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Coach Woodard's first 100 days

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From the President

Greetings from Lamar University.

Hurricane Ike dealt a heavy blow to Southeast Texas—in particular to our coastal communities—but restoration is moving ahead. Fortunately, we were able to resume classes in 10 days. We will be working with students who were unable to return to class after the storm to assist them in getting their college careers back on

track. Many from our campus community are helping others rebuild after the storm.

Despite the impact of Ike, we have set an all-time record enrollment, thanks in large part to enthusiastic response to Lamar's Academic Partnership program. Today, more than 3,500 public school teachers across Texas are pursuing master's degrees from Lamar University through the innovative delivery made possible with cutting-edge technology.

This fall, Lamar was recognized as the fastest-growing university in Texas. Our enrollment has grown 64 percent since fall 1998. Our quality has grown during the period as well, reflected in improved graduation rates and more students enrolled with SAT scores above 1200 than ever before. We continue to make academics a top priority and quality enhancement initiatives temporarily halted in the wake of Hurricane Rita will resume.

We recently honored longtime Lamar University advocate and former football standout Bud Leonard in the naming of the gridiron at Lamar the W.S. "Bud" Leonard Field, thanks to a major gift from an anonymous donor. Excitement is building for the resumption of football, and preparations are moving ahead as well for Lamar's marching band, cheerleaders and more.

As always, I am humbled when I see the support students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni and friends give Lamar University. Your generosity does so much to help students achieve an outstanding education.

With Cardinal Pride,

James M. Simmons

James M. Simmons
President
Lamar University



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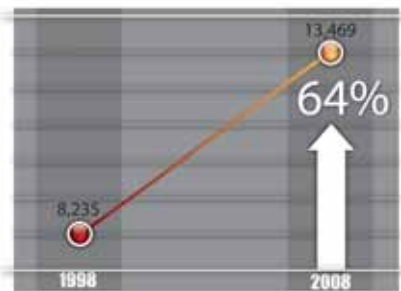
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Stats you need to know

10 years of progress

► Enrollment has increased 64 percent from a decade ago. The number of students taking full-time course loads has increased to 70 percent, from 63 percent 10 years ago. The number of freshmen entering college for the first time has increased from 1,000 to more than 1,400. Ten years ago, graduate students numbered 760. Today, the College of Graduate Studies enrolls 4,700 students – 1,200 on campus and 3,500 through the HEH partnership.



► Last year the Wall Street Journal ranked Lamar as one of the 100 most diverse campuses in the United States, with 30 percent of its students coming from under-represented ethnic groups.

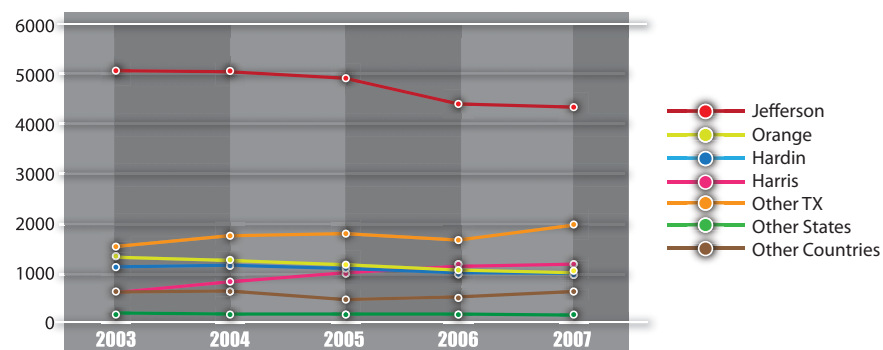
► Lamar is reaching out geographically in its recruiting and outreach efforts, with the Lumberton site proving “extremely successful.” Enrollment of students taking courses in Lumberton has nearly doubled, up 96 percent from last year.

► LU has seen a 20 percent increase in students with SAT scores above 1,200.

► The university has added many programs, including five new bachelor’s-degree programs, three new master’s programs and three new doctoral degrees, including the first Ph.D.

► Lamar has created three new academic chairs, while two academic departments have been named for donors. Named scholarships have increased from 230 in 1998 to 420 today, a 78 percent increase.

► Combined endowments in the university and the Lamar University Foundation have almost tripled, from \$22 million to more than \$63 million today.



► Externally funded research has increased from less than \$4 million to \$8 million.

► Lamar has grown its alumni database from 18,000 to more than 61,000, with alumni from every county in Texas, every state in the union and many foreign countries.

► “More Cardinals are giving of their time, talent and treasure” through a new online alumni community and increased community participation in advisory boards, councils and activities across campus.

► Cardinal football returns to campus and the Southland Conference.



A perfect 10... weathering the storm

A decade of success . . . and survival

As he approaches the 10th anniversary of his term in office, President James Simmons is celebrating successes and looking to the future. “Together, we have accomplished great things,” he told faculty and staff gathered during Lamar’s initial convocation Aug. 20, 2008, which marked the start of the 2008-2009 academic year.

“We have great momentum,” Simmons said. “The community has really helped us move forward to meet great challenges, and I think we have delivered on those promises. We still have great challenges. We are poised to take some giant steps forward, but we can only do that together as we continue on the path to a stronger, more vibrant and more vital university. Our students will be the beneficiaries.”

Lamar University’s 10-day recovery from Hurricane Ike is “nothing short of a miracle,” Simmons told a standing-room-only crowd of about 600 faculty and staff Sept. 24, 2008, at a second fall convocation marking the reopening of campus after the storm that devastated Southeast Texas.

“We will complete the semester on time and have commencement Dec. 20 as scheduled,” Simmons said, thanking the “remarkable team” that led in the recovery effort. (See page 28 for related story and photos.)



Record enrollment despite Ike, LU largest educator of teachers in Texas

Fall 2008 headcount is 13,469 students, up 31.9 percent from fall 2007, when the university’s headcount was just slightly below the pre-Hurricane Rita levels set in the fall of 2005.

“This headcount enrollment is the largest in Lamar’s 85-year history and our semester credit hours are the largest since the fall of 1989,” said Kevin Smith, senior associate provost.

The official count is even more remarkable given the disruption to the region caused by Hurricane Ike Sept. 13. Classes resumed Sept. 25.

Approximately 300 students did not return to classes post-hurricane, Smith said. University officials have worked with students to enable as many as possible to resume classes this fall. Lamar’s total semester credit hours are 130,137, an increase of 14.1 percent from the previous fall.

Most of the increase is due to enrollment in the LU master’s degree program offered in partnership with Higher Education Holdings of Dallas, Smith said.

The university’s innovative partnership with HEH has made the university the largest educator of teachers in Texas, Smith said. More than 3,200 certified teachers from more than 200 school districts across the state are enrolled in the program that began one year ago. Together, Lamar and HEH are offering a master’s degree in educational leadership with the same high quality of instruction at less than half the cost of traditional programs.

“Increases were also observed in the colleges of engineering, up 10.2 percent, and fine arts and communication, which is up 4.7 percent,” Smith said. Electrical engineering increased more than 23 percent and mechanical engineering 28 percent.

Enrollment in online courses has increased 56 percent from last year, and off-campus enrollment has increased 40 percent.



What’s on Lamar’s horizon?

► Looking to the state legislative session that begins in January, Simmons said Lamar University has requested more funding from the Texas Legislature than ever before. “At the top of our list are funds for a new science building (biology), the renovation of other buildings (such as Maes), the replacement of our physical plant and many other projects,” he said.

► Campus improvements are currently continuing with work to upgrade Rolfe Christopher Drive and to renovate the Music Building.

► New and renovated facilities include Cardinal Villages I, II, III and IV, the Dining Hall, the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center/McDonald Gym and six academic buildings. Renovations continue this fall with the Music Building.

► The university is also moving forward toward reaffirmation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. A key element in this process will be the university’s Quality Enhancement Plan for improving the success of freshmen. “Engaging our freshmen in this process of critical thinking and learning will become a keystone piece in the progress of this university toward high-quality, innovative education, using technology and best teaching practices for 21st-century students,” Simmons said.

► Lamar has added private funding for Mirabeau Scholarships for academically gifted students, which has grown from 15 to more than 40 this fall. The new David J. Beck Fellowship will be awarded for the first time this year.

► In the area of distance education, Simmons said, “Continuing to develop courses and programs to meet the needs of the 21st century learner will be a major part of the future of higher education, not only at Lamar, but across the country. We must be prepared to develop and deliver courses across the curriculum if we are to continue to serve our students.”

Faculty notes



MATTHEW HOCH

Eric Bronson is director of the criminal



STEVEN ZANI

justice program. In the College of Business, Ann Watkins has been named chair of the Department of Accounting and Business Law. . . . **Twenty Research Enhancement Grants** awarded. . . . 2008 grant recipients received \$5,000



MICHAEL SULLIVAN



ANN WATKINS

each. “The Research Enhancement Grant program gives researchers valuable experience and preparation that will serve them well for the external grant competition protocols and demands of state, federal and private funding entities,” said Stuart Wright, assistant director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Administration. Lamar’s

Research Enhancement Grant program began more than 20 years ago with the intent to provide faculty with support for their research and as seed money to run pilot projects that would lead to external funding, Wright said. . . . **Beggan returns from Israel trip**. . . . Dominic Beggan, assistant professor of political science, took part in a two-week study on terrorism as an academic fellow with the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies. He attended a series of intensive seminars at Tel Aviv University hosted by academic, diplomatic and military officials from India, Israel, Jordan, Turkey and the United States. The group also traveled to the West Bank where they experienced first hand the daily tensions that exist between the Israeli settlers and the Palestinians that live near Ramallah. . . . **Educating musicians**. . . . As Lamar University’s new director of bands, Scott Deppe ’90 plans to draw on more than 20 years of teaching experience to maintain the strong heritage of the outstanding band program at Lamar. In addition to recruiting students and teaching classes in music, the Woodville native will direct the Wind Ensemble and Concert Band and oversee the jazz and pep bands. He also plans to organize a marching band to perform at future Lamar football games.



SCOTT DEPPE



Dr. Brent Bost, left, and Dean Henry Venta

Commencement sets records

In May, Texas Railroad Commissioner Elizabeth Ames Jones gave the keynote address during spring commencement. A total of 729 students received diplomas during the ceremony. “This is the largest graduating class in the history of this university,” Simmons said. Lamar conferred a record 22 doctorates, 21 in educational leadership and one in engineering.

In August, Lamar University conferred 406 degrees during summer commencement. The keynote speaker was Beaumont physician Dr. Brent Bost.

Bost—whose five Lamar degrees span the period between 1978 and 1997—has distinguished himself not only in the field of medicine, but also as a businessman, author, educator and activist on behalf of his alma mater.

Nine August graduates earned doctorates, including four doctor of audiology degrees, three doctor of engineering degrees and two doctor of philosophy degrees in chemical engineering.

Texas Roots. Infinite Possibilities.



LU’s new motto reflects its deep traditions in the Lone Star State as well as its history of providing students with the tools they need to be successful in their careers and to compete with graduates from any top tier university in the nation. You’ll begin to see it on all university marketing media.

Scientists examine hurricane impacts on coastal plains



Professor Donald Owen and Instructor Richard Ashmore of the Department of Earth and Space Sciences, led a pre-meeting field trip Oct. 4-5 for the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting being held in Houston. The field trip, first planned shortly after Hurricane Rita, allowed geologists to examine how

hurricanes and strong storms have shaped and developed the Southwestern Louisiana and Upper Texas Gulf Coasts. The recent impact of Hurricane Ike makes the study timely for the scientific community as well as the public.

Since the landfall of Hurricane Ike, Owen and Ashmore have been collecting data at their study localities along the coast from Pelican Island, La., to Port Bolivar. Along the Cameron Parish and Southeast Texas coastline, the damaging effects from Ike’s storm surge were similar to damage inflicted by Hurricane Rita. “This is



Professor Donald Owen explains the effects Hurricane Ike’s storm surge had on Rutherford Beach near Grand Chenier, La. From left, Tim Duex, University of Louisiana-Lafayette; Randy McBride, George Mason University; Cristian Schulthess, University of Connecticut; and Owen.

remarkable when you consider Ike had slower sustained winds and hit farther to the west,” Owen said. “Being 100 miles from Galveston, we’d expect this scale of damage in Cameron from a Category 4 or 5 hurricane’s storm surge, not from a Category 2,” Ashmore said. The two recently published three scientific papers concerning their research on the development of the chenier plains and the effects hurricanes have on these structures.



Jeff Pittman, left, and Randall Terry display a topographical map of the Rush Creek Valley east of Woodville as they lead the Chautauqua group on a hike to study the deeply incised valley’s micro-ecosystem.

Thicket Chautauqua, as part of the National Chautauqua Program for university professors.

This Chautauqua is one of many around the world, and its primary aim is to provide undergraduate teachers the information necessary to keep their teaching current. Among other activities, the professors were given a detailed overview of the Big Thicket Preserve and its history,

College professors take tour of Big Thicket

Professors from across the country were drawn to the biological crossroads known as the Big Thicket to learn first-hand about the amazing diversity of plants and animals there. The 13 college professors and a rain forest expert from Panama took part in the field course May 28-31. Lamar’s Professor Jim Westgate and Big Thicket National Preserve Ranger Leslie Dubey conducted the Big



Visiting professors examine a leaf gall.

Thicket Chautauqua, as part of the National Chautauqua Program for university professors. Then Jeff Pittman, instructor in earth and space science, and Randle Terry, assistant professor of biology, led a two-hour exploration of Rush Creek, giving the participants opportunity to examine the plants and animals of Southeast Texas. The course was supported by Lamar University’s Department of Earth and Space Sciences, the Center for Science and Mathematics Education at the University of Texas in Austin, and the Big Thicket National Preserve.



Current students make new freshmen feel at home during Week of Welcome Aug. 23-24: from left, Felicia Wenah, Dawn Battiest, Bart Graves and Jessica Wilhite.

Beyond the classroom



Caitlin Kruger, left, with Craig Tahaney and alumna Alisa Hicklin '02

Four Lamar University Honors Program students attended the national political conventions as part of the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars *Campaign 2008: The Presidential Academic Seminar Series*. **Caitlin Kruger** of Beaumont and **Craig Tahaney** of Port Arthur attended the Democratic National Convention in Denver. **Jill Hamilton** of Port Neches and **Daniel Whitton** of Buna attended the Republican National Convention in Minneapolis/St. Paul. Students learned about the nomination process, convention planning, party platforms, party factions, and campaign issues and strategies . . . M.B.A. candidate **Jiawei Guo** is this year's recipient of the William G. McGowan scholarship for her academic performance, leadership qualities and community involvement. This national scholarship is offered annually to senior undergraduates or second-semester graduate students who will complete their M.B.A. at Lamar University. Guo is an accounting major from Beijing, China, vice president of the Chinese Student Union and one of the founders of the Lamar University Chinese Club . . . The half-hour sports special *Lamar University on Fox* aired at 9 p.m. Aug. 26 immediately following the popular Fox64 series **House**. The student-produced program focused on Lamar football coach **Ray Woodard** and his plans for building a Lamar team that will play its first games in a newly renovated Cardinal Stadium in 2010. *Lamar University on Fox* also took a look at Lamar's women's soccer program and included a student-produced documentary on the 2009 New York to Paris Great Race for antique autos that will leave New York in April 2009 . . . **Brian Roberson**, a senior communication major from Houston, has been chosen to participate in the Undergraduate Fellows Program of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, which allows undergraduate students to explore and better understand the fields of student affairs and higher education.



Jill Hamilton with Mike Huckabee

Electrical engineers lead the way

The Phillip M. Drayer Department of Electrical Engineering brings a different spin to classroom learning as students build computerized robots for competition. The robots are part of the capstone activity for senior electrical engineering students.

Four Lamar University engineering students designed and built the Eye Shoe, a robotic shoe to help visually impaired individuals negotiate their environments without assistance from others. The shoe features obstacle detectors and vibration devices that notify the wearer of potential hazards. The device resulted from the collaboration of the College of Engineering and College of Business.

Engineering students Sead Dajdzic of Bosnia, Adonum Die of Nederland, Allen Onwuchekwa of Houston and Dale Van Dorn of Lumberton spent two semesters researching and building the one-of-a-kind sneaker. A business-student team led by Jamie Aucoin of Nederland and Wade Pettis of Beaumont developed a business plan to manufacture and market the shoe. Through this collaboration, the project has the potential to be marketed to a mass audience.

Another robot project completed this year is Squirt, an autonomous computer-controlled robot able to navigate through an arena that represents a house, find a lit candle that represents a fire in the house and extinguish the fire in a short period of time with a blast of carbon dioxide gas.

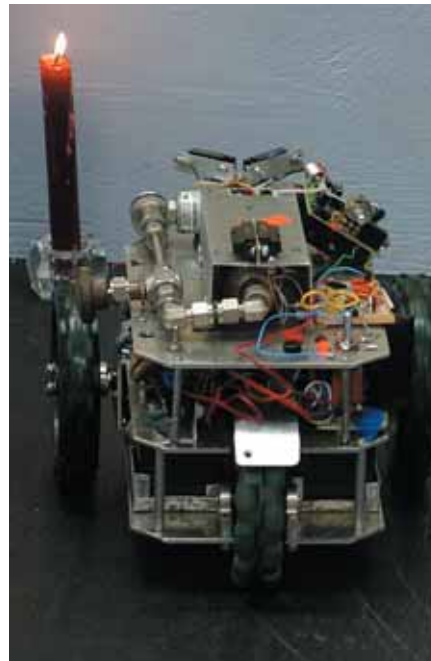
Squirt was featured in Lamar's first appearance in the Trinity College Firefighting Competition Home Robot Contest April 12-13 in Hartford, Conn.

The team, comprising Randi Parker of Crystal Beach, Barry Chinn of Del Valle, Melanie Griffith of Santa Fe, Texas, Patrick Cobb of Webster and Bryant McGallion of Lumberton, finished in first place in the Engineering Olympiad portion of the competition, which was a written exam. In the Fire Fighting Robot competition, Squirt placed 13th out of more than 30 finalists from China, Israel and throughout the United States. This was a big win for Lamar because the team was one of the few to build its robot completely from scratch, without the assistance of a kit.



Dale Van Dorn shows the Eye Shoe.

BETH GALLAGHER



Julie Garcia named UP editor



Port Neches native and communication major Julie Garcia is beginning her fourth year at the University Press, Lamar's award-winning student newspaper, and is editor for 2008-2009.

Garcia has won several awards for her work, including a Texas Intercollegiate Press Association award for a photograph featured in UPbeat, a magazine supplement published by the UP, and a second-place excellence-in-the-media award for general column from the Press Club of Southeast Texas.

Garcia is joined by managing editor Andrew Strange of Beaumont, sports editor Desean Lucas of Houston and photo editor Kourtney Reese of Houston. Every Wednesday and Friday, 5,000 copies of the UP are distributed to 40 locations on campus and at Lamar Institute of Technology.

The UP is found on the Internet at lamaruniversitypress.com.

Prospective nurses attend Nightingale Experience



Forty-three high school students from 18 area schools visited campus and CHRISTUS Hospital St. Elizabeth and St. Mary June 20 and 21, 2008, for first-hand learning about the nursing profession.

At Lamar, the students learned about IVs, injections, phlebotomy, vital signs and naso-gastric tube insertion in the Edna Horn Gay Nursing Laboratory. They even "delivered" a baby—thanks to a simulated labor and delivery room complete with mother and infant.

Eileen Curl professor and chair of the JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing, led the Nightingale

Experience, assisted by Gina Hale, instructor of nursing, and 28 college students from the nursing department.

At St. Mary, they defibrillated a mannequin experiencing a heart attack, learned how to fix a hip fracture and treated a trauma patient in the emergency room. At St. Elizabeth the next day, they practiced being scrub nurses in the operating room, learned about fetal heart tones and computerized medical records and experienced being in traction.

The Nightingale Experience, now in its sixth year, is designed to introduce high school students to nursing and the job opportunities available within the profession, Curl said.

LU students complete geology tour

Five students, two volunteers and their professor, Jim Westgate, explored geologically significant sites in Utah, New Mexico, Colorado and Texas during a two-week field course June 21 to July 4. "Nothing can replace the experience of seeing what we've been studying in the real world," said Westgate, professor of earth and space science.

Concentrate examined from bulk samples collected on this expedition will provide evidence from the first late Uintan age (42-41 million-year-old) micro-mammal community discovered in the Rocky Mountains' geologic basins, Westgate said. Micro-mammals, such as rodents, small primates, shrews and mouse opossums provide evidence of climate fluctuations.

"Documentation of evolutionary shifts in the small mammal community in the Rocky Mountains at this time is significant because the initial glaciation of Antarctica was occurring simultaneously and signaled the beginning of a long-term shift from the dinosaur-age 'Greenhouse Earth' conditions to the 'Icehouse Earth' climatic regime which continues today," Westgate said.

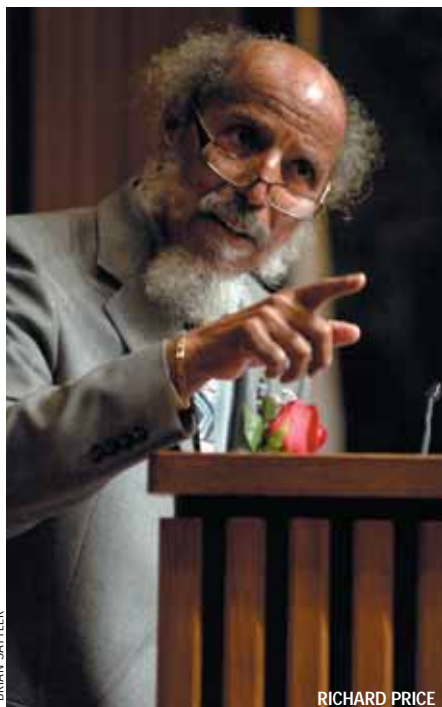
Student assistants are conducting microscopic analysis on samples to recover sand-grained-size micro-mammal teeth during fall and spring semesters. Their results will determine the focus of next summer's expedition to the Uinta Basin.



Congratulatory munchies on the menu

Chartwell's, which provides meals and catering services for Lamar University, has recently expanded its services and made it easier to learn about them through a new link on the lamar.edu home page titled Dining/Catering Services under the popular links button. Customers can view the menu for the day. Students and parents can compare meal plans to decide which best fits the student's lifestyle. Parents can order congratulatory "munchies" online for students who have done well on a test or a special birthday cake to let a student know they're thinking of him or her.

Faculty and staff will benefit by having all catering information, including menus, pricing and extras, readily available for planning special events and catered meals. Outside entities that hold events at Lamar will also be able to take advantage of this new service to plan their catering online. Visit Lamar's home page as detailed above or dineoncampus.com/bigred.



BRIAN SATTIER

RICHARD PRICE

Price name graces auditorium

Lamar University honored retired Professor Richard Price, much beloved by students and the LU community alike, by dedicating the 250-seat auditorium at the John Gray Center Sept. 9 as the Dr. Richard L. Price Auditorium.

Price served as an associate professor of mathematics at Lamar University from 1970 until his retirement in 2006. He continues to teach part time at Beaumont's Ozen High School and as a volunteer preparing young students in Southeast Texas for academic competitions.

During his tenure at LU, Price became a mentor to hundreds of students who remember him as a devoted but challenging teacher. Price

helped expand the diversity of the LU College of Engineering as director of minority recruiting and retention. He also served as advisor to the campus chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers and had a prominent role in the national organization, which honored him with its Golden Torch Award for lifetime achievement in academia.

The creation of the Richard L. Price Endowed Scholarship for Engineering Students at Lamar University marked his 70th birthday. Friends and former students have contributed to the scholarship's growth.

At the podium

Emerging science topic of entrepreneurial lecture

Technology innovation in the coming decade will be unlike anything the world has seen, and corporations, small businesses and individuals will have to paddle hard to catch this wave — or they might just be ripped asunder. So says **Jonas Lamis**, executive director of SciVestor, www.scivestor.com, a research and advisory firm focused on understanding how future technologies will disrupt the business, economic and social frameworks of society.

Lamis spoke Oct. 2 as part of the Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies Entrepreneurship Lecture series.



BRIAN SATTIER

JONAS LAMIS

Engineering alumnus shares career experience



BRIAN SATTIER

JOHN VIA

The College of Engineering hosted **John Via** '86 as its annual All College of Engineering Lecturer Oct. 28. Via is vice president of manufacturing for global pharmaceutical operations for Alcon Laboratories Inc. in Fort Worth. He is an adjunct assistant professor at Southern Methodist University. A registered professional engineer in Texas and Delaware, Via holds a doctorate in

engineering management and five master's degrees, including a master of engineering science from Lamar University.

Via shared his 24 years of engineering and management experience gleaned from a career in pharmaceuticals for Alcon, Merck and Parke-Davis; chemical engineering for Goodyear Tire & Rubber, Rohm & Hass; and automation manufacturing for Fischer & Porter. He received Control magazine's Engineer of the Year award in 1996 and serves on Lamar's College of Engineering Advisory Council, Chemical Engineering Advisory Council and the Chemical Engineering Ph.D. Advisory Board. He and his wife, Julie, live in Fort Worth.

Camp paves way for future engineers

Middle school students at the ExxonMobil Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp were introduced to engineering, math and science concepts through hands-on, real-world lab activities. In its second year at Lamar, the camp's interactive learning opportunities are designed to show that math and science can be entertaining and inspirational and can lead to rewarding opportunities in the future. "Our focus for the camp is to make math and science fun for the students, especially at this age," said Kathleen Jackson, public affairs director for ExxonMobil. "This can help them realize it is possible for them to go to college and pursue a career."

These academic enrichment camps, provided through a partnership between NASA astronaut Bernard Harris and ExxonMobil, are free and are offered to academically qualified middle-school students who are recommended by their teachers.



President James Simmons, Kathleen Jackson

PACeR fast tracks students

The College of Education and Human Development offers an alternative teacher certification program for prospective students who have earned bachelor's degrees. Programs include 48 teacher certification options, which include principal's certification, business education, driver education, journalism and school counselor certification.

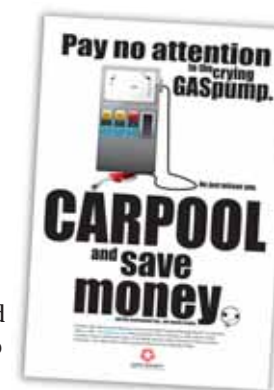
Within the program is the Post-Baccalaureate Alternative Certification Route, also known as PACeR, an intense, field-based program that combines coursework and full-time employment. PACeR is a fast-track program designed for students seeking certification, mainly secondary, in the area in which they already have a bachelor's degree.

For more information about Lamar's post-baccalaureate alternative certification, contact Lula Henry at (409) 880-8902 or visit dept.lamar.edu/professionalservices.

Carpooling website available

Lamar University is helping students, faculty and staff address tight budgets through an online carpool program. The Office of Student Affairs has created a web-based message board where prospective carpoolers can sign up to find other LU employees or students to share rides to campus.

Individuals who are interested in carpooling may email carpool@lamar.edu and submit their names, phone numbers or email addresses, hometowns, work or school schedules, the dates submitted and any additional information. To check on carpool availabilities, go to lamar.edu and click on the "Carpool" banner.



Lamar University's INSPIRED team (INcreasing Student Participation In REsearch Development) hosted summer computing academies for 33 middle and high school students this summer. Funded by a National Science Foundation grant, the INSPIRED academies teach computing concepts through fun, hands-on applications, including robotics, web page development and computer animation. The academies are organized and led by undergraduate and graduate computer science students and faculty. INSPIRED plans to host similar middle and high school academies in summer 2009 and summer 2010. cs.lamar.edu/inspired, peggy.doerschuk@lamar.edu.

Teachers learn how to teach environmental science

During Lamar's Teaching Environmental Science summer institute, teachers toured Shangri La Botanical Gardens & Nature Center in Orange, and, after a boat tour on Adams Bayou and a session of water quality testing, fifth-grade science teachers such as L'Tunya Bernard of Beaumont's Fehl Elementary were eager to book field trips.

"My students struggle with earth science, so I wanted to get more information to share with them about how people impact the environment," Bernard said. "You can't teach children to protect something that they don't know anything about."

Other course activities took teachers through refineries, an electric generation plant, a paper mill and a hazardous waste incineration unit in Southeast Texas. Teachers canoed in the Big Thicket and seined for fish in Trinity Bay. They closed the class with an oil spill response simulation aboard airboats.

The institute is made possible through grants from industry, government and non-profit agencies. Grants provide about \$14,000 in Lamar University scholarships to Southeast Texas educators and provide money for operating expenses.



PHOTOS COURTESY DIANNA AND KEN RIVERS

Caring about healthcare

by Louise Wood

By the time she was 5, Dianna Lipp Rivers knew she wanted to be a teacher. As a teen, she decided to become a nurse.

Rivers has achieved both of her early aspirations as an associate professor in the JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing at Lamar. She's far exceeded them as a veteran healthcare professional whose distinguished career as a registered nurse, nursing administrator and nurse educator has taken her around the world.

"I love to teach nursing so much because of the students' interest," she said. "Nursing is a profession that makes a difference. A nurse can help many people, but a professor of nursing can help in the formation of hundreds of nurses who, in turn, will help many thousands of people."

As the 2008 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer, she earned one of the university's most prestigious honors. Her lecture, sponsored by ExxonMobil, focused on a topic that has become a passion for Rivers: "Universal Healthcare: Why We Don't Have It, Why Other Countries Do Have It, and Will We Ever Have it?" She presented the lecture Oct. 27 in the University Theatre.

Rivers brings a lifetime of experience and expertise not only to the lecture hall, but also to the classroom. She's studied healthcare all over the world. She was a captain in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps during the Vietnam War. Her scholarly research has earned international acclaim.

She, like her brother and two sisters, grew up in Lipp's Café – a community gathering spot owned by their parents, in the small rural community of Strasburg, N.D., also the hometown of Laurence Welk.

Her dreams were taking shape. "Even when I was 5 years old, we used to do role-playing as teachers. When I got to high school, I thought, 'Gee, I really would like to be a nurse.'"

She found inspiration in her mother, whose wisdom townspeople often sought. "She wasn't a doctor or nurse. She was just regarded as a wise woman who knew about first aid. People would come and ask her for advice – some of it health related."

Rivers earned a scholarship in nursing to Mount Marty College in Yankton, S.D. "I knew by then that this is what I really wanted to be."

That determination was tested when, during the Vietnam War, she joined the Army Nurse Corps and was assigned to Madigan General Army Hospital in Tacoma, Wash., and Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu. Each had 1,500 beds – and the awesome responsibility not only to save lives of those injured in Vietnam, but also to care for their families. Rivers, who attained the rank of captain, worked as charge nurse at both hospitals and as nurse manager at Tripler.

"It was intense," Rivers says. "The war was going on, and there was a lot of heartbreak, but there was also a lot of joy in helping people get better."

Returning from military duty, Rivers worked as a nurse administrator and earned her master's degree in public health/nursing from the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis. She took advantage of winter sports and enjoyed downhill and cross-country skiing, but, tiring of the ice and snow, sought opportunities in the south.

In 1989, Rivers accepted a position as vice president of nursing and patient care at Baptist Hospital in Beaumont. Coincidentally, a French teacher named Kenneth Rivers came to Lamar University from California the same summer. At the insistence of a doctor at Baptist and his wife, who taught at Lamar, Dianna and Ken met. "We went to lunch, and we've been together ever since," Dianna says. "Ken is a Renaissance man, and he's a very, very nice person. I had certain criteria for dating, and that was at the top of my list. He's funny and handsome too."

The couple married in 1991, and she joined the Lamar faculty in 1996. It was a perfect melding of diverse academic expertise and common interests – one that led to projects and presentations around the world. Ken Rivers is a cinematic scholar, who, as Lamar's 2005 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer, spoke on "The Meaning of the Movies: 100 Years of Cinema in the U.S. and Around the World."

"I love movies. It's one of my hobbies, along with travel," Dianna said. "Healthcare is pervasive in a lot of movies, reflecting life. We've done research and presentations on such topics as medical aspects of movies. With Ken being a professor of French, we go to French movies, which became one of our specialties."

The couple has attended the Cannes Film Festival, where Ken is a credentialed visitor. Each semester, Dianna joins Ken in hosting a film festival at Lamar, each focusing on a different genre. They have co-conducted study-abroad trips to 10 European countries, providing students the opportunity to learn about healthcare while earning nursing credits. They have visited the great hospitals in Europe – including St. Thomas in London and Hotel Dieu in Paris. In summer 2008, they visited friends in China, adding to Dianna's research via tours of hospitals and visits with nurses in Shanghai and Hong Kong.

Dianna acquired another hobby – one that evolved into expertise – quite by accident. While working on her doctoral dissertation in Houston, Dianna became a diehard fan of a genre to die for – the television mob series. In a hotel lobby with a fellow student, she was watching a Jackie Kennedy special when her friend talked her into switching to *The Sopranos*. "I thought, 'What is this?' I became really interested and found all kinds of healthcare issues."

In 2001, Dianna earned the doctorate in public health from the University of Texas-Houston Health Sciences Center School of Public Health. To celebrate, Ken surprised her with a subscription to HBO so she could watch her favorite show. Last year, they learned about a conference on *The Sopranos*, to be hosted by Fordham University in New York. Each submitted a presentation proposal, and both were accepted.

Dianna focused on healthcare issues that might have confronted the Sopranos, hardly in a position to have group health insurance. "The audience seemed to love it," Dianna said.

New York media covered the session, and The New Yorker singled her out. The conference ended with a bus trip to *Sopranos* locations in New Jersey.

Rivers has extensively researched the healthcare system in the United States and other nations. She has visited medical sites,

historical and current, and conducted interviews with hospital administrators, doctors, nurses, patients and members of the public.

"I have been in a position to see from the inside how our healthcare system works, how it does what it does well and how it falters," she said.

"In the 21st century, the United States remains the only major industrialized democracy without universal healthcare. Nearly 50 million Americans have no health insurance at all, and many millions more are substantially under-insured."

The healthcare issue is so important to Rivers because, she said, "It is relevant to all of us. Our health is the most important thing we have. Even though you and I might have great health insurance, people in our own families might not – or might have lost it. You see what happens when you aren't able to have good preventive care – maybe you haven't had a physical in years and years. One day, you

get very sick, and you could have prevented it."

Nursing News and other healthcare publications carried word of her lecture, as did alumni publications, prompting emails from colleagues across the country.

Among many honors, Rivers earned the

College of Arts and Sciences' Excellence in Teaching Award, a Lamar Research Enhancement Grant and the Texas Nursing Association's "Dedicated to Caring" Award.

Rivers has cared for patients as a nurse, supervisor and administrator. "As an administrator, you have a broader view of what's going on in the hospital. That's what I love about it. Even though you're not a bedside nurse, you are part of the big picture."

Seamlessly, Rivers made the transition from hospital hallways to the halls of higher learning – though she maintains her associations with healthcare settings during clinicals and hands-on opportunities for students, such as the Nightingale Experience.

"My Lamar career has enabled me to do both teaching and nursing," she said. "We have the best nursing students in the country, and it's wonderful to work with them."

"The most compelling presentations were not by the theorists but by other kinds of experts. Dianna Rivers, a professor of nursing from Texas, discussed the financial difficulties that Tony's men, not employed by the kind of organization that offers Blue Cross, faced as a result of their frequent hospitalizations."

– The New Yorker, June 2008, in coverage of *The Sopranos: A Wake*, at Fordham University where Rivers shared the stage with such speakers as a retired FBI agent, a judge and actor Dominic Chianese, Uncle Junior on the series.



Giving life its quality

Professors not only teach classes and keep students on track, but they also challenge themselves to innovate and improve the world around them. For Jerry Lin, interest in improving the quality of people's lives is what keeps him going. Lin is not only a scholar focused on proposals and projects in the lab, he's also aware—perhaps more keenly than most—of the impact that a clean environment has on the quality of life for his family and others. His contributions to the science community have earned the associate professor of civil engineering the distinction of Lamar University's highest honor recognizing research and creative activity.

Lin is Lamar's 2008 University Scholar. The title recognizes a full-time faculty member for outstanding contributions to scholarship, research, proposal writing, grant awards and creative activity. Lin's body of work is extensive and reflects excellence in each of these categories.

"Since he joined Lamar in 1999, he has been consistently a top performer among the faculty of the College of Engineering in research, teaching and service," wrote Jack Hopper, dean of the College of Engineering, in nominating Lin for the award.

While earning his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Tatung University in Taiwan, Lin set his sights on correcting the pollution problems created by human activity.

"At that time—in the '80s and '90s—a lot of pollution, at least in East Asia, was generated simply because of all the kinds of human industrial activity. I saw a lot of pollution created by the direct discharge of different kinds of contaminants into the natural system. That kind of intrigued me, and I felt that I should do something about it," he said.

His main passion became his work with air quality and drinking water because these are critical needs of all people on a daily basis. "In my master's studies, I primarily looked into the treatment of drinking water. When you get up in the morning and get a cup of water, that water actually went through a lot of engineering treatment before you can get nice, clear water to enjoy," said Lin.

Lin earned a master's degree from Duke University and a doctorate from the University of Cincinnati, both in environmental



BRIAN SATTIER

engineering. He married his college sweetheart, Debby, also an engineer, who works at Chicago Bridge & Iron Co., a global specialty engineering and construction corporation. They live in Beaumont with their daughters, Jessica, 7, and Cynthia, 11.

Today, Lin serves on the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and on the Technical Coordination Council for the Texas Air Research Center. As a teacher, he hopes his students become influential professionals in their own right.

Outside the classroom, many of his students consider him a friend. "As a teacher, he is good, but as a person he is even better," said Sehul Patel, an environmental engineering graduate student assisting Lin with his research in wastewater treatment.

Under Lin's guidance, Patel also understands that hard work is the key to success. "Under Dr.

Lin's leadership, we are used to doing work. Until the project is finished, we cannot sleep for one moment," said Patel.

But that dedication just reflects Lin's beliefs. "I personally enjoy challenges. One of my fundamental philosophies is you only achieve excellence by doing difficult work," Lin said.

His major research contributions include work on the current understanding of mercury chemistry in the atmosphere and leading the assessment of atmospheric mercury models in the mercury research community. At Lamar, Lin is responsible for establishing the Air Quality Modeling Laboratory and Membrane Filtration Laboratory. —MS

"I personally enjoy challenges. One of my fundamental philosophies is you only achieve excellence by doing difficult work."

—JERRY LIN



From left, T.C. Ho, chair of the chemical engineering department; Kevin Smith, senior associate provost; Hsing-wei Chu, chair of mechanical engineering; and Jerry Lin, associate professor of civil engineering, gathered in Shanghai to attend the international workshop on regional and urban air quality in the Yangtze River Delta Region. Lin presented research on the transportation of mercury in air pollution.



Former NBA player and coach John Lucas spoke at the annual Basketball Tip-off Banquet Oct. 16. Lucas spent 14 years in the NBA as a player and was a member of the Houston Rockets 1986 NBA Finals team. The banquet kicks off the basketball season and recognized last year's conference championship teams.



Sallye Keith congratulates Les Warren, Lamar University's recipient of the Julie and Ben Rogers Community Service Award, after the Oct. 15 ceremony.



Dance Company performers lit the stage during a *Lamarissimo!* spring concert with the Cardinal Singers: from foreground left, Hallie Singletary of Beaumont, Jennifer Mikel, Houston, and Brooke Doyle, Silsbee.

On July 11, KVLU's *Broadway and Beyond*, hosted by communication professor and interim department chair, Pat Harrigan celebrated its 20th anniversary. The show that brings music from Broadway and film to a wide audience has been loved, appreciated and tuned in by hundreds of listeners each week. Special guests, such as his wife, Sue, pictured along with grandchildren Ryan Harrigan (back row), Mallory Howland and Patrick Long helped honor Harrigan and the wonderful music he has shared with us for 20 years.



President James Simmons, left, joins Ken Rivers in congratulating his wife Dianna Rivers as 2008 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer.



Retired Honors Program Director Donna Birdwell poses with her last class of Honors graduates after May commencement.



LARRY ACKER



“I like to set the standard in the smaller communities by building bigger and better stores...”

—ED FEW

The fabric of a town

For Ed Few '62, it's all about family, hard work, good business sense and community. Since well before the Civil War, the Few family has been an integral part of life in Jasper.

by Larry Acker

Prior to the war, his great-grandfather, Capt. E.I. Kellie, owned a 400-acre cotton plantation in Jasper County named Glorianna Farm. After the war, Kellie moved into town and established the Jasper Newsboy, by most accounts the oldest continuously published weekly newspaper in Texas. Glorianna Farm was reestablished in 1985 when Few bought and cleared 100 acres of the dense and bramble-strewn property and built a new home there. The property has been in the Few family since 1859.

Before graduating from Lamar with a business degree, Few worked for his father at Few Ready Mix concrete plant in Jasper. He went to work for Jasper Oil Co. in 1964 and bought the company in 1973. This would be the first of many businesses he would buy and sell throughout a long career as a Jasper businessman and community leader that career continues today. Jasper Oil Co. had more than 20 gas stations located in Jasper and from Houston to Louisiana. He developed the company into a successful chain of convenience stores called J.O.C. STOPS. He sold all but one of the convenience stores in 2001.

“I like to set the standard in the smaller communities by building bigger and better stores, which translates into increased grocery and gasoline sales. Add good customer service and profits increase,” Few said of the five stores he currently owns and one under construction. “This plan allows me to give the stores the attention they need in order to be successful.”

After his father's death, Ed and his sister purchased the Jasper concrete plant. Eventually, Few sold his interest in the company to his sister and brother-in-law, who now have a successful concrete business with several plants across Texas. In the true tradition of the Fews for staying close to family, they purchased several acres neighboring Glorianna Farm and built Kellie Creek Farms, where they live today.

Few's parents were huge advocates of education. His father was an engineer, and his mother attended the University of Texas. Faced with indecision about his future direction after high school, he decided to follow a buddy to Lamar where they roomed together throughout his college career. While attending Lamar, he became a golf devotee. Caddying for the outstanding

LU golf teams of the day reignited a passion for golf that began in Jasper. His introduction to golf resulted from his father's participation in building the Jasper Country Club in 1933 when labor was made available through the Works Progress Administration. For sentimental reasons, he eventually bought and renovated the country club and golf course.

“We played a lot of golf at Lamar and some tennis. There wasn't much more to do back then,” he reminisced. “Lamar was growing so fast back in President McDonald's day that during one stretch they had the electricity shut off at pretty much the whole campus for several months. They put huge generators right outside the men's dorms, which wasn't so bad until they finally shut them off, then nobody could sleep.”

A love of education influenced Few to accept a position on the board of directors at Lon Morris College in Jacksonville. The late Clifford Lee was president of the institution and Few's former pastor and friend. Lee asked for his friend's assistance in weathering some financially turbulent times. Few was inspired again some years later to form a group of influential businessmen from Jasper and the surrounding communities to work toward establishing a higher education facility in Jasper associated with Angelina College, a Lufkin community college. With the donation of seven acres from the Jasper school board, a building was constructed at Jasper High School, which allows more than 400 students each semester to gain valuable college experience before transferring to larger schools to complete their degrees.

“Kids from this area seem to get swallowed up when they leave home to attend a large college like Lamar,” Few said. “Staying in Jasper allows the student the affordability to obtain higher education, learn good study habits and an opportunity to prepare for attendance in a larger college environment.”

The venture has been so successful and the demand is so great, construction of a second building will soon begin. For this, and many other acts of civic-mindedness and community loyalty, the Jasper/Lake Sam Rayburn Chamber of Commerce honored him as Citizen of the Year in January 2008.

They no longer raise cotton at Glorianna Farm, but they do raise horses. Few has been breeding thoroughbreds for more than a

decade in Texas and Kentucky. Many of his yearlings have become champion thoroughbreds through the years. The Texas Thoroughbred Association has recognized him as a Top Breeder of the Year. Of the several horses at Glorianna, none has his eye and his heart more than Front Nine, a nine-year-old gelding who has won nearly \$400,000 throughout his career. Front Nine is now retired, and Few is having him broken so the grandkids can ride him when they visit. He was the small horse nobody wanted at auction, and, like many things in Few's life, keeping the small horse was a sentimental decision that eventually turned to gold.

Few and his wife, Lyn, who is a nurse practitioner, have six children between them and four grandchildren. His children include Steve, who lives in Omaha, Neb.; Kendall, who has one daughter and lives in Granbury with husband, Darrell; and Nicole, who has two sons and resides in Jasper with her husband, Wade. Wade, formerly a Texas A&M University professor, helps take care of Few's business interests. Lyn has three children, daughter Kimberley, who lives in Tulsa with her son Alex; daughter Chelsea who studied Arabic this summer in Amman, Jordan, and is a senior at Stanford University; and son Tyler who is attending the University of Texas.

When they're not at Glorianna Farm, the semi-retired Jasper couple spends much of their time attending horse auctions and going to the racetrack. He keeps horses in Dallas and Kentucky, which keeps the couple busy during racing season. Ed also enjoys traveling to California to play golf with old friends from his Lamar days. For Ed Few, it's all about family, hard work, good business sense and community. As it has been since antebellum days, the Few family will always be inextricably interwoven into the fabric of Jasper.



Finding voice

by Beth Gallaspy

Fear made her do it. Joyce (Johnson) Scott '72 decided as a young mother to set a good example for her two sons by conquering a fear a year. Some years, she tackled physical obstacles like swimming and running. In 1978, the target was public speaking.

A computer programmer for the city of Beaumont at the time, Scott had been asked to speak at a local women's conference about working in the male-dominated field. She turned organizers down the first few times they asked, but her 4-year-old shamed her into it. The speech went over well and led to other speaking invitations. Those put her on the winding path she continues to travel today, a path that moved from using and selling business-friendly technology to running a company that strives to help businesses and their employees work more effectively.

Scott and her husband, Lavanne Scott '72, '73, left Beaumont in the late 1970s for Tulsa, Okla. There, Scott took a job as systems analyst at St. Francis Hospital, which had computers that made her drool. She built on knowledge she had gained at Lamar while earning her associate's degree in data processing and learned more about systems design on the job. She then became the information technology manager for Phillips Colleges, a company buying private business schools around the country, and developed skills in acquiring and setting up computer systems to deliver curriculum. On the side, she continued public speaking activities and gained increasing prominence as a woman making her mark in the growing technology industry.

"A woman who'd seen me at a conference said, 'You really ought to think about IBM,'" Scott said. "They hired me, and, within six months, I was one of the top 100 performers out of 400,000."

She credits her success to a career plan she first developed as a Lamar freshman in 1969. A professor in an economics class triggered her imagination and prompted her to think seriously about the impact of return-on-investment and supply-and-demand on her potential in the working world. "Those two factors triggered a burning desire for me to have a career that would always pay off with good return for what I invested and would allow me to look at what the demand was in the marketplace. I wanted to put myself in something that was in short supply because that's what I understood supply and demand was. You're a more valuable asset where there's a high demand and there's a very low supply," Scott said. She began researching career possibilities and settled on computer programming because of the growing need for and short supply of people with those skills, along with the availability of a good curriculum at Lamar.

At about the same time, Scott did a business analysis of another potential investment and decided it would pay off—she proposed to her husband, Lavanne, an engineering and math major and "a really smart guy." They'll celebrate their 38th anniversary this year. The young couple became dorm parents in the "nerd



wing" of the men's dormitory Plummer Hall, which also housed student athletes. "Whenever I'd go wash clothes, I'd have to yell, 'Woman on the floor!'" she recalled. The university helped them get their start by providing a place to learn, to live, to work and to have fun. Date nights consisted of movies in the brand-new Setzer Student Center. After graduation, they both took jobs at DuPont until their two sons were born and Joyce took a few years off. When she re-entered the workforce, she started

refining and following her career plan, continuing to pursue research on supply and demand, coming trends and what types of skills she needed to develop.

Her job at IBM, which took the family to St. Louis, Mo., initially was systems engineer. Scott's previous experience with curriculum prompted her to set up her own training plan to learn as much as she could as quickly as she could. "I used all their services at IBM because they have tons. Then I'd go back immediately and apply what I'd learned. Within six months, I was on the executive resources list," Scott said. The elite designation provided Scott with opportunities to study at Harvard Business

School and to interact with top executives at the company. She became a top manager, taking on troubled accounts and turning them around by drawing on her experiences as a customer when she worked as an information technology manager. When she left IBM in 1992, after 10 years she was the No. 1 sales team leader. During the years, her successes at IBM had led to ever more, paid, speaking engagements for other organizations seeking training for their managers in performance improvement. IBM allowed Scott to take time off to speak, often for major companies like AT&T, and "the geek girl in me wanted to explain it to people," she said. She did not, however, fully appreciate the potential of her speaking and training sideline at first.

"Sometimes we are just kind of naïve. I had no idea this was a business until I started doing some economic analysis of it, looking at the market, and realizing at the time it was a \$50 billion industry," Scott said.

Family circumstances made a change of pace attractive to Scott by 1992. Her sons had finished high school, so uprooting was no longer a concern. Plus her father's health was declining, so she wanted more flexibility to allow more frequent trips to Beaumont. She and her husband moved to Austin. Her husband continued his career with IBM, staying with the company 19 years before leaving to become a licensed financial planner. She ventured out on her own. Within a month, her company, Superb Speakers, was born. The name came from her first customer's description of her.

"When you leave IBM, and you're the No. 1 sales person, it's not that hard to get people to buy you as a speaker. The problem was I'd had two surgeries the year before, and I had to recover from that. The solution for me was starting a bureau a few years later versus me being the person out there speaking," Scott said. In 1996, her business evolved into a speakers bureau, which had been her goal from the beginning. "I had met so many wonderful experts from all over the world," she said. "My best thing is not necessarily being the star. I don't have the personality that needs that. What I need is for the world to understand something." She sees herself as "a cheerleader of really brilliant people. Honestly, brilliant people don't very often know how to sell that they're brilliant. They are the most humble people." She is happy to champion their expertise for them and group the right people together to work on the right projects. Scott still accepts speaking and training assignments, but her roster of experts now includes about 75 speakers listed on the company Web site. Another 150 consultants are available to her as needed. She also takes custom requests and works to find the perfect expert for whatever the topic and circumstance might be. Many of the contracts she takes are for longer-term training projects rather than keynoters for events. Some of her consultants would not be comfortable speaking in front of a group but provide insight in areas such as product marketing.

What she loves most more than 15 years after starting her own business is that "it's the beginning. I'm so excited that at 57 years young, I just have nothing but optimism about the future. I've been asked to write books. I have all kinds of opportunities all the time." Her next opportunity will bring her closer to home. She and her husband are planning a move to Houston. Like anyone else in the working world, Scott acknowledges that she has had "bosses from hell," politics to navigate and fears to conquer. But she said she has never faced a dull day in her career. "I've never had a job that was a terrible job because I've planned it," she said. "It started with my career at Lamar. My very first class in computers was logic. It's all problem solving."



BETH GALLASPY

The road forward

by Beth Gallaspy

After more than three decades building a nationally recognized civil engineering firm with offices in every major city in Texas, Gerry Pate '63 started selling the company to his employees. Now, at a stage when many would slow down and enjoy their well-earned success, he is building a booming new business that could drastically alter the face of Texas' transportation infrastructure.

The Galveston native founded Pate Transportation Partners three years ago when he recognized that a funding crisis in Texas highway construction created a dire need that he had the skills and experience to meet.

"This was sort of a natural evolution," Pate said from his seat at a conference table in his Conroe office, piled with project proposals and plans. "All the things I'd been doing all my career came together at one time in one place. I had an opportunity to use them and build on them. Even though it happened late in my career, I thought, 'I've got to take advantage of this.'"

A period of unprecedented growth in Texas in recent years created an increased need for new highways and for additional capacity on existing roads statewide. The Texas Department of Transportation, however, has been unable to keep up with demand using the gas tax revenues that have traditionally paid for such projects. Local governments like counties and cities faced a crisis because they could not get the state to move forward on road projects of critical local importance. That's where Pate's new business comes in. Legislative changes that Pate has supported in the past few sessions have given local governments the option of moving forward on their own to improve and expand state highways vital to local interests. When they do, Pate Transportation is ready to assist them.

"We've created a business of delivering roadways to local governments all over the state," Pate said. "In the past, local government went and asked the state to fund these roadways. Now local government—if it's willing to fund the project—can arrange for deferred financing from the state, raise some of its own money, and actually go take responsibility for delivery of the project. When they do that, normally they'll contract with somebody like us."

Already Pate Transportation has about \$1.4 billion in projects at some stage from development to construction. The company's contracts include multiple projects to ease congestion close to home in Montgomery County; a project under construction in Sherman-Denison; one nearing construction in Forney, a growing segment of the Dallas metro area; a project in Mount Pleasant; a project near the border at Del Rio that is part of the Ports-to-Plains corridor; a major project in McAllen to improve transportation related to international trade; and one in the planning stages in Temple.

Alternative financing mechanisms now being used—particularly toll roads in certain locations—have drawn some criticism around the state. Pate, however, distinguishes between the projects undertaken by his partnership and more controversial projects like the Trans-Texas Corridor. Montgomery County could not afford to do some of the projects it has planned without tolls, Pate said. He also noted that toll-free routes still would be available; they just might be more congested than the toll roads. Local governments seem best suited to pursue toll projects, Pate said, because they are closest to the people, a proximity that allows them to explain projects and generate public support. Along with tolls, many of the new projects will be reimbursed at least in part by the state.

"Really, the benefit to citizens is they get the roadways they need so that they have reasonable commute times, and people can get to and from their homes. Especially with gas prices shooting up, you don't want to be sitting in traffic for 20 to 30 minutes trying to get some place," Pate said. "It hasn't been an easy transition because really we've enjoyed a state system now at least since the era of the interstate in the 1950s. The state built all these roadways, including the freeways in your cities, but it doesn't look like that's going to be the way it works in the future."

Pate's decades of experience in civil engineering prepared him for the challenging work he handles today. He founded Pate Engineers in 1970 as a solo shop in Houston and expanded it into a respected civil engineering firm with more than 300 professionals in offices in Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, Arlington, Austin and San Antonio. Transportation was not a major part of the company's work. Instead, Pate Engineers handled a great deal of land development and urban infrastructure design, meeting cities' needs for water supply, wastewater and flood control facilities. When the Texas Department of Transportation began to outsource more of its engineering work a decade ago, Pate decided to expand his business into that area. As he got into the transportation business, he realized that things were changing. "The future was not in drawing plans for roadways but in delivering the roadway itself to local governments. I could see that the state eventually was going to have to ask local government to help finance projects," he said.

Pate already knew how government worked. Through his civil engineering firm, he had become well versed in working with government officials and regulation at all levels. He was appointed by

Gov. Rick Perry to the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and served as chairman of the Governor's Committee on Water Resources Management and as a member of the Governor's Water Resources Use/Conservation Task Force. Pate used his knowledge to work for legislative changes starting in 2005 to allow alternative means to get state highway projects built. He created Pate Transportation Partners, where he is managing partner, to focus on the new opportunities and began selling Pate Engineers to his employees. He remains chairman of the board of the engineering firm, but his ownership will end in about three years. So far, he has found the new focus rewarding. "I've always enjoyed what I do. I like the legislative component of it. I like working with government officials. It's frustrating sometimes, but overall I like it. And we know how to do it," Pate said. "I just felt like I couldn't pass this challenge

up, and I don't regret it. I'm really enjoying it. I don't have any plans to retire, never really have had."

Of course, Pate's life has not been all about business. He married his wife, Lois, after his freshman year at Lamar. They now have four adult children and 14 grandchildren, all of whom live less than 10 miles from their home in Magnolia. By the time he graduated from Lamar in 1963, the young couple had two children, and he was eager to get to work to support his growing family. His family commitments left little time for campus activities during Pate's days as a civil engineering major. Still,

he remembers his time at Lamar fondly. He remains in touch with college friends and values the relationship he built with Luther Beale, who led the civil engineering department when Pate was a student. Pate recognized the value of his Lamar education when he went to work for a consultant in Houston in the early 1960s. Most of the other young engineers around him were from better-known schools, but he was as well prepared as or maybe better prepared than his peers. "That gave me a lot of confidence to say I can do what needs to be done in my career," he said.

Recognizing what Lamar did for him, Pate has given generously of his time and resources to his alma mater. He serves on the College of Engineering Advisory Council and is working with other key alumni on a strategic plan for the civil engineering department. Pate also created a named scholarship in engineering this year. Pate attributes the value he places on education to his parents, who were unable to attend college but stressed its importance. "Lamar was probably a very good place for somebody like me whose family had no background of college," Pate said. "I think it still plays a role like that. I hope it continues to try to be a place where young people—who can probably do more than they think—can go and find a place that is nurturing, if you can think of a college that way."

The nurturing environment at Lamar certainly helped Gerry Pate get on the right road, one that he has continued to build by staying attuned to the changing world around him and taking advantage of whatever opportunities arise.

“The future was not in drawing plans for roadways but in delivering...”

—GERRY PATE



BRIAN SATTLER

A kiss to build a dream on

by Brian Sattler

Luxury has a name, and it is alpaca. For centuries, buttery soft, silky cloth spun from the fiber of alpaca was the mark of Incan royalty and was treasured more highly than the gold that would fuel European lusts. As the royals and priests fell victim to the European invasion of the 1500s, only a remnant of their alpaca herds survived.

Three centuries later, Europe rediscovered the alpaca's luxurious fiber, and it became a favorite of British royalty. Soon, its favor spread to the fashion houses of the continent, but it wasn't until recently that alpaca began to be imported into the U.S.

Laurence '75, '86 and Donna (Clyburn) Binder '76 discovered alpacas while visiting the Houston rodeo and livestock show. Looking for animals to raise on their newly acquired property south of Navasota, they had considered cattle and horses but felt it would be hard to break into the established network of breeders.

The decision was sealed with a kiss—well, three actually—as Donna experienced the cautious curiosity of the alpaca and the gentle “alpaca kiss.” They were looking at what they thought at the time were llamas. One approached Donna and put its lips to

hers. “I didn't know what to do. ‘Laurence,’ I said, ‘there's a llama on my lips. What do I do?’” Donna said. “He said, ‘don't make any threatening moves. Just stand very still.’ And it backed away. Then its pen mate needed to see what was going on. ‘Laurence, there's another llama on my lips.’ After this happened for the third time, a lady across the way said, ‘I think you've been chosen,’ and I said, ‘I think you're right. The question is, by what?’ That's when we learned that they were alpacas.”

In 1997, they began one of the first alpaca operations in Texas, Bluebonnet Hills Alpaca Ranch. Today, it is home to approximately 75 alpacas, and offers sales, breeding and boarding. While Texas is a far cry from the bitter chill of the Andes, they have found successful strategies that help the animals thrive. And, if things do go south, two local vets are experts on alpacas, and a camelid authority is on faculty just up the road at Texas A&M.

The Binders' award-winning animals are a part of the alpaca registry, a database of suri and huacaya alpacas that includes DNA records. The fiber of the suri is fine and silky and grows long enough to touch the ground if the animal is not sheared. The fiber of the huacaya is shorter and coarser by comparison, and, although it looks like sheep wool, it feels to the touch more like cashmere. Both types of Alpaca fiber are remarkably lightweight, strong, lustrous, high in insulation value and resistant to rain, although they lack the lanolin found in wool. Most U.S. alpacas were imported between 1984 and 1998, when the pedigree registry was closed to further importation, which helped preserve the value of the animals. Typical prices range from a “pet-quality” animal at \$1,500 to \$2,000 to show-quality breeding females from \$12,000 to \$22,000 and sometimes higher.

“We had planned to have the business up and running by the time we retire, but it has happened far more quickly,” Donna said.

“Starting out can be scary,” she said. “We started with money from our retirement accounts. I told Laurence that ‘if I'm going to have to work until I'm 110, I'm going to be so grumpy you'd better not die 'cause I want you to be here to listen to it.’”

Fortunately, the hard work is paying off. She attributes their success to helping their customers begin their own enterprises by going the extra mile to ensure they are ready for their new charges and, if they run into unexpected challenges, doing all they can to keep them on the path to success. “We're not going to let you fail,” she said.

The Binders say getting into the alpaca business isn't just about making money, it is also about making friends. “There is a real sense of community,” Donna said. “While there is competition, it is among friends. We realize that our breeding decisions likely played a role in their success. I've gotten teary when some of my customers beat me in the ring.”

Shearing time is a community event, akin to an old-fashioned barn raising, as alpaca owners gather from throughout the region known as the “Alpaca Capitol of Texas.” Twice a year, the Binders host seminars for people interested in learning about the alpaca business, and friends meet at shows around the state and nation.

Reared in Houston within two miles of each other, both Laurence and Donna attended Pearland High School, yet it wasn't until their college days that the two met. That encounter involved a lot of drama—real drama.

Laurence already had two years of college under his belt at Lon Morris College in Jacksonville and was preparing to continue his studies in theater arts at Southwest Texas State his junior year. He was keeping busy doing what he loved as director of Pearland's community theater troupe. Donna was hired to direct the music for the productions, and collaboration began.

Donna was already attending Lamar, majoring in applied music in piano and had taken a number of education courses. Her high school choir director was a Lamar graduate, and it was through her that she met Hurbert Kaszyanski, a much-loved music professor at Lamar. “He was able to get more out of me with kindness and his gentleness,” Donna said. “I would have jumped over the moon for him.”

Laurence transferred to Lamar as a theater education major in the middle of his junior year. In August, the two were wed. Laurence student-taught at Beaumont French High School and then taught 10 years at Austin Middle School. After graduating, Donna taught three years at Central Junior High in Nederland.

“During this time, we owned a florist shop in Beaumont and were part of Imagination Concepts, a Beaumont acting group,” Laurence said. The acting group performed dinner theatre and other shows, including a standing booking at the Beaumont Petroleum Club. It involved a number of Lamar theatre students. “We did *Godspell*, and I think we did all the Neil Simon plays,” Donna said.

Then, Donna was diagnosed with Menieres Disease, which left her with permanent hearing loss affecting some frequencies. The unexpected challenge would end her music career. She went back to Lamar to get her elementary certificate and taught at

Cathedral in the Pines. Laurence earned a masters in educational leadership at Lamar while teaching in Beaumont.

Their first child, Keith, was born in 1984 and soon whetted his academic teeth as a Baby Red Bird at Lamar's Early Childhood Development Center. Soon afterwards, the family moved to the Houston area. Son Kevin was born in 1987. Kevin came to Beaumont in 2004 as a student in Lamar's Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities, from which he graduated in 2006. He is continuing his studies at Texas A&M with an eye toward economics. Keith was preparing to enter A&M as a junior when he died in 2005. Both sons found expression of their love of music as founding members of Texas High Life, Keith on drums and Kevin on bass. The band's second album, *Yellowbird*, is a tribute to Keith.

Today, Laurence is assistant superintendent of secondary instruction for the Cypress-Fairbanks school district, the third largest school district in Texas with 101,000 students. He has been at Cy-Fair for 23 years, first as a teacher, then director of instruction, and as an assistant superintendent for the past three years.

Donna continued her career in education after moving from Beaumont, first teaching sixth-grade classes in middle school, working a part-time split position as she reared Keith and Kevin. During this time, she completed a master's degree in counseling at Prairie View A&M. Her research there on low socio-economic-status learners led to a counseling job in the district. She later taught junior English in special education, but, after five years, “the business got so big and so demanding that I knew we had to rethink this,” she said.

Four years ago, she learned of a position at Cypress Ridge High School requiring special education teaching experience, counseling experience and signing experience—all qualifications she had acquired—for a counseling position for the deaf and hard of hearing cooperative. “Nine districts send their children to ours,” she said. “That job had Donna stamped all over it.”

Today, whether they are working with the youth of Houston or surveying the frolicking alpacas overlooking the ponds and wide-spreading oaks of their acreage, they find a quiet satisfaction in hard work and enjoy the luxury that is country living.



Balanced on the bench



By Steven Kreytak

Growing up in segregated Port Arthur in the 1950s and 1960s, Wilford Flowers '72 lived in an all-black neighborhood and went to all-black schools. His teachers taught him that the world was changing, that he would have opportunities his parents' generation did not.

Flowers, now a state district judge in Austin who as an African-American has broken racial barriers in Texas' capital city, says he got his first taste of an integrated world at Lamar University.

Flowers began commuting to Lamar State College of Technology in 1968. The difference from his hometown was shocking, he recalls, especially the 25-student English class he had early on where he was the only non-white student.

But the students in that class and other students and professors of different colors and backgrounds taught Flowers that he could excel in unfamiliar environments, lessons that he has carried through his career.

"After all these years, you understand that things are fine if everyone just gets to know each other," he said. "People are people."

In 1977, Flowers became Travis County's first African-American assistant district attorney, and his 1990 election to the 147th District Court made him the county's first black district judge. His court handles felony cases such as murder and robbery, and he has presided over the trials of some of Austin's worst criminals, including Colton Pitonyak, a University of Texas at Austin student convicted last year of killing a 21-year-old coed.

Flowers, 58, announced recently that he is retiring when his current four-year term ends in 2010.

He credits timing as much as ability for his career of achievement: He was also Travis County's first black county court judge and has been the only black first assistant county attorney.

The groundwork for diversifying the ranks of power in Austin and communities across the nation had been laid with the country's civil rights movement by the time Flowers graduated law school in 1976.

"I was in a good position to accomplish these things," he said.

The timing may have been right, but Margaret Moore, a former prosecutor who worked with Flowers in the district attorney's office and then hired him as her top deputy when she was elected county attorney, said Flowers excelled because he was a hard worker, a quick study and a good person whom people trust.

"You have to attribute that kind of progress to the fact that Wil is such an outstanding person and attorney," said Moore.

Segregated upbringing

Flowers said his role model growing up was his father, a Port Arthur refinery worker who was a boisterous man—funny and a bit of a braggart, someone you heard before you saw. In those ways Thomas Flowers was much different than his son, whose cerebral demeanor on the bench has served him well.

Judge Flowers said his father also had a strong sense of right and wrong. With his wife, Corine, Thomas Flowers taught the virtues of hard work and the value of education to his eight children, seven of whom graduated from college, five with advanced degrees.

Flowers' childhood was comfortable if not wealthy. His parents expected him to do what was right, and neighbors looked out for one another. He encountered segregation when he went shopping downtown or to a local beach where he was expected to stay to one side, but it was not something that particularly bothered him at the time, he said.

"It was the norm," Flowers said. "That was America."

Flowers studied economics at Lamar and recalls drawing inspiration from one of his first professors in the field, Sam Parigi. "He made it really interesting," Flowers said.

Parigi saw enough in Flowers to hire him as a teaching assistant.

During his junior year, Flowers lived on campus for the first time thanks to a job as a dorm counselor at Brooks-Shivers Hall, watching over students enrolled in a program for the children of migrant farm workers. Supervising the students, who



“He just has a quality of dealing with people and was an excellent trial lawyer and, when it became time, was an excellent judge.”

STEPHEN BRITTAIN

were on campus under a government program to earn high school equivalency degrees, helped the future judge learn some of his first lessons in leadership and conflict resolution.

"Our students had more street sense than the usual college students," he said. "With a little mediating I could usually help them stay out of trouble."

Flowers graduated from Lamar in 1972 and, after attending the University of Texas School of Law, got a job under the newly elected Travis County district

attorney. Flowers rose to the rank of chief prosecutor in the 147th Court, then led by now-retired Judge Mace Thurman.

"He was a very intelligent and well-schooled lawyer," Thurman said. "I thought he was probably one of the most efficient and best prosecutors that I had in my court."

Travis County commissioners in 1987 appointed Flowers to head a newly created County Court-at-Law, where he handled misdemeanor cases. He served there until winning his first of five elections to the district court bench.

A no-nonsense judge

Flowers is known for running an orderly and respectful courtroom and as Travis County's toughest judge on violent criminals, according to lawyers. Flowers, who will give second chances in some nonviolent cases, said he strives to hold criminals accountable and keep the community safe and doesn't consider, for example, the effect prison may have on a defendant. He also said he does not consider the costs of locking people up.

"That is not my issue," he said.

Flowers said he believes strongly that victims of crime should be heard. That is why, for example, he rejected a plea bargain in 2006 for Charles Myers, who in exchange for 10 years probation had admitted to sneaking under his ex-girlfriend's house and planting a telephone listening device there.

Myers' ex-girlfriend wanted Myers imprisoned for his decades-long pattern of harassing women. Flowers agreed. A jury convicted Myers of burglary of a habitation and unlawful interception of a wire communication and sentenced him to five years in prison.

"He was one of those people who was a star from the get-go," said defense lawyer Stephen Brittain, who worked with Flowers as a prosecutor. "He just has a quality of dealing with people and was an excellent trial lawyer and, when it became time, was an excellent judge."



Faces of hope

Jane (Canada) Gravis '88 was in Kenya in January when rioting broke out during the presidential election. She and her employees had to evacuate the 20 children in their care to escape the killing and violence. "It was the scariest time of my life," she said. Gravis founded and helps run the foundation Into Abbas Arms, which operates an orphanage—they prefer to call it home—in

Kinangop, Kenya, but 10 years ago, she never would have expected to become so intertwined with the country.

In 1998, Gravis had a dream of Africa, and she couldn't forget the faces she kept seeing in her sleep. She signed up for a mission trip to Kenya sponsored by her church, lending her skills as a dental hygienist. While there, she saw the many children in Kenya who were left on the streets, begging for food and shelter, because of their parents' deaths from AIDS, malaria and tribal clashes. "They handed a woven basket to me at the end of that trip and said, with this, you will feed the children of Kenya."

Gravis felt helpless in the face of such an overwhelming need, but the children's faces haunted her. Originally, she hoped to raise money to build a little house for the orphans, helping in a small way. "I don't think God gives you the whole plan at once because it would scare you to death," she said.

Eight months after the first trip, Gravis returned to Kenya to buy land, only to have it given as a gift by a lawyer she met in Kenya. "It ended up being this beautiful place that we have now that I thought would be impossible to purchase at the time. Then, just boom, boom, boom, things started happening," Gravis said. A friend spoke at his church of Gravis' plans, and a man wrote a check for \$25,000 to pay for the needed water well.

Incrementally during 10 years, the ministry has built two homes and a kitchen and renovated a container to become a library. But it is a daily struggle. Into Abbas Arms now cares for 20 children. Its goal is 75.

Gravis married this past summer

and moved from Spring to Virginia. She normally visits Africa about three times a year, taking mission teams along. The recent financial crisis and hurricane have forced her to cancel plans for trips in December and January. Ninety percent of donors to the organization are from the upper Texas Gulf Coast beleaguered by Hurricane Ike.

Underfunded, most orphanages in Kenya—with 100 kids to two adult caretakers—are a far cry from Into Abbas Arms in terms of outlook and opportunity. "The kids are very shy and hard to make a connection with," Gravis said. "That's why I didn't want to ever have more than eight to 10 children per house mom. I wanted them to feel special and loved and like they were in a family."

From the beginning, the vision was to make Into Abbas Arms a home, not an institution. U.S. volunteer social workers and counselors helped the children reconcile their pasts. "We feel like we're making a difference in their lives rather than just feeding them and getting them off the street," Gravis said.

The home has become a part of the community. The ministry built a church, where children are learning English. Its well provides water to about 200 people, and the ministry grows vegetables and sells them at a low price, saving a long walk to the market. Periodic mission teams teach citizens topics such as first aid and parenting. One women's group gave a pair of rubber boots to every woman in the community. "You would have thought we were giving out diamond rings," Gravis said.

"We're trying to be as self-sufficient as possible, especially nowadays with finances as they are. We have cows and chickens. We're trying to purchase some goats. We just bought about one and a half acres of additional land. We'll plant even more garden. Our biggest expense is electricity because we have to pump the water and heat it. Engineers Without Borders will go over in January and evaluate our compound for solar and wind energy," Gravis said.

One day Gravis videotaped each child, asking what he or she liked most about Into Abbas Arms. Every single one said, "I get to go to school." The answer surprised Gravis, but, she said, they appreciate how much an education means to their futures. Responses like that keep Gravis going—"seeing how happy they are, how whole they are, how healthy and psychologically healthy they are," she said. "When I visit the slums and the government-run facilities, I look into those children's eyes and there's no hope at all for the future. It's a blessing we can do what we are able to do." —CH

intoabbasarms.org



Retired professor Donna Birdwell, Josmery Ramirez, Teresa Simpson, Laura Whitmire and Madison Bunde

A vocal performance major, who expects to graduate from Lamar University in May 2009, Ramirez turns heads with her strong soprano sound. The honors student from Baytown is equally compelling when she pipes up about other passions: service through LU's Rotaract Club, her desire to expand music education around the world and a love for the university she looks forward to claiming proudly as her alma mater.

As she prepared this summer for her senior year of college, Ramirez deepened her interest in several pursuits through travel. She reveled in the opportunity to focus on improving her performance skills when she secured a slot at the prestigious OperaWorks in Los Angeles. During the two-week workshop for emerging artists, Ramirez strengthened more than just her vocal abilities. Classes included daily yoga sessions, improvisation, expression through movement and acting.

Particularly helpful was a class on visualization. Five times, Ramirez listened as an accompanist played a German piece, and she imagined her own voice singing it perfectly. She focused on the qualities she wanted her performance to capture. Then, she kept her eyes closed as the accompanist played the piece a sixth time, and she sang.

"I finished the piece, and I opened my eyes, and two people were crying, and there was one guy with his jaw dropped saying, 'That was absolutely beautiful,' and people were saying they had goose bumps. It was just very cool," Ramirez said. "People there were so encouraging."

The workshop allowed Ramirez to work with other top-notch young opera singers and learn from faculty members who have enjoyed impressive performance careers. Perhaps most importantly, though, the experience taught Ramirez to truly enjoy singing again. "I really did come away from it with more confidence," Ramirez said. "I think over the years I've grown to work so hard and worry so much about, 'Is my soft palate lifted? Am I breathing correctly?' that I forgot to have fun with the music."

Her study of music at Lamar began even before she enrolled as a freshman. Ramirez first attended a Lamar choir camp as an eighth-grader and has been building relationships with professors and administrators on campus ever since. Those connections, particularly in the music department, were part of what drew her to Lamar as a student. Generous scholarships for music, academics and honors also helped her make her college choice.

As a student, she spent a year as president of LU's Rotaract, which led her to Chunox, Belize, in July, less than two weeks after she completed OperaWorks. It was Ramirez's second trip to the village in northern Belize where Rotaract offers scholarships to pay for high school. She and her fellow travelers—incoming president Laura Whitmire, incoming community service chair Madison Bunde, advisor Teresa Simpson and retired LU professor Donna Birdwell—got ideas for other ways to assist the village and engaged in learning activities with the children.

"What we wanted to do was kind of instill an excitement for continuing their education," Ramirez said. "I don't think that the circumstances that you're in means that you can't achieve something higher, especially if you have the vision."

Her can-do attitude comes from her mother, who emigrated from the Dominican Republic with her two daughters when Josmery was 5. "My mom has always told me that if you show to others that you're committed and you're dedicated and you're going to get the job done, then people are going to support you. But I never thought that it would be to the extent that it has been," she said. After graduation, Ramirez will study music in Spain, Argentina, New Zealand or Canada for a year through a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship. Then she plans to complete a graduate degree and pursue a career combining music education and performance. "I'm pretty excited about the things that will open up to me because of the experiences and opportunities that I've had at Lamar."—BG

Hurricane Ike



The week after evacuating under the threat of Hurricane Gustav, Southeast Texans found themselves faced with the potential of another hurricane, this one destined to be the third most destructive hurricane ever to hit the United States.

As the projected path of the storm placed the region on the right-hand side, university officials notified faculty, staff and students via the Connect-ED system Sept. 10 that classes would be canceled until further notice. Mandatory evacuation was later called for the region.

When the storm made landfall at Galveston at 2:10 a.m. Sept. 13, it was as a Category 2 hurricane with winds of 110 mph. The storm's exceptional size brought hurricane-force winds up to 120 miles from the center and created a storm-surge event akin to a Category 4 storm, affecting a significant portion of the Texas and western Louisiana coastline. Throughout the region, the storm uprooted trees, damaged roofs, caused widespread power outages and flooded thousands of homes.

Campus restoration after Hurricane Rita in 2005 included substantially improved roofing on campus buildings, helping limit Hurricane Ike's impact. Significant damage was still meted to the Montagne Center where exterior tiles were lost, window walls gave way and portions of the arena's roof blew out. A significant number of the university's 2,000 residence hall rooms had water penetration and required remediation.

Changes to the campus information technology systems improved the university's ability to protect and quickly restore campus data systems when electrical service returned to the campus.

In addition to the limited police, information technology and other staff who remained on campus during the storm, additional university employees returned to begin the process of clean up, restoration and recovery. Classes resumed Sept. 25, and, with some schedule adjustments, the semester will be completed on time, President James Simmons said in the semester's second academic convocation on Sept. 24.

The storm's effects continue to persist in the region, affecting many in the LU family as faculty, staff and students work to restore their lives. Many of those fortunate enough not to have suffered significant damage to their homes or businesses volunteer to help others as the recovery continues.

About 300 students elected to withdraw from classes after the storm. Despite this loss, the university still posted an all-time record enrollment on the 20th class day with a headcount of 13,469 students, up 31.9 percent from fall 2007, when the university's headcount was just slightly below the pre-Hurricane Rita levels set in the fall of 2005. —BKS





Last spring, Jerry '66 and Sheila Reese '65 contributed \$1.25 million to establish the Reese Construction Management Program so that students could pursue a degree in the field at Lamar, answering a need in the construction and petrochemical industries.

Today, the first class of students are beginning to build their own foundations as construction managers with a four-year degree to strengthen their skills and pave the way for more successful and lucrative futures. Students benefit in particular from the Reese program because it focuses on construction technology and hands-on experience, but then it goes further. The curriculum's business management and development component equips graduates with knowledge about corporations, budgets and contracts, which increases the value of the degree—and their value to employers or as entrepreneurs.

The program is unique in that it emphasizes the management aspects of construction projects. The curriculum is designed for construction management professionals—individuals who manage a variety of technical and business situations—and focuses on the petrochemical and heavy construction (waterways, docks, and harbors) industries.

Providing start-up funds for such a program, as did Sheila and Jerry Reese, is one way to give back to your alma mater. Several other avenues exist as well. Endowed scholarships are a unique and powerful way to honor friends or loved ones and for alumni and friends of Lamar University to ensure that their own connection to their school lives on in perpetuity.

Lamar University works with donors to establish endowments that benefit students, faculty and Lamar University itself as well as the larger community. To discuss ways you can contribute to the life of the University and create a lasting legacy, please contact us at (409) 880-2117.

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES*

Named Scholarship	\$15,000
Presidential Scholarship	\$50,000
Regents Scholarship	\$100,000
Graduate Fellowship	\$200,000
Mirabeau Scholarship	\$300,000
Faculty Fellowship	\$300,000
Professorship	\$500,000
Distinguished Professorship	\$750,000+
Academic Chair	\$1 million – \$2.5 million
Center/Institute	\$1.5 million – \$5 million
Department	\$2 million – \$5 million
College	\$15 million – \$25 million

* Endowments may be funded with a five-year pledge.



SARA's support adds key ingredient

The Sabine Area Restaurant Association (SARA) has made a strong statement of support for the Investing in the Future comprehensive campaign—and more specifically the LU Hospitality Administration program. The 200-member strong Southeast Texas organization recently created a \$250,000 endowment for the program. The culinary arts lab will be named in its honor. SARA is a chapter of the Texas Restaurant Association and one of the strongest chapters statewide, part of a community of more than 5,000 food-service professionals.

More than 50 Southeast Texas restaurants participate in the popular Taste of the Triangle event, now in its 26th year and held annually to coincide with Fat Tuesday in February. This fundraiser and the annual Chef's Delight fundraiser are the catalysts for the association's philanthropic endeavors. SARA has donated more than \$600,000 to worthy organizations that include the Boy Scouts, Children's Miracle Network and the Muscular Dystrophy Association. SARA has supported the hospitality administration program with scholarships and in-kind gifts for more than 25 years.

"Our students and program already owe much of their growth and development to the contributions of SARA," said Molly Dahm, assistant professor of Family and Consumer Sciences. "This endowment cements us as partners in a successful future for our students, our program, the university, the Golden Triangle and the food-service industry."

Study in culinary arts is an emphasis option for students specializing in hospitality administration within the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. The certification program prepares students to be chefs or for food-service management careers in hospitals, resorts, cruise ships, private clubs, catering operations, schools and event centers. Many Lamar graduates have become chefs and industry leaders in Beaumont, Las Vegas, Austin and Dallas.

Distributions from this endowed fund may be used to enhance hospitality management and culinary arts programs and to strengthen and advance the work of faculty in teaching, research, service and professional development, as well as to support and enhance the learning experience for students, including scholarship support. Local businessman and alumnus Frank Messina '71 has been a member of SARA for more than 35 years and has continually nurtured the partnership with Lamar.

"This is a long time dream come true for me," Messina said. "As a Lamar graduate and having been in the food service industry for so long, it's wonderful to be able to bring these two great organizations together to help students get the training they need to further their careers. SARA is investing in students and the community by donating to Lamar."

The announcement and check presentation was made during the SARA annual Chef's Delight fundraiser Oct. 20. —LA

“Our students and program already owe much of their growth and development to the contributions of SARA.”
— MOLLY DAHM

DreamMakers

Recently, more than 20 new endowments totaling more than \$850,000 have been completed to help students achieve their educational dreams. We are excited about the continued support from our alumni and friends who have given their resources to help Lamar University students conquer the financial hurdles of a college education. Thank you for your generous commitments.

Regents Scholarships

MICHAEL L. BURROW REGENTS SCHOLARSHIP IN ENGINEERING. Open to all engineering majors, this scholarship was established by Mike Burrow, founder of Petrocon Inc. Petrocon later merged with ENGglobal Engineering, which Burrow served as chairman of the board and CEO. Burrow retired in 2007 and serves on the College of Engineering Advisory Council.

GREATER TEXAS FOUNDATION REMOVING EDUCATIONAL BARRIERS SCHOLARSHIP. Open to all majors, this scholarship was provided through a grant from the Greater Texas Foundation to assist students who must overcome personal and/or family financial adversities.

HELEN AND BLAKEY LOCKE MEMORIAL REGENTS SCHOLARSHIP IN COMMUNICATION. To honor the memory of Helen and Blakey Locke, the Locke family has designated a portion of the Helen Caldwell Locke and Curtis Blakey Locke Charitable Foundation to establish this scholarship. Blakey, who died in 1981, was the owner of KFDM radio, which later became KFDM television. Helen, who died in December 2007, was employed at KFDM and actively served the Beaumont community as a volunteer in numerous organizations.

Presidential Scholarships

DR. TAMERLA CHAVIS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN ENGINEERING. Dr. Tamerla Chavis '83 established this scholarship to encourage all students to keep learning. It is open to all engineering majors. Chavis is one of only a few female neurosurgeons in the United States and the only one in Beaumont. She started her medical practice in Beaumont in 2001, has served as a member of the Alumni Advisory Board and was president of that board in 2004-2005. She now serves as a trustee of the Lamar University Foundation.

NITA MIXON SCOTT AND EDNA TAYLOR DUCKWORTH PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS. Established by the Gay D. and William F. Scott Family Foundation, this scholarship honors the mothers of Bill ('70) and Gay Scott ('80). Both Nita and Edna were savvy businesswomen who assumed management of their

deceased husbands' businesses (EconoRail and Duckworth Inc. respectively) and not only managed the businesses, but also grew them into major corporations.

Named Scholarship Endowments

CLASS OF 1958 SCHOLARSHIP. The members of the Lamar University class of 1958 established this scholarship at their 50-year reunion. Open to all majors, this scholarship will commemorate these classmates by creating a legacy from these great alumni that honors their loyal dedication to their alma mater.

ELMER E. AND PATRICIA MULDOON EMBS SCHOLARSHIP IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING. This scholarship honors the life that chemical engineering careers afforded the Embs family after Elmer graduated from the Speed School of Engineering at the University of Louisville. The Embs have four children: Stephen E. Embs, Susan Embs Cohen, Linda Embs LeBlanc '75 and Kris Embs Montalbano.

PHILLIP E. AND CHERYL S. FULLER SCHOLARSHIP IN BUSINESS. Both graduates of Lamar University, Phillip '81 and Cheryl '82 have established their second scholarship at Lamar. The first scholarship was established in memory of Cheryl's father, James. J. Spencer. Cheryl and Phillip live in Houston and have established this scholarship for business majors.

LONNIE AND RUTH HOOD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP. The children of Lonnie and Ruth Hood, David Hood '77 and Dianne Wuensch, established this scholarship in memory of their parents. Lonnie died in December 2007 and Ruth in February 2008. Lonnie built his career in the life insurance business, and Ruth is the daughter of O. B.

Archer, who served as teacher, dean, vice president and acting president at Lamar University before his retirement in 1975. The Archer Physics Building was named in his honor. The scholarship is open to all majors.

JACQUES LANDRY MATH SCHOLARSHIP. An accounting graduate, Jacques Landry '82 established this scholarship in mathematics because he believes that advanced societies should place emphasis on math and science. Landry lives in Denver.

Endowed Scholarship Giving Levels
Mirabeau \$300,000
Regents \$100,000
Presidential \$50,000
Named Scholarships \$15,000

LI-VIA SCHOLARSHIP IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING. Honoring chemical engineering professor Ku-yen Li, this scholarship was established by John Via III. Li served as department chair from 2000 to 2007 and has been at Lamar since 1978. Via, vice president for Alcon Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Operations in Fort Worth, has 24 years of engineering and management experience in the pharmaceutical and chemical manufacturing industries. Via holds a master of engineering science from Lamar and is a member of the College of Engineering Advisory Council.

PAULA AND JOHN LOVOI SCHOLARSHIP IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY. As a 1968 graduate, Paula has been involved with the Lamar University Foundation as trustee since 2002, inspiring the Lovois to establish this scholarship in an area that honors two of their grandchildren who have been faced with speech and hearing disorders. Johnny is pharmacist, owner and president of Lovois and Sons Pharmacies Inc.

KYLE SEAN McDONALD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP. Friends and family established this scholarship in memory of McDonald, who attended Lamar University and died in April 2006. He had recently opened a new business, AAA Movers. His family honors his humor, honesty and family loyalty with this general scholarship open to all majors.

DAVID FOREMAN MOLINA SCHOLARSHIP. Open to College of Business majors with a preference for students majoring in finance or a student from Hamshire-Fannett High School, this scholarship was established in Molina's memory. He was awarded a B.B.A. posthumously from Lamar University in August 2007. Molina's friends and family have held fundraisers to begin the scholarship and will continue to increase the endowment.

NELL AND TERRY MORRIS SCHOLARSHIP IN FINE ARTS. This scholarship is open to students majoring in art, music, theater or dance. Nell, owner of a successful litigation support firm, serves as chair of the Trusteeship and Governance Committee for the Lamar University Foundation and sits on its executive committee. Terry is a retired dentist who practiced periodontics and oral surgery in Beaumont for more than 35 years. Both are longtime Friends of the Arts board members.

FRANCIS AND MARJORIE MOUTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT. The first construction management scholarship established for the new Reese Construction Management Program was provided by Camille Mouton, vice president for university advancement, in memory of her parents. Her father owned a commercial construction business in Lafayette, La.

BILL AND KELLY MUNRO SCHOLARSHIP. Open to all majors, this scholarship was established by Bill and Kelly Munro in memory of

Katharine Brownrigg Munro, Elden Anthony Babin and Genevieve Hopkins Brownrigg. Bill and Kelly are third-generation owners of Munro Dry Cleaning Co., founded in 1928.

JACKSON BROOCKS OSBORNE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP. Established by Yvonne L. and Leslie M. Moor, this scholarship honors the memory of Osborne, who attended Lamar Junior College from 1940 to 1942. Osborne earned a law degree from SMU and returned to Beaumont to join his stepfather, William Seale, in the land and timber business and to practice law. Osborne was very supportive of Lamar and its programs. He especially enjoyed teaching real estate law courses during the 1980s in Lamar's College of Technical Arts.

GERRY E. PATE SCHOLARSHIP IN CIVIL ENGINEERING. A civil engineer, Pate '63 serves on the College of Engineering Advisory Council. As managing partner for Pate Transportation and chairman of the board for Pate Engineers, he is committed to assisting engineering students so they have the same opportunities that Lamar University afforded him.

SOUTHEAST TEXAS HUMAN RESOURCES ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP. This scholarship is open to students majoring in human resource management in the College of Business. The Southeast Texas Human Resources Association is an affiliate of the Society for Human Resource Management.

RONALD W. THIBODEAUX MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT. This is the second scholarship established for the new Reese Construction Management Program. Loraine Thibodeaux created it in memory of her husband, Ronnie '79, who was the owner of TNT Productions. Confined to a wheelchair, Ronnie was paralyzed as a result of a car accident when he was 7 months old. Ronnie was an avid supporter of Lamar University. Loraine is the former director of the University Reception Centers.

GLADYS V. WILLIAMS AND ANNE S. HEIFETZ MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP. Generous donations from family and friends established this scholarship in memory of the mother and sister of Lamar President James M. Simmons. The scholarship is open to all majors.

PEGGY WILSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN ART. This scholarship is open to fine arts majors with an emphasis in painting. Wilson '85 earned a bachelor's degree in art from Lamar, and her paintings can be found in many homes and businesses throughout Southeast Texas. This scholarship was established through a generous gift from her husband and Lamar retiree, Joseph Carlucci, and through the sale of her artwork by the Beaumont Art League after her death.

To begin your own scholarship endowment or to add a gift to an existing scholarship, please contact the Lamar University Foundation at (409) 880-2117.

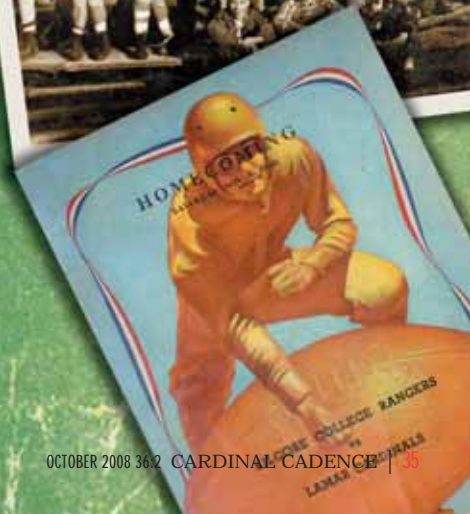
Guarding football's future

Cardinal gridiron named for former player, longtime Lamar advocate Bud Leonard

by Brian Sattler



Gene "Gabby" Bates '53, left, Doug Clower '55 and Bud Leonard '50, '53, '76, right.



When passions turn to football, one name that resounds is Bud Leonard '50, '53, '76.

Thanks to a major gift from an anonymous donor, the field that will soon again see NCAA football action will bear the name of the former player and longtime Lamar advocate. Each fall, untold thousands will pass through the entrance to WS. "Bud" Leonard Field on their way to see the Cardinals clash on the gridiron.

Celebrated as a leader on and off the field, Leonard was honored by community, friends, students and staff of the university in the Cardinal Hall of Honor Aug. 25 in a news conference where the naming was announced.

"In appreciation of this most generous gift to the university and the Lamar football program, its students, and the people of Texas, particularly Southeast Texas, the stadium playing field will be named the W.S. "Bud" Leonard Field," said James Simmons, president of the university.

"I want to thank my dear, longtime friend who made the anonymous gift to make this possible," Leonard said. "When he and Jimmy talked to me about this, I want you to know I turned into a lump of silly putty. You touched me, Jimmy, you and our friend, that day."

When Leonard came to Lamar University (then Lamar Junior College) in 1948, he came to play football. Sixty years and three degrees later, he remains one of its most ardent cheerleaders.

"Bud Leonard is a well-respected alumnus and retiree of Lamar University," Simmons said. "Bud has a great love for football and for Lamar. As a young man, Bud played his heart out for Lamar. Throughout his career and beyond he has been devoted to this institution, its students, student athletes and alumni. I cannot think of a more fitting honor than to name this field for him."

"Let me tell you what Lamar has done for me," Leonard said. "My life. Lamar gave me my life. I couldn't have even thought about a college education without that scholarship. I got an education that led to a chance to go to Officer Candidate School, a chance to become a naval aviator, a career in the advertising business, a career at Lamar ... and here I found my bride."

At the news conference, a plaque on the wall reflecting Leonard's football career — he was inducted into the Hall of Honor in 1974 — was among the many detailing the exploits of the university's collegiate athletes through the years. "Bud was the organizing president of the Hall of Honor," Simmons said. "The first meetings were held in his home. We have a Hall of Honor, really, because of Bud's vision."

Nearby, a large rendering of the planned brick-and-iron-gated portico entrance with the lettering W. S. "Bud" Leonard Field was on display.

Legendary Austin High coach Stan Lambert, who had led the Maroons to several conference titles from 1936 to 1947 before joining the Cardinal coaching staff, brought Leonard to Lamar. Leonard had played high school ball for Lambert and the two "graduated" together to junior college play. Austin High School named Leonard a Distinguished Alumnus in 1988.

"My aspirations were to be able to complete college," Leonard said. "I had grown up in Austin in the shadow of the University of Texas. All I ever heard was how tough college was going to be ... and I was the first in my family to go. I knew how to play football, but I was scared to death."

Whatever his motivation, it didn't take long for the strapping Naval Reserve seaman recruit to start scoring points. He won the John Gray Award for the graduate athlete with



the highest scholastic average. And in 1949, as a left guard he helped lead the Cardinals to a conference co-championship. Leonard is most proud to have been elected co-captain of the team by his peers and that the team was ranked No. 1 that year in the Williamson Poll.

Leonard played two years for Lamar Junior College, then, in 1950, played an independent schedule as Lamar made the transition from two- to four-year status. He played two more years for Lamar State College of Technology.

“Because of that year of transition, I still had a year of eligibility left when I graduated. Coach Woodard (Lamar’s new head football coach) didn’t seem too interested when I mentioned it,” he said with a chuckle.

Leonard received his associate in arts diploma in 1950, but didn’t stop there. By 1953, he had earned a bachelor’s degree in physical education, all the while serving in the Naval Reserve.

Upon graduation, he attended Officer Candidate School in Newport, R.I., being commissioned in November 1953. Then, he set his sights even higher — as a Navy pilot. He earned his wings of gold in 1955.

Eighteen months later, he served his Far East duty flying Douglas Skyraiders from the aircraft carrier USS Wasp in a tour that took him from California to Hawaii, Guam, Japan and the Philippines. He was released from active duty in 1957.

With all he had accomplished, Leonard had not yet tried his hand at the one thing he might have studied under different circumstances — commercial art and advertising. Some well-meaning teachers talked him out of it in favor of a degree in education. Experience had sharpened his confidence, and, upon his return from military service, Leonard took on the advertising business.

Twenty years later, Leonard had amassed an impressive career, rising to senior vice president of the Beaumont office of Goodman, Dannenbaum, Littman and Wingfield, a leading ad agency.

For his alma mater, Leonard had helped to organize an ex-lettermen’s club in 1961, which later became the Cardinal Club. He was a charter member and second president of the Cardinal Club and served on various university committees.

When Lamar President John Gray called on Leonard in 1975, “I thought he wanted me to serve on another committee,” Leonard said, “but he wanted me to come to work for Lamar.”

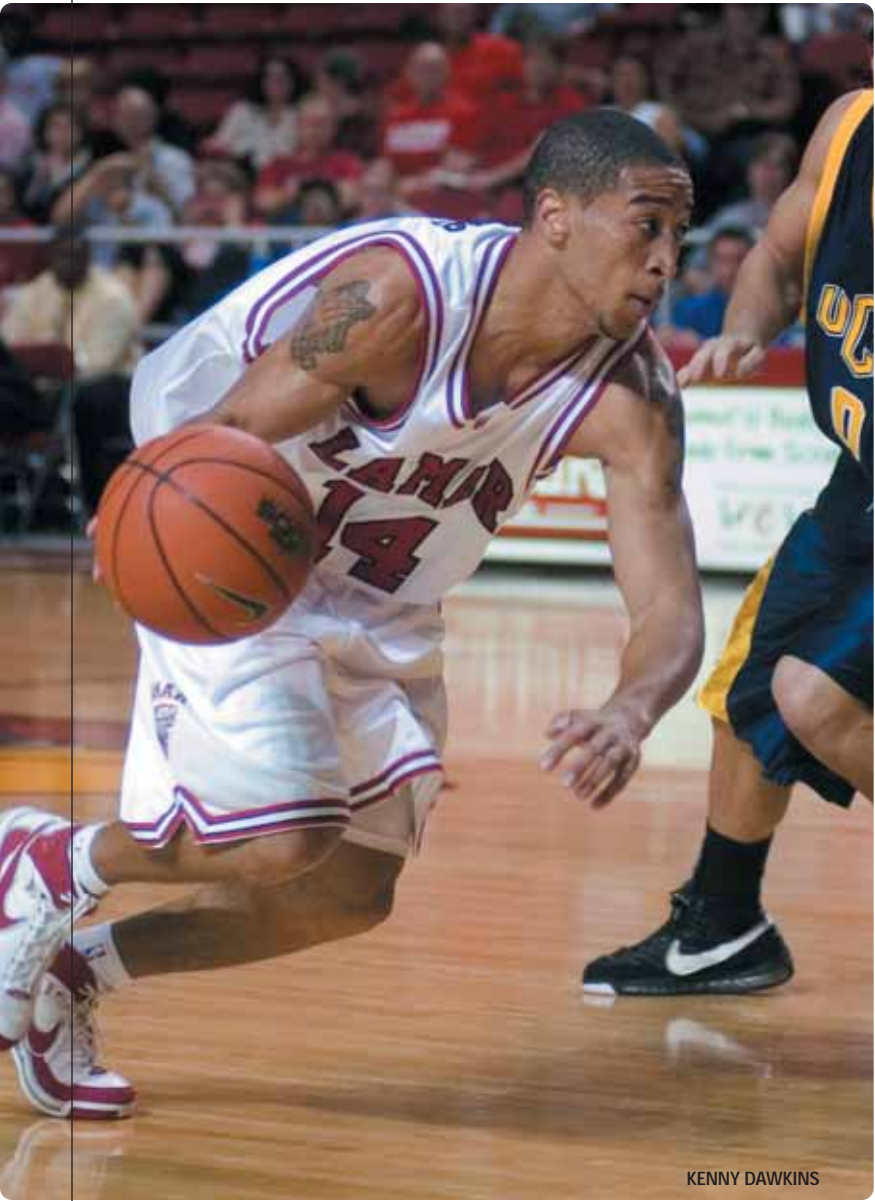
During his 19 years in university relations and development, Leonard never stopped learning. In 1977, he earned his third Lamar degree — a master’s in communication. During this time, Lamar saw steady growth in the level of gifts and donations, including several significant planned gifts, and the establishment of the university’s first endowed academic chairs. Leonard was a charter member of the Friends of the Arts and the first Le Grand Bal chair. He also served as a member of the LU Foundation Board from 1975 to 1993.

The former vice president of university relations and vice chancellor for development retired in 1994. The following year, he and his wife, Charlene, formed Action Creative Team, a home-based advertising company providing consultation in the areas of marketing, advertising and fund raising. They have two grown children, Joni and Will, and twin granddaughters.

Since retirement, Leonard has continued to support Lamar in many capacities, including service as president of the alumni association and member of the Friends of the Arts Board. He was named a Distinguished Alumnus in 2000.

“Finally, it is my hope that coaches Stan Lambert, J.B. Higgins and my dear friend and mentor, John Gray, are looking down to say they approve of this message also,” Leonard said.

Talent moves up to center court



KENNY DAWKINS

SCOTT ESlinger

Year three of the Steve Roccaforte era at Lamar will feature more of the same fast-paced, high-energy style of play that has become expected by Cardinal faithful during the past five years.

Last season, Lamar started slowly before gaining speed and barnstorming through the Southland Conference en route to a 13-3 record (19-11 overall) and the school’s first regular-season title in more than 24 years.

While some of the key ingredients from that memorable group have graduated and moved on, nine letter-winners are joined by seven newcomers to form the 2008-09 edition—one that Coach Roc feels can be just as good, if not better than, its predecessors.

Point guard Kenny Dawkins will lead the team on the floor as a senior after averaging 14.6 points per game and nearly six assists while picking up First Team All-SLC and Newcomer of the Year accolades last year. Brandon McThay will assume in his role as a shooting guard who can play the point if needed.

Other returnees who will see considerable floor time are seniors Jay Brown, Tristan Worrell and Lawrence Nwevo and sophomore Coy Custer.

Among the newcomers are junior college guard Skyler Williams from Chipola JC in Florida; freshmen Charlie Harper and Anthony Miles, standout players in the San Antonio and Houston areas, respectively; and local talents T.J. Riley of Tyler, Matt Pace, Beaumont, and Brooks Ybarra, Mont Belvieu.

The schedule is impressive. It features 14 home contests and seven games against teams that participated in the postseason a year ago. Among the notable non-conference games that appear are road games against Kentucky, Memphis, Louisville, Rice and the start of a multi-year series with long-time rival Louisiana-Lafayette. The non-conference home portion is highlighted with a visit from Texas Tech Dec. 13—a game that marks the first trip to Beaumont by a Big 12 school in six years.

2008 providing a season of firsts

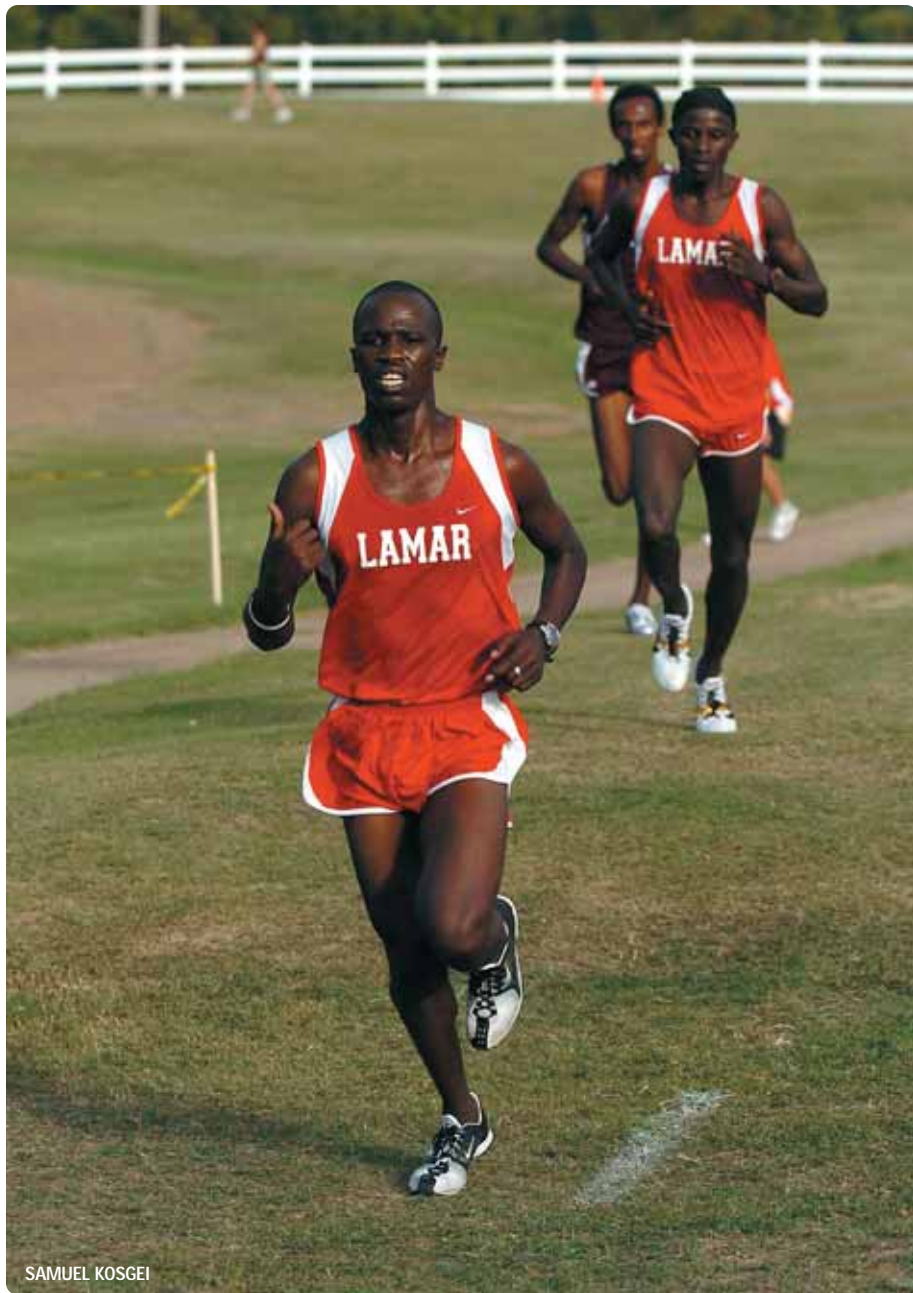
Just past the midway point of the season, the Cardinals had already set more positive “firsts” on the soccer field than for the entire 2007 campaign.

The first win came Sept. 5 with a 2-1 triumph over South Alabama in front of a record crowd at Cardinal Stadium. That was followed by the first-ever awards from the Southland Conference when senior Aline Pugliesi and redshirt freshman Rachelle Barry nabbed SLC Offensive and Defensive Player of the Week honors.

On the final days of the 13-day evacuation road trip during Hurricane Ike, the 1-0 win at Prairie View gave the squad its first road win and first shutout of all time.

With the start of conference play in October, Lamar ventured to Conway, Ark., where a 2-2 draw produced the school’s first regular-season overtime game and tie.

Freshman Jennifer Gibbs produced the school’s first SLC Goalkeeper of the Week accolade after the shutout of Prairie View.



Cross country Cards focus on title

With the cross country season nearing its midway point, the Lamar harriers are preparing for the Southland Conference championships and beyond. The Cardinals men's team has put together an impressive start to the season and look to capture their third straight SLC title while the women's team is in a rebuilding phase after losing its top four runners from a year ago.

The LU men won their first meet of the year, taking the crown at the Baylor Invitational behind the strong running of Francis Kasagule, Samuel Kosgei and Drew Bean.

After missing nearly a month because of Hurricane Ike, the LU men got back to business when they traveled north for one of the top meets in the nation, the Notre Dame Invitational. The LU men finished 12th in the team competition, but Kosgei captured first place individually by edging out two-time NCAA outdoor 10,000-meter champion Shadrack Songok by one second.

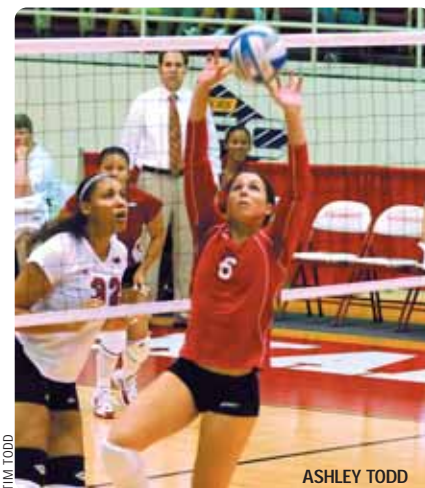
Lady Cards volleyball in fighting form

After a rough start to the season, the volleyball team has begun to find the winning form that led them to the 2007 Southland Conference regular-season title a year ago.

The Lamar women opened the 2008 season with a steady stream of misfortunes, which left them without the services of one of their top returning players and a revolving lineup. Adding to their list of problems, Mother Nature wreaked havoc on the LU schedule as hurricanes Gustav and Ike caused them to cancel five matches, including the Lady Cardinals Invitational at McDonald Gym.

Upon their return to the court after a two-week layoff because of Ike, the Lady Cardinals started SLC play with a win over Sam Houston State in their 2008 home opener, and they have stayed hot. Four weeks into the conference slate, Lamar was 5-1 in league play and had pulled to 7-8 overall.

With their sights set on a second straight conference championship, the Lady Cards are now playing their best volleyball of the season.



Lady Cardinal Basketball ready for primetime

On the heels of the most successful season since 1992 and coming within one game of advancing to the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1991, the 2008-09 women's basketball team is primed for another stellar season.

The '08-'09 Lady Cards feature two pre-season first team all-Southland Conference selections in Brittney Williams and Nikki Williams, who combined for 42 percent of Lamar's offense a year ago. Adding to the strong duo are five returning players who combined to score 462 points and five newcomers who bring impressive resumes to the program.

Head coach Larry Tidwell has put together an impressive schedule that features 16 home games, four contests against Big 12 foes and as many as eight games against 2008 post-season teams.

The Lady Cardinals open the regular season at home against Grambling State Nov. 19, the first of eight non-conference home contests. In non-conference play away from the Montagne Center, the Lady Cardinals will face Texas Tech, Baylor, Texas and play in the Iowa State tournament in Ames, Iowa.

Highlights to the home schedule include a matchup with former Southland Conference foe Louisiana-Monroe Dec. 6 and eight Southland Conference games, with five against SLC West Division foes as Lamar switches divisions for the next two seasons. The Lady Cardinals will also take on rival McNeese State at home on Jan.

"Our non-conference schedule is really going to prepare us for conference play," Tidwell said. "The four games against Big 12 opponents and starting a series with Louisiana-Monroe is important because these are good games to get us ready for Southland Conference play."

The 16-game SLC schedule tips off on the road Jan. 10 against Southeastern Louisiana before the Lady Cards return home for a pair of games against UT-Arlington and McNeese. —DL





Ray Woodard's
first 100 days at
Lamar have been
action packed.

Woodard's First 100 Days

by Brian Henry

The 20-year coaching veteran was named Lamar's eighth head football coach May 19, officially started June 2 and immediately went to work in resurrecting the program that had won four Southland Conference titles and appeared in a pair of bowl games.

He says the idea of starting the program from scratch was both scary and exciting. "The fear of the unknown (is always out there)," he said. "There is so much to do and the fact that you are responsible for so much can get overwhelming at times, so I have tried hard to keep everything in perspective and in front of me."

How do you know what to do first?

"You have to do everything because there's nothing in place," Woodard said. "The thing was not to get overwhelmed because you can't do it all in one day."

During his introductory news conference, he made sure people understood that he was excited about the opportunity in front of him and that he does not take losing well.

"I am just competitive by nature, and it doesn't take a lot to get my blood pumping to coach football," said Woodard. "I think you have to compete in everything—recruiting, practice, in the classroom and on the field—it's all linked and

tied together. I am doing something that I love. It's much easier to throw everything into something you love."

And how much is he beginning to love Lamar and the Golden Triangle? Well, in his words, "The fact that I really want to be here and I have a burning desire to see Lamar succeed should be the starting point."

One task was to hire a capable staff of assistants. Together, they began recruitment efforts by watching film of prospective student-athletes.

"I wanted guys who were strong in areas that I wasn't as strong in and who I thought would strengthen our staff," he said. I was looking for diversity and fresh new ideas to help our program."

Woodard's six full-time assistants have a combined 80 years of high school and college coaching experience.

Woodard has spent the past three seasons at Navarro College—the first two as the defensive coordinator and last season as head coach. His 2007 squad went 9-3 and advanced to the conference playoffs for the first time in six seasons. The team earned the school's first bowl bid since the 1990s and finished the year ranked fourth in the NJCAA national poll. For his efforts, Woodard was named the SWJCFC Coach of the Year.

His first experience at the NCAA level came in 1998 as defensive line

coach at Louisiana-Lafayette. From 1988-95, Woodard was the defensive coordinator at Kilgore College and recruited more than 200 Texas high school student-athletes. The Rangers appeared in back-to-back Shrine Bowls in 1989 and 1990. Kilgore went 36-46 with four winning seasons during his time. With his 11 years of junior college coaching and the recruiting that goes along with that, he has signed as many players and visited as many Texas high schools as just about anybody in the state.

He and his staff are working to make inroads for Lamar. "It's just been great," Woodard said of the reception he has received from area coaches. "I wish I could see every coach every week. I try to get out in the community as much as I can. It's been so positive and uplifting."

College coaches are allowed to visit a high school one time between Sept. 1 and Dec. 1, and that usually comes on a Friday or Saturday because games count as a campus visit.

When he isn't on recruiting trips or making campus visits, his

days on Lamar's campus are spent in planning. Woodard said there is great interest in the new athletic complex, the walk-on program, the 2010 schedule and even what the uniforms will look like.

The walk-on program is in its infancy but is producing good results. More than 50 students attended the initial walk-on meeting Aug. 25, and both sessions of the kinesiology class in cross training filled up quickly.

As the coaching staff works with the players in the coming year, coaches will immediately begin laying the foundation for success not only on the field, but also in life. And for Woodard, that starts with his experiences as a former player and a desire to be the best player, coach and mentor possible.

Woodard also had a very successful playing career, from his days at Corrigan-Camden High School to Kilgore College and the University of Texas to five years in the NFL with the Chargers, Denver Broncos and Kansas City Chiefs. He was a member of the Broncos' 1986 AFC Champion and Super Bowl team.

"I want them to develop a winning attitude about everything they do. It isn't just about the game on Saturday but if you can become a winner in life. I feel like I can relate to them because I have been there and know what they are going through on a daily basis. I also feel that the most enjoyable aspect of coaching are the relationships you build with your players."

Those walk-ons won't play any games in the 2009 season but will get plenty of work in the classroom, weight room, training room and on the practice field in preparation for the 2010 slate.

That schedule will feature a road game against archrival McNeese State Sept. 4, 2010, at Cowboy Stadium in Lake Charles. How the Cardinals look in their uniforms that day will also depend a lot on Woodard.

"It's gotten to the point where I watch uniforms and helmets as much as schemes when I watch college games," he said.

"We want to look as good as possible. We want a great-looking team, stadium, band and lots of fans and cheerleaders. It's all very important . . . just like the fieldhouse."

So what has been the reaction of former Cardinals about the return of football to the only university in one of the most fertile recruiting grounds in the state?

"Wonderful," he said with a smile. "I haven't met as many alumni yet as I want to, but everyone seems excited to have (football) back. I make sure they understand this is their program, and I will do everything to make them proud of it."

"I played college football and understand the void left when you're not playing football, not to mention if your alma mater has stopped playing. I want to do everything I can to make the return enjoyable for the fans eager to reignite Lamar football tradition."

Woodard has enthusiastically taken the opportunity to meet many former players and LU alumni through his numerous speaking engagements. In his first few months, he has spoken to nearly 50 civic, alumni and fraternity organizations and the Cardinal Club.

But for all of this planning and prep work, the next big day for the football program will come Feb. 4—Woodard's 248th on the job—when his first signing class is announced.

Winning tradition



In San Diego, Calif., at Firstman's parents' home, seated from left are 1956 NAIA Championship golf team members Buncy Johnson, Al Chandler, Clint Airey, Butch Baird and Harold Firstman with championship tennis team members, standing from left, Lewis Hilley, athletic director and coach of both teams; Pedro Bueno; Eugene Sailer, James Schmidt, Ronnie Moreira and Carroll Chesson, assistant golf coach. The win was the second in a string of six consecutive wins. The titles rank third all-time in NAIA history. James Schmidt also won the singles title that year, while Rafael Reyes and Paul Wilkins won the doubles title.

by Larry Acker

The steel shafts of golf clubs have given way to titanium and graphite, but the legacy of golfing excellence hasn't changed at Lamar University. Several Lamar golfers have moved from collegiate competition to the pro ranks, and the golf program has produced many conference championships. The 2007 golf team achieved phenomenal success by capturing third place at the 110th NCAA Championship, just strokes behind the University of Georgia and Stanford. The 2008 squad is contemplating the championship title and has been rated No.1 in the nation by the Golfweek/Sagarin Performance Index.

With all its recent successes, the team led by Coach Brian White reflects the same winning commitment that saw the stellar golf teams of '56, '57 and '58 win three consecutive NAIA championships. Three golfing buddies who came to Lamar from California became the catalysts for the amazing string of championships in the late '50s.

Harold Firstman '59, Clint Airey '59 and Al Chandler '58 were recruited to Lamar by then-athletic director and golf coach Lewis Hilley. The culture shock of coming to Southeast Texas was considerable for the native Californians.

"When Harold, Al and I first arrived in Beaumont, it was like going into another world," recalled Airey. "Being from Southern California, we weren't accustomed to the humidity, heat, snakes and mosquitoes."

Airey remembers his initiation by the native Lamar golfers. He walked into his Combs Hall dorm room to find a coiled rattlesnake beside his bed. The Texan team members killed the snake at Tyrrell Golf Course earlier in the day and thought it only fitting to welcome the West Coast golfers properly.

He says his time at Lamar was the most wonderful experience of his life. Since graduating from Lamar, he has built and operated five golf courses and consulted on projects in Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam. Although golf has taken this former Lamar standout to many exotic locales, the transportation was more modest during his college years.

Traveling in a new Cadillac owned by the assistant golf coach, the team pulled a one-axle trailer to tournaments as far away as Florida. One memorable head-to-head match with the NCAA top-ranked

University of Houston golf team ended in a heated exchange between the opposing coaches.

"Lamar wasn't very well-known at the time, but we won that match, and their coach went crazy right there on the 18th green," said Firstman. "He told Coach Hilley he would never play us again, and he never again invited Lamar to their annual tournament."

Firstman was also involved in school politics, being elected vice president of the student body and sophomore class president. He has since developed and built three golf clubs and started the Pebble Beach Tournament, which he ran for 27 years.

Chandler was no stranger to tournament play, already having won the National PGA Junior Championship in 1953 while attending junior college before coming to Lamar. He remembers Lamar as the first golf team in the nation to wear team uniforms in competition.

"We started that trend on a swing through the South where we won the Miami Collegiate Golf Championship," he recalled. "On the way to Miami, we defeated several teams in head-to-head play, including Georgia, Mississippi State and Tulane."

After serving in the Marine Corps, he turned pro in 1960 and qualified for eight U.S. Open Championships and eight PGA Championships. He left the tour for private business in 1990 but qualified four times each for the Senior U.S. Open and Senior PGA Championship.

Golf tradition is strong at Lamar, and, with the current crop of young golfers guided by a talented coach, the legacy appears to be on the green and moving toward the pin.



Cardinals honored for successes and service



Don Lyle | Unwavering loyalty guides progress

Don Lyle '06H began full-time classes at Lamar University in 1958 but soon switched to evening classes when his job as assistant engineer at Gulf States Utilities Co. became more demanding. Computer programming at that position led to a world of opportunities, including a position at Texas A&M University in 1963 assisting power companies in solving power systems problems. He quickly became the resident expert in the new field of computers and was soon developing programs to enhance large power generation, transmission and distribution systems.

Making the decision to leave power generation to specialize in computer programming, he joined Burroughs Corp., the forerunner to Unisys, as a systems programmer. He eventually became the head of the systems software division, overseeing operating systems, compilers and database software. He was awarded several patents for computer architecture throughout his 16 years with the corporation. Lyle was a corporate vice president of advanced technology when he left Burroughs in 1983 to become a consultant for several technology firms, including IBM, Hewlett-Packard and Compaq. He continues to serve on the board of directors for one New York Stock Exchange corporation and two private companies.

Lyle lends that expertise to Lamar University as a member of the College of Engineering Advisory Council and as a trustee for the LU Foundation. "As the first chair of the College of Engineering Advisory Council, Don used his exceptional talent as a corporate executive, technology expert and advisor to other academic institutions, to lead the college through its first-ever strategic plan. This plan has as its mission to obtain a Ph.D. in each of the engineering disciplines. Without his leadership of the council and the faculty, it is my judgment we would not have achieved the results we enjoy today," said Jack Hopper, dean of the College of Engineering.

Don and wife, Maryann Johnson Lyle '65, have established scholarships in engineering and education and have generously donated to the university since 2001. He serves on the cabinet of Lamar's "Investing in the Future" comprehensive campaign. Lyle was awarded an honorary doctorate by the university in 2006.

I am honored, indeed, to be added to the list of people who have been recognized as Distinguished Lamar Alumni. The career accomplishments of these people bear witness to the excellent education we all received at Lamar. I never felt that I was any less prepared than my contemporaries from MIT and Cal Tech, and I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to receive a Lamar education.

DON LYLE



“

To be esteemed by my peers and colleagues as one worthy of honor marks a highlight of my career. I feel as though I am a member of a distinguished family of educators and academicians since my educational background is embedded here, and here is where my career in higher education was launched. I am proud to be an alumna of this great university, where great opportunities for all students abound.

”

MADELYN HUNT

Madelyn Hunt | A lifetime of teaching, leading

Madelyn (Davis) Hunt '69 has served her alma mater for 35 years as teacher, advisor and administrator. She earned a bachelor's degree in medical technology in 1969 from Lamar University and a master's degree and doctorate in public health in 1972 and 1985, respectively, from the University of Texas. Her multi-faceted career includes classroom instruction in biology, diseases and immunity, epidemiology, microbiology and medical microbiology.

Her leadership roles at Lamar have expanded throughout her career and include serving as a mentor in the LU Minority Scholars Institute from 1989-93 and as director of the Center for General Studies, helping more than 1,000 students make their own lives better by earning degrees. She was named executive director of the center in 2001. Hunt assumed her current appointment as associate provost for student retention in 2006. Milestones in her career include directing undergraduate student research projects as part of the McNair Scholars Program, founding the Partners in Academic Advising and creating the Pro-Connections retention program.

"For decades, Madelyn Hunt has extended a steady hand to those who have come to the university to pursue their dreams, only to discover the gale forces that pull and push students off course. Dr. Hunt has been there to pick them up, direct their energies, offer help and re-focus their eyes to the prize," said Kevin Smith, senior associate provost.

Hunt was responsible for establishing the Monitored Probation Early Intervention Program, a recipient of the Texas Higher Education Star Award presented by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Throughout her career, Hunt has maintained a teaching load and stayed in the classroom to be near the students for whom she cares so deeply. She is married to Travis Hunt.

Bart Simmons | Cardinal spirit and entrepreneurial spirit intertwine

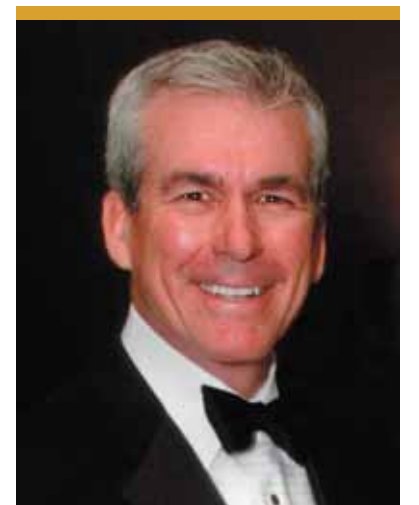
Bart Simmons '78, '79, was a football letterman and student government president while he earned a bachelor's degree in business. Immediately after graduation, he continued on to earn a master of business administration degree. His accomplishments are so intertwined with wife Martye Sculley Simmons '78 that it's difficult to chronicle his accomplishments and involvement with Lamar without recognizing her as well. Upon graduation, both worked at Texaco in Houston, she as an accountant on the fourth

floor and he as an administrator on the seventh floor. They eventually moved to Tyler, where he accepted a position with TXO/Delhi.

When he was a student and member of the Lamar organization Students for Free Enterprise, sparks of entrepreneurial spirit fanned into flames that later led Simmons to Dallas. In 1992, he and a partner founded Tristar Gas Marketing, which would become Tristar Producer Services in 2002. The company evolved into four more business ventures: Tristar Compression, Mid-States Energy, Simray Oil & Gas and Texas Power. Texas Power has a customer base of 25,000 customers and has seen a 600 percent growth since 2006 when he purchased a major share of the company.

Simmons has been a staunch supporter of Lamar's College of Business by serving on its board of advisors. "Bart has made significant contributions to the Lamar MBA program through scholarships as well as insights into the current MBA curriculum," said Brad Mayer, associate dean of the college. "Bart has referenced the need for MBA students to have a strong background in resource management as well as the ability to make quick individual decisions with peer concurrence. The faculty in the College of Business appreciate his active participation and passion for the Lamar MBA program" associate dean of the College of Business.

Bart and Martye have established a scholarship in honor of her parents, the George and Patricia Sculley Scholarship in Business. George Sculley was a Lamar University faculty member in accounting for more than three decades. The couple has also established a significant endowment for the College of Business, which is currently used for faculty support. Their philanthropic support of Lamar also extends to Cardinal athletics.



“

It is awe-inspiring to be named a Lamar Distinguished Alumnus and to be in the company of Don Lyle and Madelyn Hunt. They represent the best and the most powerful statements of 'Infinite Possibilities' created by our great university and embodied in the fervor and passion of its alumni. Saying that I am extremely honored by this recognition does not adequately convey how humbled I feel and proud I am to be a part of Lamar University and all it stands for.

”

BART SIMMONS

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 or call (409) 880-8421.

Retired Brig. Gen. Jack Martin, former Lamar University head basketball coach, was inducted into the Hardin-Simmons University Hall of Leaders. He was head coach at Lamar University for more than 25 years.

40s

Betty (Higginbotham) Petty '46, A.A. general studies, earned a bachelor's degree from Texas Women's University in 1947 and a master's degree from University of Houston in 1959. She is retired and lives in Houston.

50s

Joe LaBorde '53, B.S. chemical engineering, gave his wife a P.H.T. (Putting Hubby Through) diploma when he received his degree. In the 1950s, this was a tradition in the engineering department.

Janie (Findley) Lunceford '55, B.S. education, is a paralegal at Zbrank Law Firm P.C. in Liberty.

Kenneth Furlow '56, B.B.A. general business, was honored for his 50 years of service as a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Georgianna (Teel) Stripling '56, B.S. home economics, '66, M.Ed. elementary education, and husband, Tom, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with their children and families.

John Prejean '58, B.B.A. marketing, is principal at RPMs in Houston, where he lives.

Northeast Texas Community College baseball honored the late Robert Baker Sr. '59, B.B.A. accounting, by naming the baseball stadium in his honor.

Cyrus Northrop '59, B.B.A. general business, attended Lamar on a golf scholarship and played on the N.A.I.A. championship teams of 1956, 1957 and 1958. He later earned a law degree from the University of Tulsa. He is retired and lives on a golf course in Broken Arrow, Okla., with his wife, Billie.

60s

Ralph Fournier '60, B.S. chemical engineering, and his wife, JoAnn, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 21 with a trip to Playa del Carmen, Mexico, with their children and grandchildren. Ralph is retired

from Temple-Inland.

Kenneth Hatch '60, B.S. social science, is pianist at First Church of God in Port Arthur.

Joe Hester '60, B.S. health and physical education, '64, M.E., coaches in the Cleveland school district. He lives in Livingston with his wife, Barbara (Veillon) '73, B.S. elementary education.

Barbara (Smith) Pringle '60, B.B.A. accounting, is an accountant for Busby Construction in Dayton.

Gerald Duff '61, B.A. English, earned his master's degree from the University of Arkansas and doctorate from the University of Illinois. His collection of short stories, *Fire Ants*, from NewSouth Books, was named a finalist by the Texas Institute of Letters for the Jesse H. Jones Award for the best book of fiction published in 2007. He has published six novels, two collections of poetry, and three non-fiction works since graduating from Lamar.

Johnny Johnston '61, B.B.A. general business, and his wife, Mary, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a family dinner and trip. He is a former basketball player for Lamar (1959-1961) and Hall of Honor inductee. He earned his master's degree from Stephen F. Austin University and spent 33 years in public education as a teacher/coach, high school principal and school superintendent. They have a daughter, Micki Scoggins, and sons, Alan and Kyle.

LeRoy Broxsen '62, B.S. health and physical education, lives in Puyallup, Wash., with his wife Marilyn. He was considered legally blind during his student and teaching career. In 1995, corrective surgery enabled him to see with one eye, and he can now drive.

Joseph Chenella '62, B.A. mathematics, '63, B.S. secondary education, was honored as 2008 Person of the Year by the Penny Record. The award is given annually on the anniversary edition of the publication for outstanding service. He was recognized as "a pillar among his peers" in the building of the Bridge City school district where he has worked for 45 years. He and his wife, Nancy (Becker) '70, B.F.A. graphic design, '76, M.Ed. counseling and development, have a daughter, Meredith.

Marcia Gillen '62, B.A. sociology, earned a

master's degree from Tulane University in 1967, later retired and now is a certified Texas master gardener living in Dallas.

Walter D. Heldenfels Jr. '62, certif. diesel mechanics, is field superintendent for T-C Oil Co. and lives in Rockport with his wife, Trish.

Ray Coleman Jr. '63, B.S. biology, is owner of Coleman Appraisal Team and lives in The Woodlands.

Thomas Cunningham III '63, B.B.A. accounting, is a Certified Public Accountant and serves on the board of directors and audit committees of Encore Wire Corp., Healthaxis Inc. and Equity Bank in Dallas. He also owns Cunningham Philatelics, dealing in stamps and covers for collectors. He lives in Plano.

Ruth McKinley '63, B.S. music-instrumental, '68, M.Ed. elementary education, and her husband, Gay, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 4. Ruth worked in the South Park school district and retired from Beaumont school district after 29 years as a teacher. Gay retired from a 39-year career with Mobil Chemical and Valspar.

Benjamin Bythewood '64, B.B.A. management, '01 M.Ed. counseling and development, is employer relations manager and career counselor at Lamar University. He lives in Silsbee with his wife, Debra. Their son, Benjamin, was elected mayor of Woodville, and Benjamin III is a student at Lamar University.

Robert W. Guilbeau '64, A.A.S. air conditioning and refrigeration, owns Alamo Cooling in Beaumont and lives in Orange.

Don Hough '65, B.M. music education, recently was a featured soloist at the Silsbee High School spring concert. He earned his master's degree from the University of Tennessee and has been the principal trombonist for the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra for 30 years. He founded the UT trombone chair and the award-winning jazz student trombone group Tennessee Trombonery, which was named the National Jazz Trombone Ensemble in 2003.

Connie (Martin) Atmar '66, B.B.A. accounting, '98, M.Ed. special education, is special programs director with the Evadale school district.

Audrie Hall '66, B.S. biology, is instructor emeritus at Central Texas College and lives in Harker Heights with his wife, Syble.

Joyce (Thiery) Philen '66, B.S. commercial art, won top honors in the 2007 Piney Woods Artist competition.

Rouel F. Rothenberger Jr. '66, B.S. secondary education, was honored by the Azle Masonic Lodge with their Community Builder Award. He retired as principal of the Azle High School in 1998. He has been married to Cheryl (Cook) '66, B.S. elementary education, for 41 years. They have two sons and

five grandchildren and live in Azle.

Dr. Samuel Low '67, B.S. biology, earned his medical degree in dentistry from the University of Texas medical school in 1975 and a master's degree in education from the University of Florida in 1980. He is associate dean of dentistry at the University of Florida in Gainesville, where he lives.

The works of John Alexander '68, B.S. commercial art, were exhibited at the Museum of Fine Arts and the McClain Gallery in Houston.

Lynda (Dixon) Fleming '68, B.A. English, earned her master's degree in education and is lead counselor at Sterling High School in Baytown. She lives in Old River-Winfree.

Dianne Popkin '68, B.S. mechanical engineering, has been named vice president of Halff Associates Inc. She lives in Dallas with her husband, Gary '67, B.S. chemistry, '75, B.S. mechanical engineering.

Mary (Moore) Suhm '68, B.S. secondary education, spoke to the Commercial Real Estate Women of Dallas about the major commercial real estate issues facing Dallas and other issues concerning development in Dallas. She is the Dallas city manager. She earned her master's degree in business administration and library science from the University of North Texas and has held positions in the city government 10 years. Prior to joining the city, she was director of the Allen Public Library and taught high school biology in the Allen and Carrollton school districts.

Patti (Whitmire) Carlton '69, B.S. elementary education, '70, M.E. elementary education, retired after a 40-year career in Texas higher education. She is recognized as a pioneer and leader in the field of continuing education at Texas colleges and universities. She lives in Houston with her husband, Mark, who is an administrator at M.D. Anderson hospital.

Glen Edgerly '69, B.B.A. marketing, vice president of sales for Emerson Process Management, is on international assignment in Moscow and planning to retire the end of this year.

Willie Hayes Jr. '69, B.S. secondary education, '81, M.Ed. educational leadership, is serving as provisional interim superintendent in the Vidor school district. He has been with the district 38 years as a teacher, coach and longtime principal at Pine Forest Elementary.

Sharlet Patrick '69, B.F.A. graphic design, is an adjunct professor at Lonestar College in Cypress, where she lives with her husband, Charles.

70s

Reidar Hansen '70, B.S. sociology, earned a master's degree in social work from Louisiana State University in 1980 and worked in Texas child protective services and for the Beaumont Neurological Center. He

retired in 2004 from the ConocoPhillips employee assistance program and is currently president of Vero Team Dynamics charter sailing in St. Thomas. He and his wife, Nita, live in Denver.

Robert Johnson '70, B.S. civil engineering, was named shareholder of Klotz Associates Inc., an engineering consulting firm in Houston. His expertise is in environmental projects.

John Paulsen '70, A.A.S. business data processing, is owner and president of LEDS, L.L.C. in Castle Rock, Colo., where he lives with his wife, Kathie.

Debby (Ladner) Pellow '70, B.S. elementary education, retired from Cypress-Fairbanks school district after a 30-year career. She was named Spot Light Teacher in 2001. She plans to spend more time with Agape Love Ministries, a home for young men in transition. She lives in Houston with her husband, Rick.

Gail Runyon '70, B.A. English, '76 M.Ed. counseling and development, teaches English in the Beaumont school district, where she lives.

Gwendolyn (King) Butler '71, B.S. communication disorders, was the recipient of the 2008 Juneteenth Made A Difference Award. Gwendolyn retired from the Beaumont school district after a 40-year career teaching deaf and hearing-impaired students and general classes.

Ronald E. Hall '71, B.A. English, '79, B.S. computer science, is a software engineer in IT support with KFOR in Kosovo.

Tom Newton '71, B.S. electrical engineering, works as an instrumented range engineer with the Army's Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation in Winter Springs, Fla. He has written a book of poetry, *The Conservative Rebellion*, a sonnet sequence of 64 sonnets on the history of technology along with conservative political sonnets.

Jim Noone '71, B.S. sociology, '01 M.Ed. educational leadership, is a teacher in the Brazosport school district. His wife, Rebecca (Queen) '99, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '06, M.E. special education, also teaches in the district. They live in Lake Jackson.

Janis (Newby) Parham '71, B.S. criminal justice, was chosen as a presenter for the 2008 American Educational Research Association. Her work, "Moonlighting: An Unfortunate Reality for Many Public School Teachers" was chosen from more than 12,000 presentations. She and her husband, Howard '87, B.S. criminal justice, live in Round Rock.

The North Texas Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration has named Ron Whitehead '71, B.S. government, North Texas Public Administrator of the Year. He is the city manager of Addison.

Lark (Wiltshire) Bernini '72, B.S. secondary

education, was one of the producers of the new movie *Sex and the City*.

Mike De Nero '72, B.B.A. marketing, is president of California Sensations Inc. and lives in Moreno Valley, Calif.

Jane (Carlsen) Short '72, B.S. mathematics, is the mathematics department chair in the Royal school district. She lives in Brookshire.

Roger Wood '72, B.S. electrical engineering, earned his graduate degrees in electrical engineering and business at the University of Texas and is manager of the facilities technology center at Freescale Semiconductor in Austin, where he lives.

Brenda (Arrendondo) Badger '73, B.S. elementary education, has retired from a 34-year teaching career and was named teacher of the year. She spent 30 years teaching kindergarten in the Port Arthur school district.

Doye Cox '73, B.S. environmental science, has been named vice president of Barge Waggoner Sumner and Cannon Inc. He earned his master's degree from Clemson University, is a registered professional engineer in Tennessee and Alabama and is a certified hazardous material manager.

Emrick Jagneaux '73, B.S. health and physical education, is head varsity baseball coach at Deer Park high school. He is a 34-year veteran in coaching high school and college baseball with numerous championships and coach of the year honors. While at Lamar, he led the baseball team in home runs during his senior year.

Angela (Thurman) Kelley '73, B.S. elementary education, earned a master's degree in education from the University of Houston and lives in Cleveland.

Carola (Jones) Mann '73, B.A. sociology, is a sanitarian for Rosenberg and lives in Richmond.

Sandra (Foshee) Suire '73, B.S. elementary education, is programming coordinator for Beauregard Parish Library in DeRidder, La., where she lives.

Gerald Bourque '74, B.A. government, earned a law degree and is practicing in The Woodlands, where he lives with his wife Marilyn (Morgan) '73, B.S. home economics, '75, counseling and development. Marilyn is guidance counselor at Deretchin Elementary in The Woodlands.

John Nilsson '74, B.S. mathematics, is a senior project manager for Computer Sciences Corp. in El Segundo, Calif. He lives in Galveston.

Ronnie Black '75, B.S. health and physical education, has returned to professional golf and has made four out of four cuts on the Champions Tour, including a tie for 16th in the Senior British Open. He is director of instruction at Omni Tucson National Resort in Tucson, Ariz., where he lives with his wife, Sandy.

PIKES REUNITE

The Epsilon Kappa Chapter of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity celebrated its 50th anniversary Aug. 8-9, 2008. Pikes and their guests reminisced over 50 years of memories during the "Remember When . . ." social before the "Pike Jam" concert featuring EK Pike Alumni at Antone's Blues Club in the Crockett Street Entertainment District of downtown Beaumont. On Saturday, Pikes gathered for a luncheon and campus tour before their meeting and wrapped up the reunion with the brotherhood banquet and dance at the MCM Elegante Hotel.



Charlie '78 and Louann Eldemire



Brent Bihm '88, John Gavrelos '85, Lowell Rogers



Linda Guillory '76, left, with Pat (Peterson) '61 and Mike Aldredge '65



Heather (Griffin) '93 and Jeff Kilgore '92, left, and Stephanie Floury

Ernest Dunlap III '75, A.A.S. industrial electronics, is principal engineer at Coca-Cola in Houston where he lives with his wife, Janet (Defrates) '76, B.S. medical technology.

Frank Davis '76, B.A. sociology, is self-employed as a private fund manager and lives in Leesburg, Fla.

Bobbie (Scott) George '76, B.S. elementary education, and her husband, Vernis, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary July 5. Bobbie is a retired Beaumont teacher, and Vernis retired from Mobil.

Susan (Horn) Montagne '76, B.S. secondary education, was named campus teacher of the year at Little Cypress Elementary School.

Tom Noyola '76, B.S. criminal justice, '05, M.S. applied criminology, has been selected to join Educational Leadership Doctoral Cohort 5. He is LEP coordinator at Lamar Institute of Technology.

Tom Gallier '77, B.S. secondary education,

'83, M.P.A. public administration, is general manager of El Dorado Irrigation District in California.

Isabel Nart '77, B.S. psychology, attended a recent meeting in Austin in the first attempt in six years to revive the Texas Student Association. She joined the students to share her experiences as a vice president of the Texas Student Association during the 1970s at Lamar during the era of student activism, tackling issues such as the Vietnam War, voting rights and providing special desks for left-handed students, considered frivolous at the time. She now manages institutional giving for Theatre Under the Stars in Houston.

Gerard Parigi '77, B.B.A. finance, received a Faithful Steward Award from Bishop Guillory on June 8 at St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica Center in Beaumont.

Nancy (Garrett) Smithy '77, B.B.A. office administration, works at Byrd, Smithy Associates as an administrative assistant. Her

husband, **John** '75, B.A. sociology, '78, B.B.A. accounting, is a partner at Byrd, Smithy Associates.

Terry Fontenot '78, B.S. nursing, earned a master's degree in business from Amber University and has been named chief executive officer of the new Texas Regional Medical Center at Sunnyvale, Texas.

Dr. Erich Garland '78, B.S. chemistry, is a physician and lives in Idaho Falls, Idaho, with his wife, Jan.

Suzanne (Dilbert) Miller '78, A.A.S. business data processing, works a technology help desk for the Little Cypress-Mauriceville school district in Orange, where she lives with her husband, Toney.

Martha (Dominguez) Morgan '78, B.A. Spanish, has been a teacher in Port Neches-Groves school district for 26 years. She lives in Groves with her husband, Paul. Their son, William Jr. '03, B.B.A. finance, and daughter, Emily, are Lamar Cardinals.

Ray Agah '79, B.S. industrial engineering, is vice president of engineering at Save Mart supermarkets in Modesto, Calif., where he lives with his wife of 32 years, Jinger.

John Barras '79, B.S. health education, has been teaching and coaching for 28 years in the Rio Grande City school district and also coaches Special Olympics.

Stephen Jennings '79, B.S. government, is director of consulting and owner of Natural Pro Ltd. He lives in West Toluca Lake, Calif.

Jolene Ortego '79, M.Ed. educational leadership, serves on the board of directors of the Press Club of Southeast Texas for 2008. She is executive director of communications for the Beaumont school district.

Nary Spears '79, B.A. sociology, was appointed to the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners by Gov. Rick Perry. She is a licensed master social worker at Ben Taub General Hospital, a member of the National Association of Social Workers and the University of Houston Clear Lake Social Work Advisory Board, and an American Red Cross volunteer.

Michael Turpin '79, B.S. music, earned master's degree in music in 1981 and a doctorate in educational human resources development from Texas A&M in 2004. He also earned a Texas Education Association Professional Counselor certification in 1993 and was selected as Counselor of the Year by the Piney Woods Counseling Association. He is dean of institutional planning and director of student services at Kilgore Junior College. He and his wife, **Terry (Swann)** '77, B.A. history, live in Longview.

Nancy (Heckaman) Washington '79, B.S. industrial technology, owns Classic Forms and Products in Beaumont.

80s

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

Linda (Raborn) Carroll '80, A.A.S. nursing, teaches vocational nursing at Lamar State College in Orange, where she lives with her husband, John '72, B.B.A. general business.

Angie (Romano) Cook '80, B.S. elementary education, '83, M.Ed. educational leadership, is a reading literacy coach in the Beaumont school district. She lives in Beaumont.

Thomas Evans '80, B.S. industrial technology, works at Barrios Technology. He lives in Alvin.

Tommy Fain '80, B.M. music, earned a master's degree and a doctorate from Texas A&M University-Commerce and is lead band director of the seventh- and eighth-grade bands in the Lake Dallas school district. He lives in Plano.

Susan Garrett '80, B.S. mass communication, '80 B.S. home economics, is owner of Cryptic Treasure in Huntsville.

Patricia Kruszewski '80, M.P.A. public administration, is managing editor at The Henrico Citizen in Richmond, Va., and was named Henrico Business Leader of the Year at the Henrico Awards Gala in Glen Allen, Va. She has earned more than 50 awards for news writing and photography from the National Federation of Press Women, Virginia Press Association and Virginia Press Women, including 11 awards this year.

Susan (Jurik) Meitzen '80, B.S. elementary education, is program supervisor at the Texas Workforce Commission and lives in Beaumont.

Mary (Gilchrist) Morgan '80, B.S. elementary education, and her husband, Willie, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 7 with a reception organized by their three daughters. They plan an Alaskan cruise.

Betty (Bryan) Richey '80, B.S. elementary education, teaches in the Beaumont school district and lives in Beaumont with her husband, **William** '87, M.B.A. business administration.

Marilyn (Arline) Smith '80, B.S.W. social work, is executive director of the Southeast Texas Workforce Development Board.

Tadarell Woods '79, A.A.S. industrial technology, '80 B.S. industrial technology, is an analyzer technician at OXY Vinyls in LaPorte.

Patrick Wright '80, B.G.S. general studies, '84, M.A. English, former faculty member, has been hired as a professor of English at Yeungnam University in Gyeongsan, South Korea.

Karen (Marcontelli) Agnew '81, certif. office administration, is an AFLAC agent in Lumberton, where she lives.

Fran Bledsoe '81, B.S. elementary education, '91, M.Ed. educational leadership, is principal in West Hardin school district. She lives in Sour Lake with her husband, Tom.

Brad Brown '81, B.B.A. accounting, and Steve Forman were named 2008 Newsmakers of the Year by the Press Club of Southeast Texas for their efforts in securing legislation requiring seat belts on school buses after their daughters were in a tragic bus crash.

Teera Buapradabkul '81, M.E. civil engineering, is a director at Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick Thailand Ltd. in Thailand.

Nancy (Langston) Conway '81, B.B.A. accounting, is controller at the Lower Neches Valley Authority in Beaumont, where she lives.

Winston Guillory '81, B.B.A. marketing, has been appointed to the board of directors of Immersive Media Corp.

Manop Rachatasumrit '81, M.E. industrial engineering, is managing director at ATS Electronics Co. Ltd. in Lumlukka Pathumthani, Thailand, where he lives with his wife, Amornrut.

Faith Shoemaker '81, B.B.A. office administration, is a certified approved OSHA trainer and teaches in the Windham School District for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. She lives in Nederland.

Susan Conn '82, B.S. elementary education, is a court-appointed special advocate. She is employed by Trinity United Methodist Church. She lives in Beaumont.

Georgia (Feagin) Drake '82, certif. vocational nursing, is retired and lives in Silsbee where she and her husband of 22 years, Bobby, own B and G Contract Pumping Service.

Mary Pat (Bleuel) Jones '82, B.B.A. accounting, is state director for the Southeast Texas chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants for 2008-09 and is employed by Lawrence, Blackburn, Meek, Maxey and Co.

Gary Rothenberger Jr. '82, B.B.A. accounting, is a director for the Southeast Texas chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants for 2008-09 and is employed by Calvary Baptist Church in Beaumont.

Stacy (Sheppard) Arnold '83, B.S. elementary education, '85, M.Ed. elementary education, has been named director of special programs for the Port Neches-Groves school district and was recently named District 5 TEP-SAN of the Year for the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association. She lives in Port Neches with her husband, Joe, and sons, Jared and Kellen.

Michael J. Converso '83, B.S. sociology, is sales manager for Coca-Cola and lives in Mohegan Lake, N.Y., with his wife, Jessie, and son, Jason Michael.

Gay (Petry) Fontenot '83, certif. vocational nursing, works at Christus-St. Elizabeth Hospital.

Mary Alice (Kibodeaux) Griffin '83, B.S. communication, owns and operates Proforma Promotional Products Etcetera in China, Texas, where she lives.

David Hylan Jr. '83, B.S. deaf education, '84, M.S. deaf studies, is executive director at Deaf Action Center of Louisiana.

Hasan Kedwaili '83, B.S. computer science, is director of Northern Natural Gas in Omaha, Neb., where he lives.

Jay Schwartz '83, B.S. industrial engineering, is a financial advisor for Edward Jones in Lufkin, where he lives.

Sheree (Eaves) Shatto '83, A.A.S. drafting technology, is project manager at Square D Schneider Electric and lives in Klamath Falls, Ore.

Naomi Arabie '84, B.S. elementary education, was chosen as Educator of the Year by the Bolivar Peninsula Chamber of Commerce. She lives in High Island.

Katherine (Day) Chapman '84, A.A.S. radiologic technology, is a radiologic technologist at Heart Hospital of Austin. She lives in Leander.

Mark Choate '84, B.B.A. personnel administration, was appointed to a three-year term on the board of the Renaissance Hospital Scholarship Foundation. He owns Home Care Elite in Nederland.

Stephanie (Ireland) Gray '84, B.S. communication, has been teaching English for 23 years at La Feria High School, where both her father and mother taught.

Sheila (Rhoden) Guillot '84, B.B.A. office administration, '90, M.Ed. secondary education, was awarded \$500 and the Faculty Teaching Excellence award from Lamar State College-Port Arthur.

Donna (Brownlee) Haynes '84, A.A.S. nursing, is a nurse for Texas Total Care and lives in Buna. Her eldest daughter graduated from Texas Woman's University summa cum laude and works at Lamar University.

Louis Hernandez '84, B.B.A. general business, and wife, Bernadene (Duhon) '89, B.S. communication, were among 13 small business owners honored by the Golden Triangle Service Corps of Retired Executives for their successful small businesses. They operate Hernandez Office Supply Inc. in Nederland, where they live.

David Larned '84, B.S. psychology, '84, B.S. biology is staff psychiatrist at The Burke Center in Lufkin, where he lives.

Candace (Cribbs) LeMasters '84, B.A. history, '85, English, teaches at West Brook High School. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, **Claude** '84, B.S. chemical engineering. Claude is an attorney at Jenkins and Martin L.L.P.

Jack Newman '84, B.B.A. marketing, is general manager of sales for Time Warner Cable in San Diego, Calif., where he lives.

Billie (Hooper) Potts '84, B.S. secondary education, '89, M.Ed. counseling and development, is executive director for the Association for Student Judicial Affairs in College Station. She and her husband, **Joe** '96, M.B.A. business administration, live in Bryan.

Marilyn Tennissen '84, B.A. English, serves on the board of directors of the Press Club of Southeast Texas for 2008. She is editor of the Southeast Texas Record.

Gerald White '84, B.S. political science, is regional sales director for AstraZeneca in Coto De Caza, Calif., where he lives with his wife, Aliena.

Pat Wilson '84, B.S. industrial engineering, is an agent for State Farm and lives in Nederland with his wife, Lisa.

Richard Burke '85, B.B.A. personnel administration, is a financial analyst for the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Minneapolis, Minn.

Juliana (Anzell) Jennings '85, B.S. graphic design, is art manager for Helena Laboratories and lives in Beaumont with her husband, **Scott**, '82, A.A.S. drafting technology.

Rhonda (Greer) Sanderson '82, A.S. law enforcement, '85, B.S. criminal justice, is court coordinator for the 317th Court in Jefferson County and lives in Nederland with her husband, **Judge Gary Sanderson** '67, B.S. government, of the 60th district court in Jefferson County.

Sherri (Weathers) Shoefstall '85, B.S. elementary education, '03, M.S. community psychology, '07, Ed.D. educational leadership, is director of student advising and retention services (STARS) at Lamar University. She lives in Nederland with her husband, **Stewart** '85, B.S. mechanical engineering, who is district manager at Flowserve.

Ruth (Weeks) Todd '85, B.M. music, and daughter, Heide, have portraits displayed in state competition sponsored by the Texas Professional Photography Association convention in Kerrville. Heide is a scholarship recipient at Lamar.

Mary Anderson '86, B.B.A. marketing, is regional sales manager for AT&T in Bellaire.

Diana (Taylor) Hornbuckle '86, B.B.A. accounting, is accounting manager at LaFamilia in Santa Fe, N.M., where she lives with her husband, Robert.

Sibyl (Joseph) Johnson '86, A.A.S. mid-management, teaches at Avance Headstart in Houston.

Angelia Joseph '86, B.S. elementary education, is a language arts department head in the Beaumont school district. She lives in Port Arthur.

Danny Lauve '86, B.S. health and kinesiology, is athletic director and head football coach in the Elgin school district, where he lives with his wife, Darlene.

David O'Brien '86, B.M. music education, is key account sales manager for LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, Tenn.

Levi Williams III '86, A.S. criminal justice, '86, B.S. criminal justice, earned his master's degree in education at Texas Southern University and teaches special education in the Dallas school district.

Lisa (Whitten) Brasseaux '87, B.S. secondary education, was named campus teacher of the year at Mauriceville Middle School.

Stacey (Skidmore) Brister '87, elementary education, is director of secondary curriculum and instruction in the Little Cypress-Mauriceville school district.

Russell Chimeno '87, B.B.A. accounting, is president of the Southeast Texas chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants for 2008-09 and is employed by Mehaffy & Weber PC.

Donna Emenhiser '87, B.B.A. general business pre-law, is an attorney with Waltman & Grisham law firm in College Station.

Helen Tangires '87, M.B.A. business administration, holds a Ph.D. in American studies from George Washington University and has published her second book, *Public Markets*, a Norton/Library of Congress visual sourcebook. She is also the administrator of the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

Tracy Eubanks Anderson '88, B.A. Spanish, teaches in Vidor school district, where she lives with her husband, **Bobby** '94, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, who is a Beaumont police officer.

Melanie Dishman '88, B.S. speech, has served as president of the Press Club of Southeast Texas for 2008. She is station manager for advancement at KVLU public radio and lives in Beaumont.

Donna Gober '88, B.S. elementary education, '08, Ed. D. educational leadership, is an instructor in the Department of Wellness at Southern Methodist University after teaching eight years in the Department of Health and Kinesiology at Lamar University.

Sheri (Stockton) Harden '88, B.B.A. accounting, lives in Dallas with her husband, **Rolfe** '88, B.B.A. management, who is a financial advisor for Wachovia Securities L.L.C.

Jane Richardson '88, B.M. music education, '94, M.M. music education, is a choir director in Socorro school district. She was campus teacher of the year and finalist for district teacher of the year.

Tammy Roy '88, B.S. elementary education, '95, M.Ed. counseling and development, was named principal at Read-Turrentine Elementary in the Silsbee school district.

The daughter of **Shelley (Williams) Deaver** '89, B.S. computer science, and **Chet** '92, B.S. sociology, was named Miss Kountze. Lauren Elizabeth Deaver was crowned April 19.

Blaine G. Dugas '89, B.S. industrial engineering, is an electronic technician for the U. S. Postal Service and lives in Beaumont.

Cynthia (Drake) Hunt '89, B.S. elementary education, '99, M.Ed. school administration, is director of special services in the Silsbee school district. She lives in Silsbee with her husband, **Lawrence** '73, B.B.A. general business, who is retired from DuPont.

Sharon (Baker) Oliver '89, B.S. elementary education, was among 10 Beaumont elementary school teachers chosen to attend the Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy. There were 600 participants from around the country.

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Dianne (Hurt) Aubey '90, B.S. home economics, '97, M.S. family and consumer sciences, is retired and back in Texas after living in South Carolina since Hurricane Rita. She lives in Sugar Land.

Scott Deppe '90, M.Ed. music, is director of bands at Lamar University. He has a 22-year career directing bands and will direct the Wind Ensemble and Concert Band and oversees jazz and pep bands, along with recruiting musicians for a marching band.

Cynthia (Tucker) Dixon '90, A.A.S. nursing, is a nurse for Texas Home Health and lives in Buna with her husband, Kim.

Charles Hobbs '90, B.S. kinesiology, '92, M.S. kinesiology, teaches and coaches junior varsity basketball in the LaPorte school district where he lives with his wife, **Anastasia (Arceneaux)** '89, B.S. communication disorders, '91, M.S. audiology/speech-language pathology.

Allison (Wiseman) Pierce '90, B.S. elementary education, was sworn in as a court appointed special advocate. She lives in Beaumont.

Kevin Terrier '90, B.S. kinesiology, was named the Beaumont Enterprise Coach of the Year on the Super Gold Baseball team. He coaches in Buna.

Kevin Arey '91, B.S. psychology, is joining a new Cypress Ranch High School coaching staff as an assistant football coach and head wrestling coach. He is in his 10th year of teaching and coaching. He spent four years in the Alief district, moved to Cy-Fair district and helped open Spillane in 2005.

Charles Davis '91, B.S. electrical engineering, is maintenance manager at LCY Elastomers in Baytown.

Michele McKinley '91, B.S. secondary education, is director of special education for the Connally school district in Waco where she lives.

Michael Chie '92, M.E. civil engineering, is senior cost schedule analyst for Jacobs Engineering in San Carlos, Calif.

James Dungan Jr. '92, A.A.S. instrumentation technology, '94, B.S. industrial engineering, designed an amplifier built with vacuum tubes and published an article in the national magazine, Audio Express.

Dana (Roby) Grooms '92, B.S. fashion retailing, is a stay-at-home mom with two boys, ages 4 1/2 and 1 1/2. She and her husband, Robert, live in Pearland.

Curtis Murray '92, A.A.S. computer drafting, is project manager for DCS. He lives in Woodville with his wife, Kimberly.

Ken Pepper '92, B.S. chemical engineering, '99 M.E.S. engineering science, is process engineering manager for CB&I in Beaumont.

Angela (Wilson) Reeves '92, B.S. communication, is program manager of work force development at Lamar State College-Orange and was awarded a \$1.5 million grant from the Department of Labor to train 450 students in welding in Orange, where she lives.

David Slaughter '92, B.S. communication, is a city council member for Ward 6 in Vidor.

Ben Smith '92, is vice president of the financial services division of SouthWest Water Co. and has been nominated to serve a two-year term as a member of the board of directors for the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce.

Tony Thibodeaux '90, A.A.S. computer drafting technology, '92, B.S. industrial technology, is account manager at Scallon Controls. He lives in Port Arthur, with his wife, Fawn.

Laura (Cavaretta) Williams '92, B.B.A. accounting, is chief financial officer and fiscal officer of the Diocese of Beaumont.

Cheryl (Thomas) Wright '92, B.B.A. finance, is treasurer for the city of College Station. She lives in Bryan with her husband, Matthew, and their two children.

Jill Borque '93, B.B.A. office administration, works at Stewart Title as title examiner and lives in Beaumont.

Chip Bunch '93, B.B.A. accounting and **Mitchell Sarver** '94, A.A.S. process operating technology, were among coaches for the 11- and 12-year-old Tigers who won the Vidor Little League Major League Championship.

Robert Campbell Jr. '93, B.B.A. accounting, is a director for the Southeast Texas chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants for 2008-09 and is employed by Cavett, Turner & Wyble L.L.P.

William Decker '93, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, teaches eighth-grade math and algebra at C.O. Wilson Middle School in Nederland and was selected to be one of 200 teachers out of 4,000 applicants worldwide to attend the Space Academy for Educators in Huntsville, Ala. He received astronaut training, participated in simulated missions

and brought what he learned back to his classroom and students. As a result of this honor, he became one of 250 semi-finalists in Texas for the HEB Educator Excellence award. He was also named Secondary Teacher of the Year for the Nederland school district.

Troy Dominique '93, B.B.A. accounting, is a director for the Southeast Texas chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants for 2008-09 and is employed by Wathen, DeShong & Juncker L.L.P.

David Johnson '93, B.M. music, was named campus teacher of the year at Little Cypress Junior High School. He was also named secondary district teacher of the year.

Larry Rideaux '93, B.S. psychology, is associate vice chancellor for student success with the Lone Star College System, the third-largest community college system in Texas. He earned his master's degree from Prairie View A&M University and his doctorate of education from the University of Texas.

Dr. Anthony Sutton '93, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, earned his medical degree from the University of Texas medical school. He is a director with Holman and lives in Missouri City.

Mark Willis '93, B.S. chemical engineering, is a senior process engineer at ExxonMobil in Beaumont. He lives in Vinton, La., with his wife, Amy.

Scott Ayres '94, B.S. civil engineering, has been appointed interim area engineer for the Port Arthur area. He and his wife, Allison '97, B.B.A. office administration, have two children.

Sachin Nijhawan '94, M.E.S. engineering science, is marketing manager at GE Energy in Houston, where he lives.

Todd Simoneaux '94, B.B.A. general business, '99 B.B.A. accounting, is past president and state director for the Southeast Texas chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants for 2008-09 and is employed by the city of Beaumont.

Rhonda Booker '95, A.A.S. process operating, works at DuPont in Orange, where she lives.

Joe Bryant '95, B.G.S. general studies, is a computer technician with the Beaumont school district where he lives with his wife, Shelia.

Joan Diamond '95, A.A.S. nursing, works at California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco.

Jackie (Verde) Dupuy '95, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, was named new director of workforce training and corporate development at Lamar Institute of Technology. She lives in Beaumont.

Kurt Gore '95, B.S. sociology, earned his doctorate in sociology and is an evaluation analyst for Austin school district. He lives in Austin with his wife, **Jennifer Massie-Gore** '98, B.S. civil engineering.

Pollie (Kuehn) Holtham '95, B.S. chemistry, was appointed technical director of the environmental services division of the Sabine River Authority of Texas. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Michael.

Brook (Bowlin) Hughes '95, B.S. communication disorders, '97, M.S. deaf studies habilitation, teaches fifth grade at Carrollton Christian Academy in Carrollton.

Alana Mantie-Kozlowski '95, M.S. audiology, has earned a Ph.D. in applied language and speech science from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Rhonda (Stone) Oszczakiewicz '95, B.S. nursing, is a nurse practitioner for ACTS in Beaumont. She lives in Orange with her husband, **Dr. Mike Oszczakiewicz** '79, B.S. biology, who is a physician.

Kristi (England) Abshire '96, B.B.A. management, teaches in the West Orange Cove school district and lives in Port Arthur with her husband, **Jamie** '96, B.B.A. accounting, and their two daughters, Tristan and Lanie.

Katy Dupree '96, B.S.W. social work, '98, M.Ed. counseling and development, is a social worker at Pine Ridge Health Care in Livingston, where she lives.

Benny Soileau '96, B.S. criminal justice, '00, M.Ed. educational leadership, earned his doctorate from Texas A&M in 2006, is principal at Nederland High School and was awarded Region 5 High School Principal of the Year for 2008-09. He lives in Nederland with his wife, **Angie** '02, B.S. interdisciplinary studies.

Michelle White '96, B.M. instrumental music, has earned a master's degree in organization and management with a specialization in human resources management from Capella University.

Harold Whitfield '96, B.S. psychology, '99, M.E. counseling and development, published his first research article in the Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin April 2008 issue. The article was entitled "American Indians/Native Alaskans with traumatic brain injury: Examining the impairments of traumatic brain injury, disparities in service provision, and employment outcomes." He lives in Beaumont.

Laurie DeCuir '97, B.B.A. marketing, is a certified financial planner at Merrill Lynch and lives in Lumberton.

Patrick Harnetty '97, B.S. mechanical engineering, has been named the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Early Career Mechanical Engineer of the Year. He is global pricing manager for the performance chemicals intermediates plasticizer business at Eastman Chemical Co.

Danielle (Olivier) Jackson '97, B.A. political science, M.A. English, teaches in the Broken Arrow public schools in Broken Arrow, Okla.

Charlotte Jungen '97, B.B.A. accounting, is president-elect of the Southeast Texas chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants for 2008-09 and is employed by Edgar, Kiker & Cross P.C.

Quincy Martin III '97, B.M. music, '04, M.Ed. counseling and leadership, is dean of students at Triton College in Chicago, Ill.

Nathan Moye '97, B.S. political science, teaches and coaches in the Warren school district, where he lives.

Jeffery Collum '98, B.S. kinesiology, is the new director of student services in the Tyler school district. He earned his graduate degree in education from Stephen F. Austin University in 2003 and has 10 years of education experience ranging from teacher to high school principal.

Jamie Larson '98, B.B.A. accounting, is a director for the Southeast Texas chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants for 2008-09 and is employed by Petrotex Fuels.

Stacy (Lane) Palmer '98, B.S. communication, is a human resource generalist for Oce' Business Services in Irving.

Richard Tallens '98, B.S. computer and information science, is a project scientist for ERM Southwest Inc. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, **Delanea** '03, B.S. family and consumer sciences. She is an interior designer.

Eugenie (Jacobs) Anderson '99, B.S. nursing, is a nurse practitioner at Women's Center of Beaumont. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, **Dr. Douglas Anderson**.

Drek Guidry '99, B.B.A. marketing, is a district sales manager for Glaxo Smith Kline Pharmaceuticals. He lives in Shreveport, La., with his wife, **Jill**, and two children.

Tish Hope '99, B.S. criminal justice, works at Apache Corp. and lives in Houston.

Todd Loupe '99, B.S. psychology, '06 M.Ed. educational leadership, is principal of Mauriceville Middle School in the Little Cypress-Mauriceville school district.

Carmel (Reeves) Myers '99, B.B.A. accounting, is vice president of the Southeast Texas chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants for 2008-09 and is employed by Brock Enterprises.

Teresa (Hodge) Parker '99, B.S. political science, was named Vidor Junior High teacher of the year.

Galen Stutes '99, B.S. chemical engineering, works as a senior design engineer at Richard Design Services and lives in Beaumont.

Amy Tran '99, B.S. nursing, works at Century City Doctors Hospital in Los Angeles, Calif., where she lives.

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Tamira Augustine '00, B.B.A. management information systems, is a technology coordinator with the Houston school district.

Tracy Ballard-Arline '95, A.A.S. computer information systems, '00, B.B.A. human resource management, is health wellness advisor for AdvoCare in Beaumont, where she lives with her husband, **Ralph** '88, B.S. secondary education, who is a teacher with the Beaumont school district.

L'Tunya Bernard '00, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, was among 10 Beaumont elementary school teachers chosen to attend the Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy. About 600 participants from around the country were chosen to attend. She teaches at Fehl Elementary and plans to self-publish her first novel.

Tavanaka Broussard '00, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, was among 10 Beaumont elementary school teachers chosen to attend the Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy. About 600 participants from around the country were chosen to attend.

Mic Cowart '00, B.S. industrial technology, was elected to the Silsbee Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. He also serves as director on the Lumberton Chamber Board and the Woodville Lions Club board. He and his wife, **Debbie** '82, B.S. home economics, live in Lumberton.

Hank Hargraves '00, B.S. political science, has been named the new head basketball coach in the Bullard school district. He has begun his ninth year of teaching and is married to **Daisy (Murphy)** '00, B.S. communication.

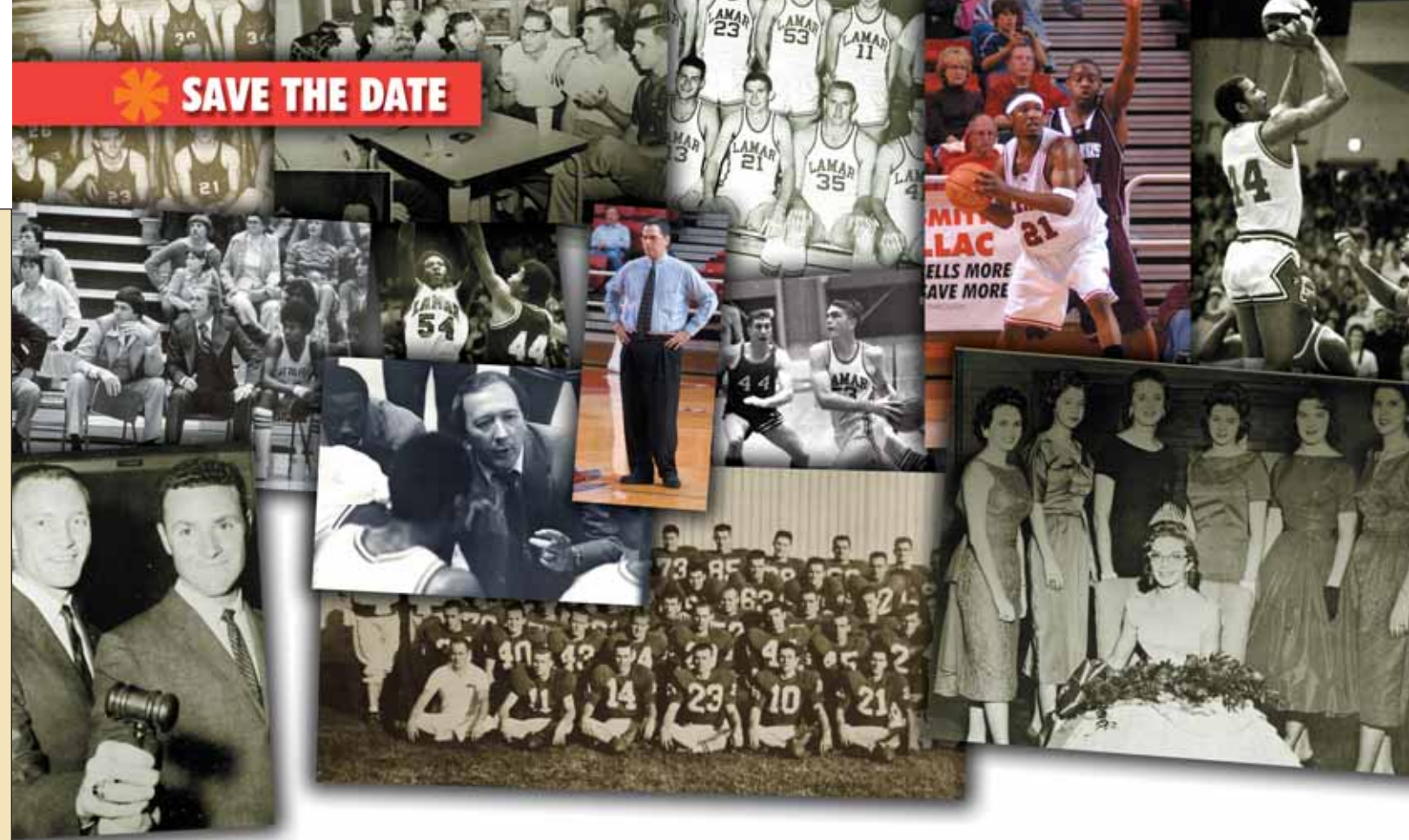
Uttam Karmaker '00, M.E. civil engineering, works as a transportation engineer at TransSystems in Houston and he received a professional engineer license for Texas and Florida. He and his wife, **Sultana**, have a new daughter, **Sahara**.

Three alumni, **Eric Laing** '00, B.S. economics, **Joe Haeggquist** '03, B.G.S. general studies, and **Britt Gober Jr.** '92, B.G.S. general studies, cycled across the country from San Diego to Washington, D.C., in 33 days to raise money for the Lance Armstrong Foundation.

Kutubul Mainuddin '00, M.E. civil engineering, is project engineer for Kuo Associates Inc. in Houston, where he lives with his wife, **Rowshon**, and son, **Tajwar**.

Kristen (Peveto) Nuss '00, B.S. criminal justice, is a child support officer for the attorney general's office in Beaumont. She and her husband, **Nathan** '90, A.A.S. computer electronics and robotics, live in Bridge City.

Landon Rowe '00, B.S. communication, is an analyst at Air Liquide in Houston, where he lives.



Homecoming 2009

FEBRUARY 20-21

REUNIONS

Class of 1959 Reunion

Reception and Dinner, Tour, Lunch, Pre-Game Gathering

Basketball: Former Players Reunion

Shootout, Welcome Party, Spouse Activities, Golf, Reception

Music Alumni Homecoming Game Performance

Lunch, Rehearsal, Reception



LAMAR UNIVERSITY
A Member of The Texas State University System

<p>Penny (Stuart) Whiteside '00, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches and coaches in the Woodville school district. She lives in Spurger.</p> <p>Gaurang Chatterjee '01, M.E. industrial engineering, is a senior industrial engineer at Academy Sports in Katy, where he lives with his wife, Vrinda, and son, Krish.</p> <p>Sheri (Horn) Delmage '01, B.B.A. management information systems, '03, B.B.A. accounting, is treasurer of the Southeast Texas chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants for 2008-09 and is employed by Edgar, Kiker & Cross P.C.</p> <p>Terri (Thompson) Estes '01, M.Ed. educational leadership, '08, Ed.D. educational leadership, is principal of Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School.</p> <p>Bradley Grant '01, B.A. criminal justice, is an insurance agent for AIG International Services and lives in Houston.</p> <p>Angelica (Ramos) Hernandez '01, B.S. theater, is theater director at Pasadena Memorial High School. She and her husband, Josh, have a two-year-old daughter.</p> <p>Jay Johnson '01, B.B.A. marketing, works at Zim American Integrated Shipping as a sales representative in the Gulf region and lives in Baytown.</p> <p>Nandan Khurd '01, M.E. chemical engineering, is a process systems engineer at Bechtel Corp. in Houston.</p> <p>Brandi (Smith) McGallion '01, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, was among 10 Beaumont elementary school teachers chosen to attend the Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy. About 600 participants from around the country were chosen to attend.</p> <p>Colleen (Reagan) Milam '01, M.S. nursing information, is chief nursing officer at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Linden, where she lives.</p> <p>Cynthia (Thomas) Parish '74, certif. office administration, '01, B.S. earth science, '03, M.Ed. secondary education, will participate in the National Geographic Society's JASON project along with two teachers from Australia and nine students. This will be a two-year project to research energy-related phenomena.</p> <p>Wei Shen '01, M.S. chemistry, is a chemist for A&B Environmental Services in Houston, where he lives with his wife, Li Zhou '03, M.E.S. chemical engineering science.</p> <p>Sugam Shrestha '01, M.S. environmental studies, is project manager at TCEQ. He lives in Austin with his wife, Suvi.</p> <p>Christy (Hughes) Weeks '01, B.A. history, was named campus teacher of the year at Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School.</p> <p>Don Beck '02, M.Ed. school administration, is principal of Ross Sterling High School in Goose Creek school district.</p>	<p>Victor Cooper '02, B.S. family and consumer science-food and nutrition, '04, M.S. family and consumer science, lives in Grand Prairie and owns Cooper Insures in Waxahachie.</p> <p>Kelley Elliott '02, B.B.A. general business, teaches computer classes at Annunciation Orthodox School in Houston, where she lives.</p> <p>Julie (Giblin) Gauthier '02, M.Ed. educational leadership, is principal at Ridgewood Elementary in Port Neches, where she attended and where her son, Jake, will begin kindergarten this year.</p> <p>Colletta (Conner) Gomes '02, B.S. interior design, is an associate at Montgomery Roth Architecture and Interior Design L.L.C. in Houston, where she lives.</p> <p>Dinesh Gorane '02, M.E. mechanical engineering, works at Aker Solutions as a senior engineer and lives in Nigdi, Pune, MH India.</p> <p>Koby Hoffpauir '02, B.A. history, '02 B.A. political science, is assistant county attorney for Bell County. He lives in Temple.</p> <p>Misty (Johnson) O'Fiel '02, B.S. communication, is associate director of community development at Schreiner University in Kerrville, where she and her husband, Patrick '98, B.S. political science, live.</p> <p>Marc Ochoa '02, B.S. civil engineering, is an engineer at Arceneaux & Gates Consulting. He lives in Vidor with his wife, Katie '04, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, who teaches in the Vidor school district.</p> <p>Nathan Whitman '03, B.S. geology, works at DrillMar Oil and Gas in Houston as a geologist. He lives in Cypress with his wife, Adrienne (King) '02, B.A. history, and new son, Cullen Patrick.</p> <p>Jacob Bennefield '03, B.B.A. management information systems, is senior tech support analyst for Lamar University. He and his wife, Carrie, have a daughter.</p> <p>Willie Broussard Jr. '03, B.S. hospitality management, is manager of citywide food beverage group sales for Harrah's Entertainment in Las Vegas, Nev., where he lives.</p> <p>James Carpenter '03, B.B.A. management information systems, is in his second year as a small business owner in insurance and lives in Port Arthur.</p> <p>Sherice (Ware) Garner '03, B.B.A. management information systems, works for the Spring Branch school district as an instructional technology specialist. She and her husband, Steven, live in Houston.</p> <p>Samuel Guseman '03, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is program manager at SAS Institute in Cary, N.C., where he lives with his wife, Gretchen (Whitman) '99, B.M. music.</p> <p>Courtney (Walker) Jackson '03, M.Ed. counseling and development, is a counselor in the Dallas school district and working on her doctoral dissertation. She lives in Cedar Hill with her husband, Jason, and their newborn.</p>	<p>Rachel (Ekvall) Byrom '03, B.B.A. accounting, is an accountant for Calvary Baptist Church in Beaumont, where she lives with her husband, Jeremy '94, B.B.A. marketing, and their son, Joseph.</p> <p>Maya Ramakrishnan '03, M.B.A. business administration, is accounts and credit manager for Waddell Manufacturing and lives in Munroe Falls, Ohio.</p> <p>Janice (Greene) Sells '03, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a customer service supervisor with the U.S. Postal Service and lives in Beaumont.</p> <p>Cindy Shelton '03, B.S. criminal justice, is a police officer with the Houston police department.</p> <p>Catherine Strait '03, B.B.A. accounting, and Matthew Gilby were married May 30, 2008, at Bramble Grove Beach in Seaside, Fla. Catherine is the daughter of Henry '74, B.S. communication, and Fran Strait '73, certif. secretarial science.</p> <p>Judy Taylor '03, B.S. communication, teaches English and speech at John Wood Community College in Quincy, Ill., where she lives.</p> <p>Jennifer Turner '03, B.B.A. accounting, was appointed to a three-year term on the board of Renaissance Hospital Scholarship Foundation. She earned a law degree from Baylor in 2006.</p> <p>Christa Wahl '03, B.S. chemical engineering, earned a master's degree from University of South Carolina in 2005 and works as a senior formulation scientist at Emerson Resources in Norristown, Pa. She lives in Philadelphia.</p> <p>Srimanth Brindavanam '04, M.E. industrial engineering, is a business analyst at Materials Software. He lives in Nashville, Tenn., with his wife, Sirisha (Serl) '05, M.S. environmental studies.</p> <p>Elizabeth (Holmes) Choate '04, B.S. political science, is attending law school and lives in Beaumont with her spouse, Jeremy, who is a Lamar student.</p> <p>Damon Derrick '04, B.B.A. marketing, lives in Oxford, Miss., with his wife, Jamie '04, B.B.A. human resource management, who works at the University of Mississippi as senior human resources generalist.</p> <p>Christopher Garza '04, B.S. political science, '08, M.B.A. business administration, is regional contract administrator for the gulf coast region for Belcan. He and his wife, Lana, live in Beaumont.</p> <p>Chintan Ghelani '04, M.E.S. chemical engineering, '07, M.B.A. business administration, is a process engineer at Chicago Bridge & Iron in Houston, where he lives.</p> <p>Kelli Gunter '04, B.A. political science, became an associate with the law firm of WilsonElser in Houston, where she lives.</p>	<p>Scarlet Hammersmith '04, M.Ed. educational leadership, is principal of Groves Elementary School in the Port Neches-Groves school district.</p> <p>Paul Kulish '04, B.B.A. management information systems, is computer support specialist at Faust Distributing Co. in Houston, where he lives with his wife, Sandra (Fregia) '04, B.S. interdisciplinary studies.</p> <p>Jeremy Lee '04, B.S. industrial engineering, is an engineer at Conoco Phillips in Westlake.</p> <p>Jill (Korry) Mitchell '04, B.B.A. marketing, is marketing coordinator at Universal Coin and Bullion in Beaumont.</p> <p>Vern Myers '04, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is quality control manager at Southern Avionics Co. in Beaumont.</p> <p>Amit Phanse '04, M.E. civil engineering, married Swara Karnik from Pune, India March 10, 2008.</p> <p>Nekisha Quinney '04, B.S. communication, has been selected as NCAA Ethnic Minority and Women intern/assistant to the athletic director at Webster University. The goal of this grant-funded two-year internship is to prepare individuals for full-time employment in a leadership role in athletics administration.</p> <p>Summer Schwertner '04, B.B.A. management information systems, '05, M.B.A. business administration, is media buyer at e.Sullivan Advertising. She lives in Port Arthur.</p> <p>Rachael (VonDerAu) Turner '04, B.S. interior design, is lead interior designer for WAVE Facilities Change Management in Houston, where she lives with her husband, Jason.</p> <p>Nichole (Gauthier) Vermillion '04, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches in the Bridge City school district. She and her husband, James, have three children and live in Orange.</p> <p>Kameron Walker '04, B.S. communication, is master control and audio operator for New York One News in New York.</p> <p>Lacey Withers '04, B.S. family and consumer sciences, is branch manager at Quantum Employment Services in Beaumont.</p> <p>John Chesser '05, B.B.A. general business, is an account manager at Calabrian Corp. He lives in Vidor with his wife, Tracy (Mott) '07, B.B.A. general business.</p> <p>Nakiska (Collins) Crumedy '05, B.S.W. social work, teaches in the Waller school district. She and her husband, Andre '01, B.S. kinesiology, live in Houston.</p> <p>Garrett Hahn '05, B.B.A. marketing, is an account executive with TD Ameritrade in Fort Worth, where he lives.</p> <p>Justin Henderson '05, B.S. family and consumer sciences, '07, M.Ed. counseling and development, is a minister with Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont.</p>	<p>Josef Hoffman '05, B.S. mechanical engineering, works at Dow Chemical as a reliability engineer in Freeport. He lives in Brazoria.</p> <p>Sarah Janssens '05, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, was awarded the Donald Brunson Memorial Scholarship at a recent Baytown Rotary program. The scholarship is designed to help Baytown teachers further their education, and she plans to obtain her master's in educational leadership from Lamar University in the online program.</p> <p>Pamela Johnson '05, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, was among 10 Beaumont elementary school teachers chosen to attend the Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy. About 600 participants from around the country were chosen to attend.</p> <p>Hemant Joshi '05, M.E. chemical engineering, is a process engineer at CDI Engineering in Houston, where he lives.</p> <p>Krystle Mason '05, B.S. criminal justice, '05, M.S. applied criminology, is a legal worker for the state of Texas and lives in Seagoville.</p> <p>Scott Sheridan '05, B.S. civil engineering, is vice president for Daniel Scott Engineering L.L.C. in Houston.</p> <p>Venkata Twarakavi '05, M.S. computer science, is programmer/analyst at GSS America Inc. and is married to Archana Balagani '05, M.S. computer science, who also works for GSS America Inc. They have a new daughter.</p> <p>Viswanathan Vaikundam '05, M.S. computer science, is a technical staff member for Sun Microsystems Inc. and lives in Torrance, Calif.</p> <p>Cody C. Addison '06, B.S. computer science, married Brianne Bourque May 17, 2008. He earned a master's degree from the University of Houston and works at Texas Instruments in Stafford.</p> <p>Bradley Allison '06, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, coaches football and track at Livingston High School. He was recently honored by the Dunbar Alumni Association bi-annual reunion as a young adult achiever.</p> <p>Monica Bland '06, B.A. criminal justice, is a pre-sentence investigator for Jefferson County probation and lives in Beaumont.</p> <p>Nerkida Brown '06, B.B.A. human resource management, is staffing administrator at Belk Inc. in Tuscaloosa, Ala., where she lives.</p> <p>Stephanie (Bowman) Brown '06, B.B.A. accounting, works for the Internal Revenue Service as a revenue agent in Tyler, where she lives.</p> <p>Chase Burgin '06, B.S.W. social work, is program coordinator and case manager for Youth Family Counseling Services in Angleton, where he lives with his wife, Jessica (Lyon) '05, B.S. chemical engineering. She is a district representative for Nalco.</p> <p>Michelle Cate '06, B.F.A. studio art, won TASIMJAE 2007, The Art Studio's annual membership show, for her exhibit "Photosynthesis" and was featured in the Art Studio's magazine, Issue. She lives in Beaumont.</p>	<p>Michael Denham '06, M.S. applied criminology, is police training coordinator at NCTCOG Regional Policy Academy in Arlington.</p> <p>Simit Doshi '06, M.E. chemical engineering, is a process engineer at Jacobs Engineering in Houston.</p> <p>Hemanth Gaddehosur '06, M.Ed. mechanical engineering, is a mechanical engineering specialist at Technip USA. He lives in Houston.</p> <p>Jason Harrington '06, B.B.A. management, and Annie Marie Zarzosa '05, B.S. communication, were married July 14, 2007, and celebrated their first-year anniversary in the Bahamas. Jason works at Lamar University as coordinator of intramural and club sports, and Annie works at Macy's.</p> <p>Alok Karki '06, M.E. civil engineering, works at Ulrich Engineers Inc. and lives in Pearland.</p> <p>Nora (Ramon) Lopez '06, B.S. chemical engineering, is process systems engineer at Bechtel Corp. in Houston.</p> <p>Amanda Pope '06, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is self employed and lives in Beaumont.</p> <p>Lindsay Randolph '06, B.B.A. marketing, and Mark Zambardino '07, B.A. criminal justice, were married June 7, 2008. The couple lives in Beaumont.</p> <p>Kumar Raut '06, M.E. civil engineering, is design engineer at Hook Engineering in Phoenix, Ariz., and recently married.</p> <p>Rhonda (Hobbs) Ruben '06, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, was named the National Black Nurses Association Staff Nurse of the Year. She is only the second vocational nurse in the organization's 35-year history to receive the award. She works in orthopedics at Christus Hospital-St. Elizabeth.</p> <p>Sissy Yeaman '06, M.Ed. educational leadership, was named Coach of the Year on the Beaumont Enterprise Super Gold Softball team.</p> <p>Marianne Youngblood '06, B.S. nursing, works at Christus Hospital-St. Elizabeth and has a new son, Jackson Bailey Youngblood.</p> <p>Mary (Messer) Addison '07, B.A. English, is a teaching assistant at Lamar University and lives in Port Neches with her husband, Jordan, who is a Lamar student.</p> <p>Amanda (Odum) Baldwin '07, B.B.A. human resource management, and Joshua Baldwin '06, B.S. psychology, married July 12 and live in Beaumont. Amanda is human resource manager at Lott Contractors L.P.</p> <p>Mallory (Marshall) Barnes '07, B.B.A. general business, and her husband, Jason, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Katelyn Danielle. They live in Silsbee with their eldest daughter, Ally.</p>	<p>Leah Bearden '07, B.S. dietetics, is an admissions representative at Blue Cliff College in Lafayette, La., where she lives.</p> <p>Joy Bernhardt '07, B.B.A. management, is a consultant for Sungard Consulting Services in Houston, where she lives.</p> <p>Mike Bombek '07, B.G.S. general studies, teaches and coaches in the Katy school district.</p> <p>Meagan Burnett '07, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, and Brandon Williams married July 11. She teaches in the Port Arthur school district, and Brandon is parts manager of Auto Zone in Nederland, where they live.</p> <p>Dwayne Champagne '07, B.B.A. finance, is a financial adviser at Merrill Lynch and lives in Port Neches.</p> <p>Jeannie Dupree '07, B.S.W. social work, is pursuing graduate study focusing in gerontology at Tulane University in New Orleans.</p> <p>William Fuller '07, B.S. communication, is education project assistant at American Productivity and Quality Center in Houston, where he lives.</p> <p>Deedra Guidry '07, B.G.S. general studies, is children's coordinator at First Baptist Church in Groves.</p> <p>Madison Hasson '07, B.S. mechanical engineering, is an engineer at Teledyne Geophysical Instruments in Houston, where he lives.</p> <p>Stacy Hester '07, B.S. communication, is a 2008 Houston Texans cheerleader.</p> <p>Adam Hollyfield '07, B.S. electrical engineering, is an engineer for BP Corp. North America Inc. in Texas City and lives in Webster.</p> <p>Andetria (Barnes) Jones '07, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is deputy clerk for the city of Port Arthur, where she lives.</p> <p>Antoinette (Espritt) Mays '07, B.G.S. general studies, is a special events assistant in the alumni office of Lamar University. She lives in Beaumont.</p> <p>Cynthia Byerly-Perkins '07, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is senior mail clerk at Lamar University in Beaumont, where she lives.</p> <p>Meghan Shoefstall '07, B.B.A. marketing, and Matthew Ancelet '03, B.B.A. general business, married July 12. Meghan works at Chase Bank and Matthew is co-owner of Ancelet's Cajun Market in Port Neches, where they live.</p> <p>Kristi Tran '07, B.B.A. accounting, married Benjamin Goetzmann May 17, 2008. She is an accountant at Modern EPC.</p>	<p>Daylyn Turner '07, B.B.A. finance, is a licensed banker with JP Morgan Chase in Arlington, where he lives with his wife, Bilalah (Wallace) '06, B.S. communication. She is a teacher at Universal Academy in Irving.</p> <p>Dawie Van der Walt '07, B.A.A.S., applied arts and sciences, won the Mary Bird Perkins Merrill Lynch Open.</p> <p>Ovi Velasquez '07, M.S. deaf studies/deaf education, is a deaf teacher at South Houston Elementary in Pasadena.</p> <p>Kealee Welch '07, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is a teacher in the Aldine school district and is working on her online master's degree through the Lamar Academic Partnership with the Aldine district.</p> <p>Derek Willis '07, B.S. mechanical engineering, is unit maintenance engineer for BP Corp. North America Inc. in Texas City.</p> <p>Ashley Barnes '08, B.B.A. accounting, is a staff accountant for Melton and Melton L.L.P. C.P.A. in Houston.</p> <p>Tiffany Davis '08, B.S. mechanical engineering, and Jeremy Smith '08, B.B.A. management information systems, married July 12. Tiffany works at LEAP Engineering in Beaumont and Jeremy works at METCO.</p> <p>Tim Erickson '08, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, was a 37th-round pick by the New York Mets and reports to the Kingsport (Tenn.) Mets of the rookie-class Appalachian.</p> <p>Danielle Hudson '08, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, and Lloyd Sutton married June 28 and live in Abilene.</p> <p>Josh Shenkir '08, B.S. electrical engineering, is a robotics operation analyst at MEI Technologies in Houston, where he lives with his wife, Lauren (Albert) '05, B.S. interdisciplinary studies.</p> <p>Brian Sisk -08, general studies, opted to begin his professional baseball career by joining the Baltimore Orioles as a free agent. He reported to the Bluefield (W. Va.) Orioles of the Appalachian League.</p> <p>Dwayne Terrier '08, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is director of software development for Automatic Data Processing Inc. in Houston.</p> <p>Justin Walker -08, exercise science and fitness management, opted to begin his professional baseball career by joining the Cincinnati Reds as a 41st-round pick and reported to the Reds' training facility in Sarasota, Fla.</p>
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We will miss...

Alumni

James Leach '32, died on July 4, 2008. Born April 14, 1912, he spent much of his life in the Army in the intelligence corps where he was awarded the Bronze Star in World War II. He achieved the rank of major in the reserves before his retirement. He was employed for 36 years with the immigration service. Survivors include his wife of 66 years, Jane; sons, James, William, and Malcolm; and daughter, Katherine.

Dr. Jackson Kelley '35, A.A. general studies, died June 19, 2008. Born Oct. 24, 1915, he attended Southwest Texas State University and Texas A&M to become a doctor of veterinary medicine. His practice was in Waxahachie, where he and his wife of 67 years, Geneva, raised four sons. He attended the First United Methodist Church, Rotary club and was also a 32nd degree Mason. He retired in 1978. Survivors include one son, Bill.

Edwin Berry '40, B.S. industrial engineering, died June 28, 2008. He served in World War II as a colonel and a pilot in the Air Force. He was control department supervisor at DuPont before retiring with 40 years of service. Survivors include his wife of 43 years, Rhoda; daughter, Phyllis Wylie; and son, Richard.

Harris Parkhill '41, died July 8, 2008. Born July 31, 1924, he was a World War II Army veteran, a Mason and an avid golfer and retired from ExxonMobil. Survivors include his wife, Jean (Leach) Parkhill '43, A.A. general studies; and son, Bill.

Jef Russell Jr. '41, died June 19, 2008. Born Nov. 13, 1922, he served in the Army Air Corps and became a B-24 bomber pilot. After the war, he returned to Texas, married and worked for the family-owned Jef Chaison Townsite Co. After 23 years, he became senior vice president and board member at Beaumont State Bank. He later became president and remained on the board until his retirement. Survivors include his wife, Billie, and sons, Jef III and John.

Jim Debes Jr. '48, died June 22, 2008. Born Dec. 8, 1925, he served in the Army and was a decorated veteran of the Pacific campaign. He was presented a 60-year pin from the Masons in 2007 and was a member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. He was self-employed as a general contractor. Survivors include his wife, Billie; son, Jim; and daughter, Pam.

Bobbie Sue (Cain) Greiner '48, died June 7, 2008. Born Nov. 12, 1929, she grew up in Beaumont and was a member of the Melody Maids in Beaumont. She supported her husband's professional career in banking and enjoyed attending football games. Survivors include sons, Max, Mark and Michael, and daughter, Carol.

Jack Brittain '49, died May 25, 2008. Born Dec. 21, 1922, he worked at Stone & Webster Engineering Corp. and Indianapolis Power and Light Co. He was a member of the Army Air Corps, flying under the command of Jimmy Doolittle. He was wounded in anti-aircraft fire, credited with destroying one German aircraft, survived a crash landing on the Island of Sardinia and received seven heroic awards, including a Purple Heart. Survivors include his daughters, Kathleen Luther, Rosanne Cerone, and Sarah Honeycutt; and sons, Dan and Russ.

Herbert Smith '49, certif. general studies, died May 20, 2008. Born May 27, 1929, he attended the University of Texas and University of Houston, obtaining a pharmaceutical degree. He joined the family business, Smith Drug Co. in Port Neches, until 1980 when he became a hospital pharmacist. He retired in 1994 after a 38-year career. Survivors include his wife, Carolyn; sons, Leslie '87, B.S. biology, and David; and daughter, Kathy.

Robert Lauhoff '51, A.A. general studies, died Feb. 18, 2008. Born July 5, 1931, he graduated from South Park High School, where he lettered in football. He was a decorated Korean War Army veteran, and was employed for nearly 36 years with ExxonMobil. Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Vera (Gross) Lauhoff, and sons, Daryl and Randall.

John Evans '55, B.S. biology, died April 27, 2008. Born April 4, 1934, he taught school in Missouri City, and later worked at DuPont Works in Beaumont until he retired. Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Beverly; daughter, Cindy; and sons, David, Paul '85, A.A.S. drafting technology, and Tim '85, A.A.S. welding.

John Golbach Jr. '57, B.S. mechanical engineering, died June 1, 2008. Born June 24, 1929, he served in the Navy during the Korean War aboard the Destroyer USS Brown. He later worked at Phillips Petroleum in Odessa and then was transferred to the home office of Phillips in Bartlesville, Okla., where he worked on plant design and traveled internationally for plant start-ups and exploration. He retired in 1986 but remained active doing consulting work and hobbies that included sports cars and motorcycles. Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth Dell Dickson '56, B.S. commercial art; sons, John and Kirk; and daughter, Catherine.

Louis Gonzalez '57, B.B.A. accounting, died on July 4, 2008. Born April 15, 1912, he was an Army veteran ranked as a sergeant in the Korean conflict. He retired after a 27-year career as an accountant at Gulf Oil. He was a longtime parishioner of St. Anne Catholic Church. Survivors include his wife,

Hilda; daughters, Cindy, Nancy Bullock, Maria Herald, Sandra and Rosalinda Thomas; and sons, Louis Charles, John, Joseph, Joe Canizales, Johnnie Canizales and Steve Canizales.

Agatha Nabours '57, B.S. elementary education, died July 29, 2008. Born July 28, 1917, she lived in Bridge City for more than 50 years and retired from a teaching career there in 1982. She is survived by sons Larry, Don and Dahl.

Jean (Himmel) Lindsey '58, B.S. elementary education, died April 24, 2008. She grew up in Port Arthur and earned a bachelor's degree from Lamar and a master's degree from Stephen F. Austin State University. Her 40-year career in education spanned elementary to high school and remedial to gifted learning. She served as president of Delta Zeta Sorority and was a talented artist and an accomplished orchid and rose grower. Survivors include her husband of 48 years, Frank; sons, Bill and Brad; and daughter, Brenda.

Arthur Morgan '59, B.S. music, died July 25, 2008. Born March 12, 1931, he earned his master's degree in counseling and development from Stephen F. Austin University and his doctor of education from University of Houston. After a 10-year span working at Texaco Refinery, he began his career in education, teaching music and English in the Port Arthur school district. In 1963, he became a guidance counselor in the West Orange school district where he was presented the Will L. Smith Special Education Award for his exceptional service to handicapped children by the Council for Exceptional Children-Chapter 116. He was also past president of the Southeast Texas Council for Exceptional Children, a trustee of South East Texas MHMR and a director of Goodwill Industries. Survivors include his wife, Clydine, and sons, Tommy, Steve, Tim and Mark.

James Carson '61, B.A. history, died March 18, 2008. Born Oct. 28, 1922, he was a chemist in various plants and retired as a chief chemist at Texaco Chemical Plant in Port Arthur. He was a Korean War veteran. Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Josie; sons, Stephen and Jon; and daughters, Victoria and Jenny.

Larry Steen '62, certif. industrial electricity, died June 8, 2008. Born March 3, 1942, he served in the 36th Infantry Division of the Texas National Guard, reaching the rank of communication sergeant. After military service, he worked at Pure Oil and Texaco Port Arthur. He retired from Motiva as supervisor of the instrument store house. Survivors include his wife of 44 years, Jacquelyn Richards-Steen; son, Jeffery '97, B.S. civil engineering; and daughter, Jennifer.

Minnie Hickman '63, certif. vocational nursing, died May 31, 2008. Born Jan. 10, 1926, she worked at Baptist Hospital and Schlesinger's. Survivors include her husband of 66 years, Brantley; sons, Ellis and Billy; and daughter, Doris.

Charles Browning '64, B.S. government, died May 31, 2008. Born Jan. 18, 1943, he received his law degree from the University of Houston Law School and practiced for more than 30 years in Houston. He moved to Hunt and practiced another eight years in Kerrville. While in the Hill Country, he served on the boards of the Kerrville Performing Arts Society, Hill Country Arts Foundation, Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country and the Museum of Western Art in Kerrville and was a founding member of the Hunt Preservation Society. He served on the board of trustees for Schreiner University and the First Presbyterian Church of Kerrville. Survivors include his wife of 41 years, Judy; daughter, Ashley; and son, Matt.

Hattie (McDowell) Kingsley '64, B.S. elementary education, died April 1, 2008. Born Dec. 2, 1915, in Kansas she obtained a teaching certificate and moved to Texas in 1963, where she completed her degree and began teaching in Vidor and then Beaumont. After retiring, she served on the Meals on Wheels committee, taught Sunday School and played the piano. Survivors include her husband of 66 years, Mitchel, and sons, Jerry and James '68, B.S. mathematics.

George Eicke '65, B.A. English, died May 10, 2008. Born June 20, 1943, he joined the Army and served for 27 years in Vietnam, Korea, the Middle East, Germany and various stateside locations. He was awarded the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star, reaching the rank of colonel. He later worked as an investment advisor in San Antonio. Survivors include his wife of 43 years, Annette (Deshotels) '65, B.S. elementary education; daughter, Leigh; and son, Jason.

James Geen '65, B.A. history, died June 23, 2008. Born Nov. 2, 1930, he retired as a systems analyst with the University of Texas. Survivors include his ex-wife, Mary Geen '62, B.A. English; daughter, Suzanne; and son, Jefferey.

Ronald Graham '66, B.A. political science, died June 3, 2008. Born Feb. 6, 1933, he worked 11 years at the Port Arthur Texaco refinery before attending Lamar University and earning his bachelor's degree. He taught three years in Nederland and another 22 years in Marble Falls. He retired in 1991 and moved to Cisco. He was active in the Ex-GI Association, Cisco food pantry, Farmers Union and Eastland County Retired Teachers' Association; taught G.E.D. classes; and was a Master Mason. Survivors include his wife,

Phyllis, and sons, Glynn, Rex and Guy.

Mary Ellen (Polley) Neil '66, B.S. elementary education, died July 7, 2008. Born March 7, 1929, she was a member of First Christian Church for 72 years, a member of the Pilot Club and a teacher in Little Cypress-Mauriceville school district for 29 years. She was also a Red Cross hospital volunteer at Memorial Hermann Baptist Orange Hospital. Survivors include her daughter, Peggy Stewart, and sons, Robert and George.

Sally (Howard) Waddell '66, B.B.A. business administration, '76 M.Ed. guidance and counseling died July 11, 2007. Born April 29, 1937, she retired as counselor at Bridge City High School with 28 years of service. She taught Sunday School at First Baptist in Bridge City for more than 50 years. Survivors include her husband of 45 years, Marvin '61, B.S. kinesiology, and their twin sons, Bryan and Bill.

Alice Barrett '67, B.S. elementary education, died June 19, 2008. Survivors include two daughters, Mary and Pamela.

William Beasley '67, B.S. secondary education, died June 13, 2008. Born Feb. 8, 1941, he served in the Air Force and retired from teaching in the Port Arthur school district after 28 years. He served on the Hughen school board, Port Arthur Kiwanis and the Al Price and Mimi Rogers Youth Commission board.

James Kern '67, B.B.A. accounting, died March 7, 2008. Born Jan. 5, 1944, he was an accountant at Equistar in Chocolate Bayou until retirement allowed him to enjoy fishing, gardening and bowling. In his younger years, he loved to ride Harleys and became known as Brazoria County's "Blackie" on a local morning rock show. Survivors include his daughter, Julie, and son, Robert.

Robert Collier '68, B.A. history, died June 7, 2008. Born Dec. 5, 1945, he served in the Army and was active in the Boy Scouts. Survivors include his wife of 36 years, Cora.

Carolyn Varnon '71, B.A. English, '91, A.A.S. nursing, died July 19, 2008. Born April 20, 1949, she worked in hospitals in Houston and at a penal facility in Navasota before working as a neonatal nurse in the Beaumont area for many years. Survivors include her brothers, Alvin and Thurman; and a special friend, Robert Lee of Magnolia.

Cynthia (Powell) Lavender '72, B.A. French, died July 18, 2008. Born March 29, 1950, she and her husband raised their three children, primarily in Austin. Survivors include her husband, Herbert; daughters, Sarah and Vanessa; and, son, Benjamin.

Naomi "Eileen" Hammer Henson '69, B.S. home economics, '73, M.E. secondary education, died Dec. 20, 2007. Born April 16, 1917, she began college, a life's dream, at the age of 47 and earned honors in Phi Kappa Phi honor society, Alpha Lambda Delta, Kappa Omicron Phi and the freshman honor society. She taught seventh-grade English in Bridge City for 17 years and traveled after retirement. She was an accomplished seamstress, a nationally accredited flower show judge and an artist in oils and pastels. Survivors include her daughters, Sonya '60 B.A. sociology, and Carol, and son, James.

James Neu '73, B.S. secondary education, died Feb. 29, 2008. Born Dec. 12, 1950, he grew up in the Hamshire-Fannett area and worked for seven years as a coach and teacher. He then worked in industrial sales for 26 years before joining his brother's business, Texas Sports Films. Survivors include his daughter, Ashley, and son, Brett.

Elizabeth "Bess" (Waltman) Cox '74, B.B.A. general business, died March 9, 2008. Born March 27, 1916, she lived most of her life in Bridge City and Orange, earning her bachelor's degree at age 60. Much of her working life was spent in the insurance business. Her interests and commitments included Eastern Star, Pilot Club, Business and Professional Women, Beta Sigma Phi and bridge. Survivors include two daughters, Celeste and Elizabeth.

Mary (Walters) Jordan '74, M.Ed. counseling and development, died June 16, 2008. Born Dec. 12, 1917, she was a resident of Groves for 66 years and a longtime member of the First Baptist Church of Groves. She retired from teaching home economics in the Port Neches-Groves school district after 34 years of service. She was a member of Alpha Delta Kappa sorority, the Retired Teachers Association and the Texas State Teachers Association.

David McEwin '74, A.A.S. refrigeration and air conditioning, died July 23, 2008. Born Aug. 30, 1954, he was an operator for Lucite International and a member of Crestwood Baptist Church, where he served as deacon. Survivors include his wife, Barbara, and daughters, Miranda '04, B.S.W. social work, and Marisa Gilley '04, B.S. interdisciplinary studies.

Frank Quintela Jr. '74, A.A.S. drafting technology, died July 16, 2008. Born June 30, 1940, he served with the Army in the Korean War and retired from Mobil Chemical as a senior designer. He was a member of the Nederland Jaycees, a certified engineering technician and a eucharistic minister at St. Charles Catholic Church. Survivors include his wife of 46 years, Corina; son, Adrian; and daughter, Veronica Walker.

Alvin Randolph Jr. '59, B.B.A. general business, died June 23, 2008. He served in the Army and worked in Beaumont as a real estate broker and insurance underwriter. Survivors include his wife, Jerodine; son, Alvin '74, B.S. physics; and three daughters, Janet, Sharon, and Beryl.

Rosalind (Ball) Ratcliff '75, B.A. sociology, died June 29, 2008. Survivors include her husband, Maxwell; sons, Brian and Kirkland; and daughter, Tatia Thomas.

Donald Beyer Sr. '76, A.A.S. industrial electricity, died June 2, 2008. Born Feb. 19, 1938, he retired as a senior project engineer for ExxonMobil. Survivors include his wife, Patsy; son, Donald '92, B.S. criminal justice; and daughter, Kelli.

Philip Lockhart '74 A.A. history, '76 B.S. secondary education, died June 28, 2008. Born Oct. 1, 1946, in Beaumont he graduated from French High School in 1964 and joined the Air Force. Survivors include his daughters, Margaret (Lockhart) Devillier '05, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, and Jennifer, and sons, Aaron and Philip.

Robert Sullivan '76, B.B.A. accounting, died May 4, 2008. Born Jan. 23, 1937, he was married to his high school sweetheart, Betty, for 24 years and worked for DuPont. Survivors include his son, Michael '01, B.S. mechanical engineering, and daughter, Teri.

James Vanderhider '76, B.S. chemistry and biology, died June 15, 2008. Born Jan. 13, 1954, he retired from a 30-year career with Dow Chemical that gave him opportunities to serve in both the United States and international markets. He was the inventor of 10 significant patents in the area of R.I.M. systems. Survivors include his wife of 30 years, Kathy (Manshack) Vanderhider '78, B.S. elementary education, and their twins, son, Zac, and daughter, Ali.

Darryl Livingston '77, B.S. psychology, died June 10, 2008. Born Aug. 20, 1951, he was involved in FFA, raising prized dachshund show dogs. He worked for IBM in customer service.

Carl Willis '77, B.B.A. management, died June 17, 2008. He was born Nov. 23, 1952. Survivors include his mother, Alberta; brother, Terry; and sister, Beverly '78, B.B.A., office administration.

Patricia "Gail" (Siddall) Reasonover '78, certif. nursing, died March 26, 2008. Born Oct. 10, 1938, she was a nurse for 34 years and worked at Orange Memorial Hospital and Americare Nursing Professionals. She was a member of the Order of the Easter Star, Daughters of the Nile, Social Order of Beauceant and First United Methodist Church in Orange. Survivors include her husband, Donald; son, Donald Jr.; and daughter, Debra.

Nelwyn (Green) Phillips '80, M.S. home economics, died June 6, 2008. Born Dec. 26, 1928, she was married to Bobby Phillips for 41 years. She was active in several Baptist churches, most recently First Baptist Church in Huntsville. Survivors include her daughters, Denise Morgan and June Waggener '81, B.S. studio art, and son, Jerry.

Jackie (Jones) Barrientos '85, B.S. elementary education, died July 12, 2008. Born July 22, 1941, she retired as a teacher in the Kirbyville school district. Survivors include her husband, Tom, and son, David.

Carl Lindsey '86, M.B.A. business administration, died July 19, 2008. Born July 10, 1951, he also earned a master's degree in engineering from the University of Texas in Austin. He was a licensed professional engineer in Texas and New York and received a ministry degree from the Diocese of Beaumont. He served in the Army as first lieutenant in the medical service corps and earned the National Defense Service medal. Survivors include his wife of 16 months, Virginia, and sons, Timothy and Jonathan.

Mercedes (Broussard) Conner '87, A.A.S. nursing, died April 6, 2008. She was born July 12, 1956. Survivors include her daughter, Keisha.

Harold Richardson '87, certif. appliance repair, '95, A.A.S. supervision, died June 10, 2008. Born Aug. 12, 1940, he served in the Army. Survivors include his wife of 46 years, Roxanna (Bowlus) Richardson '88, B.S. elementary education, and daughter, Jane '88, B.M. music education, '94, M.M.E. music education.

Gary Morrison '88, B.B.A. marketing, died April 10, 2008. Born Sept.7, 1965, he was director of account services for Tribune Media Services for 10 years. He was an active member of several telecommunications organizations. He lived in Aledo. Survivors include his wife, Teresa, and daughters, Zoe and Anastasia.

John Martin '91, B.S. kinesiology, died July 15, 2008. He was born Aug. 21, 1961. Survivors include his wife, Betty '91, B.B.A. personnel administration.

Julia (Motheral) Mills '91, B.F.A. graphic design, died April 23, 2008. Born April 30, 1947, she was a lifelong area resident and an art teacher at Ozen. She was a member of the United Methodist Temple and the Port Arthur Service League. Survivors include her husband, Robert, and sons, James and Robert.

Russell Myers '95, B.B.A. finance, died March 2, 2008. He was a Vietnam veteran, having served as chief petty officer aboard a nuclear submarine, and active in the community as president of Rotary club and a member of the Beaumont Gun Club. He was preceded in death by his wife of 30 years, Wanda (Barron) Myers '64, B.B.A. office administration. Survivors include daughter, Kathi (Myers) Kohlhofer '85, B.S. elementary education, and son, Les Badgett.

Laura (Kendrick) Preston '95, B.S. computer science, died April 3, 2008. Born May 1, 1974, she was a programmer/analyst for several state agencies before deciding to devote her full time to her family. Survivors include her husband, Jason '93, B.S. electrical engineering, '94, B.S. mathematics, and sons, Lucas, Logan, Lance and Liam. She was preceded in death by one son, Joshua.

Clayton Richard '96, B.S. criminal justice, died March 24, 2008. Born Sept. 18, 1972, he was a sales representative for Time Warner Media Sales and had recently transferred to the Dallas area. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and loved golf, hunting, family, friends and his dogs. Survivors include his parents, Ray and Rachel, and brothers, Michael and James '02, B.B.A. management information systems.

Susan (Burroughs) Johnson '04, M.Ed. educational technology leadership, died Feb. 18, 2008. During her long career as a teacher and administrator, she worked and taught at the public school, private school and two-year college level, most recently in Lumberton. She was active for many years in the Cub and Boy Scouts of America. Survivors include her husband of 35 years, Cecil '00, M.A. English, an instructor at Lamar University, and sons, Robert, Cecil (Buddy), George and Zachary.

Dorothy Gray '08, Ed.D. educational leadership, died May 22, 2008. Born May 18, 1956, she had just received her doctoral degree from Lamar University May 10. She worked for Region V Education Service Center as program coordinator for the ESL/Bilingual/Migrant Support program, the Master Reading Teacher program and the TEA Limited English Proficiency Student Success Initiative. Survivors include her husband, Gary, and twin sons, Paul and Chris.

Faculty, Staff and Friends

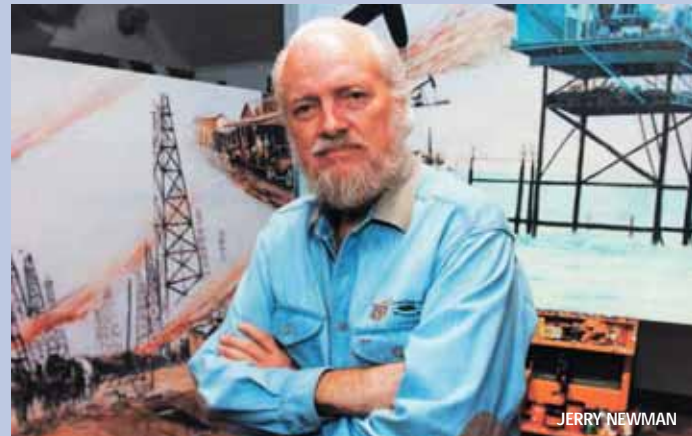
Roberta Pauline Lane Howard, 79, died May 10, 2008. She was an active volunteer for many groups, including KVLU public radio. Howard was born March 9, 1929, in Oregon and later joined the Army to become a language translator fluent in German, French and Russian. She traveled

extensively in Europe before settling in Texas and earning a B.S. in geology from the University of Texas El Paso in 1960. She accepted a position as a research librarian for DuPont and retired in the late 1980s. Survivors include three half-brothers, Paul, Sanford and Jeffrey Lee, and one half sister, Twila.

Edward Lee "Ed" Hughes, 82, died June 8, 2008. He was a charter member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Nederland's self-described hometown grocer for 40 years and a founding partner of the Market Basket supermarket chain. He attended Lamar Junior College and was a loyal fan of Lamar Cardinal basketball. He enjoyed serving on the Wilton and Effie Hebert Foundation, which funded many community endeavors. Survivors include his second wife, Marion; daughters, Lynne, Beth and Catherine; and son, Mike.

Eloise Rush Milam, 100, died Oct. 3, 2008. Born in Anahuac. As founder of the Melody Maids, a young women's singing group that began in 1942 in Beaumont to raise money for World War II, Milam taught hundreds of girls singing, deportment and etiquette throughout the 40s and 50s. Her students performed across the country, in Europe and in Asia. In recent years, she brought joy to visitors at Hotel Beaumont with impromptu concerts. Her husband, Mason, preceded her in death in 1991. Survivors include her son, Marion Joe "Bucky", and sisters, Alice Wall and Vera Macon. Contributions may be made to Lamar University for the Melody Maid Foundation—Eloise Milam Scholarship, P.O. Box 10009, Beaumont, Texas, 77710.

Professor of art **Jerry Newman**, 74, died May 27, 2008. Newman was born March 31, 1934, in Pennington, Texas, and will be remembered through his paintings and his students. He taught for 42 years at Lamar, was named professor emeritus and was honored as a Regents' Professor. He earned a B.F.A. in art from the University of Texas, Austin, and an M.F.A. in painting from the



University of Southern California, Los Angeles. Among numerous one-man shows and group exhibits, his honors include being named Texas State Artist 1981-1982, Texas Wildflower Artist 1982-1983 and Texas Ducks Unlimited Artist 2001-2002. The Jerry A. Newman Painting Scholarship was established in 1997 by friends and former students. Survivors include his wife of 36 years, Pattee; son, Bob; daughter, Lisa; and brother, Bobby. Donations may be made to Lamar University referencing the Jerry Newman Painting Scholarship, Lamar University, P.O. Box 10011, Beaumont, TX. 77710.



Professor of music **Raul Sosa Ornelas**, an internationally known trumpet virtuoso and arranger, died Sept. 3, 2008. At age 66, Ornelas had undergone surgery after having been recently diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He was known for his deep love for his family, his students, his friends and his music. A Lamar faculty member since 1972, he taught and mentored generations of trumpet students who have gone on to national prominence as performers and teachers. He performed with area and regional symphony orchestras, traveled internationally with Keith Brion and the New Sousa Band and was a leader in organizations for trumpet performers and educa-

tors, as well as a distinguished arranger of music. Ornelas was born Nov. 6, 1941, in Corpus Christi. Survivors include his wife, Jean; daughters, Arban Severin, Dawn Michalewicz, and Dr. Jocelyn Glassberg; mother, Josephina; sisters, Olivia Cooper and Rosa Ornelas; and brothers, Bernardo, Rodolfo and Ricardo. A Lamar University scholarship in music has been established in Ornelas' memory through the Lamar University Foundation. Contributions may be made to P.O. Box 11500, Beaumont, Texas 77710 or by calling the foundation at (409) 880-2117.

Victor J. Rogers, 87, entrepreneur and philanthropist, died Sept. 20, 2008. He moved with his family to Beaumont from Chicago in the 1930s and together with the Rogers family and brothers, Ben, Sol and Nate, founded Texas State Optical in 1936, which eventually grew into a major chain. The Rogers family made an irrevocable imprint on the Beaumont community by donating land for parks, developing Gateway Shopping Center and Parkdale Mall, and bringing healthcare to medically underserved citizens throughout Southeast Texas. Much beloved by the Lamar community, Vic was a loyal and longtime supporter of Lamar University. He fondly supported the cultural arts programs at LU including Le Grand Bal, LU-llaby of Broadway and the Dishman Art Museum, among others. He also funded seven scholarships during his lifetime, always honoring others, never himself: Dr. Rex Cottle Scholarship, C. Robert Kemble Presidential Scholarship, Tipton and Ann Golias Scholarship, Jean Allen Helms Scholarship, Dr. Adonia Placette Scholarship, Dr. James Simmons Scholarship and the Tom Vance Scholarship. Vic Rogers has often been at the forefront of charitable causes as a "friend of the arts" and an economic leader. Survivors include his wife, June; son, J.W.; and daughter, Lauren Freedman.

Lamar University Annual Giving

Annual Giving donors, *Thank you!*

This has been not only a year of historic importance and enormous success at Lamar, but also a year touched by Mother Nature in the form of Hurricane Ike. Despite Ike's impact, the University achieved new milestones: the largest and brightest class of students in its history enrolled this fall; new facilities and campus improvements continue, and Lamar's growing stature and its importance to Southeast Texas have brought unprecedented support from alumni, friends, the community and the region.

Two historic events reflect the strength and energy alive at Lamar today. On May 3 in the Montagne Center, we announced Lamar University's first comprehensive campaign with a goal of \$100 million, and more than \$50 million has already been raised. This remarkable achievement places Lamar among the best and strongest universities in attracting private philanthropic support, so critical to our students'

futures. Also this spring, we announced the return of football to Cardinal Stadium. We will play the first football game in more than two decades in fall 2010!

We thank you—our alumni and friends—for making this progress possible. Your impact can be stated simply, yet starkly. Without you, such progress would not exist. You are taking your alma mater to new heights. The annual fund has long been the bedrock of our success and remains the core of Lamar's efforts to engage and involve those who care about this wonderful University. These pages acknowledgment donors who have cumulatively given more than \$100 to Lamar University, the Lamar University Foundation or the Office of Alumni Affairs between Sept. 1, 2007, and Aug. 31, 2008.

Thank you for helping Lamsar grow.

A REPORT ON GIVING

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

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The *alchemy* of Keith Carter



The black-and-white photographs speak of isolation and stark, contrasting realities. A boy surrounded by a bubble, his thin figure set apart from the world. A small girl with a toy wagon, dwarfed by a fighter jet.

But there are also playful, uplifting images. An elephant's humanity is revealed and revered beneath a starry canopy. A child floats majestically in the air, arms outstretched as he gleefully defies gravity.

"Keith Carter explores relationships that are timeless, enigmatic, and mythological," notes the publisher of the Lamar art faculty member's 10th book, *A Certain Alchemy*. "Drawing from the animal world, popular culture, folklore, and religion, Carter presents photographs that attempt to reflect hidden meanings in the real world."

A Certain Alchemy, published through the University of Texas Press and the Southwestern and Mexican Photography



“The book is a collection of imperfect observations of the relationship we have to our ideas of place, time, memory, desire and regret.”
KEITH CARTER

Series of the Wittliff Collections, also was featured in a 10-page article in September's *Texas Monthly* magazine.

"The book is a collection of imperfect observations of the relationship we have to our ideas of place, time, memory, desire and regret," says Carter. "It is an anthology of oblique angles and awkward pauses that examines the history of photography and our own shared natural histories."

Accompanying the images is an introduction by Carter's friend and fellow photographer Bill Wittliff, who describes Carter's artistic journey and the epiphanies he has experienced.

Since joining the Lamar faculty in 1987 to hold the university's first endowed chair, the Homer L. Walles Chair in Visual and Performing Arts, Carter has built a prestigious program in art photography. He is a powerful recruiting force, attracting and mentoring a number of promising young artists.

received Lamar's highest teaching honor, the University Professor Award, and was named the Lamar University Distinguished Faculty Lecturer.

Carter has exhibited all over the world. His work is included in many public collections, including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Art Institute of Chicago and Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. He is the author of nine previous books: *Opera Nuda*, *Ezekiel's Horse*, *Holding Venus*, *Keith Carter Photographs: Twenty-Five Years*, *Bones*, *Heaven of Animals*, *Mojo*, *The Blue Man* and *From Uncertain to Blue*. The Art Museum of Southeast Texas honored Carter Sept. 6 at its annual gala, "A Black and White Evening with a Touch of Color." —SF



Radio Flyer, 2000

Elephant and Stars, 2001

Bubble, 2003



Fire and ice

Lamar's Meredith "Butch" Jack journeyed almost 5,000 miles to the northern reaches of the continent to make art and history. His destination was the "Iron Trail to the Arctic," where he and a diverse team of artistic adventurers poured cast-iron sculptures north of the Arctic Circle. "It's something that hasn't been attempted on the North American continent as far as we've been able to ascertain," said Jack, professor of art and a Lamar faculty member since 1977.

The team of sculptors and commercial foundrymen took advantage of the summer solstice and its 24 hours of daylight to pour the sculptures using a small version of the traditional coke-fueled copula furnace. The sculptures—cast, cooled, surface-finished and installed in a single "day"—became a permanent installation at the Wiseman Village, Alaska, site.

"We think we set world records for the northern-most iron casting—at least on the North American continent—and the northernmost public art project—since the residents of Wiseman contributed to the designs on the sides of the obelisk sculpture, Jack said. I haven't contacted the folks at Guinness yet, but it's one of the ten-thousand things I've yet to do to wrap up the project."

Jack's journey began May 31 when he and Donnie Keen, owner of Keen Foundry in Houston and perennial participant in Lamar iron pours, left Houston in a truck loaded with coke fuel and necessary materials and equipment. Accompanying them were Lamar students John Forrest Goodhue and Rhonda McNalley, both of Beaumont. Art majors Travis Coatney of Sour Lake and Jeffrey Wheeler of Beaumont traveled as far as Denver, where the group attended the Western Cast Iron Conference.

The project was a brainchild of Keen



From left, Professor Wendy Crosskey of University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and Lamar student Rhonda McNally collect the molten metal for the pour.

and Patrick Garley, a sculptor from Alaska, who found they had a mutual fascination with ironcasting and the Arctic. Jack and others soon joined in the planning and implementation. They decided the only truly appropriate day of the year for such an event would be the summer solstice June 21.

To create their sculptures, the team used cast iron scrap from local sources. The iron was melted—at temperatures up to 3,000 degrees—and recast into objects of art both functional and conceptual. One impediment, they agreed, was the prohibitively high freight charges for shipment of bulk materials, such as coke fuel, to Alaska.

So Jack and Keen agreed to bring those supplies from Texas. They drove from Houston to Clarendon, Texas, then on to Denver and Bellingham, Wash., where the truck and passengers boarded a ferry to Haines, Alaska. The driving trip resumed toward Wiseman, with a stop in Fairbanks to pick up other participants. Wiseman is 50

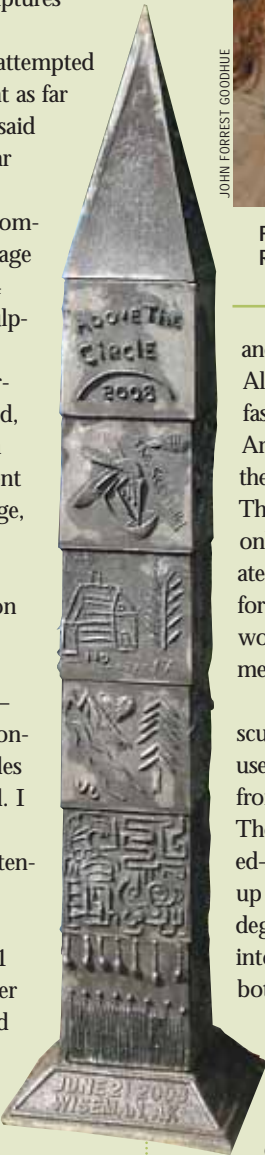
miles north of the Arctic Circle, a journey 300 miles north of Fairbanks. After the iron pour June 21, the group returned south, to other iron pours in Wasilla, Palmer and, finally, Kanai, as part of that city's Fourth of July celebration.

Between them, Jack and Keen have more than half a century of iron-casting experience. Jack has been casting in academic venues since the 1970s. He began working with Keen about 15 years ago, and the Houston foundryman soon became part of Lamar's iron-sculpture projects. Jack and Lamar University have the distinction of having built and/or operated furnaces

at all five of the International Conferences on Contemporary Cast Iron Art at locales from Birmingham, Ala., in 1988 to Ironbridge, England, in 2006.

"Obviously the primary objective was to successfully cast and install cast-iron sculptures north of the Arctic Circle," Jack said. "However, there are several other facets to the program, including to spread the use of cast iron as a sculptural material and to train participants to make their own sculptures." —LW

“We think we set world records for the northern-most iron casting—at least on the North American continent—and the northernmost public art project”
MEREDITH “BUTCH” JACK



Dream of color, dance of light



The brighter-than-life dream-scape colors of Joan Steinman depict a fragmented reality that is at once inviting, gorgeous and thought provoking.

“My work has always been influenced by the brilliant light and color of my environment,” Steinman says.

“The colors, as I move through life, are vibrant, intense, changing constantly, and play a major part in how I translate color and line on canvas.”

Steinman’s latest works—landscapes, cityscapes and portraits—are on display through Nov. 20 in the Dishman Art Museum. She is a Beaumont native whose father and grandfather, Doug E. Steinman Jr. and Doug E. Steinman Sr., designed a number of buildings in and around Beaumont, including the Julie Rogers Theatre, Edson Hotel and the Jack



Brooks Federal Building. Many of these landmarks are featured in Steinman’s Lamar exhibition of 40 acrylic-on-canvas paintings.

“Last summer, I had the opportunity to revisit shapes and colors familiar to me in the form of cityscapes of Beaumont,” she said. “The rooftops of the tall buildings became mountaintops that allowed me to see the patterns of color and form that are played out in front of us as we move through the landscape every day.”

Poignantly, the exhibit includes paintings of the family beach cottage on Bolivar Peninsula, which was destroyed by Hurricane Ike.

A graduate of Monsignor Kelly Catholic High School, Steinman studied art in Italy and France before settling in Houston, where she now lives.—SF

ArtsNotes

The Lamar Community Orchestra will present its first concert Dec. 9, bringing musicians from all walks of life together to enrich audiences—and themselves. The performance will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Setzer Student Center Ballroom, with **Kurt Gilman**, associate professor of music, conducting. The orchestra features professional musicians, as well as people from other fields, Gilman said. “There is a real need to fill a gap in the orchestral world of Beaumont,” said **Harry Bulow**,



KURT GILMAN



HARRY BULOW

chair of the Department of Music Theatre & Dance. “The Lamar Community Orchestra will allow musicians to develop and sustain their interest and abilities in performing standard orchestra repertoire.” The orchestra’s spring concert is scheduled May 5 . . . Hurricane season in Southeast Texas again took its toll on the *Lamarismo!* concert series, delaying the opening performance by a month. The Wind

Ensemble and Concert Band concert was postponed until Nov. 6, and the faculty artists concert rescheduled for March 19, 2009. The fall season also features the holiday choir concert Dec. 7. The spring schedule includes the Jazz Band, March 3, 2009, and Cardinal Singers and Lamar Dance Company, April 23, 2009. Call (409) 880-8144 for ticket information . . . **Adam Conrad**, lecturer in theatre, joined an international group of actors, directors and professors at an exclusive workshop on the Meisner approach to acting, taught by Larry Silverberg at his True Acting Institute at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Fla. Techniques are inspired by Sanford Meisner, considered one of the most influential acting teachers of the century. Participants in the workshop hailed



from France, Austria, Romania, Canada and Brazil, as well as the United States . . . Music professor **Kim Ellis** had the rare opportunity to record selections for a new album with the composers in the studio. With William Thomas

McKinley and Ed Marcus nearby during the session in Boston, Ellis, who teaches clarinet and saxophone, performed on two compositions featured on *New American Works for Clarinet, Vol. II*. “Creating something new and having the composer there to inspire the performance is an incredible experience,” Ellis said . . . *Fried Beauty*, a poem by R.S. “Sam” Gwynn, professor of English, was featured on the American Life In Poetry website—americanlifeinpoetry.org—earlier this year. Gwynn “is a master of the light touch,” writes Ted Kooser, U.S. poet laureate from 2004 to 2006.



ADAM CONRAD

Unwavering dedication

Jean Andrews, professor of deaf studies and deaf education, already had earned Lamar University’s top three honors, as well as the prestigious statewide Piper Professorship. This fall, she became one of three professors in The Texas State University System to be honored as a 2008 regents’ professor.

Andrews is coordinator of Lamar’s internationally recognized graduate programs in deaf education and has served as president of the governing board of the Texas School for the Deaf.

The system’s board of regents bestowed the new honor, which recognizes “exceptional and outstanding” professors who have achieved excellence in teaching, research and publication, and community service, demonstrating, in performance of their duties, an unwavering dedication to their students, universities and communities.

A member of the Lamar faculty since 1988, Andrews earned honors as distinguished faculty lecturer in 1996, university scholar in 1998 and university professor in 2000. In 2004, the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation awarded her the Piper Professorship, conferred each year on just 10 faculty members across the state—and to only 11 Lamar professors in the 85-year history of the university.

The office of regents’ professor is a lifetime designation, honoring tenured faculty members who have been acknowledged by their peers and students as exceptional and recommended by their university presidents, the system chancellor and directors of the TSUS Foundation. Andrews received the regents’ professor medallion, a \$5,000 award “and the gratitude and admiration of the board of regents.”

“I’ve enjoyed studying, teaching and writing about language, literacy and deaf studies issues with students and colleagues at Lamar,” Andrews said. “I’d like to thank my husband, Jim Phelan ’71, ’84, and my Lamar colleagues, especially those in the Department of Deaf Studies/Deaf Education, for their support.”

Andrews has achieved excellence by her work through the undergraduate and graduate programs at Lamar University, according to a regents’ resolution, “helping to raise the prominence of the program in deaf studies and deaf education to a national level.”

She has trained deaf-education teachers who are employed across the United States, including Puerto Rico, and worked with her colleagues to develop the only program in the U.S.

that trains Hispanic teachers of the deaf. She has also worked with students now in administrative positions at universities and special-education programs in Saudi Arabia and China.

The resolution cites Andrews’ linguistic and psycholinguistic research in developing bilingual methods for teaching English literacy to deaf children who communicate primarily in American Sign Language, as well as her authorship of numerous publications, including books for children such as the *Flying Fingers* anthology, the adventure series of a young hero and his friends who solve mysteries while they work out conflicts that arise between the hearing and deaf cultures, as well as CD-ROM software featuring literacy materials in three languages for deaf children (ASL, English and Spanish). She has co-authored with psychologists two textbooks that examine psychological, educational and sociological aspects of deaf people. One textbook has been translated into Chinese.

“Dr. Andrews’ advocacy for access and support services for deaf students, her innovative use of multimedia technology in the classroom, and her service to the community as a member and president of the governing board of the Texas School for the Deaf in Austin have made her an exemplary teacher, scholar, mentor and community leader,” according to the resolution. —LW



BRIAN SATTLER