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# CARDINAL Cadence

VOL. 38 NO. 1

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FEBRUARY 2010

A MEMBER OF THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM



## Ghana trip inspires Beck Fellow

PAGE 30

## Save your seat: Football tickets on sale

PAGE 60

## \$1 million gift boosts Cardinal pride

PAGE 10





## From the President

All across campus, we see evidence of vibrant changes taking place at our university.

Record numbers of graduates led us to hold two commencement ceremonies in December. Growing enrollment—we set an *all-time* record enrollment of 14,054 this spring—has led us to initiate construction of a fifth phase of Cardinal Village. When these new residences open this fall, Lamar will have on-campus student housing for more than 2,500 students.

Lamar is already a top-producer of chemical engineers. The new expansion to Cherry Engineering will help accommodate growth in our program, specifically the Ph.D. in chemical engineering. Across campus, Lamar's many music majors will also enjoy vastly improved accommodations when the renovation of the music building is complete.

The return of football to Lamar's sports slate has prompted much construction including the renovation of Provost Umphrey Stadium, the Dan F. and Sandra A. Smith Press Box, construction of the new athletic complex and installation of the state-of-the-art playing surface on Bud Leonard Field. Meanwhile, Coach Ray Woodard and the football staff continue signing outstanding recruits, running drills and coaching the Cardinals as they prepare for their first season on the gridiron. Fans are getting ready too, with season ticket sales and reservations for tailgating now under way.

Expansion of Lamar's dual credit and Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences programs through our distance education division in partnership with Higher Ed Holdings will introduce these excellent opportunities to more than 500,000 Texas high school juniors and seniors' as well as more than 680,000 Texans who began but did not complete their college education. On campus and online, these are exciting days at Lamar University.

Alumni and friends of your university have continued to respond to the call to invest in the future of Lamar. The \$62 million raised thus far is the dynamic underpinning to students' daily lives—helping them get the education they need through generous scholarships, supporting Lamar's growing academic programs, and offering students research opportunities and experiences otherwise unobtainable. Funds raised toward the \$100 million goal are also fashioning a vastly improved campus—from the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center to new athletics fields and the top-notch, renovated Provost Umphrey Stadium. I invite you to join with us in moving Lamar University to a new level of excellence by *Investing in the Future* today.

With Cardinal Pride,

James M. Simmons  
President  
Lamar University



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## Cadence The Staff

Cardinal Cadence is published by the Division of University Advancement, Lamar University, a member of The Texas State University System and an affirmative action, equal opportunity educational institution.

**Brian Sattler**, Executive Editor, Director of Public Relations

**Cynthia Hicks** '89, '93, Editor, Publication Specialist

**Larry Acker**, Assistant Director, Writer

**Beth Gallaspy** '09, Marketing Specialist, Writer

**Louise Wood**, Media Specialist, Writer

**Frances Simpson** '95, Senior Administrative Associate

### Contributors:

Cathleen Cole, Sharon Forret, Brian Henry, Patrick Murray, Amanda Rowell, Rush Wood, *writing*  
Keith Carter, Michelle Cate, Dwaine Cox, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™, Brandon Gouthier, Keith Huckabay, Angeline Smith, Todd Stringer, Rohn Wenner, *photography*

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Changes of address may be sent to:  
University Advancement,  
P.O. Box 10011, Beaumont, Texas 77710, or by  
E-mail: alumni@lamar.edu

### Division of University Advancement

**Camille Mouton**, Vice President

**Floyd F. McSpadden Jr.**, Director of Planned Giving

**Janice Trammell** '85, '93, Director of Development

**Tracie Bryan Craig**, Director of University Reception Centers

P.O. Box 10011  
Beaumont, Texas 77710  
(409) 880-8419 or fax (409) 880-8409

### Lamar University Alumni Office

When visiting campus, you're invited to stop by the Alumni Office at the John Gray Center, Building B, 855 Florida, Suite 102.

**Juan Zabala** '07, Executive Director of Alumni Affairs and Advancement Services

LU Alumni Office  
P.O. Box 10005  
Beaumont, Texas 77710  
(409) 880-8921, or (800) 298-4839  
E-mail: alumni@lamar.edu  
www.lamar.edu/alumni

**Janice Trammell**, Executive Director  
Lamar University Foundation  
P.O. Box 11500  
Beaumont, Texas 77710  
(409) 880-2117

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VERNON GLASS

# Coach of champions



Bart Simmons '78, '79, Marilyn Glass '65 and Martye Simmons '78

by Beth Gallaspy

**H**igh expectations defined Vernon Glass. As Lamar University's head football coach from 1963-1975, Glass challenged his players to do their best every time and to learn from their mistakes when they fell short. That attitude carried through to all aspects of his life.

"He had high expectations for everything," said Glass's daughter Diana (Glass) Thibodeaux '77. "It was not unrealistic expectation; it was doing what you knew to be the best you could do. I think that's what he brought out in the players, too."

For Glass and his family—his wife, Marilyn Glass '65, and their daughters, Thibodeaux, Lindy (Glass) Gohmert '75 and Patti Glass—the years in Beaumont at Lamar were happy ones, surrounded by administrators, coaches and players who became like family.

"His whole purpose was to make those around him better," Thibodeaux said. "He truly cared about the players and the other coaches. It was about winning, but it was mostly about the players."

The respect and affection Glass had for his players was readily reciprocated.

"I had immense and total respect for Coach Glass," said Bart Simmons '78, '79, a three-year letterman as a Cardinals offensive lineman. "He was the best example of a true players' coach."

"He related to the players, was at ease around them and talked openly with them. More importantly, he motivated them. We all wanted to play our best for Coach Glass. We wanted to play like champions."

In recognition of Glass's legacy, the Cardinals football practice field was dedicated this fall as the Coach Vernon Glass Field of Champions. Improvements to the field—including a new covered pavilion—were made possible by a \$200,000 gift from Simmons and his wife, Martye (Sculley) Simmons '78, to Lamar's Investing in the Future comprehensive campaign.

"We're delighted in the gift and in the memory of all the wonderful things Coach Glass did here at Lamar University," said Athletic Director Billy Tubbs. The two became friends when Tubbs was an assistant basketball coach during Glass's tenure as head football coach.

"He won championships, and we want to get our program back to that level," Tubbs said. "Naming it the Vernon Glass Field of Champions ties in so well with what we want to do."

As head football coach for 13 seasons, Glass led the Cardinals to four Southland Conference championship titles—in 1964, 1965, 1966 and 1971. He was twice named NCAA College Division Coach of the Year—in 1964 and 1965—and twice named SLC Coach of the Year—in 1970 and 1974. At Lamar, he compiled a career record of 63-68-1.

"Vernon took over a fairly successful program at the NAIA level under coach J.B.

Higgins and accepted the challenge of moving up to the NCAA College Division level," said Joe Lee Smith, who was Lamar's sports information director when Glass was head coach and Higgins was athletic director. "In his second season, we started a string of three-straight conference championships."

"Soon after that, we took another big step up when we went to the University Division 1A level. That was a huge step because Vernon then started having a hard time competing on our limited resources."

Glass, who died in 2005, had an impressive record as a player and coach even before coming to Lamar. He had been an

“  
His whole purpose was to make those around him better. He truly cared about the players and the other coaches. It was about winning, but it was mostly about the players.  
”

—DIANA (GLASS) THIBODEAUX '77

All-State high school quarterback in Corpus Christi and played a key role in Rice's 1949 Southwest Conference championship and Cotton Bowl win over North Carolina. He was a three-year letterman in both football and baseball at Rice, where he captained the 1950 football team and the 1951 baseball team. Later, he quarterbacked Carswell Air Force Base in its National Service Crown win over Fort Jackson.

Glass started his coaching career at Del Mar Junior College, guiding the team to the Junior Rose Bowl and earning honors as Junior College Coach of the Year in 1959 from the Texas Sports Writers Association.

He moved on to Baylor University as a backfield coach before taking over the Cardinals program from Higgins.

"If you talk to the guys who played for Vernon and those who worked with him, you'll find out what an outstanding person he was," Smith said. "He was dedicated to doing things the right way—as a coach and as a person. He was clearly a class act."

He also was a gifted storyteller who became a sought after banquet speaker during his days in Beaumont, according to football media guides of the time.

Simmons, a Distinguished Alumnus and member of the College of Business Board of Advisors, often heard Glass say

that games were won or lost on the practice field, not in the stadium. "Naming the practice field the Coach Vernon Glass Field of Champions is appropriate and is the best way I know to honor him and all of the players, coaches and many other folks associated with Lamar football whom he inspired during his important tenure as head coach," Simmons said.

Glass's family agreed wholeheartedly. "Naming the practice field after our father is the perfect tribute to him. The life-lessons that he taught on the practice field were persever-

ance—meaning you keep doing it until you get it right—determination—if you get knocked down, you get right back up again—and respect—for success comes when you learn to respect each other and work together. Those were the truths that he believed and lived by," Thibodeaux said during the dedication ceremony.

Thibodeaux said her father would have been touched and honored by the recognition, especially since it came from one of his players. "He had plenty of honors through the years, but I think this would have meant the most," she said. "Now there's a tangible symbol of his legacy."



# A legacy that lives through the lives of students

A wonderful couple and true friends of the arts

For more than 50 years, Rex and Ruth Goode were loyal supporters of Lamar University.

Their love of Lamar, and of the arts, led them to establish planned gifts that today are helping students in the arts at Lamar and a host of arts organizations in Southeast Texas.

"They both had a great love for music and art," said President James Simmons. "Both were members of the Friends of the Arts and were extremely supportive of the university, attending many events and particularly those in music and the arts."

"Ruth was an excellent pianist, and Rex was an architect at one time employed by the university," Simmons said. "In fact, one of our recital halls in the music building was his design."

Natives of Florida, the couple came to Beaumont in 1953 when Rex accepted a position with a local architectural firm. He began teaching architecture courses at Lamar and later became director of campus planning and university architect, a position he held from 1975 to 1986 when he retired from the university. Rex was the associate architect of First United Methodist Church, and also designed the Wesley Foundation at Lamar. He was an associate architect for the remodeling of the Julie Rogers Theatre. Rex died Jan. 1, 2009.

Ruth taught piano and theory for 40 years, during which time she was also an accompanist and performer. She regularly attended the annual Van Cliburn Competition in Fort Worth and was a charter member of the Women's Music Club of Beaumont. Ruth died Dec. 11, 2004.

Simmons' appreciation of Ruth's talented touch on the keys extended to how she touched the life of his family. Both his daughter and a son studied piano with her as young children. "I would go to their recitals and see first hand what a wonderful teacher she was," he said.

Through the terms of their wills, they left \$113,000 to the Lamar University Foundation to create scholarships for students in art, music and theater. In addition, they gave funds from their estate to numerous local charities.

"We are most appreciative of Rex and Ruth for leaving this wonderful gift to Lamar University," said Floyd McSpadden, director of planned giving. "Planned gifts provide for the future of Lamar University while affording our alumni and friends the ability to balance their charitable interests with their financial needs." —BKS



BILL NYLIN



TIM FRANK

# Video vital to victory

For a college football program, one vital component of a winning strategy is careful analysis of game and practice video.

Thanks to a gift from Conn's Inc., the Cardinals will have a first-class facility this fall for editing and viewing video of their own plays and those of teams they will face on the gridiron.

In honor of the \$150,000 gift, given as part of the university's Investing in the Future comprehensive campaign, the facility inside the new athletic complex will be known as the Conn's Video Room.

Players have an easier time improving their play when they can see what they are doing right and what they are doing wrong on the field. Reviewing video also will allow the Cardinals to properly prepare for upcoming games.

"Being able to scout your opponents is one of the real critical points in coaching and winning," said Athletic Director Billy Tubbs. "We feel like this will help us present a first-class program to our players and our recruits. We really appreciate this gift from Conn's."

The university and the company share a long history in Southeast Texas. Conn's began in Beaumont in 1890 as a plumbing and heating supply company and later expanded to offer a variety of appliances and electronics at a number of locations. Today, Conn's is a publicly traded company headquartered in Beaumont with more than 70 stores in three states. Lamar University got its start in 1923 as a junior college a few blocks from the current location. Because of

the long-standing relationship, Conn's wanted to show its support for the university, said Bill Nylin '65, chairman of the board at Conn's and a former Lamar University executive vice president and deputy chancellor.

"We feel like reinstating the football

5,000 students and first-generation vacuum tube computers, which gave him his first opportunity to learn computer programming.

"It's a personal relationship, not just a corporate relationship," Nylin said. "It goes way back."

Tim Frank, CEO and president of Conn's, said he can see the impact of Lamar University simply by walking through the company's corporate headquarters in Beaumont.

"Of the degreed individuals or the individuals pursuing degrees, by far the vast majority come from Lamar," Frank said. "They receive a superb education but are also very well-rounded individuals. We very much appreciate the value that Lamar brings to our workforce. My personal philosophy is an education is not a means to an end. It is of tremendous value in and of itself. The maturity

and skills that Lamar brings to these individuals helps them to excel in our environment, which is one of hard work, of a very practical, pragmatic approach to solving problems and helping customers."

Both Frank and Nylin recognize that universities like Lamar can no longer rely on state funding, tuition and fees alone to support quality educational programs. "You have to have the quality research programs to bring funds in to make a first-class university, and you have to have private and corporate donations to assist that as well. We understand that, and we're supportive of it," Nylin said.—BG

We feel like reinstating the football program . . . and getting the marching band going again will really help the university attract more students and improve enrollment and the university's position both regionally and at the state and national level. We're excited about the opportunity, and we wanted to be a part of this.

—BILL NYLIN '65

program under (LU President) Jimmy Simmons' leadership and getting the marching band going again will really help the university attract more students and improve enrollment and the university's position both regionally and at the state and national levels," Nylin said. "We're excited about the opportunity, and we wanted to be a part of this."

Supporting the video room seemed an appropriate gift, Nylin said, considering the products that Conn's sells. He said he expects the return of football to bring additional positive changes at a university he already has seen change tremendously since his days as a student. When he began his studies in the early 1960s, Lamar had about



# Valero to LU: A million for scholarships



Bill Klesse, left, and President James Simmons

Students in Lamar's College of Engineering will find enhanced scholarship opportunity, thanks to a \$1 million gift from the Valero Energy Foundation—the charitable arm of Valero Energy Corp. The gift will create an endowment for the purpose of awarding the Valero Scholarship in Engineering.

Bill Klesse, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Valero Energy Corp., presented the gift. At the gift announcement, Klesse said, "Engineering really helps young people form their minds, add to society and become real contributors."

"Our country needs a real scientific approach to many of its issues," Klesse said. "Training young people in the science disciplines is the wave of the future."

"Valero has been a faithful supporter across the board of the many initiatives of the college," said Jack Hopper, dean of the College of Engineering and executive assistant to the president for economic development and industrial relations. "This contribution specifically for student scholarships, both undergraduate and graduate, is a tremendous boost to our recruiting and retention of outstanding students, and we are very grateful to the men and women of Valero for their support."

"Lamar does a terrific job in Southeast Texas; there's no question about it," Klesse said. "We have many Lamar graduates in our company, and they add value to our performance and to our success."

Valero's support of Lamar University dates to its purchase of the Port Arthur refinery in 2005. Valero has provided co-op and intern positions for Lamar University students and has been a leader in organizing and

developing the college's industrial partnership. Valero has also actively served the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce's committee on advancing new technologies at the university and serves on the Texas Air Research Advisory Board, which provides support for initiatives to promote the value of the university's research to the petroleum industry.

"The Valero Energy Foundation proudly supports education and is honored to present this gift to Lamar University to establish the Valero Scholarship in Engineering endowment," said Greg Gentry, vice president and general manager at the Valero Port Arthur Refinery. "It has always been part of Valero's culture to make a difference in the



communities where our employees live and work. Valero recognizes the remarkable contributions of Lamar University in the field of engineering, and, since many Valero engineers are Lamar University alumni, we are pleased to help future engineering students achieve their goals."

Valero Energy Corp. is a Fortune 500 company based in San Antonio with approximately 22,000 employees and 2008 revenues of \$119 billion. The company owns and operates 16 refineries throughout the United States, Canada and the Caribbean with a combined throughput capacity of approximately 3 million barrels per day, making it the largest refiner in North America. Valero also owns and operates seven ethanol plants in the Midwest with a combined capacity of 780 million gallons per year and is one of the nation's largest retail operators with approximately 5,800 retail and branded wholesale outlets in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean under various brand names, including Valero, Diamond Shamrock, Shamrock, Ultramar and Beacon.—BKS



Jennifer '84 and Greg Thompson, left, with President James Simmons

LARRY ACKER

## Tennis, anyone?

Tennis has always been a family affair for Jennifer (Hebert) '84 and Greg Thompson. Three of the Thompson's four children played tennis competitively, and Greg has coached tennis as a volunteer for St. Anne Catholic School in Beaumont. Practices and tournaments for the St. Anne tennis team were generally held at the LU courts, so it was a perfect fit for the couple to donate a generous gift to upgrade the tennis facilities for the many students who would use the courts in years to come.

The Beaumont couple has donated \$300,000 for improving the LU tennis facilities to the Investing in the Future comprehensive campaign. A total renovation of the existing tennis building includes a pro shop that will double as a meeting facility as well as improvements to the rest-room facilities and increased storage area. The Thompson Family Tennis Center will also include a state-of-the art electronic scoreboard capable of keeping scores remotely for up to six matches at once and new awnings to shade spectator seating.

"The reality for Division I athletics is you must have top-notch facilities to recruit and retain top student-athletes," said Greg Davis, Lamar's head coach for men's tennis. "Jennifer and Greg have now made that possible for the Lamar tennis program. We are certain the Thompson Family Tennis Center will be viewed as one of the

top tennis facilities in the state of Texas."

The Thompsons have always been loyal supporters of Lamar University and staunch believers in service to the community. Greg served as president of the LU Foundation and is co-chair for the \$100 million Investing in the Future comprehensive campaign. To date, the campaign for Lamar has raised more than \$62 million of its overall goal.

"We have great leadership for the campaign in Elvis Mason '59 and Mike Aldredge '65, my co-chairs, as well as from the entire campaign cabinet; however, Lamar felt someone was needed who was on the ground in Beaumont and who was on the university campus fairly often. As the Foundation president at the time, I was happy to serve when asked," Greg said.

Coaching tennis at St. Anne isn't the only call to service in the church for the couple. Currently president of the diocesan school board and a former president of the St. Anne school board, Greg has worked with Catholic schools for many years. The couple co-chaired the Bishop's Faith Appeal for the Diocese of Beaumont. Their most recent honor from the church was a papal appointment as Knight and Lady of the Order of the Holy Sepulcher, an organization initially established by warrior monks in 1099 with the goal of protecting and defending the Holy Land.

Jennifer is the first in her immediate family to graduate from college. She worked

her way through school—teaching ballet, tap and jazz dance in Groves, crediting pedagogy and history instructors like Sarah Matheny, Howard Mackey and John Carroll for helping her succeed at Lamar. She applies her degree in secondary education and her talents as a substitute teacher for St. Anne.

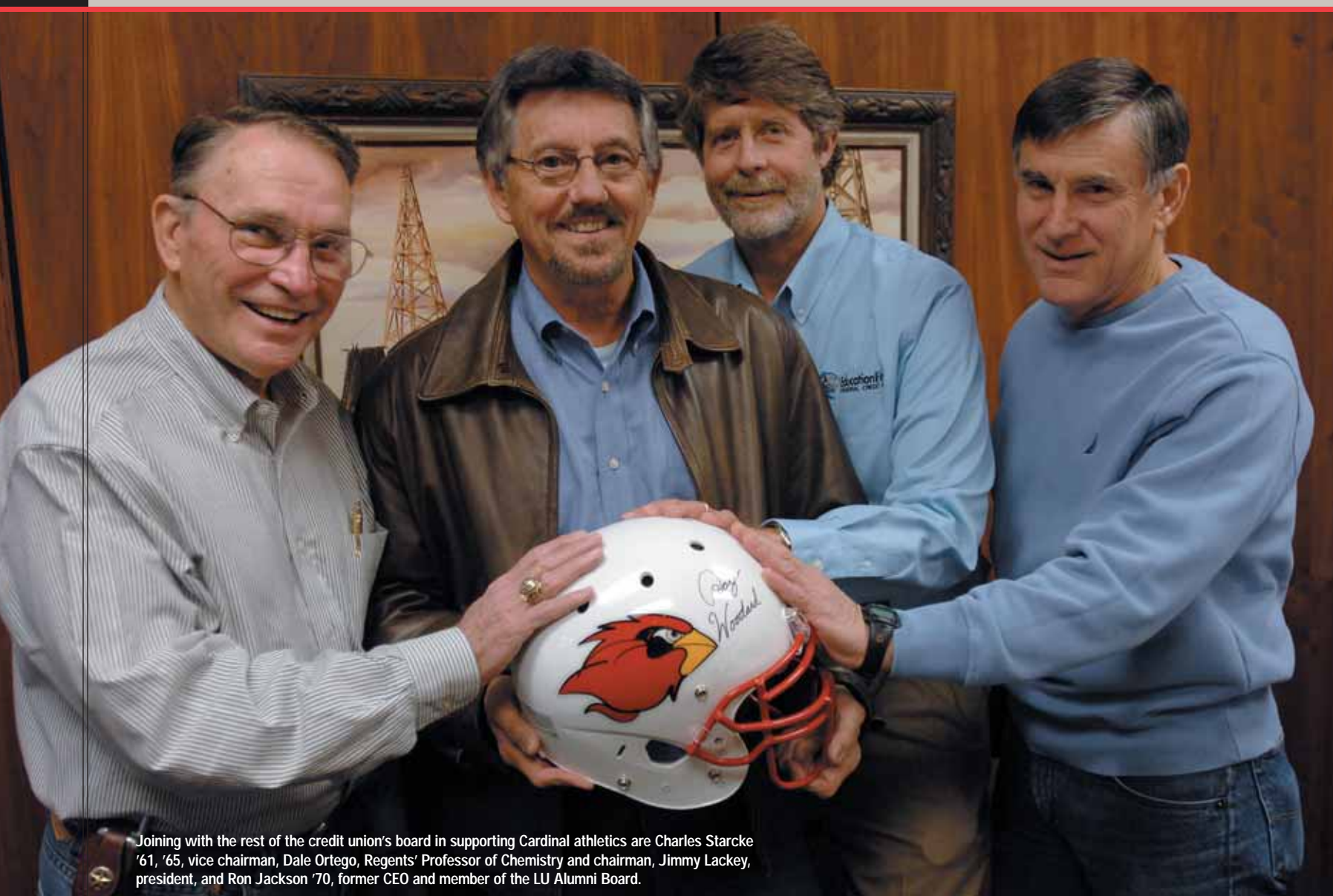
Greg, a Beaumont attorney and Port Arthur native, graduated in 1979 with an accounting degree from the University of Texas and in 1982 earned his law degree there. As a professional mediator, Greg enjoys the intellectual challenge of bringing together two parties who seemingly can't resolve their differences to finally agree upon a mutually acceptable solution. In 1995, he earned the M.B.A. from Harvard, but he acknowledges that it was his first college experience at Lamar that set the stage for all his future successes. "My very first college experience was at Lamar University three days after I finished high school. I took an English class with Howard Perkins, who was a phenomenal teacher and a wonderful person," Thompson recalled. "That first class led me down a road of success and to a great career."

"Greg's continued service to Lamar University and his leadership throughout the comprehensive campaign have been exemplary in so many ways," said President James Simmons. "Although he didn't graduate from Lamar, he took his first college courses here, so we're happy to claim him as one of our own."

The Thompsons have a profound love for the Boy and Girl Scouts of America. Greg earned the Eagle Scout distinction in 1972 and has been involved in scouting ever since. Their two eldest sons, twins Taylor and Tyler, are Eagle Scouts, and the youngest son, Tristan, is currently a Life Scout. Greg served as past president of the Three Rivers Council of the Boy Scouts of America and is a board member for the Southern Region Boy Scouts of America, as well as an at-large member of the national board.

"The boys were so involved in Boy Scouts that our daughter, Trevor, came to me years ago and wanted to know why we couldn't also have a Girl Scout troop," Jennifer recalls. "I said, 'Of course, we can' and founded Brownie Troop 6386, which is still active today. Whatever my kids are involved in is where I put my energies and time."—LA





Joining with the rest of the credit union's board in supporting Cardinal athletics are Charles Starcke '61, '65, vice chairman, Dale Ortego, Regents' Professor of Chemistry and chairman, Jimmy Lackey, president, and Ron Jackson '70, former CEO and member of the LU Alumni Board.

BRIAN SATTLER

# Score big

Education First Federal Credit Union backs Cardinal Athletics with a \$1 million contribution

by Brian Sattler

This fall, Cardinal fans will see the commitment of Education First Federal Credit Union to Lamar University on a grand scale every time they check the stats on the new state-of-the-art scoreboard at Provost

Umpfrey Stadium. The credit union's name will be the prominent sponsor named on the scoreboard, a testament to the long-term relationship that has benefited the university community for nearly six decades.

Education First Federal Credit Union has signed on as a major sponsor of Lamar University athletics with a \$1 million contribution. That commitment will not only be acknowledged on the scoreboard but also on the marquee outside the Montagne Center, on video boards and in game-day publications.

"This sponsorship will be a tremendous help in bringing football back to Lamar University," said President James Simmons. "We are very grateful for Education First Federal Credit Union's support of our athletics programs."

"Education First has had a long relationship with Lamar University," said Jimmy Lackey, president of Education First FCU. Established in 1952, the credit union signed on its first LU members the next year. In the decades since, both the credit union and university have seen significant growth. Today, the credit union has nine branch locations, more than 32,000 members and more than \$265 million in assets. Although it now has a community charter, the bulk of its membership still comes from those serving in education or pursuing higher education.

"When I moved to Beaumont 40 years ago, it was called the Teachers Credit Union and was in what is now the Lamar human resources building," said Dale Ortego, Regents' Professor of Chemistry, who is in his 22nd year on the board of directors of the credit union and in his fourth year as chairman. "It was started by a handful of teachers from the Beaumont and South Park school districts. It was helpful to me and to a lot of people. You could get a loan from them at a time when you couldn't get one from a bank."

The credit union has had an office at Lamar University since 1979, has been a corporate sponsor of LU athletics since 2004 and has endowed scholarships for students at the university since 1990.

"We've done a lot through the years to help Lamar," Ortego said. "When one of our former board chairmen died, we created the Tom F. Jones Honors Scholarship in his memory with a large endowment that supports six or seven top-notch honors students every year. We also created an endowed scholarship in memory of Mary Katherine Bell, who taught at Lamar for many years. And, each year, we give scholarships to more than 30 local high school students to attend college. Many of them come to Lamar."

The credit union's support also takes a hands-on approach when it's time to welcome newcomers to the campus or to share enthusiasm about the university with the broader community. "The credit union is supportive of many activities that are a part of university life," said Juan Zabala, executive director of Lamar's alumni programs. "Education First has been involved with new student move-in since its inception and have been our partner in the Red White & You community campaign for many years."

New-student move-in provides an opportunity for members of the Beaumont community to welcome new students. Education First has been a sponsor of the move-in program since it started and has helped new students and parents to see first hand the community support for Lamar University and for its students. Red White & You is an annual campaign to celebrate the important connection between Lamar University and the region. Education First has participated as a partner in this program for many years, helping to promote the vital relationship between Lamar and the business community.

"The close working relationship between Lamar University and our regional business community is critical to growth and expansion at Lamar and to economic development throughout our region," Zabala said. "Education First has been one of our university's most strident supporters and most engaged partners. It truly understands the importance of engaging students and faculty of this institution with the local business community and are committed to expanding economic benefits to all citizens of this region by enhancing this relationship."

"We are committed to athletics," Lackey said. "It is an extension of our commitment to higher education; hence our name—Education First. This gift is just another way to support what is going on at the university."

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# Rodeo ready

Each night of the 2010 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Pam (Dugan) Springer '69 dons her hat and chaps to ride into an arena alive with anticipation. Springer is one of the 18 vice presidents of the volunteer organization, a coveted position and one she has earned over the course of working each rodeo for nearly three decades.

Each year, she looks forward to rodeo time. "There is that special group of friends you don't see any other time," Springer said.



For many of the 22,000 volunteers, the rodeo becomes a family. Springer met her husband, Jerrol, there in 1987. That meeting began not only a personal love affair still growing strong but also rekindled her love for working with children.

Springer began professional life as a teacher in Port Arthur at her own elementary school, DeQueen, and in Beaumont and Houston after earning a degree in elementary education with an art specialization from Lamar, where she became an Alpha Delta Pi officer and was an Alpha Tau Omega sweetheart and Les Belles finalist. "It was a good, rich college experience," she said.

After several years as a teacher—a natural inclination from age 3, Springer moved with friends to New York, working first as a

travel agent on Long Island, then beginning a successful career with Insurance Company of North America in Buffalo. Career advancement leaps took Springer to New York City and then to Philadelphia before she accepted the position as regional training director for INA in Atlanta and then later returned to Texas. In 1981, she joined First City Bank Corp. and moved through the ranks to become manager over sales and management training. Today, she is a licensed real estate broker and a principal with Spring-Intex Insurance Agency.

In 1987, she was with friends at the rodeo's World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest when she met Jerrol, who was a rodeo member. One of the events Jerrol invited her to was the calf scramble where he sponsored an entry. "I got to go with him to have a picture made with the little fella who caught it and met his family. It just brought back that this is really what I wanted to do: work with kids. That's the magical part of the rodeo." She and Jerrol married in August 1987.

Springer's first rodeo committee was the international committee. Soon, her interests drew her to join the School Art Committee, and, in 2002, she was selected to head the spin-off School Art Auction Committee. She was elected a director of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and, last year, a vice president. "It is an extreme honor and a form of recognition for those who have spent their time and resources to make a significant contribution to the show," she said. The money the committees raise funds scholarships for students attending Texas schools. Since 1957, the show has committed more than \$140 million in educational support. Today, 2,092 students receive show scholarships and attend 90 different Texas colleges and universities.

"The show is basically reinvesting in Texas. These students are our future lead-

ers," Springer said. One of the things she finds most rewarding as a vice president is the opportunity to meet the students after the scholarship presentation ceremonies. "Those kids are not just going to school. They're making 3.8 grade point averages. They're involved in extracurricular activities," she said. "My husband and I are blessed because we have been able to support the auctions as buyers. We get letters from the kids that are incredible—to read what they're doing and the life experiences they're having. It gives you a great sense of hope and optimism for the future," she said.

Springer is only the fifth woman to be elected vice president in the 78-year history of the rodeo, but she just calls her fellow veeps her 17 brothers. "I want to make my mark as a good vice president, not as a female vice president, but it's interesting how many women come up and say, 'We like this girl power.'"

During the seven months of the year outside rodeo commitments, she and Jerrol, who has owned his own insurance company for more than four decades, like to travel. They have a 100-acre ranch outside Boerne and a home in Palm Springs, Calif.

A lifetime of experiences have led her full circle back to where her heart is, helping young Texans as they learn and grow to shape the state's future.—CH



KAYE MARVINS PHOTOGRAPHY

# Sects under siege

Stuart Wright's body of expertise has focused on high-profile cases like the Branch Davidians and Oklahoma City bombing. Now, he's expanding decades of research—and tying it together—with a landmark study of government raids on religious communities.

by Louise Wood



Stuart Wright stands outside the Hall of Justice in Paris.

The landscapes were breathtaking and peaceful, but the scenic route hardly captured the gravity of the journey. Its ultimate destination: Scholarly research into government raids on religious communities. During a month traveling through France, Italy and Belgium to gather material for a new book—his fifth—Lamar University scholar Stuart Wright visited the targeted communities and conducted interviews with the leaders and members who were eyewitnesses to the raids.

From the streets of Paris and Brussels to the most remote parts of the Alps and Pyrenees, he and co-author Susan Palmer recorded 48 raids in six countries. Along the way, they also talked to scholars, officials and leaders of watchdog groups.

Under contract with Oxford University Press, Wright and Palmer are completing what they believe will be the first comprehensive study ever conducted of government raids on religious communities—from Central and West Texas to European locales. *Storming Zion: Exploring State Raids on Religious Communities*, is scheduled for publication in late 2011.

"We have a contract in hand with advances toward royalties," Wright said. "Oxford loved it. This has been a delightful surprise because I have never had the experience of sending off the prospectus the first time when the editor said, 'We love this. We'll take it.' Usually, you have to work it, negotiate it, and then it goes back and forth and extends out for six months or a year. This one, they grabbed immediately. We got pretty excited."

Wright and Palmer have studied new or alternative religious communities for more than 25 years and have published extensively in the field. Their latest project is significant, Wright said, because "it gives validity to an important international research endeavor . . . I am confident this



book will have a lot of staying power and will speak to people not just here but also abroad.”

Wright, who is the book’s lead author, is known internationally as an authority on religious and political movements and violence. He has been a consultant, legal advisor or expert witness in high-profile litigation such as the Branch Davidian civil case, the Oklahoma City bombing case involving Timothy McVeigh and, most recently, the case involving the Fundamentalist Latter Day Saints (FLDS), who were raided by Texas officials in 2008. At Lamar, he is a professor of sociology and director of research in the Office of

“It occurred to us that nobody had ever done a comprehensive study on these raids . . . We had no idea about numbers. I don’t think anybody did.”

—STUART WRIGHT

Research and Sponsored Programs, having joined the faculty in 1985 after earning a Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut. In 1999, he was recognized as University Scholar, Lamar’s highest honor for research and scholarly activities, among a long list of academic accolades.

In addition to advances from the publisher, Wright has received a grant from the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, while Palmer has obtained grants from the Canadian government, to support their travel and field work.

“We want to examine these state raids collectively as a distinct type of phenomenon, compare cases across cultures and isolate the key factors giving rise to government raids in order to test our model,” Wright and Palmer wrote in their prospectus. “Moreover, we want to explain why state raids have increased in number or frequency in recent years. We expect to find similarities and patterns that indicate government raids are products of increasing or

better-organized activity by cultural opponents—moral campaigns to pressure authorities to act . . . In sum, we do not think these raids are coincidental, random or spontaneous, but, rather, are linked across space and time to a common set of variables.”

“Opponents have gotten much more organized internationally,” said Wright. “State investigations or enforcement operations have become more and more paramilitary . . . It’s bizarre, like they’re attacking terrorist groups. We’re trying to find out why that’s the case.”

Wright departed in late May for Paris, where he met Palmer, a professor at

Dawson and Concordia colleges in Montreal, Canada, and a colleague for 25 years who speaks fluent French.

“We took up a frantic pace,” Wright said.

They interviewed Church of Scientology leaders in Paris, where they visited a courtroom where a trial to ban Scientology was under way. Outside the Hall of Justice, they observed a cavalcade of police cars lined up “in case there was an adverse decision.”

While in Paris, the researchers also interviewed leaders of a Sikh group that had been raided in Belgium just a month before they arrived. In Brussels, they met with human rights organizations, with attorneys who had represented some of these groups in litigation and some non-governmental organizations.

“We drove the distance of France twice. We put 6,000 kilometers on a rental car,” Wright said. “These groups were scattered all over the country, and many of them were in fairly remote areas. So we drove all the way down to the Pyrenees, almost to the Spanish border, to visit one group and spent a couple of days with them to conduct interviews and just do some observation.

“Then we went back to Paris, because we had scheduled other interviews, and then we drove back down the eastern side of the country, through the Alps and down toward the coast—to Cannes and Nice. We hit six communities on the way down



French police raid a Buddhist community in the French Alps.



Susan Palmer stands outside the International Society for Krishna Consciousness training center in Belgium.

there, including a couple that were way up in the Alps where access was only by gravel roads that were not very well maintained. It was a real adventure in the little Peugeot. We’re not talking about a Jeep or a four-wheel drive. It was a little scary.

“And then we drove to northern Italy, about an hour north of Milan in the Piedmont Valley, to meet with an organization called Damanhur, which I found to be the most interesting group we visited. It’s a New-Age group whose members—mostly women—practice an eclectic mysticism. They’re into sustainable living—they’re into solar power and use little energy. We got a first-hand tour, and it was breathtaking. They mined these elaborate temples in a mountainside, and they’re visually stunning. Now it’s become a tourist site. People come to see the temples. It’s really amazing. But they didn’t tell the authorities



The Damanhur organization’s complex in northern Italy provided a ‘visually stunning’ setting.

what they were doing initially, and it got them into a little trouble. They were raided twice by the government.”

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In April 2008, state police launched a raid on the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (FLDS) near the small West Texas town of Eldorado, seizing 564 children. “This unwarranted incursion by the state is just one example of a troubling pattern in recent years,” Wright and Palmer wrote in the prospectus. “In some cases, these dramatic raids have resulted in harmful and even deadly consequences, such as the federal siege of the Branch Davidians outside Waco, Texas, in 1993.

“While we are not suggesting that

legitimate violations of law in groups labeled as ‘cults’ shouldn’t be investigated by authorities, we are questioning why these groups are selectively targeted for raids and why they warrant such drastic measures. Raids are the most extreme form of enforcement, usually reserved for terrorist organizations, drug cartels or gangs. The rationale for raids on religious communities raises critical questions. In nearly all these cases, the use of government raids is entirely excessive and disproportionate to any genuine threat posed by the religious groups. Yet, repeatedly, we see these raids are used on religious communities both here and abroad. Why?”

After the incident at Eldorado, Wright and Palmer began to think about

investigation or to serve search and arrest warrants.”

Wright has been studying raids on religious communities since the late 1970s. “We have watched these over the years and can see patterns developing. Cases tended to fall apart because the allegations would be inflated or exaggerated. A lot of times, people would have other motives, and there would be all kinds of other dynamics involved.”

He added, “I think the body of scholarship on new religious movements has grown, particularly in the last 20 years with the advent of some new journals. Conferences I attend now tend to be much more international. We’ve become aware of raids that probably otherwise we wouldn’t know about . . . When we got to the point where my co-author and I were going to look at this, we were already aware that this had a strong international scope and, in fact, France is the most problematic area in all North America and Europe because its laws are very Draconian.”

Wright is working on two books simultaneously: *Storming Zion* and an edited volume with a co-editor that focuses entirely on the Eldorado incident. He is negotiating with New York University Press on the latter volume.

“As a scholar,” Wright said, “you have to step back and take a much broader view of religion. The breadth of claims people can make is unlimited.

“I have never been interested in orthodox, mainstream, conventional religion because it seems to me that it becomes routine and ritual. With new religions, or first-generation religions, where you have somebody who is a visionary or a prophet or a guru or self-appointed messiah, it’s like being in a laboratory watching religion being born. I find it absolutely fascinating.”

the phenomenon of the raids differently. “It occurred to us that nobody had ever done a comprehensive study on these raids,” Wright said. “We were surprised how many [there were] when we started documenting them. We had no idea about numbers. I don’t think anybody did.”

A preliminary survey reveals 48 state raids on new or unconventional religious communities in six countries. Eighty-one percent of them occurred in the last 25 years and 77 percent in the last 20 years, Wright said, “suggesting that governments are more willing than in the past to use these tactics as crude forms of

Other books by Stuart Wright

*Leaving Cults: The Dynamics of Defection* (1987)

*Home Cell Groups and House Churches: Emerging Alternatives for the Urban Church* (1987, with two co-authors)

*Armageddon in Waco: Critical Perspectives on the Branch Davidian Conflict* (1995)

*Patriots, Politics and the Oklahoma City Bombing* (2007)





# A passion for gifted education

by Louise Wood

From Brazil to Bulgaria, Hungary to Hong Kong and in more than 50 countries, Dorothy Sisk has traveled the world on behalf of gifted children. She has spoken in venues from the little red schoolhouse to the White House. She has shared projects with heads of state and 9-year-olds alike.

"Gifted education is a passion for me because I am convinced that gifted young people and adults have a great deal to offer to our troubled world, and they need assistance in believing in their gifts and talents to do so," said Sisk, who holds the Conn Chair for Gifted Education. "I have experienced that when the gifted are empowered to lives of service, they enrich not only their lives, but the lives of their families, their communities and, in many cases, the nation and the world."

Sisk shared her passion with an audience of several hundred Nov. 2, presenting the 23rd annual Distinguished Faculty Lecture, sponsored by ExxonMobil. Her

lecture topic paralleled that of her 2009 book, *Making Great Kids Greater: Easing the Burden of Being Gifted*.

A faculty member since 1989, she is a professor of professional pedagogy in the College of Education and Human Development. She is the author and co-author of nine other books and the author of chapters in two-dozen others.

Sisk is an accomplished researcher and a prolific author who has spoken all over the world. She has been project director for significant educational initiatives, receiving federal and state grants totaling more than \$10 million from 1990 to 2009.

When she accepted the Conn Chair in 1989, Sisk brought a wealth of experience in education for gifted and talented students, ranging from teaching in public schools to service in

Washington, D.C., as director of the Office of Gifted and Talented Education and as professor of special education and coordinator of teacher training in gifted education at the University of South Florida.

Sisk was born in Nashville, Tenn., having arrived early while her mother was there on vacation. She grew up in Ohio, where her father worked for an oil company and her mother was "a home-person extremely involved in environmental issues." She has one son, Jeffrey, a stockbroker in San Diego.

Sisk has earned scores of honors, including the International Research Council Commendation Award, Creative Education Foundation Hall of Fame, Australian Environment Education Association Council Award and Lifetime



Achievement Awards from the American Creativity Association and the World Council for Gifted and Talented. She has served on editorial boards of the *Journal of Creative Behavior*, *Gifted Education International* (guest editor, 2007-2009), *Understanding Our Gifts*, *Illinois Journal of Education* and *Gifted and Talented International*.

Recalling her years in Washington, she has fond memories of involvement with President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, who took a special interest in gifted education because of their daughter, Amy. "Mrs. Carter would call on a regular basis," Sisk said. "We arranged for Amy to have intellectual tests and, because I identified school programs for her, I found myself in audience with the first lady."

George H.W. Bush was vice president during Sisk's earlier years in Washington, and she credits him with advances in gifted education. On one occasion, he hosted a reception for senators and representatives to spotlight gifted education. She arranged for a group of gifted children to attend, promoting one-on-one exchanges with the congressional guests.

"I looked around, and everyone had a child talking to them," said Sisk. "Then Vice President George Bush jumped up on a table and began talking about gifted education. It was absolutely amazing. He had done his homework, and the support we received for the Javits bill was a direct result of that."

The Jacob Javits Gifted and Talented Students Act, passed in 1988, is the only federal program dedicated specifically to gifted and talented students.

On the state level, Sisk got to know another future president, George W. Bush, when he was governor. Working with Laura Bush and her efforts to promote reading, Sisk wrote a grant for a program called "100 Mothers Read." Tests revealed children participating in the project began reading at well above their age levels. "The achievements of the students were phenomenal, and the involvement of their parents was super too," Sisk said.

Her international destinations include

Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, England, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Russia, Netherlands, South Africa, Thailand and Turkey. She speaks Spanish, reads French and can understand Portuguese.

Sisk is a charter member of the World Council for Gifted and Talented, which organized in 1975. The president of the organization, Iraj Bromand, was from Iran, which led to Sisk's involvement in starting a school for the gifted in Tehran. When the revolution broke out in the country, the World Council president was put in prison, and Sisk, who was vice president, became its president.



"I have experienced that when the gifted are empowered to lives of service, they enrich not only their lives, but the lives of their families, their communities and, in many cases, the nation and the world."

—DOROTHY SISK

She considers her work in Bulgaria a "life highlight," originating with a World Council of Gifted and Talented colleague, Levcho Dravchev, who was his country's chief of gifted people. Sisk conducted training with psychologists and educators in Plovdiv, a city that had maintained architecture and ambience of the 1800s. She became friends with the mayor, as well as with the president of Bulgaria, Todor Zhikov, whose daughter had a special interest in gifted education and creativity. In 1979, she took 30 gifted children from the United States to Bulgaria for a "Banner of Peace" convention.

"The kids brought their art, they

brought their poetry and we had this unbelievable exhibit, so when I came back, I thought, 'We need to do something Americans can see.'" The result was an exhibition in Washington, D.C., where "you could view art from Egypt, France and all of the different countries. We had 55 countries involved."

While Sisk finds it difficult to single out one highlight of her career at Lamar, she cites her collaboration with Jim Westgate, professor of earth and space sciences, and the Texas Governor's Program among the most meaningful.

She and Westgate recently received a \$190,000 Teacher Quality Program grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Their Scientist-in-the Schools project brought teachers together with high-potential students on the Lamar campus for special seminars.

"The student achievement level increased dramatically," Sisk said. "We found that of the 600 kids we worked with over a five-year period, 52 percent were able to qualify for the gifted program. In this program, both teachers and students maximized their talents."

Looking to the future, Sisk points to a grant she has written to establish a Virtual Center that will address critical issues: English-language learners, special education and gifted education.

A large part of Sisk's Lamar experience was her beloved home on the beach at Gilchrist—not only her sanctuary but also the setting for classes and seminars. Hurricane Ike obliterated the house, destroying a lifetime of books, art from all over the world and cherished mementoes. "I lost everything," she said. The weekend before her lecture, she moved into a new home on Pleasure Island.

What does she do for fun? "I read," she said. "I learned years and years ago that no matter how tired you are, or how involved you are in something that may be quite odious, that if you crawl between the pages of a book, there are friends waiting for you."



# World view



Inveterate curiosity and a team spirit drive John Via to reach the pinnacle both in pharmaceuticals and on the playing field.

by Larry Acker

**L**ife-long learning is seemingly a way of life for John Via '86, vice president of manufacturing for Alcon Laboratories Inc. Global Pharmaceutical Operations.

Via earned his first master's degree from Lamar University in engineering science in 1986, two master's degrees from Drexel

University in 1991 and 1994, and two master's degrees from Southern Methodist University in 2003 and 2007. He also completed the Program for Management Development at Harvard Business School in 2001. Add to this a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia and a doctoral degree in engineering, also from SMU, and you have what some might consider a career student.

"I enjoy reading and learning and do not watch much television, except for sports and the news," Via said. "I'm always on the go and try to use my time productively."

As a self-described "hands-on" manager for Alcon's eight pharmaceutical manufacturing plants across the world, Via is constantly on the move. With plants in Mexico, Brazil, Belgium, France and Spain; two manufacturing facilities in Fort Worth; and a new plant under construction in Singapore, it's no wonder Via spends as much as 120 days each year traveling. "When customs officials recognize you by sight at many international airports," he said, "you're doing a good deal of traveling."

Alcon is the world's leader in ophthalmology and eye-care products with nearly 15,000 employees worldwide. Alcon doesn't make the contact lenses, but they manufacture almost everything else associated with eye-care, such as devices for cataract patients, custom surgical packs for eye surgeons and an array of prescription and over-the-counter products for the eyes. With annual sales of more than \$6 billion, Alcon accounts for more than a quarter of the global eye-care market. The pharmaceutical company has been selected as one of the Fortune 100 best companies to work for each of the last 11 years.

Traveling so often to so many far-flung locales presents tremendous challenges and demands careful planning. Via reminisced with amusement about being deported from Brazil while making a trip to Sao Paulo. He, and a group of 10 corporate engineering employees, applied for multi-year visas, but, because the visa was written in Portuguese, he didn't realize he had received a single-entry visa instead of the multi-year visa he expected. On the second trip to Brazil in 1999, he discovered the visa had expired, and he was escorted to a holding area until the next flight out of Brazil.

“

**I have lived what I consider to be a semi-charmed life and believe it is important to give back to the community and open as many doors for others as possible. It is important to make every day count.**

—JOHN VIA

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"I flew 11 hours from D/FW to Sao Paulo, spent four hours in the airport and flew 11 hours back to D/FW," Via said. "My trip report consisted of a review of the wine cart and the in-flight movies for the two flights."

Via contends the concepts you learn in engineering are not much different from the skills you need as a good manager. You are trying to communicate effectively and solve technical problems, especially at a pharmaceutical company like Alcon, he said. As an occasional adjunct professor at both Texas Christian University and Southern Methodist University, he requires his engineering students to work in teams, make presentations and lead class discussions to learn how to communicate. He believes that if you can't communicate effectively, you will not get the job done, no matter

how technically savvy you may be.

But it's not all work, school and travel for the pharmaceutical executive. Via played high school football in Alexandria, Va. An injury sustained during his senior year interrupted his college football ambitions, and he started playing rugby during his undergraduate days at the University of Virginia. He still enjoys playing with the Fort Worth Rugby Club, which won five Texas and Western U.S. championships and a national championship in 2000. For the past five years, he has played extensively with the master's-level Virginia Cardinals Rugby Club, playing matches and tournaments across the United States and Europe.

"It's a great game," Via said of rugby. "With rugby, it's all about being a cog in the wheel; it requires a true team effort to be successful."

Always looking for a new challenge, Via set a goal in 2008 to run a marathon and completed his first in October of the same year. He has now completed three full marathons and more than 20 half marathons. Via is an active member of the Susan G. Komen Marathon for the Cure team. His next challenge will be the London Marathon in April 2010.

Via decided to pursue a master's degree in engineering science at Lamar University while he was working for Beaumont's Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. In 1986, Hurricane Juan knocked out all the power to the area while he was working on his master's thesis to complete a computer simulation. He recalls spending what seemed like days on end living at the Goodyear plant, running the simulations needed to complete his degree requirements on time.

"John is an individual with one of the highest energy levels I have ever known. His interests in such a wide variety of areas is overwhelming," said Jack Hopper, dean of Lamar's College of Engineering. "Even when he was a graduate student, I found him to be an exceptional advocate for Lamar. I take great pride in his active participation on our engineering advisory councils."

Among the awards and accolades he has garnered are *Control* magazine's Engineer of the Year award in 1996. He is a member of the International Society of Pharmaceutical Engineering, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the Parental Drug Association. He serves on the Lamar University College of Engineering Advisory Council, Chemical Engineering Advisory Council and the Chemical Engineering Ph.D. Advisory Board. Via also serves on the board of directors for several organizations, including the Alcon Foundation, Prevent Blindness, SafeHaven of Tarrant County and the Arts Council of Fort Worth.

"I have lived what I consider to be a semi-charmed life and believe it is important to give back to the community and open as many doors for others as possible. It is important to make every day count."

He and his wife, Julie, make their home in Fort Worth. They have two children, Laura, a college student, and Jason, a high school junior.





# Lamar noted as top producer of chemical engineering master's grads

Lamar University was recently recognized in Chemical & Engineering News magazine for producing the nation's most master's degrees in chemical engineering. The honor recognizes the 34 master's degrees produced by the department between 2007 and 2008, outranking such institutions as Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford.

"We are pleased to see Lamar's name appear in a national publication and are encouraged to learn that our master's program attracted more students than other master's programs in the nation," said

Thomas Ho, chair of the chemical engineering department.

"Our goal for the program has always been to provide our students with the best possible education at Lamar and prepare them to pursue successful careers in chemical engineering. This ranking appears to indicate that we have achieved this goal and our students recognize the value of a chemical

## CHEM ENGINEERING GRADUATES

Top 10 producers for 2007-08

### MASTER'S GRADUATES

1	Lamar University	34
2	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	30
3	University of Southern California	29
4	University of South Florida	27
5	Texas A&M University, Kingsville	25
6	Illinois Institute of Technology	20
7	University of Florida	19
7	Stanford University	19
9	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	17
10	Lehigh University	16
10	University of Washington	16

SOURCE: Report of the ACS Committee on Professional Training, 2008

engineering degree from Lamar University."

For more information about the Dan F. Smith Department of Chemical Engineering, call (409) 880-8784 or visit [dept.lamar.edu/chemicalengineering/](http://dept.lamar.edu/chemicalengineering/).



## Offices move to downtown

Petula Clark sang, "Things'll be great when you're downtown." Lamar and the City of Beaumont agreed. LU's continuing education programs and the Small Business Development Center have moved to Beaumont's downtown library. The center provides free, one-on-one consulting and affordable training seminars. Expert consultants help business owners and entrepreneurs work through management, marketing, finance and operational business issues. Instructors share their real-world, practical business experience in training sessions. The center's offices are located on the lower level of the Beaumont Public Library. Division of Continuing Education offices for the Non-Credit, Adult Studies and Community Outreach Programs are now located on the ground floor of the Beaumont Public Library.

## At the podium April 6



SARAH VOWELL

The College of Arts and Sciences' spring Academic Lecture Series will present Sarah Vowell, the New York Times best-selling author of five non-fiction books on American history and culture. She will speak at 7:30 p.m. April 6 in the University Theatre. By examining the connections between the American past and present,

Vowell offers personal, often-humorous accounts of everything from presidents and their assassins to colonial religious fanatics, as well as thoughts on American Indians, utopian dreamers, pop music and the odd cranky cartographer. Her most recent book, *The Wordy Shipmates*, examines the Puritans and their journey to and impact on America. *Assassination Vacation* (2005) is a road trip to tourist sites devoted to the murders of Presidents Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley. Vowell is a frequent guest on late-night talk shows and is the voice of teen super-hero Violet Parr in *The Incredibles*. For information on the lecture, call (409) 880-8508.

# Growth spurs commencement second showing



State Senator Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo), a veteran leader in the Texas Legislature was keynote speaker for the August ceremony. Zaffirini serves as chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee and as a member of the Senate Finance, Health and Human Services, Economic Development and Administration committees. She is the first Hispanic woman to serve as president pro tempore of the Texas Senate and as governor for a day.

Lamar University is entering a new era, thanks to increasing enrollment and graduating classes too large for a single commencement ceremony.

For the first time, Lamar hosted two ceremonies for December commencement. Two ceremonies also will be held Saturday, May 15, 2010.

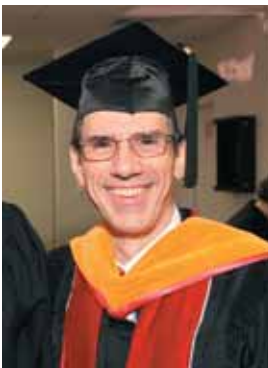
"This, of course, is a wonderful problem to have, and it is exciting that we are meeting the educational needs of such a broad range of students from throughout Texas and beyond," said Stephen Doblin, provost and vice president for academic affairs. "It is clear that Lamar is the university of choice at both the undergraduate and graduate levels for more and more students every year."



"The impetus for this change is Lamar University's enrollment growth in general and the expansion of our online degree programs, in particular," Doblin said.

"Approximately 1,100 master's degrees were awarded to Academic Partnerships students last August, and several hundred more finished in time for December commencement.

"Our numbers have reached a tipping point. It's a new era for Lamar University," said Kevin Smith, senior associate provost.



Joe Domino '75, CEO of EntergyTexas, delivered the keynote during the second commencement ceremony Dec. 18.

Gerald McElvy, president of the ExxonMobil Foundation, left, talks with Regent Michael Truncale before the Dec. 18 commencement ceremony. McElvy delivered the first keynote address.

## Landmark drive receives facelift

Lamar University and the community celebrated the reopening of Rolfe Christopher Drive in September—a landmark for the university and a legacy for an ardent supporter of Lamar.

The new thoroughfare, from East Virginia to Florida Avenue and from Florida to Cardinal Drive, creates a safer environment for the mix of vehicular and pedestrian traffic, with curbs, bicycle lanes, wide medians and a number of crosswalks.

Lamar officials gathered with city and county leaders for the Sept. 3 ribbon-cutting and dedication of the \$8 million project, which also improved drainage around campus. Christopher's wife, Virginia, rode in a bright-red convertible down the new thoroughfare

"If there was ever a first family of South Park, it would certainly be

the Christophers," Simmons said. "It is a great day to honor Rolfe Coy Christopher because Rolfe Christopher Drive really symbolizes the relationship that the university has with this community."

Christopher—a longtime civic leader who served as a city councilman, port commissioner and county commissioner—lived in South Park until his death in 1992 at 73.

"My dad never spent a day in the classroom and earned no degree, but he was a great encourager to every president, every department chair, every teacher, student and athlete he encountered," said his son, representing the Christopher family at the ceremony. "My dad loved Lamar."



From left, President James Simmons, Cheryl Christopher, Gary Christopher, Big Red and Beaumont Mayor Becky Ames celebrate the grand reopening of Rolfe Christopher Drive.



## Beyond the classroom

As UP editor, Julie Garcia works to keep Lamar students informed. A senior communication major from Port Neches, Garcia became the 2009-2010 recipient of the Press Club of Southeast Texas Memorial Scholarship. Last summer, she honed her craft while interning at the San Antonio Express-News. Alumni can access the newspaper online at [lamaruniversitypress.com](http://lamaruniversitypress.com) . . . The JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing and Lamar Institute of Technology collaborated to emulate real-life, critical-care situations. The focus was disaster response related to a chlorine spill caused by a vehicle accident. The simulations teach nursing students how to work collaboratively with emergency medical services and respiratory therapy students to gain interdisciplinary experience . . . Mirabeau Scholar Valerie Juarez, a senior computer science and electrical engineering double major from Sour Lake, won a competitive scholarship to participate in the 2009 Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing in Tucson, Ariz. Leading researchers present their current work, and special sessions focus on the role of women in today's technology fields, including computer science, information technology, research and engineering. Juarez was one of 331 applicants chosen from a pool of more than 900 for this scholarship . . . Finance Association keeps superior tradition alive. The Lamar University Finance Association was named a Financial



Management Association International 2008-2009 "superior chapter" for the fourth consecutive year. This is the highest honor a financial management or honor society can attain. Of the more than 200 active student chapters, fewer than 5 percent receive this honor each year . . . James Burnes, a geology and history double major from Beaumont, and Jordan Mika, a geology major from Dayton, earned awards at the Sigma Xi International Research Conference in the Woodlands recently. The pair earned a first-place award in geological sciences. Burnes served as a paleontology field assistant three summers on a project conducted by Jim Westgate, professor of earth and space sciences, in the Uinta Basin of northeast Utah studying 42-million-year-old vertebrate fossil remains. Mika was part of the team for two summers and worked a semester preparing the bulk samples to allow microscope analysis for micro-mammal teeth in the LU Paleontology Lab.

Funding for the research has been provided by LU Research Enhancement grants . . . Rajiv Jaini, a senior chemical engineering major from Baytown, won first place in the undergraduate student poster contest sponsored by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. Jaini was recognized at the AIChE annual meeting in Nashville in November for his entry titled "An Examination of Sessile and Pendant Drop Retention Forces."

## Lamar MBA program ranks among elite

Lamar University has demonstrated significant leadership in integrating social, environmental and ethical issues into its MBA program, according to the Aspen Institute's 2009-2010 edition of Beyond Grey Pinstripes, a biennial survey and alternative ranking of business schools. The school has been ranked among the Top 100 business schools around the world. Lamar moved up from 85th in the previous ranking to

68th in the current edition.

"The Lamar MBA ranking in the Beyond Grey Pinstripes Global 100 is an indication that our growth in numbers is supported by a high quality program," said Henry Venta, dean of the college of business.

While many MBA rankings exist, only one looks beyond reputation and test scores to measure something much more impor-



tant: how well schools are preparing their students for the environmental, social and ethical complexities of modern-day business. This year, 149 business schools from 24 countries participated in an 18 month effort to map the landscape of teaching and research on issues pertaining to business and society.

## Campus construction continues

Academic programs are benefiting from current construction projects. The Music Building is in the midst of a complete renovation to provide students with a top-notch learning facility. An expansion of the Cherry Engineering Building has begun to house the new Ph.D. program in chemical engineering. And, with all residence halls full, construction of a fifth phase of Cardinal Village on Georgia Street has already begun.



## Speech and hearing awarded grant to benefit patients with Parkinson's

The B.A. & E.W. Steinhagen Benevolent Trust, managed by Capital One trustees, awarded an \$8,400 grant to the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences Oct. 27. The grant will fund speech-therapy services at the clinic to treat patients for the voice changes that often accompany a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease.

"When Parkinson's affects someone's voice, it can become very breathy and quiet. Their words may be slurred and hard to understand," said Alana Kozlowski, assistant professor and clinician.

Kozlowski uses a specialized program known as Lee Silverman Voice Training to work with patients. "Lee Silverman Voice Training is proven to change speech in patients with Parkinson's," said Kozlowski. "It is an intensive program – physical therapy for the voice."

Participants in the month-long Parkinson's at Lamar (PAL) Program attend sessions at the Speech and Hearing Clinic four days a week and complete daily "home-

work" assignments of various vocal exercises.

"It has been marvelous. Simple but effective," said Pat Long, a former schoolteacher and a patient in the program. "It's wonderful to talk to people now and know that they can hear me and understand me. I am so thankful for Dr. Alana for coming out to the Parkinson's support group and telling us about this program."

The PAL project was designed so residents in Southeast Texas with Parkinson's disease could have immediate access to an evidence-based voice program with proven results.

"This treatment was not being done in our area," said Kozlowski. But now, by offering it at Lamar University's Speech and Hearing Clinic, we are able to assist our



patients and to train our students in this technique. Right now we are training 14 clinicians who will one day graduate and take jobs in the Golden Triangle. They will all be able to provide the Lee Silverman Voice Training."

The project will run again in June 2010. Anyone interested in participating should contact Kozlowski at (409) 880-8438 or e-mail at [alana.kozlowski@lamar.edu](mailto:alana.kozlowski@lamar.edu).



From left, President James Simmons, Vickie Dionne and Regina Rogers

## Dionne receives Rogers Award

Vickie Dionne received Lamar University's 2009 Rogers Community Service Award Sept. 23. For Dionne, volunteer work is an inherited trait. "My parents were always involved when I was growing up, so it was very natural for me to be active as well," said Dionne, assistant professor of audiology.

The Rogers family established the Julie and Ben Rogers Community Service Award in 1979 to encourage Lamar University faculty and staff members to volunteer their services and talents to benefit the community.

Dionne is one of the most experienced

audiologists in Southeast Texas. Her efforts with Lion's Club International's Hearing Aid Reclamation Program has provided quality, used hearing aids to a number of low-income individuals. She is also an active member of Sertoma International, a civic organization dedicated to hearing health issues. As a chairperson and member of the Safe Ears program, Dionne has educated more than 800 children in the Golden Triangle area about the dangers of loud noise and its consequence of noise-induced hearing loss.



## Faculty notes

**Professors emeritus named.** Regents of The Texas State University System adopted resolutions Nov. 20 honoring veteran faculty members **Howell Gwin Jr.** and **Adonia Placette**. Gwin, who retired in 2007 after 46 years at Lamar, was designated Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History. Placette, who retired in November 2009 after a



GWIN, SIMMONS, PLACETTE

27-year Lamar career, was designated Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Theater . . . **Helen Lou**, assistant professor of computer science, has won a prestigious \$400,000 National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development award.

She is the first Lamar faculty member to receive this national recognition, which acknowledges junior faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research, excellent education and the integration of education and research within the context of the mission of their organizations . . . **James Vanderleeuw to serve in**

**Brooks Chair.** **James Vanderleeuw**, professor of political science, has accepted appointment to the Jack Brooks Chair in Government and Public Service. A New Jersey native and a faculty member since 1988, Vanderleeuw is director of Lamar's Center for Public Policy Studies—and will continue to serve in that capacity. "Over the years at Lamar University, Dr. James Vanderleeuw has distinguished himself as a true teacher scholar, frequently involving students—both undergradu-



JAMES VANDERLEEUEW



JIM WESTGATE AND GERALD SKOOG

ate and graduate – in his research projects," said Stephen Doblin, provost and vice president for academic affairs. He teaches master's courses in public administration, including urban policy, administrative theory and urban economic development . . . **Westgate honored by science teachers association.** **Jim Westgate**, university professor of Earth and space sciences at Lamar University, has been named the 2009 Skoog Cup winner by the Science Teachers Association of Texas. The Skoog Cup recognizes significant contributions and leadership in the development of quality science education. Winners of the award show a sustained record of advocacy for quality K-12 science education for all students, have contributed to the success of the association and other professional science organizations, and have developed effective programs for pre-service and in-service teachers of science . . . **Wooster accepts editorship.** **Ralph Wooster**, distinguished professor of history emeritus at Lamar University, is editor of the Texas Gulf Historical and Biographical Record. First issued by the society in 1964, the Record publishes scholarly articles written by professional and lay historians covering the history of Beaumont and Southeast Texas. Along with other history journals, the Record is published by EBSCO on the Internet, where its articles are available on Websites such as America: History & Life and Texas Research Center.



RALPH WOOSTER

## Hernandez studies landmark leprosarium



BARBARA HERNANDEZ

Barbara Hernandez, professor of health and kinesiology, recently published an article in the American Journal of Health Studies. Her research, funded by a 2007 university Research Enhancement Grant, focuses on the recreational activities of the patients in the quarantined community at the historic leprosarium located in Carville, La., from 1894 until 1999. Along with graduate students Abhishek Kelkar, Gincy Thomas and Rasika Vengurlekar, Hernandez explored the landmark that once housed the only functioning Hansen's Disease (formerly

known as leprosy) research and treatment facility in the United States. During their research, the group discovered volumes of information surrounding the disease and unearthed documents dating to the 19th century. "The physicians and the nuns who established a research center there were the first to find

any kind of drug that would affect some cure for Hansen's disease," Hernandez said.



## Negrete tells stories through guitar, poetry

Chicago native Jesus "Chuy" Negrete illustrated Spanish culture through a unique blend of music, storytelling, and poetry Oct. 1. in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. The event was sponsored by the Department of Political Science.

Negrete founded the Mexican Cultural Institute, which is dedicated to the study of Mexican-American musicology, Chicano folklore and culture and the struggle of Mexican-American communities for self-determination.



RAFAEL TADMOR

BRIAN SATTLER

## Researchers build device, make discovery

Lamar University associate professor Rafael Tadmor and a team of students recently found a way to bring what had only been a physics theory to the realm of experimental fact. Their effort, and the device they built to test the theories, will be discussed in a number of leading scientific journals.

For decades, students have learned in introductory physics classes that the friction force—which must be overcome to, say, slide a block down an inclined plane—is the product of a friction coefficient and the force normal to the surface. That relationship has been superseded during the past 50 years by the recognition that the lateral friction is, in fact, proportional to the true contact area. Using a special device that allows complete decoupling of normal and lateral retention forces, Tadmor, associate professor in the Dan F. Smith Department of Chemical Engineering, and his students found a system in which the lateral force decreases—rather than increases—with the normal force in spite of the fact that the contact area increases.

This discovery will appear as "Measurement of lateral adhesion forces at the interface between a liquid drop and a substrate," in a future issue of Physical Review Letters, published by the American Physical Society. The findings will also be presented on the society's public website (physics.aps.org) and two publications, Physics Today and Physical Review Focus, written for a more general audience. "It is always a significant accomplishment for a research work to be accepted for publication in a premium scientific journal," said Thomas Ho, chair of the department. "Publication promotes the visibility of Lamar's research capability and creates a positive image of Lamar's research quality to the scientific research community." Physical Review Letters is the world's foremost physics letters journal, providing rapid publication of short reports of significant fundamental research in all fields of physics.

## KVLU to tour London and Paris

Lamar University public radio 91.3 KVLU will host a travel tour to London and Paris in conjunction with Collette Vacations Sept. 23-30, 2010. The eight-day tour will begin in London and will feature day tours to some of the city's most historic sites, including Buckingham Palace, St. Paul's Cathedral and an optional excursion to Windsor Castle. While in London, the group will also see a theater performance.

The tour will then depart for Paris via the Eurostar high speed train. Scheduled sights there are the Notre Dame Cathedral, the Arc de Triomphe, dinner in the Eiffel Tower, a cruise down the Seine, and an optional tour of the Louvre Museum. It is not necessary to be a member of KVLU to participate in the trip.

For more information, you may contact Melanie Dishman at (409) 880.8164 or melanie.dishman@lamar.edu, or visit the KVLU web site at kvlu.org.

KVLU is a non-profit radio station licensed to Lamar University and has been in service to the Southeast Texas region for more than 35 years.





## LU works to help Haiti

Lamar University has encouraged faculty, staff and students to contribute to the ongoing Haiti earthquake relief effort. Requests included baby items such as cloth diapers, baby powder, baby clothes and other baby needs, as well as hygiene products such as bandages, band-aides, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, hand sanitizers and other personal hygiene products.

The Setzer Student Center Office, Room 212 served as the location for donation items, which will be given to Mt. Sinai Baptist Church. Church members will travel to Haiti March 8, 2010.



## LU hosts auditing expert alumnus

The College of Business hosted John Christopher, audit partner in the energy practice of KPMG's Houston office, as the ExxonMobil Executive in Residence Nov. 17.

Christopher, a resident of Kingwood, has more than 12 years of experience in providing audit, assurance and advisory-related services to public and non-public domestic and international clients. He serves as KPMG's Oilfield Services audit market leader in

support of the Energy audit sector leader, with primary emphasis on oilfield services, exploration and production sectors of the energy industry, and global manufacturing.

Christopher has advised several public entities on initial public offerings and registration statements for equity and debt securities. He serves as the firm's national instructor of firm-wide training courses. KPMG member firms work with clients in more than 140 countries.

Before beginning his career in public accounting, Christopher served in the U.S. Marine Corps for six years as an infantry team leader, serving in Desert Storm, 1990-1991, and in humanitarian efforts for Africa, 1992-1993. He earned the Bachelor of Business Administration from Lamar University in 1997.



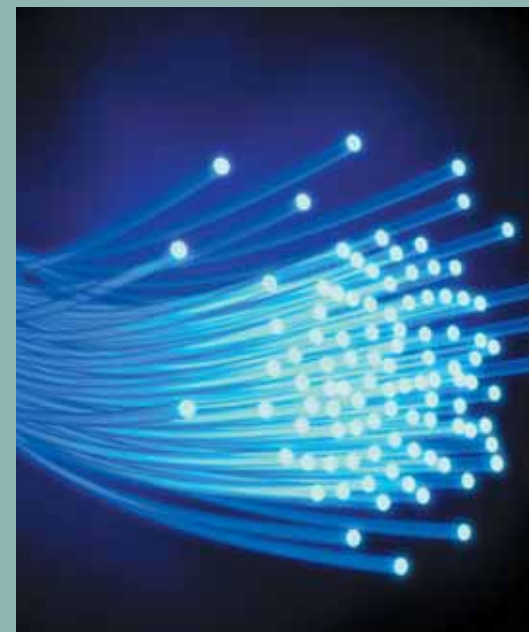
## Keith receives honorary doctorate

During commencement ceremonies Aug. 15, the university awarded the honorary doctor of humane letters to Sallye Jones Keith of Beaumont, a philanthropist and civic leader whose contributions to Lamar and the community span more than half a century.

Keith's history of community involvement and support is legendary—in causes ranging from the fights against cancer and heart disease to the performing and visual arts.

"Sallye is the finest example of love of community," said Russ Schultz, dean of Lamar's College of Fine Arts and Communication, where Keith and her late husband established a fellowship more than two decades ago. "Knowing Sallye has been one of the best experiences I have had since arriving in Beaumont. She has a philosophy of always wanting to make things better, and she does this in so many ways. She leads by example. She loves Beaumont, and she loves Lamar."

In 1986, Keith and her husband, William Carroll Keith Jr., established the Alice Keith Memorial Endowed Fellowship/Scholarship, with recipients known as Keith Scholars. An honorary member of the Friends of the Arts board, she is a longtime supporter of all the arts programs at Lamar, including Lamar Theatre, which honored her with a star on its Wall of Fame, and Le Grand Bal, which named her its "Sweetheart."



## LU enables supercomputing

Lamar University faculty, staff and students now see a 400 percent increase in connection speeds thanks to the completion of a fiber optic network connection between the campus and Houston.

The connection is possible through Lamar's participation in the Lonestar Education And Research Network (LEARN), a cooperative effort of 34 universities and research networks to support higher education's research, teaching, health care, and public service missions.

"It also allows us to take full advantage of our partnership and link to the supercomputing capabilities of TeraGrid," said Michael Dobe, associate vice president for information technology. Tapping into TeraGrid requires extremely fast Internet connectivity. Lamar's faculty will have access to many of the world's fastest supercomputers to conduct research through TeraGrid, the world's largest, most comprehensive distributed cyber infrastructure for open scientific research, combining 11 university and governmental sites to create an integrated computational resource.

Current research programs at Lamar in engineering and other disciplines already demand significant computing power. Tapping into TeraGrid will boost these programs and may attract additional research, help Lamar recruit talented faculty and draw funding to the university, said Stephen Doblin, provost and vice president for academic affairs.



## Emory professor lectures on terrorism

Nicholas Fotion, professor of philosophy at Emory University, spoke Jan. 25 about "The New World Disorder" in a lecture sponsored by the Lamar University Center for Philosophical Studies. Fotion is the author of *War and Ethics: A New Just War Theory* and co-author of *Terrorism: The New World Disorder*, both published by Continuum in 2008. His research focuses on moral philosophy and philosophy of language.

Technology Department of Public Service and Safety's Homeland Security Program and the Lamar University American Democracy Program.

Approved by the Lamar University board of regents in 1992, the Center for Philosophical Studies has two principal interests: the publication of a scholarly book series, "Lamar Philosophical Studies," and the presentation of a scholarly lecture series, "Lamar Philosophical Topics," said Arthur Stewart, associate professor of philosophy and the center's director.



## Dual credit, BAAS expands

Lamar is expanding its dual credit programs to school districts across Texas. Dual credit courses allow high school juniors or seniors to enroll in a college course and receive simultaneous academic credit from both the college and the high school, essentially earning two years of college for free. Participants come from the more than 500,000 students in 11th and 12th grades in Texas.

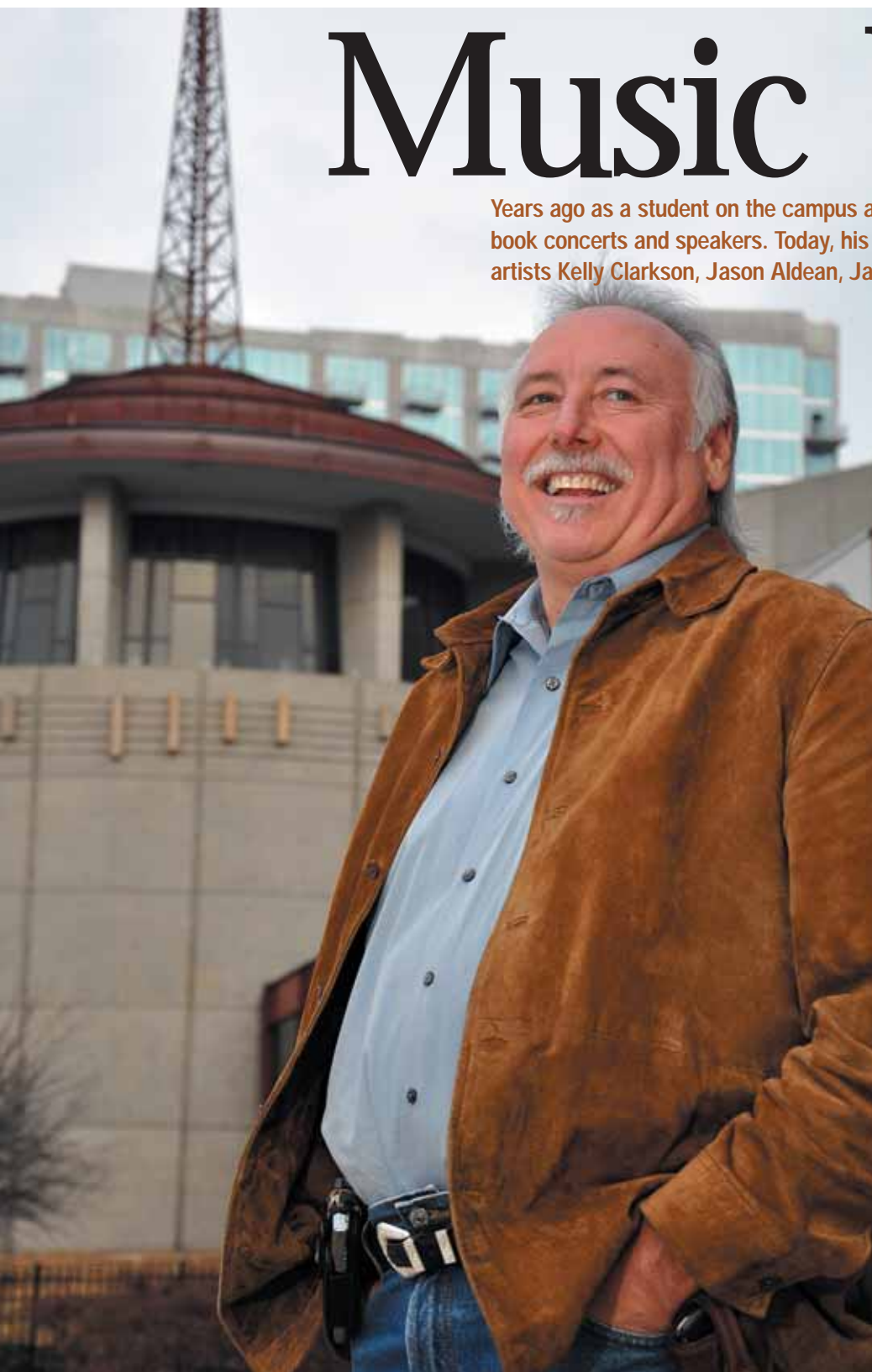
Lamar is also expanding its offering of the Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree entirely online in partnership with Higher Education Holdings. The first HEH-based B.A.A.S. course began Oct. 12. Data from the 2000 census shows there are more than 2 million Texans with some college hours but no bachelor's degrees, and an additional 681,363 with associate degrees. A great number of these Texans could qualify for the online degree-completion program.

These academic partnership online programs complement the online offerings already established at the university where five undergraduate degrees—the Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences, Bachelor of General Studies, RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology, and the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science—and two graduate programs—the Master of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Health Promotion—can be earned entirely online.



# Music biz

Years ago as a student on the campus activities committee, Steve Moore helped book concerts and speakers. Today, his office handles tours that include music artists Kelly Clarkson, Jason Aldean, Jamey Johnson and Randy Houser.



TODD STRINGER

Steve Moore '79 can thank his strong work ethic and a fortuitous Blood, Sweat and Tears concert at Lamar University decades ago for launching him in a successful music industry career as a promoter for some of the country's top touring acts and as president of the Country Music Association.

A long-time board member for CMA, Moore served as president in 2009 and will be chairman of the board for 2010. "It was like having another non-paying job and turned out to be quite a job, but it was fun," Moore said by telephone from the Nashville office of Moore Entertainment, his music promotion partnership with AEG Live!

The business side of music had never crossed Moore's mind when he started his studies at Lamar as a trumpet player hoping to become a high school band director. But then came the Blood, Sweat and Tears concert in McDonald Gym on Sept. 11, 1975. Moore didn't have money for a ticket, so he showed up at the equipment-filled truck parked outside the gym and asked if he could help. He knew how to work from construction jobs in area refineries, earning money to pay for college. He ended up as crew chief that night, helping unload and set up for the show in exchange for admission. He was hooked.

"That night was really and truly an epiphany for me," said Moore, who grew

up about 30 miles from Beaumont in Buna. "I'd only been to one or two concerts at that point in my life. It's just something we didn't know about and didn't have the money for either. When I saw that production, I just knew that's where I needed to be."

The next week, he got an invitation to join the student activities committee on campus and became involved in booking other concerts, speakers and shows. By his

senior year, he had created a ticket agency distributing paper tickets for shows at Fair Park Coliseum in Beaumont. After graduating as a communication major, Moore did some music promotions with his friend, mentor and former band director, President James Simmons, before moving to Houston and getting into the rock'n'roll touring business. He moved from touring to booking and promotions, working with big name acts including ZZ Top, Stevie Ray Vaughn and George Strait. Then in the mid-1980s, Moore and his wife, Charmione (Rafield) Moore '78, moved to Nashville for an opportunity booking rock shows at a new

charity he started, the Shalom Foundation, which provides educational, nutritional and medical assistance to Guatemalan children and their families. "They're very caring people," Moore said. "It's neat to see these deserving artists reach these great success stories that they have."

Moore has had plenty of success, too. For the past five years, his company, Moore Entertainment, has partnered with AEG Live! to take advantage of the power of an international brand. Recent and upcoming tours handled by his eight-person office include Kelly Clarkson, Jason Aldean, Jamey Johnson and Randy Houser. Of course,

since he got started the business has changed, with the decline of retail outlets, the advent of digital downloads, the consolidation of radio station ownership, the rise of concerts as the most lucrative part of the business for touring artists and the increased popularity of country music. "Starting a concert company in 2010 would be very tough for anybody," he said. "The risks

are extremely high, the stakes are high, and the reward is low." Moore has taught at Belmont University in Nashville in the past and had a favorite analogy for his students. "I tell them, 'If you can take \$20,000 in cash and put lighter fluid on it and let it burn and not stomp it out or go crazy, you'd be a good candidate for a promoter because that's going to happen to you sooner or later.'" Moore has expanded his business options with active investments and development of dialysis clinics and Dollar General stores throughout Texas. He also is developing a new entertainment model for Texas music called 1836 Entertainment, which he plans to launch in 2010, to handle recording, distribution, promotion, management and booking. "It's all about making a deal. I love to make deals," he said.

Moore loves to make an impact, too. He fell in love with Guatemala and its people about 10 years ago on a church mission trip. Since then, his Shalom Foundation has built homes and a school in the Central American country and is in the process of building the first pediatric surgery center in

Guatemala. He hopes to continue making an impact with the Country Music Association as it addresses copyright protections in the digital age and better serving all its constituent memberships, from artists and songwriters to managers, agents and promoters. In recent years, CMA has started offering health insurance access as a benefit of membership and stressed a volunteer spirit with its "Keep the Music Playing" program, which donates money to Nashville-area public schools for music education. "It is close to my heart," Moore said. "I remember when I was in high school, the only thing I really cared about going to school for was playing in the band. If I wasn't in the band, there's no telling what I'd have been doing." Moore also played in Lamar's band and counts Simmons and his trumpet professor, the late Raul Ornelas, as important mentors and coaches. "There was just something about the way they treated us and the relationship we had, about doing business and being successful and being professional, always being professional, and doing the right things the right way," Moore said. "For me, it was absolutely a foundation of how I carried myself through business and being creative."

Moore downplays his musical ability but said he has started playing trumpet again for fun and in his church. His wife, a Lamar music graduate, has continued to play and teach flute, teaching limited private lessons as she focused on raising their three sons. Their oldest, Remick, is an architect in Nashville. Sterling recently enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. Hunter is a senior in high school. "They all played music. I just didn't let them fall into the trap of getting into the business," Moore said. "I hoped that they would pursue their own paths, and they have, and it's been good."

His own path has been good as well. It took him from the small town of Buna to a truck full of music gear outside McDonald Gym to a Volkswagon delivering concert tickets around Beaumont. His path has taken him to music venues large and small around Texas and across North America. It's allowed him to help children in Guatemala and to pursue his latest hobby, learning to fly. And with other ventures on the horizon, who knows where it might take him next?

“For me, it was absolutely a foundation of how I carried myself through business and being creative.”

—STEVE MOORE '79

amphitheater. After about eight years, he was ready for something new.

"The rock business back then was tough. It was drunk, crazy people doing crazy things. I felt like I needed a change of pace," Moore said. "In 1992, I had a new baby and quit my job and started promoting country. The people, they were just more real people. I didn't like the rock thing. It got too crazy." The decision, he said, "wasn't about the music. It was just about the business. Fortunately, I have a wide array of taste in music."

Through his work, Moore has enjoyed friendships with many of the most popular names in music. He describes Strait as the same guy he first met nearly 30 years ago: "a kind, gentle, fun, smart man who just happens to be one of the greatest Texas troubadours of all time." Kix Brooks and Ronnie Dunn of Brooks & Dunn have been good friends since the start of their music careers. He has worked with Alan Jackson, Kenny Chesney, Reba McEntire and Faith Hill. Jennifer Nettles of Sugarland joined him on a mission trip to Guatemala with a

by Beth Gallaspy



# Internships expand students' horizons

by Beth Gallaspy

Two nursing students gained a global perspective on health care this summer through an internship opportunity in Ghana made possible by financial and academic support from Lamar University.

Senior nursing majors Jennifer Mikel of Sweeny and Brittney Zenos of Bridge City worked as interns in a hospital in Hohoe, Ghana, and participated in medical outreach activities in and near the West African village.

"It has taught me a lot about caring for others, but it has also shown me that there is a global patient, that we cannot just care for those in our community, but we need to care about those who are part of the whole world. The world is our patient, and that's who we need to take care of," Mikel said.

Mikel and Zenos both cited their work in a nearby orphanage where they performed medical screenings as the most rewarding part of the trip. "It fulfilled the medical aspect, as far as helping take care of them and their health, and the mission aspect of it for me as well—to be able to spend time with them and show them a little attention and care and that people out there do care about them," Zenos said. "We ended up going back about four times just on our

own time."

Mikel was selected in 2008 as Lamar University's first David J. Beck Fellow, the university's most prestigious undergraduate award, which provides a full academic scholarship for one year and funding for a summer project proposed as part of the application process. Her six-week stay in Ghana was her fellowship project.

Zenos said she and Mikel had discussed their shared interest in working in Africa before Mikel applied for the Beck Fellowship. After Mikel was named Beck Fellow, Zenos decided to try to make the trip as well. She was able to develop a



Mikel, Zenos and other volunteers in medical outreach



JENNIFER MIKEL



Mikel with hospital staff

nursing theory that she had learned at Lamar. She appreciated the importance of viewing situations from the patient's perspective when she saw mothers of infants who died in or soon after childbirth placed into hospital wards alongside new mothers and their babies. She also saw firsthand the dilemmas faced by nurses in Ghana who selectively sterilized equipment because of a lack of necessary supplies.

Along with enhancing their nursing education, spending the summer living with a host family in Ghana exposed Mikel and Zenos to a different landscape and a different culture. Mikel said she enjoyed trips to open-air markets and lessons in the kitchen from her host family's cook. She went to a funeral one weekend with her host mother, Lindar Gladjah, and also attended a ceremony to name the new king for her family's clan.

"I definitely won't take for granted what I learn here," Mikel said. "I now know what it's like in other places, so I really want to go out and do even more. As a student in a volunteer program, you can't really do much. I feel I can do more as a nurse. I'll have an open mind to my studies and how it can affect people and more patience in general."

research project and secure funding for a four-week trip with the help of the Lamar University Honors Program, the JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing and LU administrators.

After her return, Zenos completed a paper on infant mortality and infant feeding patterns, based on research gathered before and during her trip. She hopes to present her research to the campus convention of Sigma Theta Tau nursing honor society.

Mikel said the trip allowed her to implement both nursing care and

shared with Belizean governmental agencies.

The research opportunity should advance Zarzosa's goal of simultaneously pursuing a doctor of veterinary medicine and Ph.D. in either comparative medicine or public health after he completes his studies at Lamar.

"On a professional level, hopefully this is going to be almost a guarantee into my intended career. That's pretty powerful," Zarzosa said. "When I finish, I'll be able to publish this in professionally reviewed journals."

Kevin Smith, senior associate provost and chair of the selection committee, said Zarzosa was the best choice among an excellent pool of applicants for this year's fellowship.

"He has the kind of dreams that really befit this fellowship," Smith said.

## Beck Fellow Zarzosa studies parasites in Belize

Michael Zarzosa, a junior biology/pre-veterinary medicine major, has been named the second David J. Beck Fellow at Lamar University. President James Simmons announced Zarzosa's selection for the prestigious undergraduate award at a ceremony on campus in November.

Zarzosa, a Lumberton resident, said two of his professors encouraged him to apply after he joined them in biological field research courses in Belize offered by Lamar this past summer.

"I think it speaks volumes about the relationships that we're able to achieve with the faculty at Lamar," Zarzosa said. "I think their challenging and prompting is really what started the initial desire to attempt this."



part of his fellowship application. Zarzosa plans to survey parasites common to domestic dogs and the probability of transfer to humans. He will spend about two months on Ambergris Caye, Belize, next summer, which he proposed as his summer project as well. She was able to develop a

Already, Zarzosa is preparing for his own independent research trip to Ambergris Caye, Belize, next summer, which he proposed as his summer project as well. She was able to develop a

## Engineering funds send Beck finalist to China



Chemical engineering major Rajiv Jaini had the opportunity to spend this past summer improving his research skills and experiencing another culture, thanks to financial backing from Lamar's College of Engineering and Dan F. Smith Department of

Chemical Engineering.

Jaini, a senior from Baytown, worked as a researcher at East China University of Science and Technology in Shanghai, China, from May to August. He first proposed the trip in his application for LU's David J. Beck Fellowship last year, for which he was a finalist. Jaini's interest in international research and his track record as an assistant in the laboratory of associate professor Rafael Tadmor prompted his college and department to find other sources of funding to support the trip.

"When I transitioned, the scientific part was pretty easy," Jaini said. "I could apply the things that Dr. Tadmor taught me here like curiosity and questioning and trying new things. Those are things that the people in the Chinese universities don't get to do. They don't have that flexibility. So it was almost like I was showing them a different way of looking at things, which is really just an incredible feeling."

Jaini quickly found that his colleagues in Shanghai used English to communicate only when necessary. To make friends and become more productive, he needed to learn Mandarin Chinese. In addition to working about 12 hours a day in a laboratory, Jaini stayed up late and got up early in his room on campus to work on his vocabulary.

"My language skills improved enough to where at the very end, I actually went and got a haircut by myself," Jaini said. "It was really scary because you don't realize it, but they ask you a lot of questions when you get a haircut."

The research in which Jaini took part involved the synthesis and testing of polymer brushes to clean water that contained metal ions. The researchers tested the performance of the brushes in varying temperatures and at varying pressures. One of the most important things Jaini gained from his work in the laboratories was an increased appreciation of the value of hard work and long hours.

The greatest lesson overall, though, came from experiencing a new, unfamiliar culture on his own. "What I'll take most from it is my personal development of going way far away and coming back with a different viewpoint," Jaini said. "The actual physical transition of going from here to there—the language, food, people, surroundings—that was the hardest part."





## Distinguished Alumni Awards

1. Alumni Board President-Elect Clayton Lau '69, from left, joins 2009 Distinguished Alumni Paul Fregia '81, Larry Beaulieu '77 and Byron Dyer '57 with Alumni Board President Jill (Taft) Roy '90 and President James Simmons. 2. Nancy (Brooks) Neild '78, left, and Ellen (Walker) Rienstra '62, '80 3. Vernon Pierce, Linda Domino, Distinguished Alumnus Joe Domino '75 4. Alan Sampson '68 and Norma (Roddy) '75 5. Betty (Lamont) Leaf, Charlene (Matthews) Leonard '55, Claudie Green 6. Jan (Caldwell) Hallmark '76, '83, Dan Hallmark '65, Susan (Williams) Simmons '68



Cheryl (Black) '09 and her husband, Dean Oney Fitzpatrick, right, welcome Bob Love to a dinner in Love's honor before he was featured in the Academic Lecture Series Oct. 28. A former NBA star with the Chicago Bulls, Love now serves as national spokesperson for the team.



President James Simmons presents Sallye Keith '09HD the honorary doctor of humane letters at summer commencement Aug. 15. Russ Schultz, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication, joins them on the podium. Keith is a philanthropist and civic leader whose contributions to Lamar University and the community span more than half a century.



President James Simmons, putting on quite a show here with Lauren Richard, was among celebrity dancers featured at Celebrity Salsa for Habitat, which benefitted Habitat for Humanity of Jefferson County.



Eleanor and Distinguished Alumnus Charles Garrett '59 recently carried the Olympic torch to begin celebration of the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games. The Garrett leg of the torch run was located in Nanaimo on Vancouver Island. The flame for the torch was lit in Greece at the site of the ancient Olympic Games, transferred by runners to Athens where it was placed in a miner's lantern and sent to Canada by plane. Of course, the torch's journey ended with the Opening Ceremony of the games Feb. 12, 2010. Garrett metal detectors have been selected for use at Olympic Games all over the world since 1984 when the detectors were first used at the Los Angeles Olympic Games.



President Simmons congratulates the officers of the Lamar University Ambassadors, who represent LU at a variety of events and activities on campus and in the community.



Senator Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, the keynote speaker at Lamar's summer commencement Aug. 15 in Beaumont, congratulates three Lamar graduates from her senatorial district after the ceremony. Pictured, from left, are Luis Angel Guillen Jr., Carmelita Cantu, Senator Zaffirini and Cynthia Yvette Ibanez Casas. The graduates, all of Roma, earned master's degrees in school administration. They are among more than a dozen of Zaffirini's District 21 constituents who received graduate degrees in a new academic partnership.



# Moving forward

From his corner office overlooking U.S. 287-96-69 in Port Arthur, Carl Griffith Jr. '81, '83, '87, keeps tabs on the building boom.

by Brian Sattler

On the horizon, beyond the hubbub of a flourishing commercial and retail zone with construction springing up all along the highway, several industrial projects valued in the billions of dollars have taken shape—projects realized in part through the incentive of tax abatements Griffith helped negotiate as Jefferson County judge. Those projects generate millions in tax revenue for the county and help blunt the effects of the nation's recession on the Southeast Texas economy.

Today, he directs the synergism of Carl R. Griffith and Associates—a gathering of talent, expertise and experience in a wide array of subjects of importance to business, industry and government. From their Port Arthur location, the associates provide strategic support in governmental affairs, environmental and regulatory affairs, business and economic development, criminal justice, emergency management, homeland security policy development and grants management across the state and beyond.

Ongoing projects include design, operation, staffing and programming planning for county jails; environmental work with heavy industry, including guidance in the permitting process; advising communities and governments in disaster management planning and response; consulting with commercial and industrial clients on business development matters; working with school districts on environmental issues; and grants management for a number of communities.

Griffith has gone far by staying close to his roots and Southeast Texas values of integrity, dedication and hard work. The fifth-generation Texan grew up in Beaumont's west end. After graduating Forest Park High School, he moved to Colorado to placate his love for the mountains, but, after a year, Southeast Texas' siren call drew him home.

He sought his first job as police officer at Lamar University and interviewed with then-President John Gray. "Dr. Gray was an old friend of my grandfather's, and they had hunted together as kids," Griffith said. He spent the year

working under Chief Gene Carpenter and Assistant Chief Dale Fontenot and began studies toward an associate's degree in criminal justice. When he turned 21, he became eligible to work for the sheriff's office, where he progressed from serving in the jail to patrol duty to serving fugitive warrants. He earned a bachelor's in criminal justice at Lamar University, and returned to earn a master's in education in counseling and guidance. In 1986, Griffith moved to the district attorney's office as an investigator.

Griffith first grabbed headlines in 1987 when he decided to challenge a sheriff who had served a quarter-century. He seemed something of a boy wonder when, at 33, he defeated his former boss, R.E. "Dick" Culbertson. Griffith became the youngest sheriff elected in a major metropolitan department in Texas, overseeing law enforcement in the 11th largest of 254 counties.

"I haven't slowed down since," Griffith said of the energy he threw into the position. "I'm still usually working 60- to 80-hour weeks." Among his accomplishments was Positive Production, a nationally recognized, innovative rehabilitation program still used today in the Washoe County Jail in Reno, Nev.

"The Positive Production program sprang from my experience as a cop on the street arresting people but seeing that we weren't doing anything to change their lives," Griffith said. "That drove my interest in getting a master's at Lamar. I still have people come up to me and say, 'You changed my life through the programs that I got to go through at the jail.'"

After eight years as sheriff, Griffith set his sights higher when County Judge Richard LeBlanc decided to retire. Impressed with Griffith's managerial skills and innovations as sheriff, LeBlanc suggested both privately and publicly that Griffith succeed him.



BRIAN SATTLER

"I can still remember the call like it was yesterday," Griffith said. "Judge LeBlanc said, 'I wanted to tell you I'm going to resign.' That was really bad for me because he was a huge supporter of mine. The second thing he said was, 'I want you to think about running for county judge.' I had never thought about anything outside of law enforcement. Period. It had never crossed my mind to get into that realm." Before the call was through, Griffith committed to the race.

"We ran hard, and it was a hard time to run because my mother was dying of cancer," Griffith said. "Then Gov. (George W.) Bush and Sen. John Whitmire, at the same time all this was happening, asked me to consider taking over the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in fall of 1995.

"I knew myself," Griffith said. "It was

“  
That drove my interest in getting a master's at Lamar. I still have people come up to me and say, 'you changed my life through the programs that I got to go through at the jail.'  
”

—CARL GRIFFITH

going to take me 80 to 100 hours a week just to get my hands around what was going on (at TDCJ). Mom was dying of cancer, and I had a routine where I would go by my parents' house every morning and make them coffee before I'd go to the courthouse. I didn't want to miss that time."

"Little did I know that on Jan. 2, 1996—as I was going to announce my run for county judge—that my father would die

that morning of a massive heart attack," Griffith said.

Sheer determination to see her son elected kept Griffith's mother going, and, although in a wheelchair, she attended Griffith's post-election victory celebration—Griffith won the 1996 Democratic primary with 73 percent of the vote—on March 12, 1996, before her death four days later. Griffith did not face another serious challenge until 2006 when Ron Walker beat him with 53 percent of the vote.

In looking back on his three decades of work for the county, Griffith could count more than a few accomplishments. Economic development was a major one with more than \$10 billion in industrial expansions and new projects under way or about to begin when Griffith left office.



Among the major projects was the not-yet-fully-realized opportunity found in Port Arthur's Pleasure Island, recipient of significant public infrastructure investments necessary to prepare the way for development. Ford Park is also a project on his list. Intended as a quality-of-life enhancement, Ford Park was begun in response to census data that showed five decades of population decline in the region during a period when the state had grown from 8 million to 22 million.

"From the 1900s to the 1950s, we had grown at the same rate as Houston, but then we stopped investing in public infrastructure that affects the quality of life," Griffith said. "We needed that piece to enhance the quality of life, to provide a place for our people to go and want to stay in Southeast Texas.

"We said that in the first five years, the project would generate what it cost to build it," Griffith said. "I saw Judge Walker in a news report say that in the first five years, Ford Park had generated \$75 million in the Southeast Texas economy. The park cost \$74 million. It is doing much of what I had hoped for our community. The 2000 census brought the first growth in Jefferson County in 40 years."

Increasing racial and ethnic diversity among county employees, especially in managerial roles, makes his list. "One of the things I'm most proud of is changing the complexion of the courthouse," Griffith said. "We just made sure we let our qualified people advance." Griffith received in 2009 the highest award given by the Beaumont Branch of the NAACP "for Outstanding Dedication and Untiring effort in the



Struggle for Racial Equality, Equal Opportunity and Justice under the Law."

In 2005, Griffith pushed hard for the airlift of more than 8,000 medically fragile people just before Hurricane Rita made landfall—an effort that undoubtedly spared many lives.

Today, Griffith is most interested in moving forward by helping other communities realize their potential. To reach business clients in far-flung destinations across the Lone Star State and to attend the monthly meetings of the Texas Conference of Urban Counties, he flies a Cessna P-210 as an instrument-rated pilot. Having access to on-demand transportation, capable of operating in all but the worst weather, is vital to his business. "It would be extremely hard to keep up my schedule without it," Griffith said.

In his down time, Griffith enjoys down-to-earth pursuits that seem a far cry from the challenges of law enforcement, complex environmental issues or budgetary concerns. As owner of the Griffith Exotic Game Ranch, a 300-plus-acre spread, which was once a rice farm in the late 1920s, and a cattle ranch after that, Griffith raises trophy animals to supply other big-game ranches.

He lives on the ranch with his wife, Pat, where they enjoy spending time with their children and their families. Their son, Pate, works for Total Petrochemicals, and is

married to Mandy. They have one son, Paten, 11. Their daughter, Tamara '91, '96, earned a bachelor's and M.Ed. from Lamar, and is married to Kent Kelso, vice chancellor of the University of South Florida in St. Petersburg. They have two sons, Kaeden, 11, and Kellen, 7.

Winston Churchill once said there is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man. Griffith has five family horses, including his beloved mustang. He finds time to ride and enjoys sharing that passion with others.

In looking back on his years in law enforcement and as county judge, Griffith gives considerable credit to the education he gained at Lamar University. "Without that foundation, I don't think my career would have taken off," Griffith said.

"I had some great professors at Lamar—people who challenge your mind, get you to looking at issues from all sides to help make educated decisions," he said. "From that experience I developed a kind of eclectic approach on how to put things together. I think that is what got us looking at cutting-edge issues as far as how to change inmates and using research to determine what we needed to do to make the county grow."

# Black gold, Texas tea



For Jimmy Stark '78, the best thing about working on oil rigs for more than 30 years is the fact that it never got boring. "You never knew exactly what was going to happen each time you went to work," Stark said. "You may be on the same drilling rig for a while, or you may change locations, but you'll definitely find a whole new set of challenges with each new location."

Stark, a Lamar chemical engineering graduate, began his career with Texaco immediately after graduation and stayed with the company when Chevron purchased it in 2001. As senior drill site manager and drilling engineer, Stark is responsible for designing the prospect well to be drilled using data gathered by the geologists. The geologist furnishes sand pressures, water depth and ocean floor information that determines the type of drilling rig and well to be used, he said. The drilling engineer verifies the geologist's data and designs the most appropriate type of rig and well for the desired results.

"I've worked on every type of rig you can imagine," Stark said. "I've drilled in water from 8 feet deep to more than 10,000 feet."

The Petronius tower, originally a Texaco platform rig, was one of the longest and

most challenging projects for the Lamar alumnus. During the course of a decade, several sub-sea wildcat wells were drilled prior to the construction of the Petronius compliant tower. The compliant tower is used primarily for water depths from 1,500 to 2,500 feet because it is more capable of withstanding wave actions and water depths than standard platform designs. This type of structure is desirable for Gulf of Mexico operations because the structure flexibility component built into the design allows it to survive hurricane-force winds. Although the majority of his career has been spent drilling in the waters of the Gulf, he also has been involved in drilling ventures off the coast of Thailand.

Another interesting experience for Stark was working on Chevron's Genesis project, which was the world's first drilling and production spar. A spar is a type of drilling platform that floats rather than having an underwater superstructure used in the compliant tower design. The spar is a floating vessel suspended to the mud line by 14 anchor chains around the circumference. Stark likens the spar to an upside-down beer can attached to the ocean floor with all the important facilities on top.

A native of Kirbyville, Stark credits his cousin who also earned a chemical engineering degree for leading him to Lamar and the engineering program. He points to good advice from instructors Frederic Jelen and Jack Hopper, now the dean of the College of Engineering, for a long and sustained career in the petroleum industry.

"I attended Lamar because it was close to home and had a reputation for having a great engineering program," he said. "I always wanted to be an engineer and found the best engineering training right here in my own backyard."

Stark gave up field work a couple of years ago after more than 30 years working on the rigs. He now designs wells and drilling programs from his office in Covington, La., opting to spend every evening with his wife, Sandra Rena, a Beaumont native. He prefers coming home each afternoon to the 14-days-on, 14-days-off schedule of most rig workers. He spends his time on dry land refurbishing an old Jeep and enjoys off-roading, deer hunting and anything that entails getting outdoors to commune with nature. The Covington couple has two married daughters, Crystalynn and Christy. A proud grandfather, Stark has two granddaughters and a grandson born this past Christmas.

Asked what advice he would give to new engineers considering the petroleum industry as a career, Stark said the most important things they should learn are good communication skills and working well with others. "Spending time on the job will give you the specific knowledge you need to do your work, but you will come into contact with many people from different backgrounds, ideas and mindsets, which will require you to be able to understand their point of view and be able to work through any differences," he said.—LA





Foote trilogy graces stage



KEITH CARTER

Three student-directed one-act plays by the late Texas playwright Horton Foote took center stage Feb. 11-16 in the Studio Theatre. All are set in the fictional Gulf Coast town of Harrison, Texas, during the 1920s and '30s. *Blind Date*, directed by DeeDee Howell of Nederland, portrays a well-meaning aunt who tries to fix up her visiting rebellious niece with a bookish local boy who aspires to be a mortician. *The One-Armed Man*, directed by Kyle Romero of Orangefield, finds the character McHenry returning to his former job to reclaim his arm lost in an industrial accident. His boss must determine how far the one-armed man will go to get what he wants. *John Turner Davis*, directed by Christopher Murray of Beaumont, is about a boy whose migrant-worker guardians have deserted him. As the kindly townspeople help him search for his missing uncle, John Turner Davis discovers home is not as much about where as who. Axle Wisor, 12, son of Jeffrey Wisor, assistant professor of theatre, and Donna Rae Wisor '06, was featured in the title role. Axle is a sixth-grader at St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica School.

Murray pens ‘unique’ offering

The Department of Theatre & Dance opened its season with *The Wicked One*, an original play by senior theater major Christopher Murray of Beaumont. Performances were Oct. 10-11 in the University Theatre. Joel Grothe, visiting instructor, directed the drama, which, he said, is evocative of such American classics as *Desire Under the Elms*. “It’s dark, and kind of a thriller, but it also has these moments of humor that I appreciate,” Grothe said. Murray has written several screenplays as well as stage plays. “I decided to write a play because I wanted to write something that would come to life,” he said. The play delves into a dysfunctional family, exploring the ties that bind. In 1973, Abbigale Archibold returns to her childhood

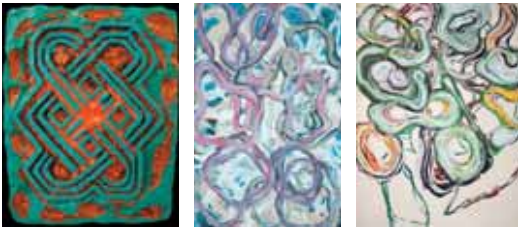
home, a sprawling antebellum plantation in rural Sunshine, La., to take care of family business. When she arrives, the ghosts of her long-departed family slowly start to appear. As Abbey relives the decades-old events of December 1941 that led to her family’s demise, she is reminded that no matter how terrible your family is, it is yours—and you get only one. The classic film *Citizen Kane* originally inspired Murray with its theme that a rich man can acquire anything but happiness. “It is unique for a student to have an opportunity like this with a piece of work that’s as good as this is,” Grothe said. Cast members



MICHELLE GATE

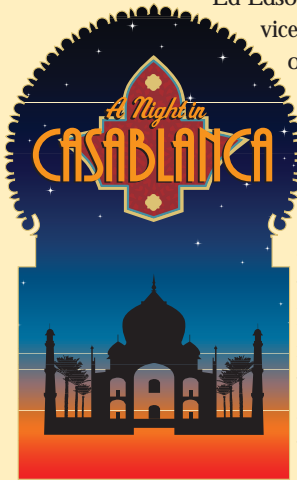
Amber Bolton and Jacqueline Gower

ArtsNotes



Works by Magnanti, left, and Pangburn

Duck hunters and conservationists paid tribute to the late **Jerry Newman**, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Art, at the 40th-anniversary banquet of Beaumont’s Ducks Unlimited chapter Oct. 28. Newman, who died in May 2008 at 74, contributed his artistry each year to the wetlands conservation organization in order to raise funds, said Ed Edson III, executive vice president of the organization. “He was a mainstay.” The chapter also honored Newman’s wife, **Pattee**, who has continued to help the organization. Newman retired from full-time teaching in 1999 after 37 years on the Lamar faculty. . . . *A Night in*



*Casablanca: Celebrating the Renaissance of Lamar University* will be the theme of Le Grand Bal 2010, to be hosted by Lamar’s Friends of the Arts March 27. **Albert Nolen** ’70, ’75 returns as chair of this black-tie evening of art, entertainment and fine dining to benefit the College of Fine Arts and Communication. For reservations, call (409) 880-8137 . . . Art League Houston honored Lamar’s **Keith Carter** ’70, Texas artist of the year, at *Starry Southern Nights*, the league’s 2009 gala, Oct. 24 at Hotel ZaZa. Carter, who holds the Walles Chair in Performing and Visual Arts, shared the spotlight with **Karol Kreymer** and **Dr. Robert Card**, who are art patrons of the year . . . The fall exhibition season at the Dishman Art Museum began Aug. 24-Sept. 15 with works by faculty artists **Linnis Blanton**, **Michael Brims**, **Keith Carter**, **Kurt Dyrhaug**, **Xenia Fedorchenko**, **Jamie Kessler**, **Meredith Jack**, **Ann Matlock**,

**Rose Mathis**, **Donna Meeks**, **Mark Ponder** and **Justin Varner** . . . Sept. 23-Oct. 31, the Dishman presented more than 60 works by contemporary American artists **Bill Pangburn** and **Renee Magnanti**, including watercolor, encaustic paintings, drawings and fabric pieces. Magnanti also premiered a number of quilted pieces featuring materials hand-dyed through Indian techniques . . . Oct. 30-Nov. 30, the museum displayed works by **Hong-wen Lin**, an associate professor at Tainan Technology University in Taiwan. Using multiple media such as paintings, sculptures and installations, Lin reveals the inspiration of Zen Buddhism. His forms expose a hidden structure—an underlying current known as “qi” that flows between the various constituent parts. A traditional concept and practice from ancient Chinese, qi is regarded as the energy within nature, the cosmos and bodies of living creatures . . . The Senior Thesis Show Dec. 2-17 in the Dishman Art Museum featured works by 13 art students scheduled to graduate in December Titled Impressions, the exhibition showcased thesis projects by **Maurice Abelman**, **Delaina Joseph**, **Byron O’Quinn** and **Kevin Thomas**, Beaumont; **Dustin Baxter**, Lumberton; **Mya Bean**, Wiergate; **Travis Coatney**, Sour Lake; **Michael Crommet**, Nederland; **James Roach**, Daisetta; **April Sherman**, Fannett; **Amanda Talcott**, China; and **Robyn Voight**, Port Neches . . . The Lamar Civic Orchestra opened its second season Dec. 8 with a concert featuring



Iban by Renee Magnanti

works by **Ferdinand Herold**, **Benjamin Britten**, **Ottorino Respighi** and **Percy Grainger**. The orchestra provides an opportunity for musicians from all walks of life to perform together and enrich the community, said its conductor, **Kurt Gilman**, associate professor of music and coordinator of

the string program at Lamar . . . Lamar’s Opera Workshop class presented scenes from world-renowned operas Dec. 1 in the University Reception Center of the Mary and John Gray Library. **Kerry**



KERRY JENNINGS

**Jennings**, assistant professor of voice, directed Lamar students through an array of beloved opera pieces, including selections from *Carmen*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Faust*, *The Magic Flute*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *The Mikado* and others . . . The Wind Ensemble and Concert Band performed in concert Nov. 24 in the University Theatre. Under the direction of **Scott Deppe** ’90, director of bands, and **Michelle Melancon**, graduate assistant, the band performed selections by Aaron Copland, Clifton Williams and Frank Ticheli. Guest conductor **Brenda Legendre** ’82, director of bands at Lumberton Middle School, led the Wind Ensemble in Kenneth J. Alford’s *The Voice of the Guns* . . . The Grand Chorus and A Cappella Choir premiered under the direction of **James Han**, Lamar’s new director of choral activities, in a concert Nov. 1. *Treasures from the Past and Today* was the theme of the concert, which featured W.A. Mozart’s *Gloria*, Ko Matsushita’s *Jubilate Deo* and music by Franz Schubert and Leonard Bernstein. Works by William Byrd, Claudio Monteverdi, Johannes Brahms, Morten Lauridsen, Eric Whitacre and William Dawson rounded out the concert . . . The Industrial Carillon, Lamar’s new-music ensemble, paid tribute to two great 20th-century composers who died in 2009 with *In Memoriam: Lucas Foss and Russell Peck*. The Carillon’s season-opening concert Oct. 19 featured faculty artists **Travis Fife**, percussion; **Kim Ellis**, clarinet; and **Brian Shook**, trumpet, joined by alumnus **Justin Collazo** ’02 of Beaumont, percussion. **Nick Rissman**, associate professor of composition, is founder and director of the ensemble.



## Plays transcend ‘lens of reality’



The expression “It’s all relative” took on new meaning in Lamar Theatre’s Nov. 12-17 production of *All in the Timing*. The six one-act plays by David Ives covered a variety of topics, all touching on themes of time, connection, language and identity.

“Ives’ work was subtly influenced by absurdist playwrights such as Samuel Beckett and Eugene Ionesco,” said director Rebecca Stone Thornberry, visiting instructor. “The plays all explore concepts of randomness and how chance affects vital aspects of our lives, from the people with whom we fall in love to

Eldrid, Nederland; Jared Fall and Kyle Romero, Orangefield; Steven Hoffman, Silsbee; Megan Kendall, Lumberton; Morgan Rowland, Seabrook; and Carley Stewart, Silver Springs.



## Starstruck . . . and all that jazz

The Magnolia Garden Club will host a special showing of *Starstruck* – its 2010 Garden Club of America Flower Show – in conjunction with the *Lamarissimo!* Jazz Concert March 2 in the Julie Rogers Theatre. The pre-performance event will be from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the theater lobby, featuring hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar. Jazz great Marion Evans, a Grammy-winning arranger and orchestrator, will be the special guest at the 7:30 p.m. concert. The reception will be open to holders of season or individual tickets to *Lamarissimo!* Regular flower show hours will be from 2 to 5 p.m. March 2 and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 3 in the theatre. Call (409) 892-5370 for additional information about the show or (409) 880-8144 for additional information about the concert.



how a masterpiece such as *Hamlet* might be created.

“Because they are not realistic, they are able to explore things about the human condition that we can’t see through the lens of reality.”

The play’s cast included Natalia Albacete, Shea Duerler and Christopher Murray, Beaumont; Bethany

## Lamarissimo! A perfect 20



The *Lamarissimo!* Concert Series opened its 20th Anniversary Season Oct. 6 with Lamar dancers joining the Wind Ensemble and Concert Band for the finale. Mary Henderson of Beaumont, top

photo, is among dance students adding fascination and flair to the performance. Scott Deppe, director of bands, was on the podium to celebrate the milestone. Travis Fife, center photo, who joined the music faculty last fall as instructor of percussion and director of marching percussion, performs a



marimba solo at the *Lamarissimo!* Faculty Artists concert Nov. 5. Almost two-dozen members of the Department of Music faculty and their students shared the stage. Baritone Phillip Gay, bottom photo, a vocal performance major from Beaumont, was among featured soloists at the *Lamarissimo!* Holiday Concert. Gay is a recipient of the Richard and Cathy Price Scholarship in Choral Music. The A Cappella Choir and Grand Chorus took center stage for the Dec. 3 event. James Han, Lamar’s new director of choral activities, made his *Lamarissimo!* debut.



## Literary Lamar

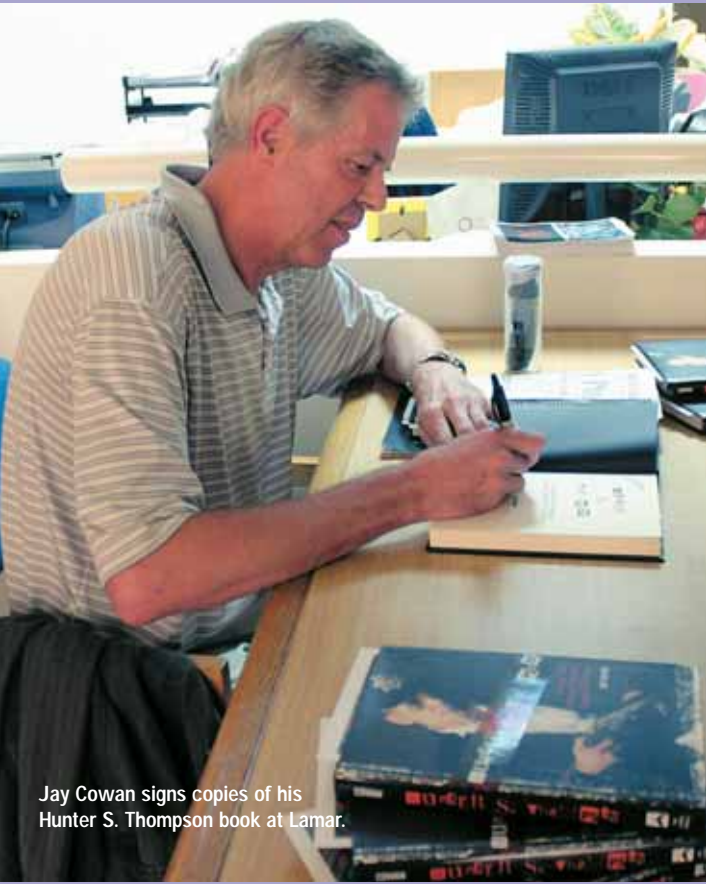


Jerry Bradley, professor of English, has authored a book of poetry, *The Importance of Elsewhere*. Bradley is the author of several books, including his acclaimed first volume, *Simple Versions of Disaster*.

“Jerry Bradley’s poems—every one—are like big glasses of ice water on an August afternoon in Texas,” said Nathan Brown, winner of the 2009 Oklahoma Book Award. “Yet, in the darkness that must accompany honesty, he offers us both the glories and sadness of love, family, Christmas and West Texas.” Bradley is a member of the Texas Institute of Letters and poetry editor of the Concho River Review . . . Author Jay Cowan shared his impressions of gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson during a program Sept. 24. Cowan is the author of *Hunter S. Thompson: An Insider’s View of Deranged, Depraved,*

*Drugged-Out Brilliance*. He spoke and signed copies of his book at the Dishman Art Museum. “This book provides the most compelling and readable portrait to date of one of America’s most extraordinary personalities,” its publisher, The Lyons Press, wrote, adding that Cowan provides “extraordinary new insights into the legendary writer’s creative and destructive impulses.” Cowan, who was caretaker on Thompson’s ranch, paints a sensitive portrait of a man—once described as America’s “rock star author”—who redefined participatory journalism and who captured the decadence and depravity of an era. Cowan’s visit was sponsored by the Departments of Communication and English and Modern Languages and the College of Fine Arts and Communication . . . The Writing Center at Lamar joined in a national celebration, “The National Day on Writing,” with activities Oct. 20 in the Mary and John Gray Library. In cooperation with

the National Conference of Teachers of English, the center sponsored one of hundreds of officially sanctioned Internet “Writing Galleries.” The site, galleryofwriting.org, will remain open until June 2010, said Melissa Hudler, director of the Lamar Writing Center. The celebration included presentation of student awards and prose and poetry readings . . . Rebecca Foust, a poet and advocate for the autistic, visited Lamar Nov. 18 for two presentations and a book-signing. Foust is a two-time winner of the Robert Phillips Chapbook



Jay Cowan signs copies of his Hunter S. Thompson book at Lamar.

Award from Texas Review Press. She spoke on “Poetry and the World of Autism” and later read from her work and attended a reception sponsored by Sigma Tau Delta, international English honor society and Pulse magazine. Foust turned to poetry in mid-life, writing poems about her son’s childhood in *Dark Card*, her first collection. Her visit to Lamar was sponsored by the Department of English and Modern Languages, College of Arts and Sciences and the family of Eleanor Perlstein Weinbaum, longtime supporter of poetry at Lamar.



## Magical gallery

Keith Carter ’70, has published his 11th book, *Fireflies*, an anthology of more than 30 years of portraits that delve into the mysteries of childhood. The collection includes both new work and iconic images selected from all of Carter’s rare and out-of-print volumes. He presents a magical gallery of photographs of children and the world they inhabit. While making these images, Carter often asked the children: “Do you have something you would like to be photographed with?” This creative collaboration between photographer and subject has produced images that conjure up stories, dreams and imaginary worlds. Complementing the photographs is an essay in which Carter poetically traces the wellspring of his interest in photographing children to his own childhood experiences in Beaumont. As he recalls days spent exploring woods and creeks, it becomes clear that his art flows from a deep reservoir of sights and sounds imprinted in early childhood.





## Construction begins on new LU Athletic Complex

The Cardinal football team faced off in scrimmages this past fall as Coach Ray Woodard and staff continue to condition the reborn program. Facilities for football and athletics are also

taking shape with construction in progress on Provost Umphrey Stadium, the Dan F. and Sandra A. Smith Press Box, the W.S. "Bud" Leonard Field, the Coach Vernon Glass Field of Champions and the

new athletic complex. Hellas Construction of Austin is preparing the ground of W.S. "Bud" Leonard Field for a state-of-the-art, artificial-turf playing surface. The same Matrix turf is used at the new Dallas Cowboys stadium.

Farther south on campus at the intersection of Cardinal and Rolfe Christopher drives, crews from Pepper-Lawson Construction of

Houston have completed the new soccer field, giving Lady Cardinals soccer athletes a home of their own in the new state-of-the-art Lamar Soccer Complex, which includes a field house.

Lamar University Athletics has begun a construction blog and installed a Web cam to help Cardinals fans keep up with projects on campus to improve athletics programs at [lamarcardinals.com](http://lamarcardinals.com).

## Lamar baseball in reloading mode

Jim Gilligan borrowed one of legendary University of Texas football coach Darrell Royal's favorite sayings in assessing the prospects for his 2010 baseball team.

"Darrell used to say the definition of a guy who has potential is that he's a guy who hasn't done it yet," said Gilligan.

When Gilligan's 33rd Lamar squad hit the Vincent-Beck Stadium field for its season opener against Maine Feb. 19, it was loaded with guys who have "potential." With only 16 lettermen on the 35-player squad, there are plenty of opportunities for newcomers to strut their stuff. After all, the Cardinals lost their entire starting infield, their starting catcher and standout outfielder Tyler Link from the team that posted a 38-22 record and advanced to the semifinals of the 2009 Southland Conference Tournament.

Link, who is helping this season's team as a student coach, posted a .369 average as a senior. Senior outfielder Quentin Luquette, who hit .316, is the lone, returning .300 hitter. Joey Latulippe, who batted .345 and drove in seven runs in eight games before suf-

fering a season-ending shoulder injury, has inherited the starting catcher job.

"We lost a good stick and a good defensive player in Steven Tucker at first base, but

Ryan Meade (from Temple College) is a big, strong, over-the-lights power guy," said Gilligan. Meade certainly lived up to that billing during the Cardinals' Fall World Series, banging out 11 hits on 17 at-bats (.647 average) in five games. Michael Padgett and Clayton Farhat, also junior college transfers, posted fall batting averages of .467 and .353, respectively.

Jude Vidrine, a freshman from Nederland, is vying for everyday duty at second base,

while Vidor sophomore V.J. Bunner has the edge at shortstop. Coaches will be paying close attention, however, to Lake Charles freshman Tyler Theriot, who batted .465 with 14 home runs as a high school senior.

"As for third base, both Pablo Salinas and Michael De La Rosa have great junior college credentials. Salinas was an All-American his freshman season at Alvin JC, and both of them have good power," said Gilligan.

Port Neches-Groves' Eric Harrington, the 2009 SLC Freshman of the Year, joins



ERIC HARRINGTON



QUENTIN LUQUETTE

Matison Smith in heading the pitching staff. Harrington went 8-1 and posted a 3.01 earned run average while striking out 63 batters in 83 2/3 innings, while Smith was 6-6 with a 3.52 ERA to go with 53 strikeouts in 76 2/3 innings.

"Harrington and Smith were our Friday and Saturday guys last season, so we feel very comfortable with them," said Gilligan. "We also have a promising freshman left-hander in Jonathan Dzedzic (from Atascocita)."

Jake Henderson, younger brother of former star first baseman/designated hitter Will Henderson, has transferred from the University of New Orleans and has two years of eligibility remaining and the experience to possibly step into the starting rotation.

Junior right-hander Taylor McInnis, who went 1-0 with three saves last season, will likely handle closing chores this season. Others expected to contribute to the pitching staff include Cory Holley, Brandon Chambers, Blake Ford, Spencer Cuniff, Garrett Steward, Josh Rodgers and Kory Cleveland.—RW



### Football season tickets on sale now

Ike Adams Jr. of Beaumont was the first person in line as the public sale of football season tickets got under way at 7 a.m. Jan. 23. Adams arrived shortly after 5 p.m. Friday at the Montagne Center where more Cardinal fans joined him by the time ticket windows opened. Nearly 300 fans lined up inside and outside the Montagne Center to choose their stadium seats when tickets went on sale for the first time since 1989. The first 100 fans received mini football helmets signed by Head Coach Ray Woodard.

Telephone orders are taken at (409) 880-1715, and online orders can be made at [lamarcardinals.com](http://lamarcardinals.com). Fans can purchase season tickets, priority parking and tailgating privileges in four different price and seating location categories. Two premium seating options are available and require a three-year commitment with pricing at \$225 and \$400 per seat, per season. Premium seating tickets include a donation to the Cardinal Club that is partially tax deductible. Additionally, two affordable options of \$60 or \$100 per seat for the six-game package are available without a donation to the Cardinal Club.



### Baseball locker room gets overhaul

Custom oak lockers greeted team members after winter break. An expanded, 1,600-square-foot facility includes the team room with new leather couches and furniture, two 60-inch, flat-screen plasma televisions and new chairs for each player at his locker. A large mural of action photos of Cards who have gone on to play in Major League baseball was installed at the clubhouse entrance.





## Brown inducted into UT Hall of Honor

James Brown, Lamar's quarterbacks coach, was one of seven distinguished and highly decorated former University of Texas student athletes who were inducted into the Longhorns' Men's Athletics Hall of Honor Nov. 20, 2009.

Brown, who established a reputation as a prolific passer and a big game performer over the 1994 through 1997 seasons, finished his Longhorn career holding 30 school records after leading the team to three-straight conference championships.

Brown, who still ranks in UT's Top 5 career-wise in most passing and total offense categories, played professionally for six seasons in the NFL Europe and Arena Football Leagues, and he also served as offensive coordinator at Hyde Park Baptist High School from 2003-2005. He joined Coach Ray Woodard's Lamar staff in 2008 after playing a final pro season with the CenTex Barracudas.

## Looking for the sweet spot

It was a great start to the spring campaign for the men's tennis team as the Cardinals won two of their first three matches and came away with the Southland Conference's first Player of the Week of the season.

Lamar claimed wins over Alcorn State and Centenary, with the team's only loss coming to

Rice, which was ranked 35th in the nation.

Senior Richard Filkuka was named the SLC Player of the Week after leading Lamar to victory over Centenary with a straight-set win at first singles.

Both the men's and women's tennis teams are looking to make some noise in the conference this season. The SLC championships are scheduled for April 23-25 in Corpus Christi. Home matches are played on campus at the Lamar University Thompson Family Tennis Center. Admission is free. For schedules and the latest results, visit [www.lamarcardinals.com](http://www.lamarcardinals.com).



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## Cardinal Hall of Honor inducts Lopez, McCordic, Lundstrom

Three former Lamar University athletes—from tennis, volleyball and track and field—were inducted into the Cardinal Hall of Honor during a banquet Jan. 23.

Carlos Lopez, who starred in tennis from 1974-1977; Lucy (Wiggins)

McCordic, a volleyball standout from 1973-1976; and Jonas Lundstrom, who excelled as a distance runner in 1988-1989, made up the 2009 induction class. They were also recognized during halftime of that night's Lamar

men's basketball game against Texas State.

Lopez, recruited out of Mexico City by then-Lamar coach Ron Wesbrooks, won two Southland Conference championships No. 1 singles and two more in No. 1 doubles during a career in which he compiled a 56-32 singles record.

"We recruited three really good players out of Mexico that year, and Carlos was probably the second-least known," said Wesbrooks, who retired as a Lamar faculty member last May. "He came in here, though, and blossomed as a freshman.

"He had a lot of talent and a great competitive attitude. For a freshman to perform at the level he did—reaching the conference tournament's singles finals at No. 1—was extremely unusual. He had a lot of outstanding wins while he was here."

Lopez won SLC No. 1 singles championships his junior and senior seasons. He was also a No. 1 doubles champion both of those seasons, and he reached the No. 1 doubles final as a sophomore in 1975.

McCordic, a resident of Sugar Land, played for volleyball coaches Claudia Perry and Rosie Petty during her Lamar career.

She helped lead the 1975 Lady Cardinals to the Texas Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) championship and was on the 1976 team that won the AIAW Southwest Regional championship.

As a junior, McCordic was named to the 1975 AIAW All-Southwest Region team

after leading the Lady Cards to a 54-7-1 record. Those 54 wins still stand as the school record. She then helped the team post a 40-18-1 record in 1976. The Lady Cards placed seventh in the AIAW national tour-

namment in 1975, and they were ninth in the 1976 national tournament.

Lundstrom, recruited out of Sweden by then-Lamar track and field coach Sonny Jolly, won three championships at the 1989 American South Conference Outdoor Track and Field meet, and he also placed fourth in the steeplechase in the NCAA Outdoor Championships to earn All-America honors. Earlier in the year, he was the ASC Indoor champion in the 3,000 meters, and, the next fall, he won the conference's individual cross country title.

"Jonas was one of our best all-time athletes and a great competitor," said Jolly. "To win three conference championships in distance events in the same meet is very demanding and a tremendous achievement."

Lundstrom's 1989 ASC championships came in the 1,500-meter run (in a time of 3:53.44), the 5,000-meter run (14:58.26) and the 3,000-meter steeplechase (8:55.60). Running in the high altitude in Provo, Utah, he ran an 8:54.80 for his fourth-place finish in the NCAA Championships, but he set the still-standing Lamar record of 8:33.31 in an earlier regular-season meet.



McCordic, center, accepted her trophy. Retired coaches Sonny Jolly, left, and Ron Wesbrooks accepted the honor on behalf of Lundstrom and Lopez.

## Cross country takes trophies



FRANCIS KASAGULE

The cross country teams dominated the Southland Conference awards ceremony during the 2009 season.

Not only did the Cardinal men capture the championship trophy, their fourth consecutive conference title and record ninth overall, but they also brought home three individual awards. Meanwhile, the Lamar women secured one individual award, meaning Lamar won four of the six individual trophies presented by the Southland Conference.

The individual hardware presentations started with Lamar senior Francis Kasagule, who was named Men's Athlete of the Year by the conference. Kasagule won the conference race and went on to represent Lamar at the NCAA Championships.

Lamar's Bob Ahimbisibwe was named the conference's Freshman of the Year for the men, while Jake Stewart was named Coach of the Year.

For the women, Lamar's Samantha Walkow ran away with Freshman of the Year accolades from the conference.

Kasagule, Ahimbisibwe and Walkow were also named to the all-conference team. In addition to Kasagule and Ahimbisibwe, the Lamar men had two other runners earn all-conference honors: Joonas Harjamaki and Drew Bean.

After the season, Harjamaki represented Finland at the European Cross Country Championships, where he finished a respectable 60th.



## Lamar's Woodard enters Kilgore College Hall of Fame

Ray Woodard made the Kilgore College football team in the fall of 1980. He earned second-team Junior College All-America honors as a defensive tackle and was an honorable mention selection as a sophomore.

"We went undefeated my freshman season, and we were ranked No. 1 in the nation," said Woodard, now Lamar University's head football coach, in looking back upon his playing days at Kilgore College. "It was the first championship team I had ever been on in football."

Woodard played football at the University of Texas before playing five seasons in the National Football League, including a spot on the Denver Broncos' 1986 AFC championship team.

In November last year, Woodard returned to Kilgore and was enshrined in the Kilgore College Hall of Fame. "It was quite an honor to become identified in this manner with the place I love and that has done so much for me," said Woodard, who later spent eight seasons as Kilgore College's defensive coordinator under head coach Jim Miller.



## Lady Cards dominate



JENNA PLUMLEY

The Lamar University women's basketball team got off to its best-ever start in the Southland Conference this winter.

The Lady Cardinals opened their conference schedule with six consecutive victories to grab sole possession of first place in the SLC. In mid-

February, the Lady Cardinals were 19-5 overall and 9-1 in conference play, having garnered wins over teams from Conference USA, the Sun Belt Conference, the Western Athletic Conference, the Ohio Valley Conference and the SWAC.

Junior guard Jenna Plumley, a transfer from the University of Oklahoma, was among the Top 20 in the nation in assists, steals and 3-point field goals, while junior Trashanna Smith was in the top 20 in blocked shots.

Plumley, a candidate for All-America honors, received Southland

Conference Player of the Week honors twice, while teammates Kalis Loyd and Trashanna Smith each received the award once.

But while the individual awards are nice, the Lady Cardinals are more concerned with winning games, something they're doing on a consistent basis. "We've really come together as a team," Plumley said. "We'll do whatever it takes to win."



KALIS LOYD

And the Lady Cardinals have been winning in convincing fashion, outscoring their opponents by an average of more than 11 points per game.

The Montagne Center becomes a rocking place on game days as the Lady Cards entertain their fans with their up-tempo style of play. "This team can score," said Coach Larry Tidwell, who registered his 50th career win faster than any other women's basketball coach in Lamar history. "We're a fun team to watch."

With more than half of the conference schedule remaining, there's still plenty of basketball to be played before the Southland

Conference Tournament takes place in Katy March 9-12.

Check out the latest Cardinals updates and get ticket information at [lamarcardinals.com](http://lamarcardinals.com).



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

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

40s

**Louis Beard** '40, certif. general studies, and his wife, Carrie, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary May 6, 2009. He earned a law degree from the University of Texas and is an attorney at Wells, Peyton, Greenberg & Hunt. They live in Beaumont.

**Joe Chesser** '48, certif. general studies, retired from Sun Oil after a 33-year career and lives in Dallas.

**Marie (Durham) Landry** '48, A.A. general studies, is retired and lives in Baytown with her husband, Gerald.

**Jim Burkett** '49, A.A. general studies, retired from Phillips Petroleum and lives in Lakeway.

**Ben** '49, certif. general studies, '58, B.S. mechanical engineering, and Beryl Johnson celebrated their 50th anniversary Aug. 22, 2009. They live in Beaumont.

50s

**Ralph Night** '50, A.A. general studies, is partner and operator of Night's Uniform Co. in Beaumont. He and his wife, Judy, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and live in Beaumont.

**Lillie (Harbour) Clanton** '51, certif. general studies, lives in Kerrville, with her husband, Uel.

**Dale Kanoy** '56, B.S. social science, and his wife, Billie, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in May 2009. They live in Jasper.

**Earl and Linda (Sterling) Darst** '59, certif. secretarial science, '74, B.B.A. office administration, '79, M.Ed., secondary education, celebrated their 50th anniversary Aug. 28, 2009. They have three children and eight grandchildren and live in Port Neches.

**James Stewart** '59, B.S. sociology, retired as an associate pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. He and his wife, Gwendolyn, celebrated their golden anniversary in September 2009. They live in Doraville, Ga.

60s

**Ray Mason** '60, B.B.A. general business, owns a franchise for Cruise Planners and has been recognized as top producer for luxury

cruises. He and his wife, Eva, live in Boca Raton, Fla.

**Ray McPhee Jr.** '61, B.S. geology, retired after a 28-year career in oil and gas exploration and an 18-year career in teaching. He and his wife, Pat, live in Minden, La.

**Betty Bureson** '62, B.S. elementary education, is retired and lives in Beaumont.

**Tipton Golias** '62, B.S. biology, and his wife, Ann, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August. They live in Beaumont.

**Dora Medwedeff** '63, B.S. elementary education, retired from teaching and lives in San Jose, Calif.

**Phyllis (Richards) Webb** '63, B.S. elementary education, is preschool director at St. Bernard Preschool in Tulsa, Okla., where she lives with her husband, **Harris** '64, B.S. elementary education.

**Jerry Cozby** '64, B.B.A. marketing, retired after a 41-year career as head golf pro at Hillcrest Country Club. He and his wife, Karole, live in Bartlesville, Okla.

**Ronnie Rucker** '64, B.S. physical education, retired as vice chancellor of San Jacinto College after a 44-year career. He earned his doctoral degree in education from the University of Houston. He lives in Pasadena.

**David Steinbach** '64, B.S. industrial engineering, is retired and lives in Georgetown with his wife, Patricia.

**Nathan Chambers** '65, B.S. secondary education, is retired and lives in Kerrville with his wife, Lynn.

**Virginia (Moss) Crawford** '65, B.S. biology, is retired and lives in Marshall with her husband, Charles.

**Bill Nylin** '65, B.S. mathematics, is chairman of the board of directors for Conn's Inc. He lives in The Colony with his wife, **Libbie (Campbell)** '64, B.A. mathematics, '65 M.S. mathematics.

**Landra (Lofton) Sarles** '65, certif. secretarial science, earned her bachelor's degree in accounting from Howard Payne University and is a missionary for the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Her husband, **Robert** '67, B.S. music, earned his master's degree in divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. They have just completed more than 15 years of missionary service in Brazil

and plan to retire March 1.

**Elaine (Cariker) Allums** '66, B.A. English, was reelected to the board of the Foundation for Southeast Texas. She lives in Kountze with her husband, Donald.

**Andrea Ashdon** '66, certif. vocational nursing, is retired and lives in Ormond Beach, Fla.

**Dr. Sam** '66, B.S. biology, and **Gail (Cawley)** '70 Showalter, B.S. speech, live in Nederland. Sam celebrates 40 years in dentistry in May 2010, and Gail established SMORE for Women, an alliance focused on Single Moms Overjoyed, Rejuvenated, Empowered.

**Jan (Die) Barnett** '67, B.S. elementary education, retired from a 28-year teaching career and lives in Longview.

**Howard Brister** '67, B.S. physical education, retired as director of health and emergency services for the city of Baytown. He lives in Liberty with his wife, Dani.

**Dorcas (Garvin) Davis** '67, certif. vocational nursing, became a registered nurse and works at Memorial Hospital in Lufkin. She lives in Zavalla.

**Gary Fore** '67, B.A. history, earned a master's degree in theology and is a retired pastor. He earned national certification as an optician and works as an optical lab technician for Texas State Optical in San Marcos, where he lives.

**Marty (Armstrong) Hammond** '67, B.S. medical technology, is owner/broker of Houston Pride Realty in Tomball, where she lives with her husband, Kenneth.

**Roberta (Reynolds)** '67, certif. vocational nursing, and Dale Johnson celebrated their 60th anniversary Sept. 4, 2009. They have two children, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. They live in Tyler.

**Kathleen McCorquodale** '67, B.S. secondary education, retired from the state of Texas and lives in Newton.

**Catherine (French) Schmersahl** '67, B.A. history, earned a master's degree from University of Texas at Arlington and has been in education for 31 years. She teaches history in the Rains school district and lives in Yantis with her husband, Dennis.

**Joseph Chimeno** '68, B.S. secondary education, is president of Blue Eagle Enterprises in Price, Utah. He has developed several chemical education games, published a lab manual and is writing a textbook, both for introductory chemistry. He lives in Helper, Utah.

**Willie Johnson** '68, B.S. mechanical engineering, received the Juneteenth "Made a Difference" Award at the fifth annual Celebration of Freedom Gospel Musical. He lives in Austin.

**Spurgeon Scott** '68, B.A. history, is retired and lives in Aurora, Colo.

**Patrick Durio** '69, B.B.A. accounting, is president of Durio and Co. and lives in Houston.

**Shelia Hartman** '69, certif. secretarial science, is human resources manager at PMG in Houston, where she lives.

**Richard Mendoza** '69, certif. industrial electricity, is retired and lives in Port Arthur with his wife, Kathleen.

**Leo Nolan Jr.** '69, B.S. physical education, was inducted into the Prairie View Interscholastic League Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

**Robert Sheffield** '69, B.B.A. accounting, and his wife, Frances, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They live in Silsbee.

**Benny Solleau** '69, certif. machine tools, is a retired safety specialist from Huntsman. He lives in Bridge City with his wife, Gayle.

**Pamela (Dugan) Springer** '69, B.S. elementary education, is a vice president of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. She and her husband, Jerrol, live in Houston.

**John Wasser** '69, B.B.A. management, '71, M.B.A. business administration, is treasurer of the Foundation for Southeast Texas. He lives in Port Neches with his wife, **Dana (Morgan)** '68, B.A. Spanish, '73, M.Ed. guidance and counseling.

**Sherlyn (Hinkel) Woodard** '69, B.S. secondary education, '73, M.Ed. secondary education, retired as executive vice president of the Silsbee Chamber of Commerce. She lives in Silsbee.

**Nadine (Dixon) Jenkins** '67, B.S. elementary education, '70, M.Ed. special education, earned a doctoral degree from the University of North Texas. She lives in Porter.

70s

**Randolph Knipp** '70, M.S. mathematics, lives in Orange with his wife, **Jean (McCabe)** '67, B.S. elementary education, '73, M.Ed. guidance and counseling.

**James Baskin** '71, B.S. civil engineering, is retired from Motiva and lives in Spring Hill, Tenn.

**John Belt** '71, B.S. geology, is president and managing member of QuinLab Consulting in Dallas, where he and his wife, Charlotte, live.

**Lewis Gregory** '71, B.B.A. management, is director of Source Ministries International Inc. in Snellville, Ga., where he lives with his wife, **Lue Ellen** '70, B.A. sociology.

**James (Dan)** '71, certif. machine tools, and Mary Frances Wilson, celebrated their 40th anniversary Nov. 21, 2009. They have two children and two grandchildren. They live in Vidor.

**Thomas Beavers** '72, B.S. environmental science, retired from Total. He and his wife, Judith, live in The Plains, Va.

**Wayne King** '72, B.S. biology, '75, M.S. biology, is regional refuge biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Denver, Colo.

He lives in Lakewood, Colo.

**Herb Lavendar** '72, B.S. electrical engineering, is president of Allanson Lighting Electrics in Addison. He lives in Dallas.

**Linda Mouton-Reid** '72, B.S. elementary education, lives in Houston with her husband, Robert.

**Barbara (Samford) Pinkston** '72, B.S. home economics, earned a master's degree from Stephen F. Austin State University and retired from a 32-year career in education with Center school district. She lives in Center with her husband, Jerry.

**Karen (Weisser) Pugh** '72, B.S. home economics, is an interior designer for Interior Expressions in Alvin, where she lives with her husband, George.

**Justin Baker** '73, A.A.S. refrigeration and air conditioning, is owner of Baker Air Conditioning in Port Arthur, where he lives.

**Jesse Branick** '73, B.B.A. marketing, is an attorney with Branick and Walston law firm and city attorney for Nederland, where he lives with his wife, Jo Lynn.

**Barbara (Bridgers) Brookner** '73, B.B.A. accounting, is a member of the board of directors of the Southeast Texas chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants. She is a C.P.A. with Charles E. Reed and Associates in Beaumont, where she lives.

**Robert Madding** '73, B.S. health and physical education, is interim superintendent of the Nederland school district. He lives in Vidor.

**Garry Ross** '73, B.A. English, earned a master's degree in history from Baylor University and a doctorate from Texas A&M. He is interim president of Texas A&M University-Central Texas in Killeen. He lives in Oglesby.

**Jane (Duncan) Tarrab** '73, B.S. secondary education, retired from an education career and lives in Canyon with her husband, Miguel.

**Ellen (McCorvy) Thornton** '73, B.S. elementary education, '73 M.Ed. special education, was elected secretary of the Mid-Jefferson County Retired School Personnel group. She lives in Groves.

**Paula (Stewart) Pratt** '74, B.B.A. office administration, is president of the ARC of Greater Beaumont, where she lives. The ARC is the world's largest community-based organization of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**Victoria (Hardegree) Price** '74, M.A. English, is a founding officer and vice-chairwoman of the Spindletop Foundation, organized to support the programs of Spindletop Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services.

**Richard Raves** '74, B.S. government, earned a law degree from the University of Houston and a doctoral degree in higher education administration from the University of North

Dual credit: Earn free college credit

Lamar University is expanding opportunity for high school students across the state with the launch of a major online initiative allowing more Texas students to earn college credit at low or no cost before they graduate from high school.

Texas high school students can enroll in an array of college courses offered through stateu.com, an online partnership between Lamar University and the University of Texas at Arlington.

Courses are provided at low or no cost to the student with costs covered by the state in most cases. Students may enroll in up to two courses each semester, and can even participate over the summer, with a full slate of free courses available to incoming high school juniors and seniors. The program essentially makes it possible for eligible students in participating school districts to earn up to a full year of college credits for free.

"Many of these students will discover that they can meet the challenge of higher education, be inspired to pursue a degree at the college of their choosing, and be better prepared as they move ahead," said Steve Doblin, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Lamar.

This state-funded free college program is available to any Texas public school student enrolled in a district that has signed an agreement to make the online courses available. So far, that includes nearly 300 districts. Students and parents should check with their high school counselors about whether their district's is already participating.

Any student who qualifies and has access to a school computer lab, a laptop or a home com-



puter can take online dual credit courses. Students will be able to participate, dialogue virtually with professors and classmates, and take exams according to their individual schedules.

Lamar and UT Arlington are the first four-year institutions in

Texas to participate in the state-funded project. Students can choose courses through stateu.com. Credit earned through the online dual credit program is guaranteed to be accepted at any Texas four-year public institution.

The online dual credit program will help Texas public school districts fulfill a state law requiring them to offer high school students an opportunity to earn college credit before they complete their high school diploma. The program also is available at low cost to Texas home-schooled students and students enrolled in Texas private schools.

The program expands the online and distance education programs already offered by Lamar, including its masters program in education and newly expanded online Bachelor's in Applied Arts and Sciences, a degree completion program.

"This pilot program uses technology wisely to create access that up to now has been a real challenge for many school districts across the state," said Paula Nichols, executive director of distance learning. "Lamar brings a lot of experience in delivering distance education to the program. We are able to leverage that experience with technology to bring high-quality academic programs to high school." For more information about the new online dual credit program, visit stateu.com or call (866) 887-8665.

Four inducted into Educator Hall of Fame



LARRY ACKER

Four alumni were inducted into the Educator Hall of Fame Nov. 5. Inductees are Lamar University graduates who have distinguished themselves in education and teaching. Honorees for 2009 are **Joe Chenella** '63, left, **Sally (McDonald) House** '59, '67, **Ron Sims** '84 and **Patty (Verret) Sanderson** '86. The College of Education and Human Development hosts the annual Educator Hall of Fame to honor Lamar graduates for their hard work and dedication to education. More information is available by contacting Sarah Matheny, induction committee chair, at 880-8702.



Texas. He is president of West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg, WVa.

**Judith (Wilson) Rutledge** '69, B.S. elementary education, '74, M.Ed. elementary education, lives in The Woodlands with her husband, Jim.

**Roy Ward** '74, A.A.S. industrial electricity, won a 2009 Pontiac G6 Convertible from Wheel of Fortune when his number appeared on the screen during the program. He lives in Beaumont.

**Steve Branson** '75, B.B.A. marketing, is pastor of Village Parkway Baptist Church in San Antonio, where he lives with his wife, Jan. He is also an adjunct professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

**Ernest Dunlap** '75, A.A.S. industrial electronics, is principal engineer at Coca-Cola North America in Sugar Land. He lives in Houston with his wife, **Janet (Defrates)** '76, B.S. medical technology, who is a medical technologist at Cypress Fairbanks Hospital in Houston.

**Donnetta (Eulian) Jackson** '75, B.S. elementary education, '80, B.S. secondary education, was named teacher of the year at Tyrrell Elementary and for the Port Arthur school district, where she lives. She has taught for more than 30 years in the same classroom.

**Sonya (Harper) Moore** '75, B.S. communication, '84, M.A. English, '88, M.S. history, and her husband **James** '74, B.S. biology, live in Jasper. James earned a law degree from the University of Houston.

**Patricia (Beasley) Pylate** '75, B.S. speech, '84, M.Ed. counseling and development, and her husband, James, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary July 11, 2009. They live in Nederland.

**Sandra (McKinley) Ellington** '76, B.S. elementary education, '79, M.Ed. special education, owns and operates Administrative Leadership Development and Life Coaching in Beaumont, where she lives.

**Carolyn Gaston** '76, M.Ed. secondary education, is assistant principal in the Lumberton school district, where she lives.

**Frank Kazmierski** '76, M.S. health and physical education, teaches and coaches in the Bryan school district. He lives in College Station.

**Shelia (Moore) Lanier** '76, A.A.S. industrial electricity, is president of Suburban Utility Construction Corp. in Houston, where she lives with her husband, Eddie.

**Sara (Hill) Moya** '76, B.S. elementary education, '89, M.Ed. counseling and development, was sworn in as a court-appointed special advocate. She lives in Nederland.

**Mary Ellen (McBride) Robertson** '76, B.B.A. accounting, is treasurer on the board of the Southeast Texas chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants. She lives in Beaumont.

**Debra (Amy) Sterling** '76, B.S. elementary education, and her husband, **Larry** '02, B.G.S. general studies, have a new daughter, Mia Brynn. They live in Nederland.

**Suzie Westmoreland** '76, A.S. nursing, is a registered nurse at Memorial Hermann Baptist Hospital in Beaumont, where she lives.

**Tom Gallier** '77, B.S. biology, '83, M.P.A. public administration, is retired and lives in Austin, with his wife, Kathleen.

The Catholic Diocese of Beaumont honored **Nancy (Bertrand) Rendall** '77, B.S. art education, as teacher of the year from St. Mary Catholic School in Orange, where she lives.

CASA of Southeast Texas honored **Charlotte (Sell) Schwarzlose** '77, B.A. English, as the 2009 Judge James Farris Volunteer of the Year. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Bob '75, B.S. secondary education.

**Loretta Beresky** '78, A.S. nursing, is retired and lives in Groves. Her daughter, **Johnette Segura** '95, B.S. psychology, '98, M.Ed. counseling and development, '05, M.S. speech pathology, lives in Beaumont. Her son, **Charles** '98, B.B.A. marketing, is employed by Gulf Stream Legal Group in Houston, where he lives.

**Morgan (Colburn) Chambellan** '78, B.M. music, teaches physical education in Pasadena. She lives in Houston.

**Bonnie (Fleming) Dorman** '78, B.B.A. office administration, received the silver award for online technology in higher education from the U.S. Distance Learning Association. She is instructor of office technology at Lamar State College-Orange and lives in Orange.

**Kyle Fontenot** '78, B.S. music education, earned a master's degree in educational administration in 1983 and is director of fine arts in Magnolia school district. He and his wife, Cathy, a secretary for Bear Branch Elementary in the district, live in Magnolia.

**Phyllis (Norwood) Gurbach** '78, B.S. music education, retired as a choral director after teaching for 31 years. She recently remarried and lives with her husband, Greg, a consultant with ExxonMobil, in Papua New Guinea.

**Carol (Stewart) Hanchett** '78, certif. vocational nursing, is charge nurse at College Street Health Care Center in Beaumont, where she lives.

**Rebecca (Sword) Hoke** '78, B.S. nursing, is charge nurse at Mainland Center Hospital in Texas City, where she lives.

**James Holleman** '78, A.A.S. drafting technology, is executive vice president of Superior Energy Services in Broussard, La. He lives in New Iberia, La., with his wife, Kelly.

**Keith Kebodeaux** '78, B.B.A. accounting, graduated from The University of Texas Law School with high honors in 1982 and earned a master's degree in taxation from the University of Houston Law School in 2009.

He is in private practice in Beaumont. He serves as a trustee of the Lamar University Foundation and is an adjunct professor of accounting in the College of Business.

**Mansour Khami** '78, B.S. mechanical engineering, is owner of Khami Gallery in London, Ontario, Canada, where he works as an artist. He lives in Ilderton, Canada, after having retired from a 26-year career as a mechanical engineer working around the world.

**Michael Menard** '78, A.A.S. diesel mechanics, is president of T&S Fleet Service in LaMarque. He lives in Dickinson with his wife, Cynthia.

**Peggy (Jones) Robertson** '78, M.Ed. special education, retired from the Goose Creek school district as coordinator of special education. She and her husband, Lee, live in Baytown.

**James** '78, A.A.S. mid-management, and Sue Stehle celebrated their 50th anniversary Sept. 4, 2009. They have four children, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. James retired from Dupont and now works with Midwest Steel in Houston. They live in Beaumont.

**Bennie Traylor** '78, B.B.A. management, is manager of project services at Anadarko Petroleum Corp. in The Woodlands, where he lives with his wife, Angela.

**Connie (Bailey) Woodall** '78, B.S. elementary education, teaches in Port Neches, where she lives with her husband, **Terry** '84, B.S. music.

**Dr. Danny Addington** '79, B.S. chemical engineering, earned a doctorate in dentistry from the University of Houston. He lives in Bivins with his wife, **Carolyn (Miller)** '78, certif. vocational nursing. They have five children.

**Martina (Barrientos) Arreola** '79, B.S. criminal justice, works at the Cadema-Reeves Justice Center in San Antonio, where she lives.

**Dr. William Baxley** '79, B.S. biology, earned a dental degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston in 1982 and owns a practice in Beaumont, where he and his wife, **Rena (Adcock)** '84, B.S. elementary education, live. He received a Mastership Award from the Academy of General Dentistry.

**David Lynch** '79, A.S. law enforcement, '79, B.S. criminal justice, earned a doctorate from Oklahoma City University and is director of clinical services in Huron, S.D. He lives in Mitchell, S.D.

**Donna Schlerandi** '79, A.A.S. business data processing, adopted a son, Colin, who was in foster care. She hopes to inspire others to adopt and has formed her own organization, Colin's Pillow to speak to churches and organizations on behalf of children who need a home. She is also a real estate agent in Beaumont, where she lives.

**Trubie Smith** '79, B.M. music education, M.M. music education, was inducted as a

member of Phi Beta Mu, an international school band master fraternity. He is band director at Vidor Junior High School in Vidor, where he lives.

**Ronnie Todd** '79, B.M. music education, '87, M.M. music, is head band director for Angleton school district. He lives in Katy.

**Ted Williams** '79, B.B.A. accounting, '92, M.B.A. business administration, is chief financial officer for Conex International. He and his wife, Patrice, live in Beaumont.

## 80s

**Lee Blackman** '80, B.B.A. marketing, is senior account executive for Clear Channel Radio in Beaumont. He lives in Groves.



**Kelvin Collard** '80, B.B.A. accounting, is chief financial officer at Universal Weather and Aviation in Houston. He lives in League City.

**Martha (Harrell) Dean** '80, B.A.

political science, '86, M.Ed. school administration, teaches at Silsbee High School. She and her husband, Samuel, live in Silsbee.

**Alfredie Coleman-Felder** '80, B.S. elementary education, earned a master's degree from the University of Houston and a doctoral degree from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. She is a professor of education at Abilene Christian University in Abilene.

**Cathy (Powell) Hegwood** '80, certif. office administration, is a personnel assistant for the Brazos County Emergency Communications District. She lives in Bryan, with her husband, **Joe** '79, B.B.A. accounting, who is chief financial officer for Bryan Texas Utilities.

**Keith Mott** '80, B.S. computer and information science, '89, M.S. computer science, is regional information technology manager at Invista in Orange, where he lives.

**Kaye (Abshire) Porter** '80, B.S. speech, '09, M.Ed. administration, is secondary curriculum coordinator in Dayton school district, where she lives.

**Kim (Daquanna) Wiley** '80, certif. office administration, '01, B.B.A. management information systems, is Web support analyst for Lamar University. She and her husband, Gordon, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. They live in Beaumont.

**Julie (Mackey) Badger** '81, B.B.A. accounting, is vice president of operations at Shore Bank in Onley, Va. She lives in Melfa, Va., with her husband, George.

**Jada (Rogas) Kelley** '81, B.B.A. accounting, is treasurer for the ARC of Greater Beaumont, where she lives.

**Michael Killingsworth** '81, B.S. elementary education, is vice president of learning and organizational effectiveness for Shell Upstream International in The Hague, the Netherlands, where he lives.

**Julie (Smith) Lee** '81, B.S. biology, is a health inspector for the Beaumont Health Department. She lives in Sour Lake.

**Brenda (Talbert) Mott** '81, B.S. elementary education, '00, M.Ed. school administration, is education division director at Lamar State College-Orange. She lives in Orange.

**Doris (Fowler) Allen** '82, B.S. elementary education, was named teacher of the year at the North Early Learning Center in the West Orange-Cove school district. She lives in Orange.

**Robert Bowling** '82, B.S. biology, was re-elected for his fourth three-year term on the board of trustees of the Renaissance Hospital Scholarship Foundation. He lives in Port Arthur.

**Dina (Upchurch) Calver** '82, B.S. elementary education, retired from a career in education and lives in Cypress.

**Ruth (Hamner) Hancock** '82, B.S. elementary education, was named Teacher of the Year at West Orange-Stark Middle School. She lives in Orange.

**Brian Huckabay** '82, B.S. health and physical education, is head football coach for Orangefield. He and his wife, Mary, live in Orangefield.

**Mary Pat (Bluel) Jones** '82, B.B.A. accounting, serves on the board of directors for the Southeast Texas chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants. She is a CPA with Lawrence, Blackburn, Meek, Maxey and Co. in Beaumont, where she lives.

**Marc Keith** '82, B.S. health and kinesiology, '09, Ed.D. educational leadership, was named Region 5 Principal of the Year. He is principal of Port Neches-Groves High School. He and his wife, **Kimberly (Cameron)** '85, B.S. kinesiology, live in Port Neches.

**Ronald Thomas** '82, B.S. mechanical engineering, is senior engineer at Jacobs Technology in Huntsville, Ala. He lives in Madison, Ala.

**Terry Welch** '82, B.S. electrical engineering, is vice president of fuel valve chain engineering and operations for BP America. He lives in Geneva, Ill.

**Doug York Jr.** '82, B.S. criminal justice, is chief police officer for West Virginia State Police. He lives in Romney, West Va.

**Lynn (Roberson) Harris** '83, B.S. elementary education, earned a master's degree from Stephen F. Austin State University and is principal of Carpenter Elementary in Nacogdoches. She lives in Lufkin, with her husband, Edward. They have two daughters and two grandchildren.

**Charlene (Collins) Howard** '83, B.S. nursing, is a family and women's health nurse practitioner at Women's Health Associates in Sherman, where she lives.

**Scott Woolcock** '83, B.S. computer science, works for Shell Global Solutions and lives in Richmond, with his wife, Dian.

**Clyde Hughes** '84, B.S. communication, works as a communications and marketing specialist for Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind. He lives in Lafayette, Ind.

**Todd Landry** '85, B.S. chemistry, is executive director of Lena Pope Home Inc. in Fort Worth, where he lives with his wife, Kari.

**Kevin Roy** '85, B.B.A. general business, '93, M.B.A. business administration, is president of the Rotary Club of Beaumont. He and his wife, **Jill (Taft)**, '90, B.S. criminal justice, live in Beaumont. Jill is president of the LU Alumni Advisory Board.

**Paul Davis** '86, B.S. communication, is national sales director of eCardio Diagnostics. He lives in Cary, N.C.

**Suzanne (Lee) Davis** '86, B.B.A. accounting, serves on the board of directors of the Southeast Texas chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants. She is a CPA with Brooks, Applegate and Associates in Beaumont and lives in Vidor.

**Laurie Henry** '86, B.S. secondary education, is case manager assistant for Robertson County Special Services in Hearne. She lives in College Station.

**Roel Rangel** '86, B.M. music, works for U.S. Customs and lives in Keller.

**Bruce Schmidt** '86, M.B.A. business administration, is manager of investor relations for the United Way in Waukesha, Wis., where he lives with his wife, **Vickie (Kasper)** '88, A.A.S. food service management.

**Jason Blewett** '87, B.A. political science, is attorney and ranch manager for Bent Tree Ranch in Hunt, where he lives with his wife, Laurie.

**Dolores (Dalcour) Fulton** '87, B.S. elementary education, retired as principal of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School in Beaumont, where she lives.

**Katy (Reeder) Scruggs** '87, B.S. sociology, earned a law degree from Yale Law School. She and her husband, Jules Wells, were married July 1, 2009, and live in Austin.

**Lt. Col. Tony Stelly** '87, B.B.A. marketing, serves with the Army Reserve G-4 North staff at the Pentagon as the logistics plans officer of strategic resources. He lives in Burke, Va., with his wife, Collette.

**Craig Ball** '88, B.B.A. marketing, works for CenterPoint Gaming in Black Hawk, Colo., where he lives.

**Wanda (Schamber) Borne** '88, B.S. secondary education, is treasurer of the Mid-Jefferson County Retired School Personnel group. She



## Alumni Advisory Board

Elected officers of the 2009-2010 Lamar University Alumni Advisory Board are Jill (Taft) Roy '90 of Beaumont, president; Dennis Moncla '89, '94 of Beaumont, secretary; and Don Burnett '92 of Lumberton, past-president. Clayton Lau '69 of Baytown will serve as president-elect.

New members of the board are Bernie Daleo '95, Louis Falgout '80, Karol (Kellam) Gammill '67, Gillian (Maness) Jenkins, Stephanie (Dollar) Molina '00, Dean Brenda Nichols and Cullen Ramsey '67, all of Beaumont; Vernon Durden '69, '04 of China; and Terry Rogers '96 of Lumberton.

Returning board members include Tom Abbage '72, '74, 81, Tim Chargois '91, '08, Jeff Dyson '86, '91, Lisa Harper '88, Randa (Tooke) Hurtado '97, '02, Ron Jackson '70, Charlotte Jungen '97, Antionette Kelly '91, Debbie (Collins) Minyard '71, Elaine (Brown) Moore '75, Charlene (Hilley) Moorer '64, '69, Nancy (Brooks) Neild '78, Bobby Patel '87, Ellen (Walker) Rienstra '62, '80, Norma (Roddy) Sampson '75, Kelli (O'Neal) Savage '94, '99, Michele (Yennie) Smith '88 and Terry Wood '84 of Beaumont. Others are Josh Daspit '04 of Denton, Frank Domino '97 of Lumberton, Doneane Beckcom '86, '09 and Glenn Johnson '78 of Port Neches and Jake Tortorice Jr. '76 of Sour Lake.

Alumni Advisory Board members serve three-year terms and support the Lamar University Office of Alumni Affairs in the growth and development of Lamar University through contributions, leadership and active participation in campus and community activities.

lives in Port Arthur.

**Renee (Theobald) Cole** '88, B.B.A. accounting, is office manager at Theobald, DeMahy and Co. in Beaumont, where she lives with her husband, **Charles** '85, certif. mid-management, '96, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences. He is a financial specialist for Wachovia in Beaumont.

**Mehrnaz (Saeid) Gill** '88, B.S. sociology, earned a master's degree in gerontology from Baylor University and has published her first children's book, The Yellow Butterfly.

**Michele (Yennie) Smith** '88, B.B.A. accounting, earned a law degree from Baylor University. She is a shareholder with Mehaffy Weber in Beaumont and Houston and has been elected to the management committee for a four-year term. She and her husband, Mitch, live in Beaumont.

**Christie (Miller) Bean** '89, B.M. music education, is middle school choral director for Liberty school district. She lives in Liberty with her husband, **Robert** '89, B.S. political science, who is pastor of First Baptist



Church.

**Calvin Carrier** '89, B.S. biology, is a district chief for the Beaumont Fire Department. He lives in Houston.

**Shawn Clubb** '89, B.S. kinesiology, '02, M.Ed. school administration, is principal of Orangefield Junior High School. He lives in Buna.

**Steffi (Laschka) Granier** '89, B.A. French, lives in Vienna, Austria, and hopes to get in touch with former tennis teammates.

**Gwendolyn (Spear) Guidry** '89, A.A.S. mid-management, '08, B.S. criminal justice, has been sworn in as a court-appointed special advocate. She lives in Beaumont.

**Amy (Toomim) Manuel** '89, B.S. dance, is co-host of the Rational Radio Report in north Texas. She also teaches adult education classes for North Central Texas College's Life Long Learning Center. She lives in Denton.

**Charles Wilson** '89, M.Ed. school administration, retired from coaching girls' basketball in Lumberton.

**90s**

**Roy Bares** '90, B.S. art education, was honored by the Diocese of Beaumont as Teacher of the Year from Monsignor Kelly Catholic High School in Beaumont. He lives in Nederland.

**Taryn Colligan** '90, B.B.A. marketing, is a loan officer for Neches Federal Credit Union at the Dowlen Road location. She lives in Beaumont.

**Keith Davis** '90, B.S. computer science, is founder and president of Application Factory, selected for the 2009 Best of Beaumont Award in the computer software category by the U.S. Commerce Association. He lives in Beaumont.

**Mark Kordelski** '90, B.S. mechanical engineering, is an application specialist at Parsons Corp. in Tampa, Fla. He lives in Lakeland, Fla.

**Amit Pathak** '90, B.S. electrical engineering, is design engineer at Jacobs Sverdaup in Houston. He lives in Pearland.

**Craig Willett** '90 A.A.S. computer electronics and robotics, was promoted to captain with 12 years of service with the Beaumont Fire Department. He lives in Beaumont.

**Kate Bobo** '91, B.S. communication disorders, lives in Fort Knox, Ky., with her husband, Dwayne.

**Mary Gloude** '91, A.A.S. child care and development, was honored by the Diocese of Beaumont as teacher of the year from Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School in Beaumont, where she lives.

**Sheila (Thibodeaux) Guillory** '91, B.S. criminal justice, is Gulf Coast business development manager for Wilson Mohr headquartered in Sugar Land, where she lives.

**Greg Mason** '91, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a real estate broker in Athens, where he lives with his wife, Mary.

**Marilyn Morris** '91, B.S. elementary education, and her husband, Jim, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary May 17, 2009. They live in New Freeport, Pa.

**Paul Najera** '91, B.M. music education, is band director in the Fort Worth school district. He lives in Flower Mound with his wife, Johjania.

**Kimberly Pitts** '91, B.S. nursing, is a member of the board of trustees of the Renaissance Hospital Scholarship Foundation. She lives in Port Arthur.

**Kent Walston** '91, B.B.A. personnel administration, earned his law degree from Baylor University and has been selected by the State Bar of Texas to be a member of LeadershipSBOT. He is a partner in the Branick and Walston Law Firm in Nederland, where he lives.

**Winton Webster Jr.** '91, B.A. history, was selected as one of 10 Texas Attorney General's Office employees recognized for outstanding performance. He heads the Nederland child support office and lives in Lumberton.

**Mary (Gilcrease) Bray** '92, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is owner of Travel Resources in Beaumont, where she lives with her husband, Leamon.

**Leslie (Bryant) Clark** '92, B.A. English, '95, M.A. English, is director of the Mastodon Academic Performance Center at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW) in Fort Wayne, Ind., where she lives.

**Tim McMurray** '92, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is senior associate athletics director at Northern Illinois University and is president of the National Association of Athletic Development Directors. He lives in Sycamore, Ill.

**Jacqueline Mitchell** '92, B.S.W. social work, teaches English language arts at Jasper High School. She lives in Woodville.

**Brian Ousley** '92, B.S. kinesiology, M.Ed. school administration, will represent Region 5 as outstanding middle-level principal of the year. He is principal of Orangefield Junior High School and lives in Orange.

**Freddie and Cheryl (Singleton) Owens** '92, A.A.S. child care technology, '93, A.A.S. child care and development, celebrated their 50th anniversary Aug. 29, 2009. They owned Little Angel's Day Nursery for 26 years and live in Beaumont.

**Joanna (McGuinness) Richmond** '92, B.S. computer science, and her husband, **Stuart** '89, B.S. computer science, are owners of Read All Over, a bookstore in Port Arthur. They live in Port Neches.

**Mary Roberts** '91, A.S. law enforcement, '92, B.S. criminal justice, is office manager of

Golden Triangle Empowerment Center in Port Arthur. She lives in Port Neches.

**David Slaughter** '92, B.S. communication, was awarded the Circle of Excellence award by Odyssey Health Care. He lives in Vidor with his wife, Debbie.

**Laura (Cavaretta) Williams** '92, B.B.A. accounting, is secretary for the Southeast Texas chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants. She is a CPA and chief financial officer of the Diocese of Beaumont. She lives in Lumberton.

**Victor Williams** '92, B.S. kinesiology, earned a master's degree in school administration from Stephen F. Austin State University and is principal of Jasper High School. He and his wife, Paula, live in Jasper with their son.

**Troy Domingue** '93, B.B.A. accounting, is president-elect of the Southeast Texas chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants. He is a CPA with Wathen DeShong and Juncker in Beaumont and lives in Lumberton.

**Jennifer (Taylor) Henson** '93, B.B.A. general business-industrial engineering, is Silsbee postmaster. She and her husband, Steven, and daughter, Ava, live in Orange.


**Laura Landry** '93, B.S. home economics, is a librarian for the Windham School District. She lives in Kingwood.

**Paula Read** '93, B.S. sociology, is a sergeant in the Houston Police Department. She lives in Houston.

**Byron Terrier** '93, B.S. kinesiology, '03, M.Ed. school administration, is assistant superintendent for administrative services in the Goose Creek school district.

**Ruth Ainsworth** '94, B.B.A. accounting, earned a doctorate in veterinary medicine, and is associate veterinarian at Village Vet at Sterling Ridge. She lives in Porter.

**James Comeaux** '94, B.S. economics, teaches math at Jasper High School. He lives in Orange.



**Gary Denmon** '94, B.S. graphic design, won best of show in a juried competition at Xnihilo Gallery in Houston with Seven Bowls of Wrath. He lives in Humble.

**Cherie (Louvier) Loyacano** '94, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '09, M.Ed. teacher leadership, lives in Porter with her husband, David '93, B.S. criminal justice.



**Matt Marchak** '94, B.B.A. marketing, earned a law degree from South Texas College of Law and was named a shareholder of Mehaffy Weber in Beaumont and Houston. He

and his wife, **Celina (Leon)** '94, B.S. sociology, live in Port Neches.

**Todd Simoneaux** '94, B.B.A. general business, '99, B.B.A. accounting, serves on the board of directors of the Southeast Texas chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants. He is a CPA and controller for the city of Beaumont. He lives in Lumberton.

**Siva Annapragada** '95, M.S. computer science, is senior engineering manager for Sun Microsystems in Bangalore, India, where he lives.

**Catherine (Asher) Bishop** '95, B.B.A. personnel administration, is president of the Southeast Texas Financial Education Institute. She works at Capital One Bank and lives in Kountze.

**Patrick Brumbaugh** '95, A.A.S. computer electronics and robotics, '97, B.S. industrial technology, is group manager for Panasonic in Secaucus, N.J. He lives in Spring.

**Tammy Copeland** '95, M.S. deaf studies, teaches at the West Virginia School for the Deaf in Romney, W.Va. She lives in Wardensville, W.Va.

**Jennifer (Pitre) Davis** '95, B.B.A. accounting, is senior tax advisor for BHP Billiton in Houston, where she lives.

**Jon Jones** '95, B.S. psychology, is a physical therapist at Spine and Sports Physical Therapy in Orange. He lives in Groves.

**James Sims** '95, B.A. English, is a developer for Intel and lives in Hillsboro, Ore.


**Laura (Elkins) Bellard** '96, B.S. interior design, is a designer at Bert Lamson Design in Port Arthur. She lives in Port Neches with her husband, Corey, and their son, Corban.

**Angie Coleman** '96, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, lives in Troup with her husband, Corey.

**Richard Howard** '96, B.S. criminal justice, is a sergeant with the Texas Department of Public Safety in Huntsville, where he lives.

**Kimberly (Tompkins) Ross** '96, B.B.A. accounting, and her husband, **Brad** '99, B.G.S. general studies, have a new son, Parker Allen.

**Frank Domino** '97, B.S. environmental science, earned a law degree from South Texas College of Law and is a



shareholder of Mehaffy Weber in Beaumont and Houston. He and his wife, Tamara (Glaze) '98, B.S. food and nutrition, live in Lumberton with their son.

**James Ellis** '97, M.B.A. business administration, received the gold award for online technology in higher education from the U. S. Distance Learning Association. He is an instructor of business management at Lamar State College-Orange and lives in Beaumont.

**Nicholas Fidelibus** '97, is a captain at Waikiki Dive Center in Honolulu, Hawaii.

**Stafney (McWashington) Helm** '97, B.A. criminal justice, is a crisis counselor for Communities in Schools in Channelview. She lives in Baytown.

**Charlotte Jungen** '97, B.B.A. accounting, is president of the Southeast Texas chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants. She is a CPA with Edgar, Kiker and Cross in Beaumont, where she lives.

**Thomas Lackey** '97, B.S. nursing, and wife, Kimberly, have a new son, Parker Alan. They live in Port Neches.

**Jay McCraw** '97, B.S. kinesiology, '00, M.S. kinesiology, is regional vice president at Invesco Aim in Arlington, Va., where he lives.

**Cynthia (Mulhollan) Mims** '97, B.B.A. management, is an investment representative for Investment Centers of America in Orange, where she lives.

**Brian Savoy** '97, B.B.A. accounting, is general manager of financial planning for Duke Energy Corp. He lives in Waxhaw, N.C., with his wife, Sabrina.

The Rauschenberg Tribute Exhibition, juried by Susan Davidson of the Guggenheim in New York, accepted artwork by **Laura (Burchfield) Scott** '97, B.S. studio art, '04, M.A. visual arts, for the show.

**Shad Smith** '97, B.S. kinesiology, is sales representative for Eastex Farm and Home and lives in China.

**Troy Carpenter** '98, B.S. kinesiology, teaches special education at Jasper Junior High. He lives in Jasper.

**Aaron Clauson** '98, B.S. civil engineering, is central region manager for Big R Bridge. He lives in Burleson.

**Jennifer Doornbos** '98, B.B.A. general business, '98, B.S. biology, B.S. earth sciences, '01, M.Ed. counseling and development, is director of mergers, acquisitions and development for Tide Wind Energy Alliance in China. She lives in Nederland.

**John Ferrara** '98, B.B.A. accounting, is systems administrator for Jefferson County. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Alyssa, and two children.

**Esther Olsen** '98, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, serves on the board of directors for the Southeast Texas Financial Education

Institute. She lives in Beaumont.

**Dr. Laura Eastep** '99, B.S. chemistry, and Paul Evans were married May 2, 2009. She received her doctoral degree in medicine from the University of Texas Medical Branch and serves as chief resident in obstetrics and gynecology in Galveston, where they live.

**Andrea Jordan** '99, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches fifth-grade English at Rowe Intermediate School in Jasper, where she lives.

**Eleanor Mitchell** '99, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is the Beaumont postmaster, the first African American woman to hold the post. She began her 36-year career as a distribution clerk. She lives in Beaumont.

**Lisa Nguyen** '99, certif. office administration, '99, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is an educator in the Beaumont school district, where she lives.

**Melissa (Byars) Riley** '99, B.S. mathematics, M.S. mathematics science, is a math instructor at Lamar University. She and her husband, Roger, live in Vidor.

**Jeremy Watzlavik** '99, B.S. communication, coaches boys' soccer at Little Cypress-Mauriceville. He lives in Orange.

**Stephanie Williams** '99, A.A.S. nursing, '09, B.S. nursing, was awarded scholarship training with the Community Health Advocates Training program provided by the Association of Black Cardiologists in partnership with the National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute. She is director of the 4NW/ATC Unit at Memorial Hermann Baptist Hospital in Beaumont, where she lives.

**00s**

Billy Bryant '00, M.Ed. educational leadership, coaches baseball in Evadale. He also is an assistant coach on the football team and teaches history. He lives in Orange.

**Amanda Carter** '00, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches at Rowe Intermediate School in Jasper. She lives in Newton.

**Arvind Gopal** '00, M.S. computer science, is a principal with Etera Solutions. He lives in Waltham, Mass.

**Connie (Cook) Howard** '00, M.S. audiology, is an assistant professor of speech and hearing at Lamar University. She lives in Lumberton.

**Kitty (Shivers) Key** '00, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, was named Citizen of the Year at Sabine Pass' 170th anniversary. She is pastor of the Sabine Pass United Methodist Church, where she moved after Hurricane Rita.

**Jennifer (Dennis) Pickard** '00, B.B.A. marketing, '05, M.Ed. educational leadership, was named technology coordinator teacher of the year for Orangefield. She lives in Vidor.

**Kim (Johnson) Washington** '00, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '07, M.Ed. school adminis-

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS  
HALL OF FAME

The College of Business Hall of Fame recognizes outstanding achievement of college alumni. The awards committee requests nominations for the most prestigious award presented by the college.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The candidate must be

➤ distinguished in his or her chosen profession or life work

➤ a person of such integrity, stature and demonstrated ability that faculty, staff, students and alumni will take pride and be inspired by his/her recognition

➤ an individual who, in deed and in action, recognizes the importance of his/her education at Lamar and whose interest and loyalty are evident

➤ an alumnus of either the undergraduate or graduate programs of the College of Business

Please submit a letter or e-mail nomination along with any additional information available regarding the nominee.

All nominations should be mailed by April 1, 2010

College of Business Hall of Fame Committee  
P.O. Box 10059 | Beaumont, Texas 77710  
Henry.Venta@Lamar.edu

tration, is assistant principal of Rowe Intermediate School in the Jasper school district, where she lives.

**Lance Bean** '01, B.B.A. marketing, and Toni Samuel were married May 15, 2009. Lance is a pharmaceutical sales representative with Novartis Pharmaceuticals in Houston, where they live.

**Gary Calcote** '01, B.B.A. management information systems, owns a software consulting firm specializing in insurance software in Grand Prairie, where he lives with his wife, Adrienne.

**Sheri (Horn) DelMage** '01, B.B.A. management information systems, '03, B.B.A. accounting, is vice president of the Southeast Texas chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants. She is a CPA with Edgar, Kiker and Cross in Beaumont and lives in Lumberton.

**Eduard Elizardo** '01, B.G.S. general studies, teaches Spanish and English as a second language at Elgin High School. He lives in Bastrop with his wife, Elizabeth, and their four children.

**Suresh Gudavalli** '01, M.E. civil engineering, '06, Eng.D. civil engineering, is engineering and technology manager for Atser in Houston, where he lives.

**Nandan Khurd** '01, M.E. chemical engineer-

ing, is a senior engineer at Bechtel Corp. in Houston, where he lives.

**Heath McGallion** '01, B.B.A. finance, and Mikala (Griffin) '09, B.A. English, were married July 31 in Montego Bay, Jamaica. He works for UBS Financial Services in Beaumont, and she is an administrative assistant for the Bundy Team of Remax in Beaumont, where they live.

**Lanis McWilliams** '01, B.S.W. social work, was honored for service by CASA of Southeast Texas, of which she is executive director. She lives in Beaumont.

**Pete Mondello** '01, B.S. electrical engineering, '01, B.S. physics, '06, M.Ed. engineering management, is senior control systems engineer at Valero Energy Corp. in Port Arthur. He lives in Nederland, with his wife, **Veronica (Villarreal)** '97, B.S.W. social work.

**Pradeep Pugazhendhi** '01, M.Ed. chemical engineering, is senior process engineer at Technip Middle East/RasGas in Qatar, where he lives.

Nederland High School baseball Coach **Cody Robbins** '01, B.S. health education, was named the Beaumont Enterprise Coach of the Year for District 20-4A baseball. He lives in Nederland.

**Rishikesh Sawant** '01, M.E. civil engineering, is a structural engineer with URS Corp. in

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FEBRUARY 2010 38:1 CARDINAL CADENCE | 51





Alumni Advisory Board past presidents

Standing from left:

President James Simmons;

Bud Leonard '50, '53, '76,

Jimmy Booker '55, '56;

Banker Phares '62;

Paula (Tate) O'Neal '69, '79;

Gilbrt Adams Jr. '69;

Henry Strait '74;

Yvonne (Smith) Ritter '67,

'73; Doug Matthews '74;

Bill Withers '76, '79;

Laurie (House) Ritchel '85;

Helen (Dunshee) Johnsen

'40, '57, seated.

Princeton, N.J. He and his wife, Gauri, an assistant professor of business economics at Muhlenberg College, live in Allentown.

Sairam Eddanapudi '02, M.E. civil engineering, is an engineer for HNTB in Baton Rouge, where he lives with his wife, Sireesha.

Amber Ferrell '02, B.G.S. general studies, '04, M.Ed. elementary education, teaches in Round Rock, where she lives.

Heather (Jones) '02, B.B.A. general business, and Robert Beaver '05, B.B.A. marketing, were married May 30, 2009. She is account manager for Strong, Pipkin, Bissell and Ledyard, and he is director of operations for Lamont Corp. They live in Beaumont.

Tom Kelly '02, B.S. chemical engineering, is project manager for Norit Americas and lives in Hallsville.

Nutan Palla '02, M.E. civil engineering, '08, Eng.D. civil engineering, is project engineer at Tolunay Wong Engineers Inc. in Beaumont, where he lives.

Crystal (Williams) '02, B.A. communication, and Aundrey Petry were married Aug. 1, 2009, and live in Beaumont.

Margaret (Duchamp) '02, M.Ed. counseling and development, and Stan Vanhooser were married Oct. 17, 2009. She is a senior care advocate with United Behavioral Health Care in Houston. They live in the The Woodlands.

Leena Waghmare '02, M.E. electrical engineering, is assistant manager for KPMG, City Studio, in Mumbai, India, where she and her husband, Prashant, live.

Sandesh Barade '03, M.S. computer science, is senior commerce developer for Marlabs Inc. in Stow, Ohio, where he lives.

Deweyville High School baseball Coach Darin Fletcher '03, B.S. kinesiology, was named the Beaumont Enterprise Co-coach of the Year for District 23-2A baseball. He lives in Orange.

Wanda Grant '03, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, '05, M.Ed. special education, teaches in Liberty, where she lives with her husband, Wallace.

Jennifer Kamantaukas '03, B.M. music, earned a master's degree at Baylor University and is a music instructor in the Waco school district, where she lives.

Nicole (Madden) Lewis '03, B.S. chemical engineering, is the supervisor of global logistics and trade compliance for Champion Technologies Inc. in Houston. She lives in Liberty with her husband, Jacob, '03, B.S. psychology, who teaches science as department chair for the Cleveland school district.

Kimberly (Forston) Lyons '03, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, was named elementary teacher of the year in Orangefield. She lives in Orange.

Kara (Melancon) Mabe '03, B.B.A. management information systems, is the business office supervisor for St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston. She earned an M.B.A. from Texas Women's University and is pursuing a master's degree in health care administration there. She and her husband, Michael, live in Pearland.

The Rauschenberg Tribute Exhibition, juried by Susan Davidson of the Guggenheim in New York, accepted artwork by Grace Megnet '03, M.A. visual arts, for the show.

Kristin (Chastant) '03, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, and Daniel Patrick were married July 18. They live in Spring.

Salil Shilotri '03, M.E. industrial engineering, is an industrial engineer for New Breed Logistics. He lives in Fort Worth.

Katherine (Roberts) Waldrop '03, M.Ed. counseling and development, was named District 5 Assistant Principal of the Year by the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association. She is principal of Lumberton's early childhood campus and lives in Lumberton.

Emily (Everett) Allen '04, B.S. political science, M.Ed. supervision, is a diagnostician at Vidor High School. She lives in Vidor with her husband, Chris, and two sons, Aaron and Andrew.

Srimanth Brindavanam '04, M.E. industrial engineering, is a business analyst and project manager for the state of Tennessee. He lives in Nashville, Tenn., with his wife Sirisha (Seri) '05, M.S. environmental studies, who is a business intelligence engineer for Kroll Background Services.

Kody Brooks '04, B.S. communication disorders, '08, Au.D. audiology, and his wife, Corby '05, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, live in Cypress.

Karen (White) Edwards '04, B.G.S. general studies, has received a commission from the Salvation Army Australia East to create a painting for its upcoming documentary, titled Our People: The Story of William and Catherine Booth and the Salvation Army. She lives in London, England, with her husband, Robert.

Nicholas Elizondo '04, B.B.A. economics, '07, M.B.A. finance, is a general accountant for Golden Pass LNG in Sabine Pass. He lives in Bridge City.

James Gibbs '04, interdisciplinary studies, teaches pre-kindergarten at Few Primary School in Jasper. He lives in Woodville.

Laura Hunt '04, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches in the Hallsville school district. She and her husband, Charles '85, chemical engineering, live in Hallsville.

Paul Kulish II '04, B.B.A., management information systems, is a computer support specialist for Faust Distributing Co. in Houston. He lives in Kingwood with his wife Sandra (Fregia) '07, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, who teaches in the Crosby school district.

Elizabeth Lazenby '04, B.B.A. general business, married Matthew Scoggin '06, B.B.A. marketing. They live in Hutto.

Lya (Prejean) '04, B.B.A. accounting, and Junnius Pollard were married June 20, 2009. She is an accountant for Reliant Energy and lives in Richmond.

Summer (Schwertner) Thompson '04, B.B.A. management information systems, '05, M.B.A. business administration, and Randy '03, B.B.A. management information systems, were married June 13, 2009. She works for e.Sullivan Advertising, and he for Deli Management. They live in Port Neches.

Becky (Robideaux) '04, B.S. kinesiology, and Charles Simmons Jr. were married Nov. 21, 2009. She is a teacher and coach at Odom Academy. They live in Beaumont.

Satinderbir Singh '04, M.E. electrical engineering, is an engineer for Sprint Nextel in Phoenix, Ariz., where he lives.

Kelly (McCabe) Smith '04, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, earned a master's degree from Texas Woman's University in library and information science. She and her husband, James '04, A.S. process operations, were married in May 2009 after meeting in the Baptist Student Ministry at Lamar.

Chad Strader '04, B.S. criminal justice, is senior district executive for the Sabine District, Boy Scouts of America. He lives in Beaumont.

Lacey Withers '04, B.S. family and consumer science, is sales manager for WillStaff Worldwide and lives in Beaumont.

Amber Woodard '04, B.B.A. marketing, '09, B.A. exercise science and fitness management, is a fitness specialist with the Health and Wellness Center in Beaumont. She lives in Vidor.

William Atwell '05, M.S. deaf studies and deaf education, is an instructor in the Interpreters Training Program at Lamar University. He lives in Lumberton.

Kizell Brown '05, B.S. electrical engineering, is a youth guidance specialist for the state of Oklahoma in Tecumseh, Okla. He lives in Ada, Okla.

Brandi (Hinds) Claybar '05, B.B.A. marketing, is secretary and account manager for U.S. Fence and Gate in Lake Charles. She and Warren Claybar were married May 9, 2009.

Casey Gates '05, B.S. hospitality management, was voted Southeast Texas Chef of the Year by the Southeast Texas Chefs Association. He is a chef at Christus Hospital St. Mary in Port Arthur. He lives in Beaumont.

Capt. Victor Kamantaukas '05, B.B.A. human resource management, serves in the Marine Corps and lives in Antioch, Calif.

Summer (Burke) Kinsey '05, B.S. communication disorders, is self employed in Broward County, Fla., as a speech pathologist. She lives in Plantation, Fla., with her husband, Francis, who is in the Coast Guard, and their son.

David Marmolejo '05, B.S. industrial engineering, is a shuttle/ISS flight controller and lives in Houston.

Kristin Mattingly '05, B.B.A. accounting, '05, B.B.A. finance, is a member of the board of directors of the Southeast Texas chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants. She works for the city of Beaumont and lives in Lumberton.

Emily (Short) '05, B.S. interior design, and Kenneth Ray were married Sept. 26, 2009. She works for Mason Construction, and he is a project manager for The Newtron Group Inc. They live in Kountze.

Gerald Riedmueller Jr. '05, B.S. communication, and Amber (Vallot) were married Oct. 24, 2009. Amber is an early childhood teacher at Happy Beginnings Development Center, and he is an estimator for Ohmstede Ltd. They live in Beaumont.

Shannon (Tail) Tanner '05, B.S. political science, is a transcript evaluator at Lamar University and lives in Port Arthur.

Venkata Twarakavi '05, M.S. computer science, and his wife, Archana (Balagani) '05,

M.S. computer science, both work as programmer/analysts for GSS America in Mount Prospect, Ill. They live in Wheeling, Ill., and have one child.

Kacie (Walker) '06, B.S. communication, and Armando Araujo, were married July 18, 2009. They live in Port Neches.

Trish (Wiggins) Blanchard '06, B.S. political science, lives in Winterville, N.C., with her husband, Roger.

Kimberly Cessac '06, B.S. biology, M.S. biology, is an environmental analyst for the Lower Neches Valley Authority in Beaumont, where she lives.

Jenna (Williamson) Dominguez '06, B.G.S. general studies, teaches in the Port Arthur school district. She lives in Groves.

Kyle DuBose '06, B.A. history, and Tiffanye were married Aug. 1, 2009, and live in Orangefield.

Paul Hardin '06, M.Ed. school administration, is principal of West Orange-Stark High School. He lives in Orange.

Vipin Lillaney '06, M.E. chemical engineering, is a HiOx aeration system specialist for Parkson Corp. and lives in Pompano Beach, Fla.

Desiree (Martinez) '06, B.B.A. marketing, and Tyler Hays were married Aug. 1, 2009. She teaches in the Jasper school district, and they live in Beaumont.

Julie (Jones) '06, B.S. psychology, and Luke Hebert '04, B.B.A. management information systems, were married Nov. 28, 2009. She is office administrator for Novrozsky's Hamburgers, and he is manager of Geo Burrito. They live in Beaumont.

Harshal Naik '06, M.E. chemical engineering, is process safety engineer for Smith and Burgess in Houston, where he lives.

M.S. computer science, both work as programmer/analysts for GSS America in Mount Prospect, Ill. They live in Wheeling, Ill., and have one child.

Angie Rivers '06, B.S. political science, is attending Phoenix School of Law in Phoenix, Ariz.

Abbey (Born) Sanders '06, B.G.S. general studies, is an esthetician for Woodhouse Day Spa in Victoria. She lives in Edna with her husband, Samuel, and daughter, Madelyn.

The Diocese of Beaumont honored Diana (Breux) Sims '06, B.S. kinesiology, as Teacher of the Year from St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School in Port Arthur, where she lives.

Elisha Stanley '06, B.S. family and consumer sciences, '06, B.B.A. general business, lives in Buford, Ga.

Brandon Still '06, B.B.A. economics, '06, B.B.A. management, and Jena (Verrill) '06, B.S. communication disorders, were married Aug. 8, 2009, in Beaumont. He earned a law degree from Harvard and works at Ropes and Gray Law Firm. She earned a master's degree from the University of Texas and works as a speech therapist for E.B.S. Healthcare. They live in Malden, Mass.

Laura (Strange) '06, B.S. nursing, and Bryan Roger were married May 30, 2009. Laura is assistant manager in the surgery department at Lafayette Surgical Specialty Hospital in Lafayette, La. They live in Youngsville, La.

Carrie (Hebert) Strong '06, B.S. fashion retailing and merchandising, is a human resources generalist for FivePoint Credit Union. She lives in Nederland.

Jared Best '07, B.A. criminal justice, is a police officer for the city of Sour Lake. He lives in Port Neches.

Lindsey (Cauthen) Nunnally '07, B.A. music, '07, B.S. biology, is a graduate research assistant at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, where she lives.

Joseph Cessac '07, B.S. biology, and Amber

Pierce were married May 16, 2009. They live Pearland.

Keat Chiasson '07, B.B.A. finance, is business relationship manager at Wells Fargo bank in Orange. He lives in Port Neches.

Radha Chippa '07, M.S. computer science, is a system analyst at Verizon in Temple Terrace, Fla., where he lives.

Carrie (Wiegand) Foster '07, B.S. interior design, teaches family and consumer science at Jasper High School, where she lives.

Derek Graffagnino '07, B.S. civil engineering, and Kristi (Marino) '08, B.S. communication disorders, were married May 16, 2009. They live in Lumberton.

Ingrid Griffin '07, B.B.A. accounting, is a senior accountant at El Paso Corp. She lives in Deer Park.

Justin Guidry '07, B.B.A. economics, '07, B.B.A. finance, has been sworn in as a court-appointed special advocate. He lives in Beaumont.

Eric Holton '07, B.G.S. general studies, is head football coach at Legacy Christian Academy. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Doree '06, B.S. interdisciplinary studies.

Deepak Kamidi '07, M.E. electrical engineering, and his wife, Diana, had a daughter in March 2009. He is subsea controls engineer for BP Corp. North America in Houston, where they live.

Travis McKelvain '07, M.Ed. school administration, is principal of West Orange-Stark Middle School. He lives in Orange.

Daniel Middleton '07, B.S. chemistry, has been accepted by the University of Texas Health Science Center dental school in San Antonio.

Naomi Mobley '07, B.B.A. general business, teaches first grade at Few Primary School in Jasper.

Native Texas poet and historian Oliphant publishes memoir

During his thirty years at the University of Texas at Austin, before retiring in 2006, Dave Oliphant '63, B.S. English, was at different times the editor of the scholarly journal The Library Chronicle, coordinator of the freshman seminar program and senior lecturer in English and rhetoric and writing. His most recent books are a volume of poems, *Backtracking* (2004), and a collection of 16 essays, *Jazz Mavericks of the Lone Star State* (2007). He has also translated two collections, *Chilean poetry: Figures of Speech by Enrique Lihn* (1999) and *Love Hound by Oliver Welden* (2006), the latter the winner of the poetry prize at the 2007 New York Book Festival.

Oliphant earned a master's degree from the University of Texas at Austin and his Ph.D. from Northern Illinois University. In 2009, Wings Press of San Antonio published his 26th book. The 548-page autobiography—*Harbingers of Books to Come: A Texan's Literary Life*—is the first major memoir of a native Texas poet. “Beaumont and Lamar Tech gave me my start. My trumpet teacher, Richard Burkart, who was important in my becoming a jazz historian, also appears prominently in my memoir,” Oliphant said. Burkhart was honored in February at Lamar with a reunion of his former students.



**Katy (Parsons) Neel** '07, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches first grade at Few Primary School in the Jasper school district, where she lives.

**Elizabeth (Babineaux) Robertson** '07, B.S. chemical engineering, is a process engineer for Fluor in Sugar Land, where she lives with her husband, David, and son.

**Josh Turner** '07, B.S. geology, is a geologist at Tolunay-Wong Engineers Inc. in Vidor, where he lives with his wife, Alison.

**Kelsey Wakefield** '07, B.B.A. finance, is vice president of marketing for the Southeast Texas Financial Education Institute. He lives in Groves.

**Lt. Cdr. Michael Weinert** '07, M.P.A. public administration, '09, M.B.A., business administration, has served more than 30 years as a career military officer in the Army and Coast Guard. As a pilot and maintenance test pilot, he has more than 2,300 hours of combined flight time. He is on active duty with the Coast Guard and also serves as a trained mediator with the Jefferson County Dispute Resolution Center. He lives in Beaumont.

**Tony Allen** '08, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, teaches physical education and coaches at Jasper Junior High. He lives in Kirbyville.

**Kim Ballenger** '08, B.G.S. general studies, is a teacher and coach in Jacksonville. She lives in Tyler.

**Mark Campbell** '08, B.B.A. marketing, is a marketing specialist at Education First Federal Credit Union in Beaumont, where he lives.

**Lisa Chalow** '08, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is an adult protective services specialist for the Department of Family and Protective Services in Beaumont, where she lives.

**Tiffany Eckenrod** '08, M.S. family and consumer sciences, is a clinical dietitian for Brazosport Regional Health System in Lake Jackson, where she lives.

**Ashley (Yentzen) Glenn** '08, B.B.A. management, is graduation coordinator at Lamar University. She and her husband, **Cody** '03, B.A. political science, live in Port Neches.

**Amy (Cohrs)** '08, B.A. English, and Mathew Goolsby were married June 13, 2009. They live in Beaumont.

**Zachary Gresham** '08, B.A. art history, works as the Kinder Foundation Education Center and Family Programs assistant at The Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, where he lives.

**Sandra (Howard)** '08, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, and Ryan Hebert were married July 11, 2009. They live in Groves.

**Russell Helson** '08, B.S. communication, won the Tyrrell Garth Invitational at the Beaumont Country Club. He caddies on the national tour for Martin Piller.

**Jennifer Hinson** '08, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, teaches family and consumer sciences at Jasper High School. She lives in Kirbyville.

**Josh LeBlanc** '08, B.B.A. accounting, works at Edgar, Kiker and Cross in Beaumont, where he lives.

**Charissa (Piazza)** '08, M.S. industrial and organizational psychology, and J.C. Lewis '03, B.G.S. general studies, were married Oct. 24, 2009. She is a human resources administrator for Daniels Building & Construction Inc., and he works for Gulf Coast Fabricators. They live in Beaumont.

**Sally (Edds) Palculict** '08, B.S. nursing, is a registered nurse at Christus St. Mary Hospital in Port Arthur, where she lives with her husband, Kent.

**Denise Papillion** '08, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches first grade in Goose Creek school district in Baytown. She lives in Raywood.

**Christopher Richard** '08, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a research engineer at National Oilwell Varco in Conroe, where he lives.

**Mary (Sylvester) Schuld** '08, B.S. interior design, lives in Victorville, Calif., with her husband, Matthew.

**Miguel Solis** '08, B.A. history, joined Teach For America, the national corps of top recent college graduates who commit to teach for two years in urban and rural public schools. He teaches in Dallas.

**Danielle (Hudson) Sutton** '09, teaches at St. John's Episcopal School in Abilene, where she lives with her husband, Lloyd.

**Emily (Eisen)** '08, B.S. communication, and Jeffery Wheeler were married Aug. 9, 2009. She works for the Julie Rogers "Gift of Life" Program. They live in Beaumont.

**Kristen Albright** '09, B.A. English, teaches in the Nederland school district. She lives in Port Arthur.

**Jennifer (Arceneaux)** '09, B.S. nursing, and **Keestan Cole** '09, B.S. civil engineering, were married July 25, 2009. She works as a registered nurse for Christus Hospital St. Mary in Port Arthur, and he works as a graduate engineer at Arceneaux and Gates Consulting Engineers. They live in Groves.

**Shannon (Bennett) Brown** '09, M.Ed. administration, teaches fourth grade in the Irving school district. She lives in Carrollton.

**Leah (Cassity)** '09, B.S. family and consumer sciences, and **Dustin Cleveland** '09, B.S. industrial technology, were married Aug. 22, 2009. They live in Beaumont.

**Christopher Coleman** '09, B.A. political science, and Anna Garlock were married June 4, 2009. Chris is employed by Modern Group in Beaumont, where they live.

**Jenna (Pope)** '09, B.S. interdisciplinary stud-

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## We will miss...

### Alumni

**Lucy (Wilson) King** '34, A.A. general studies, died Aug. 22, 2009.

**Eleanor (Hunt) Krueger** '38, A.A. general studies, died Aug. 20, 2009.

**Herbert Mulder** '40, A.A. general studies, died July 23, 2009.

**Homer Walles** '41, A.A. general studies, died July 2, 2009.

**Ralph Massey** '47, A.A. general studies, died Sept. 16, 2009.

**Carl Bush** -48, business, died July 16, 2009.

**Margaret (Hayes) Johnston** -48, medical technology, died July 8, 2009.

**Dr. J. D. Thompson** '48, A.A. general studies, died Aug. 2, 2009.

**Rufina (Barbosa) Adams** '49, certif. general studies, died June 6, 2009.

**Neil Sheffield** '50, A.A. general studies, died Aug. 8, 2009.

**Milt Wing** '54, B.S. chemistry, died Sept. 23, 2009.

**Mark Brown** '55, B.B.A. marketing, died Sept. 6, 2009.

**Henry Larcade Jr.** '56, B.B.A. management, died Aug. 23, 2009.

**Clara (McGill) Bean** '58, B.S. home economics, died Sept. 21, 2009.

**Merlin Breaux** '58, B.S. secondary education, died July 29, 2009.

**Bernie Cook** '58, B.B.A. general business, died Sept. 9, 2009.

**Harold Poland** '58, B.S. engineering, died Aug. 9, 2009.

**Ron Wallace, Sr.** '58, B.B.A. marketing, died June 30, 2009.

**Edwin Pearson** '60, B.B.A. management, died June 24, 2009.

**John Bynum** '61, B.S. physical education, died Sept. 9, 2009.

**Charles McLin** '61, B.S. mathematics, died Sept. 3, 2009.

**Bobby Williams** '61, B.A. government died July 6, 2009.

**Monica (Daugherty) Ash** '62, B.S. elementary education, died Aug. 28, 2009.

**Thelma Mitchell** '62, certif. vocational nursing, died June 11, 2009.

**Jimmy White** '63, B.S. electrical engineering, died Aug. 19, 2009.

**Helene (Webster) Litton** '64, B.S. elementary education, died Sept. 23, 2009.

**Lennie Dauphine** '65, B.S. government, died June 18, 2009.

**Lou (LeBlanc) Lequeux** '65, M.Ed. elementary education, died June 29, 2009.

**Erma (Kemper) Thomas** '66, certif. vocational

nursing, died Aug. 10, 2009.

**George Goetz** '67, B.B.A. general business, died July 13, 2009.

**John Hoffpauir** '67, B.B.A. accounting, died Aug. 7, 2009.

**Stephen Solis** '67, B.A. Spanish, died Sept. 5, 2009.

**Robert Owens** '68, B.S. industrial engineering, died June 14, 2009.

**Martha (Welsh) Peterson** '68 B.B.A. secretarial science, died Aug. 11, 2009.

**Lionel Rowland** '68, M.A. history, died Sept. 25, 2009.

**James Nicholas** '69, B.S. electrical engineering, died March 25, 2009.

**Terry (Shelton) Ryals** '69, B.S. commercial art, '77 M.Ed. secondary education, died Aug. 5, 2009.

**Elaine (Gillum) Eitel** '70, M.A. English, died Aug. 12, 2009.

**Albert Sadler** '70, certif. diesel mechanics, died June 25, 2009.

**Elton Smith** '70, B.S. graphic design, died Sept. 24, 2009.

**Bonnie Campbell** '71, B.S. commercial art, died June 23, 2009.

**Carol (Harris) Henkes** '71, B.A. English, died Aug. 30, 2009.

**John Monroe** '71, B.B.A. marketing, died Aug. 6, 2009.

**Richard Monte** '71, B.S. health and physical education, '73, M.P.A. public administration, died July 30, 2009.

**Oscar Palmer** '72, A.A.S. diesel mechanics, died Aug. 11, 2009.

**Sharen (Seversen) Aberer** '73, B.S. mechanical engineering, died June 18, 2009.

**David Fortney** '73, B.A. political science, died June 12, 2009.

**Arthur Fulda** '73, B.B.A. management, died Aug. 2, 2009.

**Hattie Balding** '74, certif. vocational nursing, died July 13, 2009.

**Thomas Nicholas** '74, A.A.S. police science, died June 5, 2009.

**William Paradoski, Jr.** '74, B.S. communication, died Sept. 16, 2009.

**Barbara (Richards) Jackson** '75, certif. vocational nursing, died June 23, 2009.

**Jerry Gaulding** '76, B.S. communication, died June 22, 2009.

**Michael Smith** '76, B.S. health and physical education, died Aug. 25, 2009.

**Bobbie Boyett** '79, certif. office administration, '81, B.B.A. office administration, M.S. education, died Sept. 12, 2009.

**Bebe (Ford) Robinson** -79, office administration, died Sept. 15, 2009.

**John Ford** '80, A.A.S. diesel mechanics, died Sept. 23, 2009.

**Lillian (Gosey) Booker** '81, M.Ed. counseling and development, died July 14, 2009.

**Charles Durio** '82, A.A.S. real estate, '96, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, died June 11, 2009.

**Jan Miller** '83, B.S. secondary education, died July 30, 2009.

**Gregory Beaver** '84, A.A.S. industrial electronics technology, '86, B.S. industrial technology, died Aug. 23, 2009.

**Michael Grady** '85, B.B.A. accounting, died June 29, 2009.

**Vicki (Cupp) Morris** '85, A.A.S. nursing, died July 9, 2009.

**Beverly Wrinkle** '85, A.A.S. nursing, died Aug. 27, 2009.

**Alan Hebert** '86, A.A.S. drafting technology, died Sept. 1, 2009.

**Donald Morris** '86, B.B.A. finance, died July 11, 2009.

**Joseph Snell** '86, B.B.A. management, died Aug. 5, 2009.

**Deborah (Leach) Hall** '71, B.S. elementary education, '88, M.Ed. counseling and development, died June 8, 2009.

**Lindon Hightower** '90, A.A.S. mid-management, '93, A.A.S. computer drafting technology, died June 27, 2009.

**Jack Whisenant** '91, A.A.S. computer drafting technology, died Aug. 5, 2009.

**Michael Freer** '92, B.S. biology, '94, M.S. biology, died July 2, 2009.

**Elizabeth (Tolliver) Wright** '94, M.Ed. counseling and development, died June 24, 2009.

**Carri (Savage) Broussard** '96, B.S. earth science, died June 24, 2009.

**Robert Dean, Jr.** '96, B.S. political science, died Oct. 8, 2009.

### Faculty, staff and friends

**Jean Brickhouse** died Dec. 14, 2009.

**Kate Dishman** died Jan. 30, 2009.

**Belle Mead Holm**, retiree, died Sept. 13, 2009. Contributions to a scholarship in her memory may be made to the Lamar University Foundation, P.O. Box 11500, Beaumont, Texas 77710.

**S. Walker James**, retiree, died Sept. 13, 2009.

**Jacque MiMi (Hatfield) Law**, died Jan. 17, 2009. Memorial contributions may be made to the audiology program, Lamar University, P.O. Box 10011, Beaumont, Texas 77710.

**Kenneth Lee**, retiree, died Aug. 23, 2009.

**Yvonne Simon**, retiree, died Sept. 7, 2009.

**Anna Tringas**, retiree, died June 12, 2009.



# Top brass

by Amanda Rowell



ROHN WENNER

It may have literally taken an Act of Congress in 1798 to establish the United States Marine Band as the most prestigious musical organization in the country, but, 200 years later, all it took was a want ad in a musicians' trade magazine to turn a waiter into one of "The President's Own."

Working at a chain restaurant in Houston, then-recent Lamar music graduate Scott Gearhart '94 found himself "thoroughly miserable." It wasn't until discovering an ad in the *International Musician* for a trumpet opening in the Marine Band that Gearhart knew what he wanted for his future. An avid trumpet player for 29 years, Gearhart has found success as part of the oldest continuously active musical organization in the country.

Born in Garland, Gearhart moved with his family to Newark, Del., his father's hometown, when Gearhart was 5. They lived there two years before making the move to Beaumont. At 11, he followed in the footsteps of his older brother, Bryce, who was a trumpet player.

"I quickly fell in love with the instru-

ment and took off with it on my own," said Gearhart.

Later, while attending West Brook High School, Gearhart took private lessons from the late Raul Ornelas. After graduating in 1987, he chose to study with Ornelas at Lamar because, Gearhart said, "He was such an influential teacher."

Majoring in music and with hopes for a career in the same industry, he immersed himself in the music program, becoming a part of almost every performing ensemble the university offered: the Symphonic Band, the Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band A, the Trumpet Choir, student brass quintets, the Faculty Brass Quintet, the Cardinal Singers backup, Pep Band for the basketball teams and Big Red Marching Band. As a result, he entered "The President's Own" with a plethora of styles and skills.

"My experiences (at Lamar) prepared me very well for my career," said Gearhart. "It made me tailor fit for the Marine Band."

Most of his colleagues had attended schools such as Eastman and Juilliard, which essentially focus on one aspect of performance. Most of his section mates focused on

orchestral trumpet-playing and had little symphonic band experience, whereas Lamar prepped students in a variety of musical sectors.

"The Marine Band doesn't have separate units within the organization for various tasks," he said. "For instance, we don't have a dedicated Jazz Band, like the Army's DC premier band 'Pershing's Own.' We do everything from orchestra concerts to events at the White House."

Not knowing what endeavors and adventures his future would hold, Gearhart headed to Houston after graduation, picking up shifts as a waiter. Feeling unfulfilled, he began contacting school districts, lining up more than 40 students he would teach as a freelance trumpet teacher.

"I realized that I could, indeed, do something with my trumpet-performance degree," said Gearhart.

A year working for Spring and Katy school districts made Gearhart realize that maybe teaching wasn't his calling. Then he came across the ad. He recalled that Wayne Dyess, director of jazz studies at Lamar, had been a member of the U.S. Navy Band and

had mentioned the elite nature of the Marine Band. He says the Marine Band has the reputation for being, arguably, the best symphonic band in the world.

"I knew I could fit the Marine Band and that it was the professional career I wanted," said Gearhart. "The moment I saw that advertisement, I made it my singular goal to win the audition."

The Marine Band performed its first official public concert on Aug. 21, 1800. Thomas Jefferson gave the band its name of "The President's Own" in 1801, because it was, and still is, the only musical organization whose main job is to perform for the president of the United States and commandant of the Marine Corps.

Auditions for the Marine Band take place in John Philip Sousa Band Hall at Marine Barracks in Washington. Musicians are auditioned behind a screen to ensure they are selected based solely on performance ability. If selected for the "final round," musicians are interviewed to ensure they meet mental and physical criteria for enlistment into the Marine Corps and may obtain security clearance.

"You can't let the nerves get to you; they only work to your detriment," Gearhart said. "You can't think; you just do. It's something that still works for me when I play something high profile."

Of 76 applicants, Gearhart won one of two open positions. He enlisted and, in 1996, made the move to Washington.

Band members do not enter boot camp, and there are no secondary tactical or combat missions. Before performing with the band, however, new members undergo a six-week training, which covers military customs and courtesies, ceremonial drill, uniform regulations and all essential military subjects.

With a season of more than 500 concerts in the D.C. area, and across the nation, members have almost-daily rehearsals. The full-time positions, with pay commensurate to that of a major symphony orchestra, allow

members to dedicate all of their time to perfecting their craft.

"Being a full-time, professional musician," said Gearhart, "demands a good deal of time and dedication to maintain the level of playing required."

Every week has a different scenario and, even on his days "off," Gearhart is on call, ready to perform at the drop of a hat. In addition to the band's spring and fall concert series, there are recordings, chamber rehearsals and Friday night parades. "We basically have enough musicians, around 130," he said, "to be able to front two complete concert bands at the same time if we need to. This past fall, for example, we had a band in New York City for the Walter Cronkite Memorial. The same day, at almost the exact same time, I performed with the band inside the Capitol for the Congressional 9/11 Observance."

Though he began playing trumpet, Gearhart has also mastered the cornet and flugelhorn. He was promoted from staff sergeant to gunnery sergeant in early 2000. As a leader and member of the most elite musical organization in the country, he has performed at four inaugurations, dating to Bill Clinton's second inauguration Jan. 20, 1997. "Each inauguration has been an honor to be a part of," he said. "Just like performing at the White House, there are aspects of these events that I get to witness from the inside, which makes them particularly interesting."

One special inauguration for Gearhart was President Barack Obama's on Jan. 19, 2009. "I've heard roaring audiences of tens of thousands before," said Gearhart, "but the sound of hundreds of thousands, approaching a million, was a sound that not too many witness. There were just so many people; it was a very special day."

Gearhart travels across the country during the band's annual fall concert tour, where, along with more than 70 other members, he performs 40 to 45 concerts in 50 to 55 days in October and November. He has also performed lead trumpet for the Marine Jazz Orchestra's inaugural performance at the Kennedy Center, and he frequently performs concerts with the Marine Chamber Ensembles.

One aspect that makes the job especially satisfying for Gearhart is the caliber of musicians that he has the opportunity to work alongside.

"My colleagues bring the utmost degree of musical talent and professionalism to the organization," he said. "When something happens, it happens when it is supposed to happen and how it is supposed to happen, with the most beautiful musical results."

In seven years, Gearhart will be eligible for retirement, but he hopes to stay longer. After his tenure with the band, he intends to continue performing. Until then, he and his wife, Vicki, a clarinet player and gunnery sergeant in the Marine Band, share an active life, although their schedules sometimes separate them.

They live in Alexandria, Va., with two Labrador retrievers and two cats. In what little spare time he has, he enjoys competitive cycling and races as an amateur throughout the year in the Mid-Atlantic area.

In 2004, Gearhart conducted clinics and



Scott Gearhart, Wayne Dyess

performed a Harry James medley at a *Lamarissimo!* concert in Beaumont, accompanied by the Lamar Jazz Band, an ensemble still near and dear to his heart. "I remember the personal attention and work ethic that I got from my professors at Lamar," he said, "as well as the tight-knit, coordinated effort of working with my fellow students."

Attributing his success with "The President's Own" to his education at Lamar and time spent studying with Ornelas, Gearhart said, "It was the first audition I took and turned out being the career I was looking for."



# Mining for treasure

From the Silsbee petrochemical plant to the Saudi Arabian mine, Arabian American Development's CEO Nick Carter is comfortable doing business wherever he is in the world.

by Cathleen Cole



Flying into Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, for the first time in 1996, Nick Carter '75 was awed by the vast expanse of desert, the desolate mountainous regions and the camels wandering the dunes. "It's a good thing they've got oil and minerals," he said of the country. "It's a different experience."

Carter is president and CEO of Arabian American Development Co., which owns and operates Silsbee-based

South Hampton Resources, a petrochemical facility. The company is also the developer and investor in a Saudi Arabian mine that is scheduled to start mining in late 2010 for zinc, copper, gold and silver. The publicly traded company had 2008 revenues of \$155 million.

Carter was born in Bartlesville, Okla., the former home of Phillips Petroleum Co., where both his parents worked. His father was a chemical engineer, and his mother was a nurse for the company. Phillips had a refinery in Sweeny, Texas, and his family relocated there when he was 5 years old. As a child, he liked hunting, fishing, playing football and basketball and, in general, just being outdoors.

After graduating from Sweeny High School, he headed for Lamar in 1965 but, after three years and a few majors, didn't finish a degree. "I was pretty much messing around," he said, adding that his frustrated parents quit paying for his college education. He needed to find direction, and he found it in fellow Lamar student Judy Smith. The two got married—she was 19; he was 21. He joined the Navy and became an aviation electronics technician. He also became a father to daughter Nikki.

When his four-year stint was up, he returned to Southeast Texas because his wife was from Buna and wanted to be close to home. He knew it was time to settle down and

get busy. "It always helps to have a good woman for guidance," he said. This time he enrolled at Lamar to major in business with a focus on accounting and graduated in 1975.

His first job after graduating was with the Sabine River Authority in accounting for the Lake Fork Project. He later moved to the certified public accounting firm Wathen, DeShong & Juncker in Beaumont and worked there for two years. One of the firm's clients was South Hampton. In 1977, he was offered the controller's position at the petrochemical company. He took it, and he's been there ever since.

South Hampton Resources was founded in 1955 to convert natural gas into motor fuel. It later refined crude oil into gasoline and diesel fuel. After the oil bust in the early '80s, the company regrouped and began producing specialty petrochemicals at its 97-acre facility. The company's products are sold exclusively as intermediate components to manufacturers competing in various markets such as expandable polystyrene (styrofoam), polyethylene, adhesives, building foams, synthetic rubber and food processing. South Hampton Resources has about 60 percent of the North American market share for C5 solvents—expanding agents that are used in applications including drink cups, food packaging trays, electronics packaging, ice chest insulation, building insulation board and other products using packaging and insulating foam components. The company is also a leader in the production of C6 solvents, which are typically used in adhesives, synthetic rubbers and as catalyst-carrying agents.

Founded in 1967, Arabian American Development Co. bought South Hampton Resources in 1987 and named Carter president of their acquisition. He was named president and CEO of Arabian American Development July 1, 2009. Today the company's main business activities include manufacturing various petrochemical products and developing mineral properties in Saudi Arabia and the United States.

Its mining interests include the ownership and rights for the Al Masane mine in Saudi Arabia that, when put into production, is expected to produce significant quantities of

copper, zinc, gold and silver. Arabian American Development also owns about 55 percent of the capital stock of a Nevada mining company, Pioche-Ely Valley Mines Inc.

As for working his way up the corporate ladder, he said, "I think I've always had the ability to get things done. I'm a self-starter." His talent lies in motivating people and instigating action, he said. But he also credits the mentors he's had along the way who gave him opportunities, including John Simmons at the Sabine River Authority, Evan "Slats" Wathen at the accounting firm and Marvin "Red" Bomer, the former owner of South Hampton Resources. "It's the people behind the person," he said.

Credit also goes to his alma mater. "I got a very solid education," he said. "The quality of instruction was very good."

His small-town upbringing has never hindered him in his international business dealings. After he became president of South Hampton, he immediately had interactions with the new parent company's Saudi Arabian businessmen. The language difference hasn't been a big problem as documents are printed in Arabic and English, and most of the businessmen speak English. The only problem comes when dealing with service workers. Once, he was taking a taxi cab from the company's office in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to the airport for the trip home to Texas. It seemed to Carter that the cabbie was driving about 120 miles per hour. "Slow down! Slow down!" he shouted. The driver turned and looked at Carter and yelled back, "I don't speak English!" He then proceeded at his break-neck speed to the airport. "He scared me to death," Carter said.

Charlie Goehringer '80, a board member and general counsel



for Arabian American Development, describes Carter as intelligent, respected and reserved. "The growth and success of the company can be attributed to his management," Goehringer said. The partner with Germer Gertz law firm in Beaumont is also Carter's hunting, fishing and golfing partner on occasion and said that even away from business, Carter has a no-nonsense attitude, but he does have a dry sense of humor. That's apparent when he's talking about his family, made up of accountants and business people, including his wife, Judy

(Smith) Carter '79; his daughters, Nikki (Carter) Smith '92 and Mandy (Carter) Ternes '03; and his sons-in-law, Darren R. Smith '93 and Andy Ternes '02. His son, Jeremy, joined the Navy. They're not exactly a wild bunch, he claimed. "We talk about balancing check-books, debits and credits," he joked. "We're not that boring!" his wife countered.

Judy Carter always had faith in her husband's ability to be a success but admitted that when they were young "he was lacking a bit of direction." Today, she doesn't hesitate to give him direction in the form of a honey-do list for her Antique Mall of Lumberton and

Country Lane Antique Mall. If something's broken, she'll ask him to fix it, and he says, "I'll put it on my list." She describes her husband as a really neat guy who is not easily discouraged. "He stays very positive," she said. "He's my best friend."

Carter's advice to small-town kids with big dreams of success: "Don't be afraid to step out. Take a risk, and go where the opportunities are."

His personal goals are in sync with the company's goals. He wants to be a successful CEO by making the company successful and plans to expand the company's market base. "It's a niche company," he said, adding that he would like to expand into other markets "probably through acquisitions." That will keep him busy for at least a few more years. "I enjoy my job," Carter said. "I'm not in a big hurry to retire."

“Don't be afraid to step out. Take a risk, and go where the opportunities are.”

—NICK CARTER '75