To me, the biggest thing for any organization is to have a work force that is as informed as possible, that's doing the right thing for the right reasons. Education is the center of all it," Huff said.

Huff's decision to apply for a job as a firefighter was something of a fluke. "I wasn't sure what I was supposed to do with my life," she said. "That's why I kept going back to school, I guess." She had spent a year teaching mathematics at Bridge City High School, having completed bachelor's degrees at Lamar in art, art education and secondary education. That summer, she started work on a master's degree, and her mother asked her to stop by Beaumont City Hall between classes to pick up a job application for her brother-in-law.

A former Lamar softball player, Huff had an athletic build that prompted employees in the personnel office to ask if she was applying for the firefighting job. She had not planned to, but the ensuing conversation convinced her to pick up two applications. She got hired. Her brother-in-law did not. Instead, he went back to school and became an elementary school teacher.

Huff stuck with her new career choice and rose steadily through the ranks. Being the only woman in a department of more than 200 firefighters—a distinction she held then and now—has been difficult at times. Some of her co-workers either discriminated against or patronized her. Others, some of whom are now retired, earned her respect and appreciation by being more "humane."

"They treated me like everybody else, which is all I ever asked for," Huff said. "There were those few who were willing to stand up at that time, which was unpopular to do. The culture said get rid of her, run her off. They didn't treat me that way."

Before being named chief in March 2008, Huff served as chief training officer for 10 years. As she has achieved higher rank and greater seniority, she said, she has been treated with more respect by fellow firefighters. Appropriate behavior in the workplace is the greatest concern, but Huff also would like to see a change in mindset both within and outside the department about the place of women in occupations such as firefighting. "I think that for male-dominated professions, it's going to take more of an influx of qualified women to change the mindset," she said. "We need a number of qualified women to come in and show people that women can do this job. It's not a job that any woman could do, but it's not a job that any man could do either. When we have those women in the work force, I think slowly, over time, attitudes will change."

Already, she is working to make positive changes within the department. Huff, who also holds a master of business administration degree from Lamar, said she favors participatory leadership rather than a dictatorial management style. For that reason,

she has involved the entire department in current efforts to plan for next year's budget and to rework many policies and procedures. An advisory group she established has begun developing safety training to be required for all firefighters, including rapid intervention training to improve skills necessary to rescue downed firefighters. "The guys have done an outstanding job customizing this training for our personnel," she said. "We're in the middle of doing that right now, and I'm really proud of that because it's something that's long overdue."



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—ANNE HUFF

Additionally, chief officers are writing tactical standard operating guidelines detailing how to respond to each of the varied types of incidents the department faces. "They've never researched and developed anything like that, so it's a really new thing for them," she said. "But they've got their work groups at their stations and districts, so it's a team effort." After drafts are completed, all firefighters will have an opportunity to comment and add their suggestions before guidelines are finalized, Huff said.

Through all the changes happening now and those she would like to incorporate in the future, Huff's goal is to develop a well-trained, well-educated work force of

firefighters who feel empowered to suggest good ideas and take responsibility for making them happen. "When you're in an occupation that you have to work in a time-compressed environment where there's extreme danger, if you can't think on your feet well, you're asking to get somebody hurt or killed," she said. "We have to teach people to think . . . I want our people to think so much that we're having constructive debate and constructive criticism on every problem in a professional way." In time, she hopes to work with the union to

secure more city funds for additional education for firefighters and to include higher educational requirements in departmental job descriptions. Huff said her ability to do her job well is enhanced by all aspects of her educational background—from the management courses she took for her master's degree to the things she learned about people in her art and education courses.

Beaumont City Manager Kyle Hayes described Huff as bright, hard working, conscientious and, by far, the best applicant for the chief's job. What impressed him and other members of the interview committee most was her plan for the future of the fire department. "Everything she laid out in that plan in that interview she's made progress toward," Hayes said, listing enhanced communications and training as examples. "She's already made great strides in the past 10 months. I think over the next year or two is when you're really going to see the difference in a well-trained department and better morale."

Huff, the adoptive mother of a 6-year-old daughter, said the fire service turned out to be the right job for her because of the combination of skills it requires. She liked the athleticism required, along with the fast pace and the danger. She also was attracted to the mental aspects of planning and executing a strategy to handle any type of emergency event from a fire to a hazardous materials incident to a technical rescue.

"I love my work. I love the fire service. I think this finally is where I'm supposed to be," she said. "It's what I was supposed to do when I grew up; I just didn't realize it."



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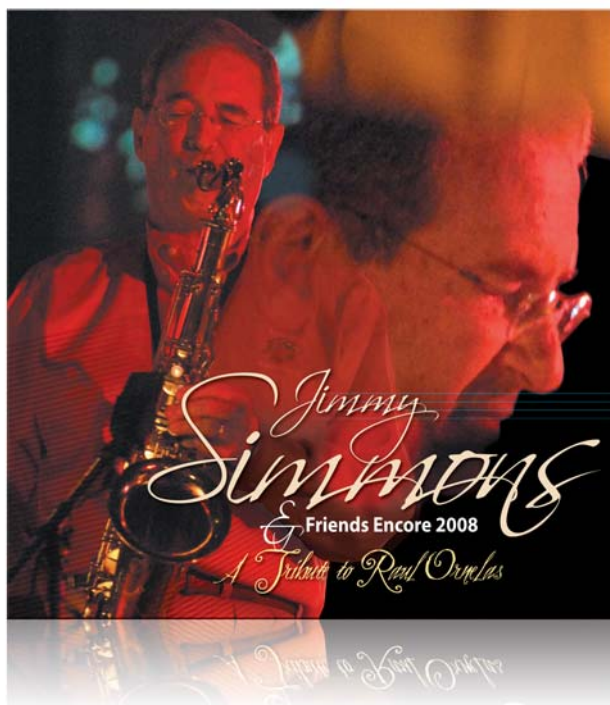
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### Jimmy Simmons & Friends Encore concert

Last May, the Jimmy Simmons & Friends Encore concert made history as it accompanied a Lamar University landmark announcement: the launch of Investing in the Future—The Campaign for Lamar University. Loyal alumni and friends of the university are working to help Lamar reach an overall, historic \$100 million goal.

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