Now is the time to invest in Lamar, invest in our students, invest in the future of Southeast Texas...

Beginning with his first high school biology class, Humberto Hernandez of Houston has been captivated by the possibilities offered through scientific research. The senior biology major’s interest in exploring the world at the molecular level comes in part from personal challenges he has overcome.

“I was always fascinated by things you couldn’t see because I couldn’t see a lot of things when I was little. I had two corneal transplants when I was in high school. The idea of things you couldn’t see but yet I could see them in my brain fascinated me,” Hernandez said.

A freely, Hernandez is gaining experience and accolades with presentations at national conferences for his current work on the STD-causing parasite Trichomonas vaginalis. At the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science national conference in San Jose, Calif., Hernandez received the Best Poster Award in Microbiology. Earlier this year, he presented at the annual meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in New Orleans, for which he received a travel award from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund.

For Hernandez, though, the most rewarding results of his research might be the moments of discovery in the lab. He still remembers his reaction when he discovered a haplotype, a unique DNA sequence, while researching the hybridization of three species of junipers, focusing on molecular work on their DNA.

“You have several experiments, and you fail, and you fail, then you see this result. Just for a second, your heart starts pumping all this adrenaline, and you feel like you’re the only person in the world who knows this—nobody else. It’s like a scientific high,” Hernandez said.

Hernandez gained his first undergraduate research experience when he was accepted into the Lamar University Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program his sophomore year. The federally funded program is designed to prepare minority and first-generation college students to pursue doctoral degrees. He worked with Randall Terry, assistant professor of biology, on the project involving hybridization of junipers and learned a variety of techniques for molecular research. Armed with that knowledge, Hernandez secured a place in the new lab of Ashwini Kucknoor, assistant professor of biology, whose biomedical research was more in line with his ultimate career goals. Kucknoor’s group is studying Trichomonas vaginalis, the protozoan parasite that causes a common sexually transmitted disease. Hernandez’s work centers on the role of rhomboid proteins in the progression of the disease, which weakens the immune system and can lead to other more serious health issues for women infected with Trichomonas.

“I give a lot of credit to my mentors here at Lamar for their support and input,” Hernandez said. “Dr. Kucknoor is the brains of the project, but she makes us think. She gives us the opportunity to explore and makes us analyze the data and ask, ‘How would you proceed?’ We give her ideas that maybe she hadn’t thought of. I get to find things nobody else can.”

In addition to his coursework and research, Hernandez has been active on campus as a community assistant in the Cardinal Village residence halls for the past two years and is involved in Lamar University’s Spanish Circle, which has worked with children in area elementary schools. Hernandez, whose first language is Spanish, said group members try to serve as role models to the children who might not have family members who have attended college. As the first in his family to attend college, he believes providing that type of positive influence is important.

In pushing himself to excel at Lamar, Hernandez has relied on the support not only of his professors but also of his wife and fellow Lamar University student Samantha Rodriguez. A psychology major, Rodriguez also has been involved in undergraduate research as a McNair Scholar. The two began dating while attending Dobie High School in Pasadena and came to Lamar together after graduation.

After graduating from LU, Hernandez hopes to obtain a summer or post-baccalaureate research position with the National Institutes of Health before beginning graduate school. Ultimately, he plans to pursue a career in biomedical research. —BG

Fascinated by unseen world
From the President

One joy of serving as president is the opportunity to participate in commencement exercises. With a handshake, I congratulate hundreds as they move from aspiring student to graduate—and embark on a lifelong journey to become accomplished alumni.

This spring, we honored four truly exceptional Cardinals as Distinguished Alumni: Jim Gilligan ’69, ’70; Steve Moore ’77; O’Don Pumphrey ’88; and Michele Smith ’88. They are a credit to their professions, their communities and their alma mater.

I share the privilege of greeting Lamar’s newest alumni with the nine others who have served as president before me, but one thing has changed; many who cross the stage now are setting foot on campus for the very first time. Of our graduates, growing numbers have experienced their Lamar University education entirely online.

In this issue of Cadence, you can read about Lamar’s commitment to growing its online offerings. In fact, we are adding six more online degree programs this fall. We present the best of both worlds—a dynamic, personal on-campus education and cutting-edge online degree programs that are the perfect fit for many.

We recently honored Jerry Lin as University Professor. He will also hold the title of Ann D-ie Hassenbrokk Faculty Scholar for 2012-2013 thanks to a gift from Ann (H’61) and Die Hassenbrokk ’66 DA, Lamar Regents’ Professor and a national leader and innovator in higher education. She created and funded the Lamar University Faculty Excellence Endowment that enables us to give this honor.

Sports fans across the country were reintroduced to Lamar University when Coach Pat Knight guided the team to a conference win and the NCAA First Four. Men’s golfers brought home the Southland Conference Championship trophy and their performance at the NCAA Greensboro Regional secured a trip to the NCAA Championship for the first time since 2007. We enjoyed all the spring sports, softball fields are being prepared in anticipation, and we’re looking forward to seeing the Cards in action on the gridiron this fall.

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It is also exciting to report that Lamar’s investing in the Future comprehensive campaign is over the $100 million mark and on target to meet, or exceed, the new $125 million goal by fall 2013. The response is simply amazing. You can read about some of the more recent gifts in the pages that follow. We are so blessed to have so many wonderful alumni and friends. Thank you for all you do to support Lamar University.

With Cardinal Pride,

James M. Simmons
President
Lamar University
G

erations of Lamar University engineering students and faculty will benefit from a major gift from Charles ’59 and Eleanor Garrett, whose company is one of the world’s largest manufacturers of metal-detecting equipment.

To recognize the Garland couple’s many contributions, Lamar named the Charles and Eleanor Garrett Engineering Center in their honor.

“This gift will enable Lamar to establish the Garrett Scholars to assist the College of Engineering to expand its efforts in recruiting the best and brightest students to careers that will impact the future of engineering and build on the wonderful Garrett legacy,” said President James Simmons at a news conference April 25 in the University Reception Center of the Mary and John Gray Library.

In addition to the Garrett Scholars, the gift will establish the Garrett Engineering Faculty Enhancement Fund, which will provide opportunities to strengthen and enhance the work of the engineering faculty. Simmons said. The couple’s gift will also establish the Charles and Eleanor Garrett Chair in Engineering.

The gift is a significant part of Lamar University’s Investing in the Future Campaign, which has exceeded its original $100 million goal, Simmons said.

“Charles and Eleanor Garrett have demonstrated through numerous exceptional contributions their generosity and commitment to engineering education at Lamar University,” said Jack H.opper, dean of the College of Engineering. “For Charles and Eleanor to leave the legacy of their name imprinted in the infrastructure of Lamar University brings great recognition and national respect for the quality of the education at Lamar.”

Charles Garrett, a 1959 electrical engineering graduate of Lamar, was honored as a distinguished alumnus of Lamar in 2003 and awarded an honorary doctorate in humane letters in 2011. Eleanor Smith Garrett earned a bachelor of science in 1954 and a master of education in 1955 from what was then Sam Houston State Teachers College. She was honored by Sam Houston as a distinguished alumna in 2008 and awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree in 2010.

Also in 2010, Sam Houston State University announced naming of the Eleanor and Charles Garrett Teacher Education Center to honor Eleanor’s lifelong support of elementary, secondary and higher education and in appreciation of a noteworthy gift from the couple.

“I am just awestruck. I am flabbergasted,” Eleanor Garrett said. “I never dreamed there would be a college building named for me and my husband anywhere and, now, two colleges is just beyond thinking. We are so happy and so proud, and we feel so humble that people were so kind to do this.”

Charles Garrett’s passion for treasure hunting and desire to create a better metal detector led him and Eleanor to establish Garrett Metal Detectors Inc., which has grown to become one of the world’s largest manufacturers of virtually all types of metal-detection equipment.

“We know we cannot take what we have made with us . . . and we need to share it and help others to help themselves,” Eleanor said.

“Because their company employs engineers from many disciplines, the Garretts wanted Lamar to use their gift to provide the greatest benefit to the College of Engineering,” said Camille Mouton, vice president for university advancement. “Our greatest need is for scholarships and faculty enhancement. This transformative gift could not be more important or come at a more important time for our university.”

Simmons said he cannot overemphasize the significance of the Garrett name in furthering academic excellence at Lamar. “Charles Garrett is an icon. He is a true pioneer in the field of metal detection. He and Eleanor are amazing friends both to Lamar and to its sister institution Sam Houston,” also part of The Texas State University System.

And, he said, “The timing of this gift is wonderful because, to continue to recruit the best and brightest students, to continue to support our faculty in much-needed research, we must look to other sources of funding.”

The Garretts previously established the Professor Floyd Crum Scholarship in Electrical Engineering in tribute to the professor who had inspired Charles during his years as a Lamar student. The couple also established the Lewis and Eleanor Smith Garrett Scholarship in Engineering. After 12 years of service on Lamar’s College of Engineering Advisory Council, Charles was named an emeritus member of the council at a luncheon in the Garrett’s honor after the gift was announced.

Lamar University provided the education that Charles needed to achieve iconic status in his field, but it was Eleanor who made his education possible, Mouton said. She taught school in the Nederland and Port Neches-Groves school districts while Charles, home from service in the Navy, pursued his electrical engineering degree from Lamar and worked for the Texas Highway Department, Texas Instruments and Geotech.

In 1964, when Charles decided to turn his passion for treasure hunting into a business that started in the family garage, Eleanor withdrew her savings from the Teacher Retirement Fund so she could join him in the business. Their company employs more than 100 engineers, including 15 PhDs, and is one of the largest manufacturers of virtual-reality equipment.

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—President James Simmons

Charles Garrett ’59, left, stands with his former professor, Floyd Cruc. The Garretts established The Professor Floyd Cruc Scholarship in memory of his wife of 34 years. The Garretts also are successful tree farmers, owning many tracts of land in Trinity and Houston counties. In 2002, the Texas Forestry Association honored them with the Texas Tree Farmer of the Year Award.

Although the business consumes much of their time, Charles and Eleanor share their time and talent in many different ways. Charles has served as president of both the American Metal Detectors Manufacturers Association and the International Treasure Hunters Society and is a member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas and Sons of the Confederacy.

Eleanor has held state office with the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and a national office with the Magna Charta.

Videos. As a hobby, he collects and restores antique cars. He has 30 Model-A Fords, including a Model-A ambulance and fire truck.

“Charles has always had a love for things mechanical, and he’s always fixing things—metal detectors, cars, old cameras, radios, clocks,” Eleanor said. “He’s always doing something with his hands.”

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NAMED SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS

Family and friends established the DEBORAH LYNN ADAMS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN WOMEN’S GOLF in celebration of the life of a woman dedicated to those who face disabilities and addiction. Debbie played on the women’s golf team at Lamar. She set a high standard for the services necessary to care for those who require assistance to live their daily lives with dignity and meaning. She established several intermediate care facilities for people with mental retardation across the state and played a vital role in founding numerous home and community-based service programs.

The BILL AND JENNIE GRANTHAM SCHOLARSHIP IN NURSING is available to students seeking bachelor’s or master’s degrees in nursing. Bill was a founding member of the Lamar University Cardinal Club and the two have been faithful supporters of Lamar athletics. They have also supported the arts throughout the area, including events at Lamar and the Symphony of Southeast Texas. Since 1966, Bill has worked with Sanitary Supply Co. and now is chairman of the board.

The family and other generous donors funded the LILA AND HUNTER W. HENRY JR. SCHOLARSHIP honoring the nurses in the Cardiovascular Recovery Unit at St. David’s South Austin Medical Center, who provided care during a supported group of students. Jerry felt that the education he received at Lamar significantly contributed to his successful 32-year career with Mobil Chemical Co. He retired in 1991 as assistant controller, international planning supply and distribution, in the petrochemicals division.

Jerry Rudd ’56, ’71, made provisions in his estate to establish the JERRY RUDY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP that will benefit Port Neches Groves High School graduates. Jerry noted that his educational opportunities at Lamar contributed to his successful 32-year career with Mobi Chemical Co. He retired in 1991 as assistant controller, international planning supply and distribution, in the petrochemicals division.

Jerry Rudd died February 2, 2012. Through provisions made in her will, M. Martha Salim ’72 will increase the value of the SAM AND PATSY E. MORPHEW MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN MUSIC was established to assist music majors during their freshman year.

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

J. Robert (Bob) M. Condon ’64 and his wife, Susan Terry ’64, will increase the value of their scholarships through beneficiary provisions in an IRA. THE BOB AND SUE MCLENDON SCHOLARSHIP IN ENGINEERING and the SUSAN AND BOB MCLENDON SCHOLARSHIP IN BUSINESS were both established by the couple in 1999. Bob generously served 12 years on the Lamar University Foundation Board and is an emeritus member of the College of Engineering Advisory Council. H is the retired president of the Texas Instruments software division.

Through provisions in her will, Fats (Smith) Morphy ’65 will establish the LILA AND HUNTER W. HENRY JR. SCHOLARSHIP honoring the nurses in the Cardiovascular Recovery Unit at St. David’s South Austin Medical Center, who provided care during a supported group of students. Jerry felt that the education he received at Lamar significantly contributed to his successful 32-year career with Mobil Chemical Co. He retired in 1991 as assistant controller, international planning supply and distribution, in the petrochemicals division.

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The life-enriching value of education

Patsy (Smith) ’65 and Sam Morrow ’63 built a successful life together with the education they began at Lamar University and chose to spend their lives educating others. Lamar provided a foundation for them in many ways—from finding each other to identifying career aims. They met at Lamar in 1962 and President James Simmons during a CAMPAIGN IMPACT

LU Foundation President Marsha Hoffer

Investing In The Future
THE CAMPAIGN FOR LAMAR UNIVERSITY

Investing In The Future
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The University and taught physics at the University of Central Oklahoma for several years before deciding to leave education for information technology and the couple moved to Dallas. Sam’s career spanned 29 years in the field, working for a number of companies, including Texas Instruments and the utility company T&U, where he worked in mainframe computer planning, and Patsy taught at Richland College.

When Sam developed health problems, the couple decided to move to San Antonio, near Patsy’s sister. Patsy had retired from teaching and started volunteering. Sam taught at Northwest Vista College before his death in 2010.

“We decided to create the endowment in our will at Lamar because of you,” said Patsy. “He was in San Antonio, and he asked to see Sam and me. He came to our home and was very friendly. Since then, we’ve discussed all that is happening at the university.”

“He is genuinely interested in the alumni and wants us to know what’s going on. In the course of our conversations, he told me about the Lamar University Foundation. I think maybe I was aware of it, but I didn’t realize it was something I could participate in.”

“We never made a huge amount of money, but we were pretty good savers, and we inherited a little bit of money, not very much, but some that helped,” Patsy said. “We always learned to live within, or with a little less than, what we made. We could never have done it without the education. It provides stability and opportunity.”

When the couple began planning their retirements, they knew they too would give to education, to the institutions where they had trained and worked for so many years and to the students they had watched struggle financially to make something of their lives. “We’ve just always thought education is the way to a better life for people who are really motivated to go to college, but so many have problems with finances,” Patsy said. “If we can help somebody in some way to get that education, that is what we wanted to do.”

Sam and Patsy chose to focus their gifts toward helping students in pursuit of bachelor’s degrees rather than supporting research. Of the money given, 52 percent has come from alumni, and 23 percent from friends of the university, and 25 percent from corporations and foundations. Of the $30 million privately funded scholarships at LUI, more than 70 have been created since the campaign began, a 35 percent increase.

As the “Investing in the Future” campaign continues, “more emphasis is being placed on the benefits of planned gifts and a specific goal of bringing in a third of the campaign total through planned giving has been set,” said Camille Mouton, vice president for university advancement. Planned gifts now account for 26 percent of the total raised during the campaign.

“There are many charitable giving vehicles that benefit donors in their lifetimes while leaving a lasting benefit for Lamar University for generations to come,” Mouton said. “Consideration of planned gifts often enables donors to make transformational gifts and create a legacy while benefiting their families—a true win-win!”

If you wish to consider a planned gift to Lamar University, please visit our website at http://Advancement.lamar.edu and follow the Lamar University Foundation tab, or contact:

Floyd F. McSpadden, Jr.
Director of Planned Giving

Lamar University Scholarship 31% Academic support 33%
New construction and renovation have transformed the face of Lamar University and contribute greatly to the university’s continued enrollment growth. Less visible, but perhaps even more significant to Lamar’s growth, is the university’s leadership in online education. Distance learning is one of the fastest-growing aspects of higher education in the U.S., significantly outpacing traditional enrollment growth. That fact is evident at Lamar, where 30 percent of Lamar’s credit hours are now generated through online courses and nearly 4,200 of Lamar’s current students never set foot on campus.

Continued growth in online programs is critical to the university’s survival. Lamar faces unique geographic and demographic challenges that impact enrollment. Demographic projections from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board show a continued slow decline in the traditional college-age population in Southeast Texas. Geography is little help. Traditionally regional universities like Lamar draw the vast majority of their students from a 200-mile radius. For Lamar, a great deal of that circle falls in the Gulf of Mexico or across the state line. And while there are more than 6 million residents in the greater Houston area, so, too, is a plethora of educational institutions. Offering students educational opportunities that fit into their busy lives has proved beneficial to Lamar.

These challenges are why LU administrators were receptive to new ideas presented by LU alumnus Randy Best in 2006. An exceptional entrepreneur, Best was convinced that he could deliver higher education to Texas teachers more effectively through innovative technology, but he needed to partner with a university that could provide the highest quality instruction. Lamar’s NCATE-accredited teacher education programs were soon paired with new delivery methods. LU’s College of Education and Human Development surmounted significant challenges as it broke new ground in higher education through its partnership with then Higher Ed Holdings (now Academic Partnerships). When Lamar launched the online master’s programs in October 2007, it lowered the cost of earning these degrees for thousands of teachers. The program was praised for its quality and success after strenuous examination by NCATE, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Online enrollments zoomed to nearly 4,000 from all across Texas before leveling out at around 3,000. Lamar has awarded 5,854 M.Ed. diplomas through the online program that has become a model for many other universities.

Lamar broke new ground again with the creation of its online doctoral degree in education in July 2011. “To enroll 50 students three times a year, that was unheard of in doctoral programs,” said Paula Nichols, executive director of distance learning. “We were the first to make it happen.” The program compliments the university’s successful on-campus Ed.D. program that enrolls about 65 students and has more than 60 graduates to date.

When it comes to higher education, “geography has almost become incidental,” Nichols said. “College is coming to your living room and to your mobile device.” And, the conversations have changed as well. “The question used to be, ‘can you do that online?’ Now, the question is, ‘how do we do it well online?”’

Whether it is online or on campus, students are realizing a quality education from Lamar University. “Online serves our own students,” she said, “and we see that reflected in the fact that 44.4 percent of our students are taking courses online.” In fact, 14.5 percent of our on-campus students are also taking at least one online course.

**ON CAMPUS OR ONLINE: Lamar University a leader in learning**

University adds six new online degree programs

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**THE BIRTH OF A LEADER**

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**ONLINE PROGRAMS AT LAMAR UNIVERSITY**

NEW PROGRAMS FOR FALL 2012:
- BBA in General Business
- BBA in Management
- BBA in Entrepreneurship
- BS in Communications
- Master of Science in Criminal Justice
- English as a Second Language (ESL) Endorsement

**NEW PROGRAMS FOR FALL 2012:**
- Bachelor of General Studies
- Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences
- Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice
- Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN)

**PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION PROGRAMS**
- Superintendent Certification
- Principal Certification

**GRADUATE**
- Master of Education in School Counseling
- Master of Education in Educational Administration
- Master of Education in Educational Technology Leadership
- Master of Education in Teacher Leadership
- Master of Science in Health Promotion
- Master of Science in Nursing Administration

**DOCTORATE**
- Doctorate in Education
course. They find that online courses offer a flexibility that meets their schedule.

**LU CONTINUES TO ADD NEW PROGRAMS**

The university is working now to add significantly to its online offerings, bringing six new programs to students this fall. Four of these programs share the previously developed common core of courses. Lamar is launching a Bachelor of Science in communication, a Bachelor of Business Administration in general business, a B.B.A. in management and a B.B.A. in entrepreneurship, as well as a Master of Public Administration in criminal justice, and a certificate in English as a second language.

Increasing online offerings expands Lamar’s ability to deliver quality education to underserved populations. “The reality is that 60 to 70 percent of our population cannot afford to quit work for a residential college experience,” Nichols said. “So online programs provide them access to higher education.” Online programs also address the needs of nontraditional students. “The model of living on campus and pursuing a graduate or undergraduate degree is great,” Nichols said. “But it isn’t possible for everyone. We want to create opportunities and assist in the expansion of our educated work force.”

Taking classes online helps lower transportation expenses and helps students continue working. “Many of our students work full-time jobs and struggle to balance classes and commuting. Taking one or two online courses helps them be full-time students. That is important in terms of financial aid and graduation rates.”

“The other big group that online serves are the 36- to 50-year-olds who might have gone to college but didn’t finish,” Nichols said. “They went to work, and now they’re hitting the glass ceiling and want to finish their degrees. They can’t pack up and go; they’re employed; they have family responsibilities. Our programs fit this niche very well.”

The university is working hard to offer additional programs that will meet the needs of both traditional students and the millions more for whom a traditional college experience is not feasible. That includes the 3.5 million Texans who have some college credit earned but have no degree and for whom Lamar’s online Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree could be an excellent fit. “The B.A.A.S. has proven to be our most popular completion degree,” Nichols said. “We are able to tailor the program to suit our students’ professional needs.”

Providing online learning isn’t just about providing curriculum. It also means effectively meeting the needs of students who will never set foot on campus. “We are increasing our emphasis on services for students who are not physically on our campus,” Nichols said. “It is a mindset that provides 24/7 service for all our students. LU is at the forefront of change by providing more access that fits the needs of all students, on campus and online.”

“Lamar is really the best of both worlds for those students who have some reluctance to enroll in a totally online university or feel restricted by a university that doesn’t offer online programs. The quality of our faculty — and the research, scholarly and creative work they do — is reflected in the quality of the online programs we offer.”

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“The balance between a strong campus program and a strong online program is the best strategy for meeting the needs of all students,” Nichols said.

An entrepreneur’s innovation

An entrepreneur’s innovation, Randy Best, 67 began his business career while a student at Lamar University where he started seven businesses and at one point had 42 other LU students in his employ. Among his ventures were publishing companies and Collegiate Diamond, an endeavor selling engagement rings at a time when “about 28 percent of all college students got engaged or married each year.” At 25, Best sold the company for around $10 million and has gone on to found or acquire more than 100 privately or publicly held companies in a broad range of fields including healthcare, defense and aerospace, publishing, agriculture, food, oil and gas, real estate and education.

When he moved into the second half of his career, Best focused on business initiatives with a social mission that could have an enduring, positive impact. This commitment resulted in a focus on education and in the welfare of children.

Best’s own challenges with dyslexia made him passionate about reading and its critical impact on a student’s education and life. He founded a national initiative that annually helps more than 3 million children, mostly inner-city, learn to read. In 2005, Best turned to higher education and founded a company to help state universities increase access for underserved high-need populations. Lamar University was the first to partner with Best in delivering two graduate education programs, growing enrollment from 226 to more than 4,100. He also founded an international higher education company focused on bringing a high-quality, low-cost college education to students in the developing countries of Latin America. Today, Academic Partnerships delivers online programs in all 50 states and 37 foreign countries.
The beat goes on...

By Brian Sattler

Lamar cheerleader, ’60s heartthrob and self-confessed serial entrepreneur, Larry Lawson ‘67 has kept in touch with the heart of America.

Lawson is founder, president and chief executive officer of eCardio Diagnostics, a leading provider of remote arrhythmia monitoring. It provides physicians flexibility, speed and accuracy in diagnosing conditions to determine the best course of treatment. The company monitors nearly 3,000 new patients every week.

That first job was with Cleveland Clinic. “They said, ‘If you can deliver patient reporting in the way we want it and it populates our Electro-Medical records system, then you might get our business,’” Lawson said. “In six months, we had done what our competition hadn’t been able to do in two years.

The company’s primary office is in Houston, where about 400 are employed, and about 120 U.S. representatives help the company add nearly 12,000 new patients each month worldwide.

The company’s astounding growth is one reason Lawson received the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award in the health sciences category for the Houston and Gulf Coast area in 2009.

BRIDGE CITY DAYS

Lawson grew up in Bridge City. He has his father’s Monkey Garage and later built Lawson’s Auto Parts block by block on Texas 87. When Lawson was put in leg braces at 5, the doctor suggested activities that would keep him inside. He “took to the piano like a duck to water” and began to write music at an early age. He copyrighted his first songs at 13. “Back then, you had to write out the music by hand and mail it to Washington D.C.,” he said.

His repertoire extended well beyond keyboard, as he started on clarinet and then took up trumpet in the school band. “Music pretty much dominated my life,” Lawson said. He is parents would take him to Beaumont on Sunday afternoons to be on a local television children’s talent show. There, he met Edgar and Johnny Winter as they played Every Brothers songs, and he would play piano and sing “Little Bitty” by the Diamonds. He continued playing blues music with the Winter brothers through high school, but became more interested in a different style of music after the British invasion.

THE CLIQUE

As lead trumpet in the Bridge City High School band, Lawson was recruited by Richard Burkhat and offered a scholarship to attend Lamar. His roommate had been a fullback on the Bridge City team and was soon rushed for a fraternity. “I felt left out, so when I saw that there were tryouts for cheerleading, I thought, ‘Why not?’”

Lawson said. “There, he met Janey (Nook) Phelan 87. “She walked right up to me and said, ‘I hope you get it, I want you to be my partner.’ That made me try all the harder.”

Lamar was elated to the squad and remembers with fondness being a Lamar cheerleader. “It got to where I was burning the candle at both ends,” Lawson remembers. He was busy playing trumpet in the marching and jazz bands, cheerleading and playing gigs in Southeast Texas. It was during these hectic, heady days that Lawson’s life would become even busier. He was asked to give some tips to a local band, The Troubadours, by the father of one of its members.

Lawson founded eCardio in 2004 after being a partner in a similar business. “I literally watched how they weren’t doing things as much as how they were doing things right,” he said. “I picked up from that experience that there’s a better way to do this, a more professional way.” Armed with this insight, Lawson created eCardio, founded the business in The Woodlands and began hiring individuals with the expertise to make his vision reality. However, eCardio didn’t take on its first client until after several months of testing and training to ensure the highest-quality service.

The success of eCardio has everything to do with our service capabilities and how we deliver the information to the physicians in the way they need it and want it,” Lawson said. “We are as much an IT technology company as we are an arrhythmia monitoring company. We’ve developed an IT department here that’s stronger than a lot of companies.”

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Andrus had the band record “Splash 1” written by members of The 13th Floor Elevators. “He didn’t have any ideas for the B-side, so I wrote ‘Stay By Me’ for the record,” Lawson said. The recording was released locally on Cinema and then Wand labels, then nationally by Scepter Records in New York. Later recordings by the group with White Whale Records gained the group national attention, including “I’ll Hold Out My Hand,” “Sugar on Sunday” and “Superman.”

“We went up, hit a peak and came right back down,” Lawson said. “But you know, it was a fun time. It gave me an opportunity to see parts of this country I’d never seen before, and to tour with musicians I never would have seen.” The Clique opened for bands including The Dave Clark Five, Sam & Dave, Grand Funk Railroad, The Association, Paul Revere & The Raiders, and sold more than 5 million records. The group was honored in 2008 when it was inducted into the Houston Museum of the Gulf Coast along with Edgar Winter.

Although pulling in good money at its zenith, “I felt I couldn’t sustain that kind of lifestyle, so I succumbed to getting a real job,” Lawson said. “Going from making $1,000 a week to making $125 a week was quite an adjustment. That drove me to do better. I had to.”

It was that kind of work ethic that would carry him into a new career. The company was founded in The Woodlands and grown to 5 million records. The group was honored in 2008 when it was inducted into the Museum of the Gulf Coast along with Edgar Winter. Although pulling in good money at its zenith, “I felt I couldn’t sustain that kind of lifestyle, so I succumbed to getting a real job,” Lawson said. “Going from making $1,000 a week to making $125 a week was quite an adjustment. That drove me to do better. I had to.”

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Sound counsel

The success that Bob Dyer '66 has enjoyed in his legal career is backed not only by his experience and education in the law but also by his business education at Lamar, where he majored in accounting. A partner at Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP in Dallas, Dyer has built a reputation as a valuable legal counselor to a variety of corporations. With a client list that has included the Trammell Crow Company, CompuSA, SBC Communications and Dynacraft BSC, he has been recognized multiple times as one of the best business lawyers in Dallas by D Magazine and as a Texas Super Lawyer in Texas Monthly.

“Y ou continue to learn something every time you’re in a relationship that generates time you’re in a way that’s positive. I like to say that any situation or the things that need to be evaluated. After all that’s said, you can draw a conclusion and make a business decision.”

Some might say that Dyer’s knack for business runs in the family. It is parents, Woody and Jackie Dyer, operated Lane’s, a budget department store in downtown Beaumont, for many years. Now 90, they still live in Beaumont. Growing up, Dyer sometimes assisted with inventory, sales on weekends and later some accounting for the store. Family remains important to Dyer. He and his wife, Ann (Williams) Dyer, who also has a law degree, have lived in a home in Taos, N.M. Dyer said the Taos home offers a welcome respite from the Texas heat in the summer and a wonderful opportunity to pursue one of his favorite hobbies, skiing, in the winter. He is five-year-old grandson already has started joining him on the slopes. “It’s a nice family gathering place,” Dyer said. “It gives you a chance to renew relationships with your family and your friends.”

Like many of his Southeast Texas contemporaries, Dyer credits Lamar with providing him an excellent education that would have been difficult to obtain otherwise. “In those days, it would have been a stretch for my parents to have financed sending me away to school. It could possibly have happened, but Lamar provided an option that was within the economics of my family’s financial structure,” said Dyer, the oldest of six children. Lamar also proved the right option for his brother, Joe Dyer ‘68, who majored in management. Dyer lived at home while attending Lamar, but still enjoyed the challenge of classes and, as a member of Pi Kappa Alpha, the fun of fraternity life.

Dyer decided while in high school that law school would be his next step after college. Although he couldn’t pinpoint what attracted him to the profession, it suited him well. “I like problem solving, and I like getting to know in relative detail the intricacies of a particular client’s business goals and transactions,” Dyer said. “It’s almost like the more complicated the problem, the more interesting it is.”

Over the years, Dyer has been successful in guiding his clients through any number of problems, and in connecting them with specialists within his firm through a team approach when particular types of problems arise. In general, Dyer said he tends to see most matters in shades of gray rather than as black and white, and likes to help parties find a way to compromise to solve problems rather than litigating disputes.

“You continue to learn something every day, whether it’s some substantive issue that you’re interested in, or maybe it’s about human nature and how you deal with people in a way that’s positive. I like to say that any time you’re in a relationship that generates more heat than light, you need to be doing something else.” — Bob Dyer

Work? Not for Ritter

When Yvonne Ritter ’67, ’73, completed her master’s degree in English in 1973, she faced an important decision. She could pursue a Ph.D. and continue teaching college, as she had done on a fellowship at Lamar for the two previous years, or she could try something new. With her children at home and her husband, Ken, serving as Beaumont’s mayor at the time, Ritter did not view continuing in academia as a practical choice. Instead, she decided to obtain her real estate license and become an entrepreneur.

“It was the best decision that I ever made for my life,” Ritter said. “I wish everyone could be as fortunate as I have been to find work that is so fulfilling and profitable, too, from an economic standpoint. It’s been a great career. When they say that it’s not like work, that’s what I’ve experienced for almost 40 years. I went to work because I wanted to, because I enjoyed every minute of it. I found the right match.”

Ritter went to work for DuPerier Real Estate and sold her first house in September 1973, just after earning her real estate license. After five years in sales and a move to American Real Estate, she rose to sales management. Less than 10 years after becoming an agent, she and others purchased American Real Estate, where she has spent the rest of her career. She now serves as president of the company and has one partner.

Although her job changed, Ritter never really left education behind. She gladly worked to earn a variety of real estate certifications—Graduate Realtor Institute, Certified Residential Specialist, Certified Real Estate Brokerage Manager, Accredited Buyers Representative—and dedicated her time to teaching new agents the business.

“I really enjoy mentoring people,” Ritter said. “I’ve brought a lot of people into the business over the years and have enjoyed tremendously watching their growth.” Many leaders in Southeast Texas real estate can thank Ritter for getting them started in the profession.

Ritter has given her time to a number of professional and community organizations over the years, including serving as president of the Beaumont Board of Realtors in 1986 and as president of the Lamar University Alumni Board from 1987-88. The time she was able to devote to community service, however, was curtailed when her husband, Ken, became ill with Lewy Body Dementia in the early 1990s. He died at home in 2007.

Prior to his illness, the Ritters enjoyed traveling together, in part through her professional affiliations. Active membership in the International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI) took Ritter to international meetings with behind-the-scenes tours of London, Jerusalem and parts of Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Ireland and Australia. When Ken served as Beaumont mayor from 1970-78, they often accompanied him on business trips across the country. They also enjoyed annual trips to the Country Music Association Awards in Nashville through his work in the music business.

Now, after 40 years as a leader in Southeast Texas real estate, Ritter has reached another crossroads. She plans to retire this year and looks forward to travel and spending more time with family, especially her son, Mark Ritter ‘80. Finding fulfilling volunteer work is also on the horizon.

“I’m sure I will look back on it all and say how did I ever have time to work. I know that I will be just as involved in whatever I am doing as I have been in my real estate career,” Ritter said. “I’m just not one to stay home.” — Bob Dyer
Replicating life

by Larry Acker

Entering the Clinical Simulation Center, you feel as though you’ve been transported from university classrooms to hospital wing. Ten simulation labs are configured with the precise dimensions of a standard hospital room and furnished with the equipment and facilities future nurses will use. Each room hosts a patient on the bed; however, these patients, which nursing students examine and care for, are actually high-fidelity mannequins designed to mimic a myriad of bodily functions. As their assignment, junior- and senior-level nursing majors routinely assess the wellness status of their non-human patients while faculty instructors remotely control the interactive mannequins. Good assessments and actions on the part of the student elicit positive responses, while bad decisions bring negative responses from the patient. Unlike training in a traditional hospital setting where students follow and observe nurses, students are the leaders in the simulation lab and have the opportunity to communicate their findings with the physician to receive and implement interventions. These scenarios are not always available in the traditional clinical setting. The mannequins can have a heart attack every day, said Curl.

Mannequins can simulate breathing with the rise and fall of the chest, as well as the sounds of the heartbeat and lung functions. Student training also includes infant and pediatric models. Pediatric simulations are very important according to simulation lab coordinator LeAnn Chisholm. Children have a whole different set of normals for heart and respiratory rates and blood pressure, so knowing these normals helps students recognize the abnormalities, she said.

Possibly the most intriguing aspect of the simulation center is the birthing room, featuring a mannequin that imitates the full birthing process, complete with a newborn baby. Newborn simulations include various types of abnormal infant breathing to the extent that extremities will turn blue if insufficient oxygen is detected. The mannequin can replicate a variety of newborn medical situations, including the concave or convex appearance of the fontanel, the soft spot on the skull, to indicate whether there is too much or too little fluid present.

Junior nursing majors must manage the presences such as family members, clergy and other cultural issues that may arise in real life. Senior nursing majors must manage patients in five of the simulation rooms to further enhance the realities they will encounter in a hospital setting. In simulation, students are the decision makers and immediately see the results of their decisions in a real-time setting.

Students experience other real-world training situations as well. Through interdiscipliary simulations in conjunction with the Lamar Institute of Technology emergency medical technician paramedic and respiratory therapy programs, students act out emergency situations in role-playing scenarios that give students an opportunity to deal with live “patients.” These scenarios provide students the opportunity to deal with outside influences such as family members, clergy and other cultural issues that may arise in real emergencies.

Two groups of Lamar’s nursing instructors won prestigious statewide awards for these innovative teaching methods in 2011 and 2012 from the Texas Organization of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Education Programs. “We’re very proud of our nursing

“We have been told by health care professionals who have visited many nursing programs that our facility is one of the best in the country.” —EILEEN DEGES CURL

Photo by Luke Anderson
Planning for new energy

Picture hundreds of wind turbines in the Atlantic Ocean rimming the eastern edge of the U.S. and sophisticated equipment floating off the northwest coast to harness the Pacific Ocean’s wave energy. Those pictures could become reality in coming years as hydrocarbons become scarcer and the nation increasingly turns to alternative energy sources.

Mark Rouse ’75 and his colleagues at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management have spent the past few years planning for that future. An oceanographer by training, Rouse was among those who helped write national regulations for offshore renewable energy activities along the outer continental shelf off the U.S. coast. Rouse has worked for the federal government for 35 years. His career began with the U.S. Navy Oceanographic Office at Stennis Space Center near Bay St. Louis, Miss., where the Apollo and Space Shuttle engine testing took place.

Since 1982, he has worked primarily in the New Orleans office of the agency that manages federal offshore oil and gas activity, earning a few changes in the name and organization of the agency formerly known as MInerals Management Service and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement. He is a leader of a larger role of regulating federal offshore renewable energy activities along the outer continental shelf off the U.S. coast.

Along with a challenging career involving environmental and policy work related to offshore oil and gas exploration and production, Rouse has found that planning for the implementation of cutting-edge alternative energy technologies is interesting and rewarding. Rouse predicts that, for the most part, offshore renewable energy development will become common in state waters before major projects begin appearing in federal waters, where the permitting process can require the collection of more data.

Already Texas has a few offshore wind leases in state waters with meteorological towers collecting data needed to determine whether sites have sufficient, reliable winds that would allow wind turbines to make financial sense. He noted that many state governments have implemented energy plans, known as Renewable Portfolio Standards, that call for a certain percentage of retail energy sales to come from renewable sources by specific target years. Those renewable sources might include everything from onshore or offshore wind energy to hydrokinetic equipment to capture offshore wave or current energy to biomass or solar energy.

“A lot of states I’ve worked with over the years have been interested in getting projects started off their individual coasts. It’s not something that’s being pigeonholed; rather, it’s in the limelight right now,” Rouse said. “I think to come, you’ll probably see a phasing out of natural gas and oil as feedstock for electrical power generation and see more and more of the renewable energy taking hold. The country will eventually go in that direction.” —BG

Talent Behind the scenes

ring up Camera 2. Get ready remote camera for the live shot. Roll the highlight clip, now. Cut to commercial in 3…2…1…go.

Such are a few of the commands you might hear at the University of Texas Longhorn Network production studio where John Duff ’97 is associate director and an integral part of the production team. He found his way back to Texas via a decades-long career with ESPN. The LU grad is now using his talents a little closer to home in Austin, giving up the jet-setting lifestyle of an ESPN ‘sports director.

Although you won’t see his face on screen, what you will see comes from his visualization of how the show should unfold and his expertise in making the viewing experience as enjoyable and smooth as possible. From the age of 12, he knew exactly the path his life would follow. A short documentary on “Monday Night Football” showing the intricate behind-the-scenes mechanisms of the production studio cemented his decision to pursue a career behind the cameras.

“After graduating high school, there were three schools that were local, affordable and had great faculty,” he said. “I chose Lamar over Sam Houston State and Stephen F. Austin because of the hands-on experience you receive as a freshman. You weren’t just learning theory; you were actually in the studio pushing the buttons.”

If it never really at the time that his dream of being a sports director would lead him to produce some of the major sporting events held around the world. After a five-year stint as director with KBTV-TV, Channel 12, in Beaumont, he accepted a position with ESPN in 2002 and started living the dream. Possibly the highlight of his career happened when he spent six weeks in Johannesburg, directing the 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa tournament, soccer’s most prestigious event.

“I was involved in all the matches ESPN broadcast during the World Cup,” Duff said. “I only had six days off during the whole trip, but it had its advantages. I got to see the match between USA and Algeria in Pretoria that sent the USA to the next round of the finals. Eventually I was able to go on a photographic safari the last week of the trip, which was great.”

Duff fell in love with soccer while at LU, thanks to friends who were international students from Europe. Once you sit down and watch a match with people who really know the game and are big fans, you can’t help but come to love the game, he said. But the World Cup wasn’t the only milestone moment in a career that spanned many major sporting events.

Super Bowl XLIV (Saints vs. Colts), multiple NBA Finals Series and many more on-site assignments punctuate his stellar career. Ask him which sport he most enjoys directing, and his response might surprise you. His favorite assignments have been the Daytona 500. Duff has three Daytona 500 races under his belt and worked an additional 17 NASCAR races in 2007.

“The excitement and the passion of the people there is just amazing,” he said. "Being there in person is a totally different experience than watching it on television. Some of the tracks allow people to camp outside the track and some, like Daytona and Talladega, allow camping on the infield of the track. I’ve never seen anything like the festive atmosphere on Daytona 500 race day.”

Duff enjoys the excitement of being on site to direct shows for sporting events, but also enjoys working from the studio to direct pre-game, halftime and post-game analysis shows. He has four Emmy awards on his mantel piece, three awards in the D’Ally Studio Show category (one for Sports Center and one for Baseball Tonight) and an additional Emmy for his work at the 2010 World Cup in the Outstanding Live Sports Special category.

A native of D’Alardsville, population 350, near Livingston, Duff offers this advice to communication majors. Hard work and dedication to your craft are the keys to being successful and achieving your dreams, he said. Working the sidelines of high school football and baseball games, rolling cable at university sports events, and seizing every opportunity he could find is the way he made his dreams come true.

“Young people can do to get the experience you need to hone your craft and also exposure yourself to new experiences along the way you get to,” he said. “Sometimes you may have to work for free, but you’ll be ready when you step into that interview with ESPN or whatever organization happens to be your dream job.” —LA
A pair of presidents and first ladies: Former LU President and First Lady Bill and Sonya Franklin with First Lady Susan (Williams) Simmons ’68 and President James Simmons Ann (Hayes) Die Hasselmo ’66 DA, and her husband, Nils, attend the ceremony to honor University Professor Jerry Lin, the first Ann Die Hasselmo Faculty Scholar.

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2. Dean Russ and Susan Schultz with Lita (Cutler) ‘94 and Randy Hoy 3. S.L. and Natalie Greenberg (standing) with Natalie Rhodes.

4. Ball co-chairs Neil McCullum (Monte), Lamar University President Rodeheaver and Sandra (French) Clark ‘94 enjoy the art auction with Keaton and Susan O’Neal 5. Jefferson County Judge J. abby (Abby) Brazeal ’43 and Sherman (Boozer) Brazeal ‘44.

6. Regina Rogers, left, with Dr. Mark and Betty (Bennett) Kobza ‘57 7. John (Jiff) Bennett (Jiff) and Chelsea Tipton II.

Le Grand Bal 2012

“Some Enchanted Evening” transported guests to the South Pacific for a night of art, dancing and entertainment. Friends of the Arts presents the annual gala to raise funds for College of Fine Arts and Communication scholarships and learning opportunities.

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6. Regina Rogers, left, with Dr. Mark and Betty (Bennett) Kobza ‘57 7. John (Jiff) Bennett (Jiff) and Chelsea Tipton II.
Lamar honors Lin as 2012 University Professor

Lamar’s 1986 Regents Professor, who created and funded the Lamar University Faculty Excellence Fund, is Dr. Jerry Lin. Lin has demonstrated his arrival at Lamar in 1999 that he excels in every category of academic and professional achievement, said Jack Hopper, dean of the College of Engineering. “He is an exceptionally gifted teacher, receiving recognition, year after year, from his students and professional peers.” His record of funded research is unquestionably one of the best at Lamar. “He is an individual of tireless energy and unwavering commitment to academic excellence.”

Lin is an admired professor who “has been a great role model to our students,” said Robert Yuan, chair of the Department of Civil Engineering. “His energy and enthusiasm are highly addictive, and he is one of the most renowned researchers in the world.”

Lin holds a bachelor of science degree from Tatung Institute of Technology, a master’s degree in environmental engineering from Duke University and a doctor of philosophy in environmental engineering from the University of Cincinnati. His area of professional interest is the atmospheric transfer of heavy metals, especially mercury. In lay terms, said Stephen Dobrin, provost and vice president for academic affairs, he studies the complexities of mercury contamination in the food supply: “How air pollutants end up in the fish we eat.”

Lin has received more than $5.5 million in funded research since 2000. He has been a principal investigator or co-principal investigator on 55 funded projects. He has published 60 peer-reviewed articles, 10 of which are in the “25 Most-Cited Articles” by a leading research journal. Lin’s work also includes a book, titled “Lamar’s University Faculty Excellence.”

Lin has served as advisor for Lamar’s ASCHE chapter and has won 42 awards since 2000. Lin is a member of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Advisory Board; an “expert reviewer” of ERK’s mercury exposure model; a review panelist for the National Science Foundation; and a workshop member of the Texas Mercury-Impaired Water Initiative, among other roles reflecting his expertise.

A commitment to faculty excellence

Ann (Hoyes) Die Hasselmo ’66, a Lamar University distinguished alumna and a national leader and innovator in higher education, has realized a dream by creating the Lamar University Faculty Excellence Endowment.

Stephen Dobrin, provost and vice president for academic affairs, announced the endowment—which he described as “transformative” at Lamar’s annual university awards ceremony April 11.

“Our ceremony is doubly special because of the generosity of one of our own, the 1986 Lamar Regents Professor, Dr. Ann Die Hasselmo, “Dobrin said. “Today and henceforth, this ceremony will be underwritten by the endowment, and the university professor title—awarded for life—will also be designated the Ann Die Hasselmo Faculty Scholar for the subsequent year.”

As a student, I benefited from (faculty members) who gave their time to nurture me, to instruct me, to provide mentorship to me,” Hasselmo said. “They are faculty committed to excellence in education, research and student achievement. I believe we all have the obligation and commitment to pass on that which was given to us.”

Hasselmo graduated summa cum laude from Lamar State College of Technology, a master’s degree in environmental engineering. Bachelor of science in geology, the University of Texas at Austin; master’s degree in environmental science. Bachelor of science, Shandong University; master of science, Beijing University; doctor of philosophy, Louisiana State University; all chemical engineering.

Lamar honored three faculty members with 2012 University Merit Awards in recognition of outstanding performance in the classroom.

**J John Zhanhu Guo**, assistant professor of chemical engineering, Bachelor of science, Shandong University; master of science, Beijing University; doctor of philosophy, Louisiana State University; all chemical engineering. Students joined him in National Science Foundation (NSF)-supported research on advanced polymer nanocomposites, opens his research to student members of American Institute of Chemical Engineers and accompanies them to conferences, has pulled almost $1 million in research funding from Lamar, with additional involvement in multi-university remote tutoring project. Dr. Guo is a master’s degree and doctoral degrees in chemical and biological engineering. Lamar University; a leader in practitioner-researcher-trainer reviews for school districts, involved in a multi-university remote tutoring project. Served on a multi-state master teacher initiative and along with colleagues, has received grants totaling $5 million. Panel reviewer and grant evaluator for U.S. Department of Education, and accreditation team member, Council of Exceptional Education of the Dera.

**Melissa Rusher**, assistant professor of deaf studies and deaf education. Bachelor of science in deaf education, The University of Tulsa master’s and doctoral degrees in deaf studies and deaf education. Lamar University; a lead researcher-researcher-trainer reviews for school districts, involved in a multi-university remote tutoring project. Served on a multi-state master teacher initiative and along with colleagues, has received grants totaling $5 million. Panel reviewer and grant evaluator for U.S. Department of Education, and accreditation team member, Council of Exceptional Education of the Dera.

**Qin Qian**, assistant professor of civil engineering. Bachelor of science in geology, Nanjing University; master of science in software engineering, The University of Southern Mississippi; master’s in civil engineering. The University of Minnesota. H一字 and environmental engineering are areas of academic expertise. Has attracted almost $500,000 in research funding. Served as a reviewer for the National Science Foundation, Texas Transportation Institute, and scientific journals.

With more than 40 years in civil engineering, I have observed the careers of many professors. I can attest that Dr. Qin is truly outstanding in her research, teaching, and service.” — Robert Yuan, chair of the Department of Civil Engineering.
Castle finds strength in numbers

LUCAS CASTLE always knew he loved mathematics, but it wasn’t until he gained the confidence to do a little research that he discovered the field offered him a future full of possibilities.

“Growing up, I had this stigma in my mind that if you’re majoring in math, your only option was to teach,” said Castle. “But there are tons of opportunities out there for mathematicians that I was never aware of until recently.”

Upon high school graduation in 2008, Castle was awarded the Mirabeau Scholarship from Lamar University and made plans to study chemical engineering in the fall. The Beaumont native found college much more challenging than he had anticipated.

“In high school, I kind of breezed by, but college is very different from high school.”

Castle began looking at his options, and in Spring 2010 he was accepted into the ExxonMobil cooperative education program for chemical engineering where he worked off campus for the entire semester.

“I would have to go out into the field for four units. I was working in and doing a temperature and flow survey of all our heat exchangers, and I’d put all that data we collected from the field into an Excel spreadsheet where it would calculate the health of the exchangers and if there were any potential risks,” Castle explained. “I also designed an interactive map of the exchangers in my unit that would actually flag which exchange should be checked.”

In Summer 2011, Castle participated in the Summer Research Program at the University of Nebraska, where his applied mathematics group picked up where previous students had left off on an abstract fractional calculus equation. In two months of research, Castle and his partners broke ground when they found a general solution for the equation.

“The mathematicians have spent years and years on an equation before they’ve arrived at a conclusion, and this is stuff that nobody else has ever really looked at before,” said Castle. “We had this huge equation, and we managed to peel out the whole equation. We’ve put it in the equation, and it was awesome.”

“I finally started to give myself a chance and put myself out there, and it has really paid off,” said Castle. “I lacked confidence early in my education, and I feel like Lamar has really helped me to grow out of that. I feel like my accomplishments have been a direct result of me coming here, and I wouldn’t change that for the world. Now I’m trying to reach for things that are maybe a little outside of my reach — but I’m still confident as I reach.”

Castle plans to enter graduate school after his graduation in May 2012. —LB

Romero enjoys education as student and teacher

For junior KAYLEIGH ROMERO, the decision to pursue a career in education was made in the summer of her sophomore year of high school.

“I wanted to work somewhere where every day I’d have the opportunity to make a difference in someone’s life,” said Romero. “I found her calling at Lamar even before she enrolled as a student. Thinking she wanted to be an engineer, Romero volunteered for the ExxonMobil Bernard H. Ariss Summer Science Camp, a free residential camp hosted at Lamar for science, technology engineering and mathematics for middle-school honor students from Southeast Texas.

“While working as a counselor, Romero realized that working with children was what she enjoyed most about the experience.

“We had a robotics experiment with Legos where the students had to build and activate a robot, and they were intent that they could not do this thing. But when they finally figured out the programming, you could see it in their eyes,” said Romero. “You can see it in their faces when they all of a sudden understand something and they realize, ‘Oh, I could pursue this as a possible career, this is something I can use in my future.’

Upon graduation from West Brook High School in Beaumont in 2009, Romero was awarded a Mirabeau Scholarship from Lamar and entered as a major in mathematics with plans to teach at the high school level.

“In education, you always have that opportunity to open young minds to new ideas and experiences,” Romero said. “My challenge as a mathematician’s teacher will be to provide a learning environment that is challenging and exciting so that when students leave my classroom, they can’t wait to come back the next day.”

After her first semester, Romero decided she wanted to work with younger students and switched her major to interdisciplinary studies in 4-8 math.

“I like the way you can work with students at that age level,” Romero said. “You’re more receptive when you’re trying to introduce new challenging concepts. Lots of kids will tell you math is their least favorite subject, but usually it’s just a personal thing. They don’t like their math teacher, so they don’t like math. I want to try to break that cycle and show them that math can be fun.

“It’s impossible to think that every person will be interested in every subject,” said Romero. “But a mathematics teacher should connect a student to the subject matter in a way that transforms an uninterested student into one who at least appreciates and understands the subject by getting them involved and participating. Many times, students realize that they may actually have an interest in a subject they believed they detested.”

Romero said the education program at Lamar has been integral in developing her commitment to her career as an educator.

“I really appreciate that Lamar has worked so hard to get us into the local school districts for us to experience what teaching is all about. I was able to teach a Junior Achievement course as early as my first semester, allowing me to actually teach and make sure this was my calling. I’ve already had over 60 observation hours, and having experienced the reality of real-world teaching beforehand, to me, is essential. If a teacher fails, students fail. You have to know that you can be there to support your students.”

As her own experience as a student, Romero feels she has received a well-rounded education from Lamar. She chose electives in martial arts, popular music, dance and Asian literature. “College is a time to broaden your boundaries and explore your interests,” she said. Romero has always enjoyed sketching and painting, and recently added piano and sewing to her interests.

Romero also currently serves as vice president of the Honors Student Association and is a Lamar Ambassador. “I have had so many opportunities open up for me here. The generosity of the donors who contribute to Lamar through the Miracle Scholarship has helped so much, because that covers everything for me—tuition, fees, food, board, my books, my supplies—and I can’t think of anything that could make college better than not having to worry about debt while I’m in school. Also, being a Lamar Ambassador has allowed me to meet so many people and promote Lamar wherever I go.”

Romero is now lead senior counselor.
Quality of education cements decision for Wu

Like most high school seniors planning to attend college, ELIZABETH WU was faced with important decisions concerning her future. Upon her graduation in 2010, the Lubbck native was considering her options and hadn’t decided on a school—that is, until her mother showed Wu some interesting information from a Washington Post column picked up by newspapers nationwide.

“My mom actually sent me an article that said Lamar University students are more well-rounded when they graduate than students who went to Harvard University,” said Wu.

Based on the results of an educational study, the nationally syndicated column advised students to “Forget Harvard and think Lamar.” The column by the Post’s Kathleen Parker, which was published nationally, recognized Lamar’s “commitment to provide each Lamar University student every opportunity to succeed in their academic endeavors.”

Kevin Smith. “Our mission of preparing students for leadership and lifelong learning includes our commitment to student success and college readiness, having the tools they need to be successful, from the time they enter Lamar University until they earn their diplomas.”

“Student success has always been at the forefront of our efforts at Lamar University,” said Senior Associate Provost Kevin Smith. “Our mission of preparing students for leadership and lifelong learning includes our commitment to provide each Lamar University student every opportunity to succeed in their academic endeavours.”

Lamar 1101— the essential course for first-time Lamar University students

Many top universities offer a first-semester course that entering freshmen look for so they can learn the best ways to successfully navigate life and study on campus. Through Lamar 1101, new students will gain knowledge indispensable not only to their first year of college but also to each year thereafter as they work to walk across the stage and accept their hard-earned diplomas.

The course also assists students by giving them an opportu-

Lamar University’s core curriculum will grow even stronger this fall with the introduction of “Lamar 1101: University Success Seminar,” a one-credit, cross-discipli-

Lamar University has always been dedicated to preparing students to succeed—in the classroom, in their careers and as lifelong learners enhancing their communities.

A Washington Post column even advised students to “Forget Harvard and think Lamar,” recognizing the strength of LU’s core curriculum in providing students with a valuable, broad base of essential knowledge. This commitment equips students with a well-rounded, competitive education upon graduation.

Lamar University’s core curriculum will grow even stronger this fall with the introduction of “Lamar 1101: University Success Seminar,” a one-credit, cross-disciplinary, interactive course that meets twice each week. Readings, activities and discussions will focus on critical thinking and communication skills, quantitative literacy, social and ethical issues, campus resources, and academic and career exploration. In addition, another initiative—the Undergraduate Advising Center—will help students stay on track with meeting degree requirements each semester and accessing resources they may need to stay focused.

Wu is confident she was right to follow her interest in problem–

The course also assists students by giving them an opportu-

Lamar University’s core curriculum will grow even stronger this fall with the introduction of “Lamar 1101: University Success Seminar,” a one-credit, cross-disciplinary, interactive course that meets twice each week. Readings, activities and discussions will focus on critical thinking and communication skills, quantitative literacy, social and ethical issues, campus resources, and academic and career exploration. In addition, another initiative—the Undergraduate Advising Center—will help students stay on track with meeting degree requirements each semester and accessing resources they may need to stay focused.
Richard Gachot remembers his grandfather showing him beautiful pictures when he was a boy. Those images, and the stories behind them, helped ignite his passion for art and design, a passion lived out in his career and studies in architecture and interior design. Now that passion has led to a history that expands Russians' knowledge of one of their premier architects.

"I was born in New York," Gachot said, "but my mother is Russian. I became interested in architecture when I was a child. A collection of my grandfather's pictures included the outstanding Russian artist, architect and civil engineer Nikolai Vassilieve, and that left an indelible impression on me."

"Vassilieve became my grandfather's teacher and mentor," Gachot said. "I often visited my grandfather in the studio, saw his drawings and architectural designs. That all strongly influenced, of course, the choice of my profession. Now I teach design and architectural history."

Gachot is program director of interior design in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. He earned a bachelor of arts degree from Denison University in Granville, Ohio, a master of architecture from Columbia University and a master of arts in architectural history from the University of Texas, where he is now completing his doctor of philosophy in architectural history. In addition, he has studied in Paris at the Sorbonne and the Ecole de Beaux-Arts.

But it wasn't until recently that Gachot realized that the part of the story that he knew was lost to the people of Russia.

"It felt that honoring the memory of my grandfather I should write a book about his friend and mentor, one of the two graduates of the institute, Nicholas Vassilieve and his grandfa-

"Northern Modern" movement of Art Nouveau, a style that largely determined the identity of St. Petersburg architecture in the early 20th century. The architect designed opulent homes, the Friday Mosque next to the New York Central Tribune building, a villa in France for opera singer Feodor Chaliapin, a New York residence for émigré artist Victor de Tchetchet, skyscraper designs, as well as urban planning schemes for NYC.

"It was a tragic situation in the sense that this man built major buildings in St. Petersburg, but, when he came here, his career never reached those heights again," Gachot said. "Vassilieve and Gachot's grandfather met in Sea Cliff, a popular summer vacation destination for New York's Russian émigré community. Both were graduates of the same St. Petersburg architectural school, and their friendship grew strong, eventually collaborating on several projects."

The book, published in Russian, is the first detailed account of Vassilieve's period of immigration to America and introduces a number of architectural and graphic works through documents and illustrations published for the first time. "Russians know little about the 300 or more émigré architects that came to America during the Russian revolution," Gachot said. "They are trying to piece together their history and understand the massive brain drain that occurred after the October revolution when the artists went to Paris and the architects went to New York."

Vassilieve holds a pride of place among Russia's premier architects from the period before the Soviet revolution. Brilliant graphics and architectural talent cemented his reputation as the most talented of the masters of the "Northern Modern" movement of Art Nouveau, a style that largely determined the identity of St. Petersburg architecture in the early 20th century. The architect designed opulent homes, the Friday Mosque next to the Peter and Paul Fortress, the New Passage in St. Petersburg, the German drama theater and the house of Luther in Tallinn, as well as numerous original projects that were notable milestones in the history of residential and commercial modern architecture.

This tremendous period of Vassilieve's work in St. Petersburg is clearly discussed in the portion of the book written by Lisovski. The second, longer period of Vassilieve's life was, until recently, unknown in Russia. Now, thanks to Gachot's research, and decision to publish his work in Russian, the rest of the story is known. Gachot's work shows the fruitful creative work of Nikolai Vassilieve in the United States, where the architect lived in exile for three-and-a-half decades.

After the book was published, Gachot traveled to Russia and participated in a book tour that included book signings, lectures and tours of many of the works of Vassilieve.

"We gave the first lecture at the Singer House, known as the H-ouse of Books, a wonderful Art Nouveau building originally built for the Singer Sewing Machine Company, but converted to St. Petersburg's largest bookstore in 1919," Gachot said. "It is an incredible place. Later we presented at the St. Petersburg H-ouse of Architect, a beautiful mansion near the Faberge Company home of the St. Petersburg Society of Architects. Finally I was invited to go to the Institute of Architecture and Civil Engineers," Gachot said. "That was very touching for me because my grandfather, my great uncle and Vassilieve all graduated from there."

Gachot accepted an invitation to return to the institute in the spring to lecture to its students and faculty. On March 13, he delivered a lecture on three major influences in the development of modern American architecture: the discovery of Constructivism and the Russian avant-garde, the "culture of congestion" inspired by architect Rem Koolhaas' book Delirious New York and the disillusionment of the capitalist economic system. The following day, his lecture was more personal as he told "a tale of two architects," sharing the American experience of two graduates of the institute, Nicholas Vassilieve and his grandfa-

"The world has changed so much since they graduated, but I realized after my first lecture that little has changed within these walls," Gachot said. "The questions I received from enthralled students, the energy I felt in the halls and the high level of work I saw in the studios all reassured me that the university continues to produce students as gifted and talented as Vassilieve and Rialoff."
Admissions Visitors Center opens

Lamar University has opened a new Admissions Visitors Center to welcome prospective students and their families to campus. It is located inside the John Gray Center, Building A, at 835 Jim Gilligan Way on the south end of campus across from Vincent Back Stadium.

“For first-time visitors, their impression of campus is going to be what Lamar University truly is—It’s warm. It’s inviting. It’s comfortable,” said Maggie Cano, director of recruitment.

Recruitment personnel are joining several other members of the university’s new Strategic Enrollment Management Division at the new location. In addition to providing a warmer welcome, the new Center will allow recruitment staff members to better accommodate large groups wishing to tour the Lamar University campus. The Dr. Richard L. Price Auditorium inside the John Gray Center provides an ideal setting for formal presentations and question-and-answer sessions.

To schedule a campus visit or for more information on how to become a Lamar University student, please visit BeACardinal.com or call (409) 880-8316.

BeACardinal.com provides future Lamar University students, from first-time freshmen to transfers to online students, with all the information they need on how and why to be come students. Prospective students will find information on applying for admission, paying for college, living in Cardinal Village residence halls and more at BeACardinal.com.

LU online nursing ranks third in nation

U.S. News & World Report ranks the master of nursing online program in the JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing third in the nation for excellence in faculty credentials and training in its 2012 edition of Top Online Education Programs.

“The ranking exemplifies the quality of education provided by the faculty from their expertise in graduate nursing courses emphasizing nursing education and nursing administration,” said Eileen Curl, chair and professor in the nursing department.

Criteria for inclusion in the rankings were restricted to programs that offer a minimum 80 percent of the program requirements online. Lamar’s nursing program offers 100 percent of its course requirements online.

Lamar University adds six new online programs

The university is adding significantly to its online offerings with six new programs starting this fall. Four of these programs share the previously developed common core of courses. Lamar is launching a Bachelor’s of Science in communication, a Bachelor’s of Science in nursing, a B.B.A. in management, a B.B.A. in entrepreneurship, as well as a Master of Science in criminal justice and a certificate in English as a second language.

Online courses have been a major contributor to Lamar’s success in recent years. At present, 30 percent of Lamar’s credit hours are generated through online courses. In addition to providing a warmer welcome, the new Center will allow recruitment staff members to better accommodate large groups wishing to tour the Lamar University campus. The Dr. Richard L. Price Auditorium inside the John Gray Center provides an ideal setting for formal presentations and question-and-answer sessions.

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Lamar University ranks third in nation for online nursing programs on factors including class size, percentage of faculty with terminal degrees, best practices training and student services. Overall, Lamar’s online master’s program in nursing ranked higher than several Texas universities including Texas Tech Health Sciences Center, University of Texas Medical Branch and Texas Christian University. John H. oppkins University, Yale, Arizona State University and the University of Florida were a few leading schools that fell behind Lamar in the national rankings.
At the podium

LU, JASET host famed science explorer Ballard

Robert Ballard shared his adventures and scientific discoveries with more than 8,500 students, teachers and community members in the Montague Center during a program hosted by the jason Alliance of Southeast Texas. In addition to meeting Ballard, the students learned about forces and motion.

Stars in this year’s 30-minute video program were Lamar University faculty members Joe Pizzio and George Irwin, as well as experts from the Texas General Land Office Oil Spill Prevention and Response team and the National Weather Service Office in Lake Charles, La.

The jason Alliance of Southeast Texas (JASET) was formed 10 years ago in an effort to support the JASON Project, which was founded in 1989 by Ballard and is a subsidiary of National Geographic.

Chuck Mason ’72 was instrumental in founding the jason Alliance of Southeast Texas and bringing the program to Lamar.

Ballard is well known for his discovery of the Titanic. After his unique find, adults and children alike wished they could see what he was exploring. Ballard started using technology to show students what he was seeing when he was exploring. This eventually evolved into designing a math and science curriculum for students in the 4th-8th grades.

Humans at the end of the Ice Age

The Lamar University chapter of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, hosted Ted Goebel, associate director of the Center for the Study of the First Americans, in a lecture March 22. His topic is “Humans at the End of the Ice Age: Coping with Climate Change. Circa 10,000 BC,” provided a glimpse into what life was like for those who lived during the last great climatic change.

Goebel’s research focuses on the Ice Age origins of the first Americans. Throughout his career he has worked on Paleolithic and Paleo-Indian sites in remote areas of Russia, Alaska, and the intermountain west of North America (California, Oregon, Utah, and Idaho).

“In Alaska, our team’s research focuses on explaining variability in human technologies of Pleistocene Beringians,” Goebel said. “Since 2009, we have excavated a buried fluted-point site called Serpentine Hill at Springs, which dates to about 12,000 years ago and is in the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve.”

Sports medicine expert discussed activity and biology


Numerous general media outlets has featured Lightfoot’s research, including the Los Angeles Times, Time.com, National Public Radio, the Rush Limbaugh show, CNN, the BBC, Today Show, MSNBC, Houston Talk radio, Revista Epoca (a Brazilian weekly magazine), and on Australian National Radio.

Sigma Tau Delta hosts poetry reading

The Lamar University chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, international English honor society, hosted its annual initiation ceremony April 12 to honor 11 new inductees.

Janel Lowrey, professor and Cullen Chair of English and Creative Writing at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, read logues spoken by women from mythological tales.

Alumni encourages students to “manage their own brand”

Roland Rodriguez ’74 was the keynote speaker at the inaugural Emerging Leaders Banquet of the Alpha Upsilon chapter of Phi Iota Alpha.

The Lamar University chapter of the oldest Latino fraternity in the U.S. was established in 2011. Rodriguez emphasized the importance of opportunities available through Lamar University and encouraged the students and prospective students in the audience to take control of their own destiny and to become the manager of their own brands. Rodriguez told the audience that Lamar had been a “door opener” for him throughout his career and persuaded them to follow their passions while seeking their careers.

Roland is the managing partner of MFR, P.C., a certified public accounting and advisory firm with offices in Houston and The Woodlands. The firm was recently named the 11th-largest Houston-area accounting firm by the Houston Business Journal.

Rogers honoree sees service as ‘something I’m supposed to do’

Because of her devotion to dozens of organizations and causes, Lamar University selected Antoinette Mays ’07 as its 2012 recipient of the Julie and Ben Rogers Community Service Award. A Beaumont resident and LU staff member since 2008, Mays is an administrative assistant in the Office of Alumni Affairs.

“As I look around this campus, I see Mays’ efforts at every turn. Whether it’s an event, a service project or a good deed, she is there in a heartbeat,” President James Simmons said during the ceremony. “Imagining, then, that all that Mays means to the community at large— to civic and religious groups, schools, fund-raisers and efforts against domestic violence and on behalf of causes ranging from victims’ assistance to mental health.”

Regina Rogers represents the Rogers family in presenting the awards, which Julie and Ben Rogers established in 1979 to encourage Lamar faculty and staff members to volunteer their services and talents to benefit the community.

“It doesn’t matter whether you have a lot of money or a little bit,” Mays said. “If you can help somebody I think you’ve done a whole lot. In my heart, it feels like something I’m supposed to do. It’s humbling to be there for somebody. It makes you thankful. It makes you know you made a difference, but it wasn’t really you who made the difference.”

“To me, it’s because of God. It’s the God in me that makes me reach out and help other people because people were always there for me.”

Rogers honoree sees service as ‘something I’m supposed to do’
Chinese tallow growth negative for native bird species

Unfettered growth of Chinese tallow trees in the southeastern U.S. does not bode well for native bird species, Lamar University researchers concluded.

The findings are from research conducted in 2009 and 2010 that will soon be published in The Condor, the international journal of the Cooper Ornithological Society. As a graduate student, Katty Gifford ’10 conducted the study that, under the direction of Jim Armacost, assistant professor of biology, demonstrated the effects of the invasive plant species on native biodiversity.

“Invasive species can have tremendous impacts in many other ways as well, prompting The Texas State University System to create the Institute for the Study of Invasive Species. The institute is the state’s first comprehensive research effort focused on the early detection and elimination of multiple invasive species. Housed at Sam Houston State University, the institute draws from the experience of more than 40 researchers within the university system. The threat of invasive species is particularly keen in Texas. As a major transportation hub with many ports, Texas is a key point of origin for the nation’s new threats of invasive species. The red fire ant, zebra mussel, giant salvinia, water hyacinth, Chinese tallow and Formosan termites are just a few of the invaders to enter Texas. To date, more than 800 aquatic and terrestrial species have invaded Texas. The impact of these species is far-reaching, including threatening the nation’s food supply, damaging infrastructure, destroying natural resources and reducing water supplies.

“Although invasive plant species negatively affect invaded ecosystems and diminish native biodiversity, they may provide food and other resources for some native birds,” Armacost said.

“What is not well documented is whether dense stands of Chinese tallow can adequately provide suitable habitat for many of the forest species of forest birds,” he said. “We wanted to see if monotypic stands—that is, areas where the invasive Chinese tallow trees are dominant—are good habitat for native forest birds such as northern cardinals, Carolina chickadees and Carolina wrens.”

Using six study plots in Jefferson and Hardin counties, Gifford, from Victoria, and Cody Conway ’10, then an undergraduate biology major from Orange, used point counts to compare habitat use of forest birds in native mixed-species forest stands, mature tallow stands and young tallow stands.

Through their year-round observations, the pair found mature tallow stands supported significantly fewer species of forest birds than native forest stands only during the spring migratory period, but bird population densities were similar in mature tallow and native forest stands throughout the year. Young tallow stands, however, supported significantly fewer species of forest birds than native forest stands in all seasons except for fall, and significantly lower bird population densities during the breeding season.

“While monotypic stands of Chinese tallow trees provide suitable habitat for some forest bird species, especially in winter, the preservation of native mixed-species forest stands is recommended to preserve overall forest bird diversity,” Armacost said.

“Invasive species pose the second-greatest threat to biodiversity of native species after habitat loss,” Armacost said. “Invasive species, by and large, have been introduced to new areas by humans, sometimes intentionally, sometimes unintentionally.”

Community Outreach Program receives Entergy Texas grant

As a result of a long-standing partnership to focus on low-income initiatives, the Entergy Texas Charitable Foundation has awarded a grant to the Lamar University Community Outreach Program to develop a needs assessment study for rural areas of Southeast Texas. Elton Payne, the outreach program manager, will engage experts at the LU Center for Public Policy Studies to conduct the study targeting the predominantly rural areas of Jefferson, Orange, Hardin, Jasper, Chambers, Polk, Tyler, Liberty and Newton counties.

The study will assess the personal, financial, health and wellness, and other safety and security needs of selected individuals and families in the region.

“This study will be used as a framework for new and existing programs to assess their outcomes and provide the foundation for strategic planning for the creation of new programs that will help to move families from poverty to self-sufficiency,” Payne said.

The study will enlist the service of undergraduate students from the LU Department of Political Science’s honors American government course and the advanced research methods course as well as the assistance of graduate students from the master of public administration program.

Nursing graduates pass exam at state’s fourth highest rate

Recently posted statistics show LU’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) graduates passed the Texas Board of Nursing National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses from October 2010 to September 2011 at a rate of more than 97 percent.

Lamar’s rate was the fourth highest in Texas with only the graduates of the nursing programs at the University of Texas at Austin A&M Health science centers and a much smaller program at East Texas Baptist University passing at a higher rate. Of the 71 candidates who took the NCLEX exam, 69 passed.

“The James Gay Dishman Department of Nursing at Lamar University is leading the way for the nursing community by providing excellent career preparation for our students,” said Eileen Curt, chair of the department. “This is an outstanding compliment to our department faculty and clinical agencies, as well as validating the quality of our BSN curriculum.”

Deaf studies selected for $500,000 incentive award

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has selected the doctoral program in deaf studies and deaf education for a $500,000 incentive award.

The selection is the second University Funding for Excellence in Specific Program & Fields Incentive Award. Established in 2009 by the Texas Legislature as a component of House Bill 51, the award assists general academic teaching institutions in developing and maintaining national excellence in specific programs or fields of study.

Two consultants from Gallaudet University, the world’s only university in which all programs and services are designed to accommodate deaf and hard of hearing students, were selected to review the application and establish criteria for determining national excellence.

The program provides graduate students with the knowledge and skills necessary to become effective leaders and researchers in the field, said Tony Martin, chair of the department of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education.

“Throughout our 19-year history, Lamar’s Deaf Studies and Deaf Education program has embraced the cultural diversity that our doctoral students have brought to the university,” Martin said. “Our faculty is proud of the significant contributions that our graduates have made to the fields of art, linguistics, Deaf education, criminal justice and sign language interpreting, and we are excited about the opportunity to further promote future leaders in Deaf education who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. This award will greatly add to the department’s successful productivity.”

“Our outstanding faculty and staff are to be congratulated for being only the second program in the state to be approved for such a significant award,” said Russ Schultz, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication.
Three engineering seniors take top honors

Three electrical engineering seniors took top honors in the Annual Center for the Commercialization of Electric Technologies/Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Student Design Contest. Taking first place were team leader Henry Eads and Max Morgan, of Beaumont, and Aaron Hall, of Spurger. The three are enrolled in the senior design course taught by Harley Myers, McIفصل Chair of Engineering. Their senior design project earned a $2,000 prize.

The Center for the Commercialization of Electric Technologies (CCET) in Austin sponsors the annual student design contest in cooperation with IEEE Region 5. CCET is a consortium of electric utilities, high-technology firms, research companies and universities researchers committed to advancing the power market by increasing the reliability, security, power quality and efficiency of electric power. The problems posed to the students are real ones faced by the electric utility industry that may be applied in the field as practical solutions. In the 2011-2012 contest, students were asked to design a power system enhancement to complement an existing wind farm. Student designs were asked to add battery storage and solar photovoltaic arrays and consider the adequacy of supporting infrastructure (e.g., substations, inverters) to improve the load factor of utility-scale renewable energy to the grid and evaluate overall economics.

The LU students’ project was named CARDINAL CADENCE. Three electrical engineering seniors took top honors in the Annual Center for the Commercialization of Electric Technologies/Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Student Design Contest. Taking first place were team leader Henry Eads and Max Morgan, of Beaumont, and Aaron Hall, of Spurger. The three are enrolled in the senior design course taught by Harley Myers, McIفصل Chair of Engineering. Their senior design project earned a $2,000 prize.

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Advising Federation brings home trophies

Two students from Lamar University’s Ad Fed were on the first- and third-place teams for the American Advertising Federation-Houston Student Conference/Competition. Six Lamar University Ad Fed students participated in the November competition: Chelsea Moore, trip planner and senior communication major from Nederland, third-place team; Christopher Bahnsen, junior, graphic design, Lumberton, first-place team; Tyler Kimball, president and senior communication major, Port Neches; Ramonica Scipion, treasurer and senior communication major, Beaumont; Nhu Pham, senior communication major, Port Arthur; and Damon Selman, freshman marketing major, Beaumont.

Each of 18 teams, consisting of one student from each university participating, was sent to a different advertising or media outlet in Houston and had eight hours to develop a fully integrated advertising campaign for the client. The top three teams were honored at an awards ceremony where video presentations were viewed. Ad Fed is a student organization that provides students with hands-on experience to prepare them for advertising careers. "When I was a student at Lamar, I joined Ad Fed because it was a class requirement," said Dawn Katz, instructor of communication and faculty advisor of Ad Fed. "I was able to participate in a real advertising campaign, network with students from across the country and build my portfolio and resume. Fast forward several years and I find myself lucky to have the opportunity to now serve as the faculty advisor."

University Press earns statewide honors

The University Press won 24 awards in competition of the Texas Intercolligate Press Association (TIPA) for work published during 2011. The awards were announced at the organization’s annual convention held March 29-31 in Corpus Christi. The awards included seven first-place honors.

The University Press also won second place in the 2011 Associated Press Managing Editors (APME) awards competition for non-daily student newspaper. The U.P has been recognized by APME for four consecutive years, and 12 times overall. In TIPA competition, the U.P placed third in overall excellence for work published in 2011. The newspaper received honorable mention for best-in-show, which was judged on a recent single issue submitted at the convention.

"I am very proud of the paper and of our staff," said Editor Andrew Strange. "They have all worked very hard at putting together a quality paper, and it shows at competition. I am quite happy with the results." More than 3,000 students from across Texas compete in the awards. TIPA comprises 59 schools.

MBAs students invited to Aspen Institute competition

MBA students will join those from 24 other leading business schools from around the world as they compete for recognition and $40,000 in prize money by exploring the significant and positive influence that well-managed business can have on society.

Through the analysis of a new business case study authored by the Yale School of Management, the Aspen Institute’s 2012 Business & Society International MBA Case Competition inspires future business leaders to innovate at the intersection of corporate profitability and positive environmental and social impact.

“This unique case competition inspires students at 25 forward-thinking MBA programs to tackle real-life business challenges directly related to serious societal issues," said Nancy McGee, director of the Aspen Institute’s Center for Business Education. Students will have 72 hours to analyze and respond to a new business and society-focused case study.

College of Business and INVISTA partner

Southwest Texas business leaders enhanced their entrepreneurial skills at a seminar geared toward business owners and managers, civic leaders, executives and board members at not-for-profit organizations and governmental entities.

Lamar University partnered with INVISTA to host “Unleashing the Entrepreneurial Potential of Your Organization.” The seminar included lectures, case studies and exercises to explain Market-Based Management® concepts effectively used by Koch Industries and its subsidiaries, including INVISTA, worldwide. MBB® is based on concepts which include vision, virtue and talents, decision rights, incentives and knowledge processes. Tony Woodlief, former president of the MBM® Institute in Wichita, Kansas, led the seminar.

Woodlief has worked extensively with the MBM® Team at Koch Industries, and is a frequent contributor to The Wall Street Journal and other publications. He is also a former president of the Mمصrits Center at George Mason University, a center for economic research.

“Entrepreneurship is the practice of profitably delivering what customers need, often before they even know they need it,” said Woodlief. “It’s solving problems quickly, and responding to changing market demands, and always remembering that what matters is not how hard you work, but how much value you provide to your customers.”

Koch Industries, MBM® Institute

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An Unquenchable Thirst for former nun-LU alumna

When Mary Johnson ’00 graduated from Lamar with a bachelor of arts in English, the former nun hadn’t quite reconciled with her decision to leave the Missionaries of Charity. After 20 years of devoted service to the poor under the administration of Mother Teresa, Johnson needed 10 years and “a room of her own” to reflect on her experiences.

Armed with her English degree and a tangle of memories from her former life as a nun, Johnson arrived at Georgia O’Keeffe’s Artists’ House and Museum, only to be accused of not being a writer. “I had this moment of despair,” Johnson recalled. “I wondered, ‘Am I a writer?’”

Eventually, Johnson found an oasis to untangle the last 20 years of her life. Bassett invested in Johnson with financial support, resulting in the A Room of My Own Foundation and a critically acclaimed memoir.

Johnson returned to Lamar last fall for a reading of her memoir, An Unquenchable Thirst: Following Mother Teresa in Search of Love, Service, and an Authentic Life. Her book generated 50,000 copies in its first printing and quickly attracted attention. The book was featured in the September/October issue of Poets & Writers and the October issue of O, The Oprah Magazine.

“Those who knew me when I was at Lamar in 1976 probably remember someone who didn’t smile as much as I do these days,” Johnson said. “We weren’t supposed to have friends, even among the sisters. Adjusting to life in the real world after the convent was a challenge.”

Johnson left the University of Texas in 1977 to join the sisters as an aspirant in the South Bronx, N.Y. She watched as 12 aspirants in the convent dwindled to two, as most could not handle a life devoid of privacy, affection, and independence. Even hot water. But a then-19-year-old Johnson, who would be called Sister Donata (meaning “sweety ginger”) continued on to work in Washington, D.C., Winnipeg, Canada, and Rome.

She struggles throughout the memoir to suppress her doubts. “I started to feel as though I was suffocating,” Johnson explained to one guest who inquired as to why she finally left. “They were becoming more narrow-minded. I was still very devoted to the ideals of the group, but I couldn’t breathe anymore.”

After leaving the order in 1997, Johnson returned to Beaumont, took a full-time job at St. Anne’s Church and enrolled at Lamar to complete the degree she had left behind more than two decades earlier. It was at Lamar where Johnson learned to express herself through words and began to assemble her memories from her experience within the confines of the convent.—LB

Lit Fest launches LU Press

Authors in fiction, creative non-fiction and poetry visited campus Feb. 13-15 for the Lamar Literary Festival. In addition to showcasing the works of Lamar faculty and regional authors published through Ink Brush Press, the event celebrated the launch of Lamar University Press.

“This means something great for the community because it will be a new local source for literature,” said Jim Sanderson, professor of English and writing director. “It puts us on the map because regional, small literary presses are all but being wiped out.”

The festival featured readings by Jan Seale of McAllen, the 2012 Texas poet laureate; Jerry Crawford ’64 of Jasper, editor of LU Press and founder and director of Ink Brush Press; Terry Dalrymple and Chris Ely of San Angelo; Palmer Hall ‘64 of San Antonio; Dave Kuhn of Fort Worth; and former Texas Andrew Geyer of Aiken, S.C. Featured LU faculty members included professors Sanderson, Jerry Bradley and R.S. “Sam” Gwynn; joined by instructor Gretchen Johnson. Seale and Johnson read from their collections—A disappearance and The Joy of Deception, respectively—the first publications of LU Press.

Natural Poetry Month

The Lamar Writing Center celebrated National Poetry Month with a reading by faculty members and students April 30. The event featured R. S. “Sam” Gwynn, university professor of English, post-in-residence at Lamar and author of No Word of Farewell and The Drive In; Jerry Bradley, professor of English and author of The Importance of Elsewhere and Simple Versions of Others; Anne-Christine Rudholm (Ana Cristina Rudholm y Balmaceda), instructor of English and modern languages, featured poet in CanCa; and Dolph Martinez. Also including Chris Ellery of San Angelo; Palmer Hall ’64 of San Antonio; and Jesse Doiron, instructor at Lamar, the series takes a colorful cast of characters from the borderlands of West Texas to the neighborhoods of San Antonio, Sanderson’s hometown. Ink Brush Press is the publisher of Dolph’s Team.

“Write about Texas is to write about life on borders—the border with Mexico, the border between the not-so-good old days and the questionable future, and the often confusing border between the good guys and the bad guys,” said reviewer Beth Hadas of the University of Texas at Austin. “Jim Sanderson has been writing on these borders for years, and, if you have enjoyed his bitter-sweet crime fiction, you will love Dolph’s Team.”

Semi-retired and drinking with his buddies, former Border Patrol agent Martinez gets a case when one of his crooks is murdered in the bedroom of Big John’s Ice House. He gathers his team—characters from the other novels—and, using a bug-exterminating truck, they spy on the bad guys. One critic wrote: “Dolph’s Team has all the plot points of a suspense novel, but it is actually a meditation on aging.”


“This is the first comprehensive assessment in English of the life and legacy of an important, underrated voice from mid-20th-century Central Europe,” according to the publisher, Academica Press.

“For over 60 years, literary historians have worked to preserve and promote the writings of Jewish exile writers, like Ernst Weiss, and other victims of World War II and Nazi oppression,” Saur said. “I am proud to make this contribution to that effort.”

After the Nazi takeover of Germany and Austria, he lived several years in Paris until committing suicide when Nazi troops invaded the city. Although his career was cut brutally short, he left behind many fine plays, stories, essays and novels that have never had the readership they deserve. I hope this book will bring attention to his talent and importance.”

Sanderson pens fourth novel in suspense saga

Lamar’s Jim Sanderson has published the fourth novel in his Southwest saga of murder, mayhem and richly defined heroes and anti-heroes. With Dolph’s Team, Sanderson spins off a storyline that includes El Camino del Río, set in the Big Bend and which introduced readers to the title character, Dolph Martinez. Also including Safe Delivery and La Mordida, the series takes a colorful cast of characters from the borderlands of West Texas to the neighborhoods of San Antonio, Sanderson’s hometown. Ink Brush Press is the publisher of Dolph’s Team.

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Opera, New Jersey style

What do Snooki, Tony Soprano and D’Ante’s Divine Comedy have in common?

They’re elements that inspired Lamar Opera Theatre’s update of Gianni Schicchi, a one-act farce based on an incident in Dantes epic poem. The company staged the work in its original Italian, with English subtitles, March 30-31 in Rodwell Recital Hall. Adam Piper of Chesapeake, Va., performed the title role. With music by Giacomo Puccini and libretto by Giovavchino Forzani, Gianni Schicchi premiered in 1918 at the Metropoila Opera in New York, the third in Puccini’s trilogy of one-act operas.

“Gianni Schicchi is the comic relief of Puccini’s trilogy,” said Senter Ibar, director of the opera theatre and visiting assistant professor of voice. “It offers a clever examination of the diverse feelings and reactions from a family confronted with the demise of a wealthy patriarch.

“It’s a very intelligent and witty story of greed and love,” said Ibar. “I chose New Jersey as the backdrop because of the malicious confusion. The original idea for my adaptation came from The Soprano, with some character ideas borrowed from Jerray Share. The audience makes an instant connection with these pop-culture icons, and it helps them relate to the show.”

A joyful noise

Lamar’s award-winning PSU Gospel Choir brought a new genre of music to the March 6 evening. Founded Psalm 150 Gospel Choir and has been its director since 1979. During the Lamar’s award-winning Psalm 150 Gospel Choir brought a new genre of music to the March 6 evening.

During the A joyful noise.

During the opera, the ensemble performed at the University’s spring concert May 1. “Film and Swing” ran the musical gamut from film scores by Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich to works by Henry Mancini and other selections, including arrangements by Wayne Dyess, director of jazz studies. Kurt Gilman, associate professor of music and coordinator of strings, conducted the orchestra.

C-SPAN visits Lamar in national tour

With the camera lens focused prominently on Lamar University Beaumont was the first stop on C-SPAN’s “LCV Cities-Tour,” which attracted a national audience Feb. 4 and 5. C-SPAN visited Beaumont for a week in January as it prepared to feature Beaumont’s history and literary life on BookTV (C-SPAN 2) and American History TV (C-SPAN 3). Working in partnership with Time Warner Cable, C-SPAN producers visited various literary and historic sites, interviewing local historians, authors and civic leaders.

To kick off the project, the crew visited Lamar’s Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum at an event attended by Beaumont Mayor Becky Ames and city leaders and historians.

Among History TV programming highlights was an interview with Mark Osborne, director of the museum, about the history of the boomtown. At the McFaddin-Ward House, Judith (Walker) Lindsey ’67, curator of interpretation and education, talked about the history of the home, which was built after the oil boom. Lindsey is an adjunct instructor of history at Lamar.

Ryan Smith, executive director of the Texas Energy Museum, talked about the oil industry the technologies associated with oil drilling and the culture that has grown up around oil. Focusing on civil rights, producers interviewed Robert Robertson ’65, adjunct instructor of history, who discussed desegregation lawsuits and 1953 race riots.

In campus interviews for BookTV, C-SPAN visited J. Lee Thompson, professor of history, author of The Louisville Democrat: A Branded, and Jeff Forrert, associate professor of history, author of Race Relations at the MArgins, Slave & Poor W.Hites in the Antitablut Southern Countryside. C-SPAN also interviewed Penny Clark, LU archivist, during a stop at the Archives and Special Collections in the Mary and John Gray Library.

The halls of the Dishman Art Museum were enlivened April 4-26 with the comical capers of critters large and small with the exhibition of Curious Creatures: Art by Ursula Vernon. Vernon, a freelance illustrator, author and cartoonist, is best known for the popular children’s book Dargonbreath, which features the adventures of a young dragon named Danny as he makes his way in the world. Vernon attended the opening reception, where attractions included screening of the animal film Spirited Away and Japanese pop music played by Jason Miller and Matthew Myers, co-hosts of KVLU’s Space C. Curious Creatures by Ursula Vernon directed the production Feb. 23-26. The play tells the story of M aureen Folan, a plain and lonely woman in her early 40s, and Mag, her manipulative, aging mother. M aurie’s interfering in M aureen’s first chance of a loving relationship sets in motion a train of events that leads toward a terrifying conclusion.

The Mary Moore Department of Music presented a faculty recital Feb. 19 featuring performances by Robert Coburn, horn; Wayne Dyess, trombone; Rodney Keele, baritone; Dwight Peice, piano; and Brian Shook, trumpet. The program included original compositions by Keele and instructors J ake Benson and Gary Mizner . . . The Department of Theatre & Dance turned dance f ocus on Beaumont with its production of Dance Unleashed April 17-
Four notable Lamar University alumni were honored as distinguished alumni for 2012 during a dinner Feb. 28. The Alumni Advisory Board’s Distinguished Alumni Awards Committee made the selections for the prestigious annual awards. Cardinal standards | Jim Gilligan, LU head coach for men’s baseball and Steve Moore, CEO for the Country Music Association, were honored as distinguished alumni. Community leader Don Pumphrey was honored as distinguished alumnus for community service and Michele Smith, local attorney and community leader, as distinguished young alumna.

LU alumni submitted nominations based on criteria that include notable accomplishments in the nominee’s chosen profession. The honorees also display integrity and character that inspire pride for the university and its alumni and have demonstrated recognition of the importance of Lamar in their careers, deeds and actions.

“[Steve] worked his way up the chain of command [at the Country Music Association], serving on the board of directors, as president, then chairman and then in 2010, he marched the parade when he was named to the post of chief executive officer . . . To put this in perspective, Steve was just named to Billboard’s Power 100 at number 61. That is ahead of Simon Cowell, Lady Gaga and Taylor Swift.”—Dean Russ Schultz, College of Fine Arts and Communication

“The DNA of Lamar goes pretty deep in myself, my wife and my family . . . During one of my trumpet lessons, Dr. Omelza introduced me to a young lady from Coral Gables, Fla., who was looking for Lamar as a possible student. Her name was Charmione Rayfield ´79. The rest of my lesson didn’t go so well that day, but I remember going home that afternoon and telling my mother that I had met the woman I was going to marry. That’s kind of presumptuous, but if you’re a promoter, you’d say just about anything.”—Steve Moore

Jonathan Gouthier, campus photographer

DON PUMPHREY ’88 consistent and reliable point-man for community service and community relations for more than 40 years • 32-year career in the electrical utility industry—the last 16 years with the Entergy Corporation • Key account manager • early career, television reporter for KJAC-TV in Port Arthur and KFDM-TV in Beaumont in the early ‘70s. City of Beaumont community relations coordinator and community development coordinator, and Equitable Opportunity Commission of Southeast Texas, advocate for children, the elderly and at-risk populations • administered the “Project Care” energy assistance program for senior citizens for nine years while working for Gulf States Utilities • continues espoused assistance efforts for children as board member and president for Boys Haven of America; member of the advisory board for Arch of Diocese; board member for the Port Arthur Public Schools Foundation, the Hughen School of Port Arthur and St. Anthony’s Catholic School; and was named Lamar University Distinguished Alumnus as the Church One Child, an adoption advocacy group • memberships and board service also includes the Lamar University Alumni Advisory Board, Greater Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce, Nederland Chamber of Commerce, the American Red Cross, Southeast Texas Workforce Planning Committee, Goodwill Industries of Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana, the Golden Triangle United Way coordinating Council, the Medical Center of Southeast Texas • member of the Rotary Club of North Port, Florida where he is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, the most prestigious honor Rotary International can bestow • active member of St. Pius X Catholic Church of Beaumont • graduate of Leadership Beaumont and Leadership Southeast Texas • 30-year member and past president of the Press Club of Southeast Texas

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“I would offer this advice to any young person: always be kind to others and always have a true passion for what you do.”—Steve Moore

Jonathan Gouthier, campus photographer

LU salutes exceptional Cardinals

LU’s longest-serving baseball coach — on staff for 35 years — reached more than 1,200 wins during the Cardinal’s 2011 campaign, a feat accomplished by only five other active NCAA Division I baseball coaches • took the team twice to within one game of the College World Series • moved to the majors in 1987 for five seasons before returning to his alma mater in 1992 • led the Cardinals to the NCAA Regional Tournament in 2010, the most recent of 13 regional tournament appearances • 12 conference championships and five conference tournament championships • More than 150 of his players have moved to professional teams and many more to coaching careers at all levels • earned five Southland Conference Coach of the Year honors • inducted to the Texas Baseball Hall of Fame. A Southland Conference Hall of Fame induction followed in 2010 • internationally known for assisting in the formation of the Chinese Professional Baseball League and leading a coaching baseball clinic in Zimbabwe

“When I was offered this job at Lamar; I knew very little about the university, and I began gathering information from colleagues at my former institution. One of my favorite deans got excited by my query, he nearly fell off his chair. Jim Gilligan, JM GILLIGAN, he repeated. Incredibly ignorant, I asked, ‘Is he a dean?’ ‘Yes,’ he replied, DEAN OF BASEBALL — Dean Hollis Lowry-Wilks, College of Education and Human Development

“This first team I ever played with was a street gang in New York . . . every one of those guys are either dead or in jail. That’s one reason why tonight is very special to me. I really am blessed to have had great friends and players over the years. It makes this the greatest job you could ever have.”—Jim Gilligan

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

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

50s
In honor of Goos (David) England ’55, B.S. elementary education, the Klein Elementary school district is naming a school facility the Goos-England Early Childhood/Pre-Kindercenter. England earned a master’s degree from the University of North Texas and a doctoral degree from Texas Woman’s University. She is an assistant professor at the U of St. Thomas in Houston. She lives in Spring with her husband, Bill.

Maury (Perry) Wester ’56, earned a bache- lor’s degree in physical therapy from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. She practices as a physical thera- pist for five years and retired from teaching elementary school after 35 years. She lives in Dallas with her husband, Dan.

Don Cousins ’57, B.S. industrial engineering, retired from a 30-year career in military and civil service. He also held positions in private industry in Houston. Gene Nini ’58, B.B.A. accounting, earned a master’s degree in business from the University of Arizona and a doctoral degree from Louisiana State University. He lives in Baton Rouge, LA.

60s
Jerry Dickson ’60, B.S. social science, retired as a field engineer for ExxonMobil. He lives in Seabrook with his wife, Sarah.

Teresa (Durrett) Robichaud ’60, B.S. com- mercial art, is a bank administrator for Bay Area National Bank in Houston. She lives in Seabrook with her husband, Tommie ’60, B.S. industrial engineering.

Amitee (Robert) Clark ’61, B.F.A. graphic design, earned master’s degrees from the University of New Orleans. She is an art director for Design Associates and lives in Kemah.

Philip Wright ’62, B.S. industrial engineering, earned a master’s degree from Arizona State University. He is retired and lives in Austin with his wife, Beth (Cockey) ’62, B.S. home economics. She is an interior designer.

Lindsey King ’63, B.B.A. management, works for Industrial Bearing Solutions in Houston. She is married to her husband, Jim. She lives in Houston.

Steve Owen ’63, B.A. government, ’71, M.B.A. Business administration earned a doctoral degree in management from the University of North Texas. He is professor emeritus in management at Western Carolina University and has been accepted as a mem- ber of the National Academy of Arbitrators. He lives in Cullowhee, NC.

Linda K. (Concienne) Lynch ’64, B.S. biology, pursued master’s degrees in psychology and counseling at the Colorado Institute of Transpersonal Psychology and earned a master’s degree in psychology and counseling from Columbia Pacific University. She has published a book titled ‘Surviving the 17’ serving in the Navy as a nurse. She lives in Presque Isle, ME, with her husband, Pat.

Guy Rix Perry recently retired Michael Cooper Walker ’66, B.S. sociology, chair of the State Library and Archives Commission. Walker is a senior health consultant and former CEO of Systar Health in Austin. He earned a master’s degree in hospital administration from the University of Pittsburgh in 1992 and a master’s degree in business from the University of Houston.

Jewel (Kubly) Emery ’67, B.B.A. secretarial science, retired from Humana Corp and lives in Jasper.

David Bryon ’67, B.S. biology, lives in Corpus Christi with his wife, Linda (Cook) ’67, B.B.A. secretarial science.

Robert Mitchel ’67, B.S. electrical engineering, earned master’s and doctoral degrees from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in is a dean of engineering at the University of Science and Technology. He lives in Abilene with his wife, Jawa (Duvall) ’69, B.S. home economics.

William Stiles ’67, B.B.A. management, earned a M.B.A. from Farleigh Dickinson University and retired as vice president of national accounts from Broadcast.com Inc. He also served as captain in the Naval Reserves and served on several community and state boards. He and his wife Catherine, live in Hilton, Fl.

Lisa (Toback) Farb ’68, earned a bachelor’s degree from Texas Tech University. She is a senior planner/buyer for Goss International in Kennewick, WA. She lives in Dallas.

Glen Edgerly ’69, B.B.A. marketing, is presi- dent and principal of Results Consulting LLC in Westminster, where he lives.

Jim Garnett ’69, B.S. speech, is president and chief executive officer of Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau. The Upper Midwest Convention and Visitors Bureau awarded him the 2011 Bruce Ray & Hilgar Award for Individual Professionalism and Lifetime Achievement. Under his leadership, the Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau received The Community Spirit Award from Diversity (for their efforts to foster racially, ethnically and cultur- ally diverse residential environments). He lives in Franklin, IN.

Sammy Archibong ’70, B.S. sociology, is a leading voice in the arts and an Elites artist. In a recently released book titled ‘I’ll Ask A’Ina Is Ina’, written by Michael圪 Sartor.

John John ’70, B.S. chemistry, ’72, M.S. chemistry, earned a master’s degree from the University of Houston; Cleve L. He lives in Richardson.

Linda (Jane) Moore ’70, B.S. biology, earned a master’s degree in Biology/Animals from Texas A&M. She is a licensed medical health physi- cian assistant professor and head of envi- ronmental health and safety and radiation protection technologies for Texas State Technical College in Brazos. Gov. Rick Perry appointed her to the Texas Live! Reel-racetrack Stake Company. She lives in Woodway.

The Panama Canal Authority has named Bill (Cranford) Strother ’70, B.S. accounting, to the Texas Low-Level Waste Facilities Authority. Strother is retired from Huntsman Corp. and former CEO of Hendrick Health System. Waters is a senior healthcare consultant and lives in McKinney with his wife, Pat.

Deborah (Sweatman) Gower ’71, B.B.A. marketing, ’72, M.B.A. Business administration. She lives in Woodway.

Fred Vernon ’71, B.S. music, is the owner and principal of Results Consulting LLC in Westminster, where he lives.

Beth (Crocker) Stephens ’71, B.S. psychology/pre-medicine, Groves ’77, M.A. psychology/pre-dental, Orange; Charline Sam, master of business administration, Beaumont; Joshi Barnes, physics and mechanical engineering, Beaumont; Alex Edgley, biological/vertebrate, Orange; Patty Stephens, nursing, Port Neches; Morgan Simon, speech language pathology, Nederland; and WE Pikul, biology/medicine, Nederland.

70s
Kelly (Benn) Eldridge ’71, B.S. industrial engi- neering, ’74, M.E. engineering, as its new director of business operations. He lives in Franklin, IN.

Terry Golden ’71, B.S. science, is a vice president for Surya Electronics in Glendale Heights, IL. He lives in Lombard, IL.

David Bryan ’72, B.S. psychology, ’73, M.B.A. psychology, is a partner of operations for Sugar Creek Baptist Church in Sugar Land. He is married to his wife, Lynn.

Kelly (Diane) Hayes ’72, B.S. office administra- tion, is a professional in the Port Neches-Groves school district, where she lives with her husband, James ’73, A.A.S. mid-man- agement certificate, ’77, B.A.A. marketing. He is employed in the same school district.

Bob Frank ’73, B.S. engineering, is a vice president for Syrinx Bioscience in Glen Ellen, CA. He lives in Lomita, CA.

Dennis Lahue ’73, B.A. accounting, is a vice president for Superior Brands in Corpus Christi, TX. He lives in Laredo, TX.

Alan Prince ’73, B.S. psychology, is a professor at Texas Wesleyan University and serves on the University of Phoenix and is a criminal investigator for the Appalachian County district attorney’s office in Cullowhee, NC. He lives in Aurora, Colo., with his wife, Dawn.

The Panama Canal Authority has named Jorge Luis (Julio) ’73, B.S. industrial engi- neering, ’74, M.E. engineering, as its new director of business operations. He lives in Franklin, IN.
Alumni Wine Tasting

A Alumni gathered M 22 at WineSylves in Beaumont for a fun and palate-pleasing mingling.

1. Brittain and Ronnie Turner '07 2. From left, Gayle Bullock '81, S. B. A. M. E. M. E. 3. Linda (Embs) Administration Building architect, and Hester (Briscoe) Bell Wojcik, left, with Meredith Youngson '06 and Leslie Beaumont for a fun and palate-pleasing mingle. (Smith) '63, '89, and Roger McCabe '75, '90 5. Jean (Schoening) Hillin '84, left, for Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas and is director of public relations and marketing Mary Poole Grace (Cherry) Ferry 6. with his wife, Louann. 7. for AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals. She lives in Sugar Land. 8. Teresa's degree from Sam Houston State University, and is community economic development agent for Prairie View A&M University and is community economic development agent for Prairie View A&M University Extension in Beaumont. It lives in Beaumont with his wife, Adriane Smith '30, B. S. elementary education, who also earned a master's degree from Prairie View A&M University. Their son, Matthew, is a Lamar student.

Liz (Marie) Dyer '77, B. A. office administration, is an administrator for Meridian Real Estu shown in Beaumont.

Southwest Securities Inc., named partner R. Charles "Chuck" Elkins '78, B. B. A. mar


Jenny Carter '30, B. A. finance, earns the Bobby Art M. A. M. E. M. E. and lives in Fort Worth with his wife, Lisa (Dover) '56. 20. B. A. general business, who has had a 30-year career with Frontier Chemical Engineering Services.

Rayna (Santana) Dagdag '32, B. S. mathematical sciences, lives in Colorado Springs with her husband, John.

Paul Reaves '78, B. B. A. marketing, is curri

university academy director for Galveston College. It lives in Galveston.

Many Wine Tasting technology is a discipline of public relations and marketing for Baptist in repasts of Southwest Texas and is a recipient of the Athena Award, which is given to women who live in Beaumont. It has a high level of professional excellence and emerges in potential. It lives in Beaumont.

Dallas (Bev) Salvatore 18. B. A. S. radiology technology, staff radiologic technologists at Galveston County Hospital. It lives in Montgomery.

Molly Akinson 19. B. S. industrial engineering, is principal project manager for Woodward in Dallas 20. It lives in Spring.

Alan DeLonge '79, B. S. nursing, works at Lafayette General Medical Center in Lafayette, La., where he lives with his wife, Julie.

David Lynch '79, A. S. law enforcement, 21. B. S. criminal justice, earned a law degree from Oklahoma City University and is a doctoral candidate in Psychology for Colorado State University M. S. in criminal justice.

Gary Golden '95, B. S. medical technology, is the physician practice administrator for Premier Physician Services in Port Arthur, in lives in Port Arthur.

Emanuel M. J. 19. B. S. computer science, is an assistant professor for Divinity School.

Dr. David Bible, Ph.D. 18. B. A. S. radiology technology, staff radiologic technologists at Galveston County Hospital. It lives in Montgomery.

Linda (Embs) Administration Building architect, and Hester (Briscoe) Bell Wojcik, left, with Meredith Youngson '06 and Leslie Beaumont for a fun and palate-pleasing mingle. 19. B. S. nursing, works at Lafayette General Medical Center in Lafayette, La., where he lives with his wife, Julie.

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A dinner and conversation

Five Distinguished Alumni came to campus for A Dinner and Conversation with students preparing for careers in the fields in which these alumni have excelled. The program sponsored by the Office of Alumni Affairs pairs like-minded students and alumni for an evening each year.

1. Pre-med and pre-dental students with Distinguished Alumnus Tamerla Caves, ’93, seated right, and Dean Brenda Netles, seated left.

2. Engineering students with Distinguished Alumnus Dan Smith, ’99, seated center; President Jerry Simmons, seated left, and Dean A. Hopper, seated right.

3. Education students with Distinguished Alumnus Grace Davis (Graves) England, ’92, seated center; Candle Houtz, vice president for university advancement, seated left, and Dean Hollis Lowery, seated right.

4. Business students with Distinguished Alumns Barr Simmons, ’78, ’79, seated right, and Dean Henry Yeats, seated left.

5. Pre-law and master of business administration students with Distinguished Alumnus Stephen Grace, ’92, seated center; Patricia Parraz, associate vice president for information technology, seated left, and Troy Mulhooven, professor of accounting, seated right.
Cape Town, Robben Island, Thornybush Game Preserve, Johannesburg

Cruising the Ligurian, Tyrrhenia, Mediterranean and Adriatic seas

Advancement.Lamar.edu/travel-programs

May 26 - June 4, 2013

May 28 - June 6, 2013

- Adventures cruise in Holland and

Carrie (Griffin) Fraser ’91 lives in

consumer sciences-interior design, is a design

in education administration from Sam

Va., with his wife, Sudha.

Christopher Garza

University of Texas in education. She lives in

ing, is an elite applications engineer with

Todd.

Sharon (Harris) Jacobs

Vidor school district. She lives in Orange

es volleyball in Kingwood, where she lives

Iknowtion and lives in Melrose, Mass.

Kasim Sayyed

M.S. kinesiology, is recruiting coordinator

‘02, B.S. interdiscipli-

‘02, B.A. A.A.S. applied arts

‘04, B.B.A. general business-

‘04, B.S. electrical engineering,

‘08, B.B.S. management

‘08, B.A.A.S. applied arts

‘07, M.E. chemical engi-

‘07, B.S. chemical engineer-

‘07, B.G.S. general studies,

‘08, B.B.A. management, is a

‘07, M.E. electrical engineer-

‘09, M.E. industrial engineer-

‘09, M.Ed. management, live in Spring.

Cade Brazzil

Services in Houston. She lives in Cypress.

Joy Bernhardt

M.S. library management, is a

library associate at Lamar University. She

lives in Port Neches.

Kealee Welch

is lead logger and unit manager for

Diversified Well Logging. He lives in

Triumph Church in Nederland, where they live.

Lori (Kimball) East

lives in Poway, Calif., with her husband,

Lamar alumni and friends aboard the MS Amadeus Brilliant during the Cardinal Adventures Holland and Belgium trip.

Cape Town, Robben Island, Thornybush Game Preserve, Johannesburg

class notes
Alumni at Vincent-Beck Stadium

Baseball tailgate 2012

Salome Tenam ’10, B.B.A. human resource management, is a human resource assistant for Dunhil Foodservice National Credit Inc. She lives in Nederland.

John Hohnstreiter ’10, B.S. mechanical engineering, is an assistant superintendent in the Granbury school district, where he lives.

Shekhar Maraj is plant engineer for CalEnergy Operating, Inc. He lives in Richland Hills with his wife, Michaela.

She lives in Nederland.

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The Cardinal basketball team has four wins over Top 25 teams this year, including a 5-4 victory at No. 7 Rice.

The Lady Cardinal golf team won team titles at the Ladyjack Crown Classic and HBU Husky Invitational this year.

Senior M.J. Daffue took home individual medalist honors at the Royal Oaks Intercollegiate and the Border Olympics. He has four career individual titles.

Freshman Luke Erling picked up his first collegiate win as he won the Wolfpack Spring Open.

Kalis Loyd of the Lamar University women’s basketball team was named a first-team All-Southland Conference selection for the second straight season. Loyd, a junior from Malmö, Sweden, led the Lady Cardinals in scoring (16.1 points per game), rebounding (6.4 per game), assists (84) and steals (64). She is the only player in program history to rank in the Top 10 in career points, rebounds, assists and steals.

Ang Green of the women’s basketball team was named a second team all-academic conference selection.
From behind, one hole wins it

Daffue leads golfers to SLC title

Senior M.J. Daffue successfully defended his Southland Conference individual title April 25 at Stonebridge Ranch Country Club, leading the Lamar men’s golf team to the title at the 2012 Southland Conference Championship.

Lamar needed one playoff hole to capture its 24th team title in men’s golf after starting the final round seven strokes behind Central Arkansas. The Cardinals shot a final round 292 (+4) on the par-72, 7,346-yard Pete Dye Course to catch UCA and force the playoff.

Senior Kevin Hебois, who helped the Cardinals win their last team title in 2009, knocked down a 10-foot birdie putt on the first playoff hole to get the Cards out to the lead. Nine of the five UCA players could manage better than a birdie, and Lamar claimed the crown after Daffue tapped in for the clinching par.

“This is a very difficult golf course, so I thought we would do well since it’s a ball-striking golf course, and that’s what we’re good at,” said Brian White, who has guided the Cardinals to four conference titles as head coach. “I believed we had the best team coming in.”

Daffue had already locked up the individual title, becoming the first player to successfully defend his individual title since McNeese State’s Tim Graham won three straight from 1977-79. The 2011 Southland Conference Player of the Year finished the 54-hole tournament at even-par 216.

After opening with a 72, Daffue carded a 74 in Tuesday’s second round before closing with a 70 to catch and pass UCA’s Antonio Costa for the individual title. Daffue managed four birdies Wednesday, with just one double bogey as he finished the tournament three strokes ahead of Costa.

“This was a tough course so I knew that anything close to par would have a good chance to win,” said Daffue. “I didn’t play my best, but my ball striking was great all week. I had a little bad luck on [hole No.] 9, but the back nine was very stress-free.

“I feel like I played a big role in the team title with me winning. I told the guys we still had a chance to win even though we struggled a little at the end. It’s great to win as a team, especially for us seniors.”

The Cardinals and Bears each finished with 54-hole totals of 890 (+26) to qualify for the playoff. UT Arlington placed third at 893, with Stephen F. Austin (914) and Texas State (917) rounding out the top five.

Freshman Luke Feyers held the opening-round lead after a bogey-free 69, but struggled to an 82 in round 2. He would rebound for a solid 73 on Wednesday to finish in a tie for seventh with a 224 total (+8). Feyers led Lamar with six birdies.

Senior Xavier Feyers held the opening-round lead after a bogey-free 69, but struggled to an 82 in round 2. He would rebound for a solid 73 on Wednesday to finish in a tie for seventh with a 224 total (+8). Feyers led Lamar with six birdies in his final round, but also had a double bogey and five bogeys. Hебois finished tied for 20th in the 50-player field with a 230 total (+14). The hero of the playoff hole opened with a 75, posted a second round 80 and then closed with another 75. After struggling on the greens all week, Hебois was happy to help the team at the end.

“I was really fired up after that win,” said Hебois about his putt in the playoff. “I saw that as an opportunity to help the team because I kind of slumped my way home. I just hit it firm and it went in. This is very special to win this as a senior after not winning it the last two years. I wanted this very badly.”

Lamar’s final golfer was red-shirt junior Erik K nudsen who finished in a tie for 29th. K nudsen posted rounds of 80-79-76 for a 235 total (+19).

The win gave the Cardinals the Southland Conference’s automatic bid to the NCAA Regional, where they secured a trip to the NCAA Championship for the first time since 2007. — EC

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“This is a very difficult golf course, so I thought we would do well since it’s a ball-striking golf course, and that’s what we’re good at,” said Brian White, who has guided the Cardinals to four conference titles as head coach. “I told the guys all we can do is go out and play a great round.

“It was stressful to go into the playoff because we actually had built a four-stroke lead and then gave it back as we had three guys three put on 17. It’s very satisfying to get this win, though, because I believed we had the best team coming in.”

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Johnsen takes great strides

The 2011-12 cross-country academic year was without doubt a fulfilling and busy one for Matt Johnsen, a native of Broulee, Australia. Johnsen was named the Southland Conference Runner of the Year for men’s indoor track, as well as being named Student-Athlete of the Year by the conference for both cross country and indoor track. On top of that, he traveled to Poland in April to represent Australia in the World University Cross-Country Championships, placing a respectable 43rd.

“I’m over the moon about having the opportunity to compete for my country,” Johnsen said. “It’s truly an honor.”

It is an honor and an opportunity well deserved said Lamar track and cross-country coach Trey Clark.

“When Matt asked me if he should apply for consideration, I told him he definitely should,” Clark said. Johnsen is the latest of a number of Lamar track and cross-country student-athletes to represent their country.

“When international students come to Lamar to compete, their goal is to represent their country,” Clark said. “They know we’re going to do everything we can to help them achieve that goal.”

Johnsen believes the training he’s received at Lamar has been a key factor in his improvement.

“Back home, I was often on my own,” he said. “I was ranked in the Top 5 back in Australia. Here, the competition is much tougher. I’m just another number. The environment is much more intense.”

Johnsen has succeeded athletically at Lamar. This fall, he was second at the Southland Conference Cross-Country Championships, leading the Cardinals to their sixth consecutive team title. During the indoor track season, he won the conference title in the 5,000 meters with a time of 14 minutes, 40.74 seconds, nearly 10 seconds ahead of the second-place finisher. He was second in the 3,000 meters in 8:26.36.

On top of that, Johnsen boasts a 3.3 grade point average in kinesiology.

“It’s one thing to be good in sports, but it’s important to be good in academics as well,” Johnsen said. “One of the reasons I chose Lamar was because of the academics the school offered.” As a coach, Clark loves having Johnsen as a member of the Cardinals.

“At Matt Johnsen represents everything that is right about college athletics,” Clark said. “He’s a tremendous athlete, a tremendous student and a tremendous person. He is the type of student-athlete you’re proud to coach.” — PM
Today, approximately 440 nuclear power plants provide about 6 percent of the world’s energy and 15 percent of its electricity. In the United States, 104 commercial reactors at 65 nuclear power stations produce nearly 20 percent of the nation’s electric power, making the U.S. the world’s leading supplier of commercial nuclear power.

Keeping all that equipment operating safely involves oversight by agencies like the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, International Atomic Energy Agency and International Electrotechnical Commission, all of which mandate tests to ensure plant safety. It also entails continually improving nuclear safety as a core business of Analysis and Measurement Services Corp., a company with worldwide reach that was co-founded by H.M. “Hash” Hashemian ’08 in 1977.

With a list of clients from around the globe, AMS’s cutting-edge equipment, services and training are a vital part of the formula for safety for nuclear energy today. The company’s operations in Europe and Asia now generate more than 20 percent of its revenue, including work in plants in Great Britain, Korea, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland.

At age 58, Hashemian earned a doctorate at Lamar, where he arrived in 1974 to study engineering. He wasn’t the first time he found himself under Bean’s tutelage. He had first met Bean when he arrived at Lamar in 1974 to study engineering. Hashemian already held a bachelor’s degree in physics from National University of Iran when he came to the U.S., joining his brother Mehrad and sister-in-law Vida, both undergraduate students at Lamar. He became interested in nuclear engineering after taking a course on nuclear energy with Bean.

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“I fell in love with nuclear engineering in that class and wanted to change my major,” Hashemian said. With Bean’s encouragement, he made a move to the epicenter of nuclear work in Knoxvile, Tenn.

“If you wanted to go into nuclear engineering, Knoxvile was the area to come to because of the University of Tennessee, Oak Ridge National Laboratory—the largest science laboratory in the U.S.—and the Tennessee Valley Authority,” Hashemian said. At UT, Hashemian completed his master’s in nuclear engineering, and, while still a graduate student, co-founded AMS with professor of nuclear engineering Thomas Kerlin.

“He sold his share to me in 1985 and went on to become the chairman of the Department of Nuclear Engineering,” Hashemian said. Kerlin served in that capacity from 1988 to 1997. Begun in a two-room office in a converted house near the campus, AMS now has two locations in the U.S. and representative offices in Austria, Spain, South Korea and Switzerland.

The unique products of AMS allow the monitoring and testing of vital safety systems without interrupting operations, vital in an industry where going “off line” nets losses of more than $1 million a day. More vital still is accuracy and effectiveness of these systems to verify safety functions and plant controls around the clock. AMS systems can also swiftly and safely shut a plant down if necessary, but bring it down in a manner that prevents unnecessary downtime.

After many years growing the business, Hashemian felt it would be beneficial to earn credentials corresponding to those of the engineers and scientists he interacted with around the world. He is first thought was of Lamar University. “I wanted to come back and finish what I had started here,” Hashemian said.

“Hash came back to Lamar in 2005 to pursue doctoral studies after a very successful and entrepreneurial start up of his own company,” said Jack Hopper, dean of the College of Engineering. “This kind of experience is very rare for a graduate student.”

“Hash was an excellent student,” said a graduate student, Kerlin, a family man and a person of class in every way. The engineering faculty grew to respect Hash for his intellect and integrity,” Zaloom said.

After graduating from Lamar in 2008, Hashemian established the Dr. Wendell C. Bean Endowed Scholarship in Electrical Engineering to honor his professor’s dedication to higher education and passion for learning.

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—HASH HASHEMIAN ’08

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Within the first year of his doctoral studies, Hashemian said, he had to repeat one of his courses in order to pass the Qualifying Exam. The experience helped him in his thesis work. By the end of his fifth semester, Hashemian was working to complete his dissertation to graduate. He was the first student to complete a Ph.D. at Lamar under the guidance of Kerlin.

“I felt very honored and humbled,” Bean said. Since that time, Hashemian and Bean have collaborated on technical papers published in leading peer-reviewed journals.

Hashemian has written two books, one published in the U.S. and the other published in Germany. These books have been translated into Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Russian. In addition, he has authored more than 50 peer-reviewed journal and magazine articles, 200 conference papers and 10 book chapters.

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Hashemian serves as a Fellow in the International Society of Automation, a senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, a member of the American Nuclear Society and a member of the European Nuclear Society. He has worked for the nuclear, aerospace, oil and gas and other industries as well as the U.S. government, including the NRC, Department of Energy, Department of Defense, Air Force, Navy and National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He has served as a lecturer, keynote speaker and chairman or co-chairman of numerous national and international conferences.

Hashemian’s influence includes service on advisory boards for Lamar University, where he is a member of the College of Engineering Advisory Council. He offers sees Hashemian’s extensive background in the nuclear industry and experience with other academic institutions as tremendously valuable insight for Lamar.

Accolades keep coming for Hashemian and AMS, including being named to Inc. Magazine’s list of 5,000 fastest-growing private companies. AMS won Knoxvile’s 2010 Pinnacle Business Award in the medium-sized business category. In 2011, AMS was tapped with a Tibbetts Award from the Small Business Administration for its high-tech innovation, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce recognized the company for its strong business practices and economic contributions when it was one of only 25 companies nationwide to receive the 2011 Free Enterprise Award.

But nothing brings him more pride than his family. Hashemian said. He and his wife, Nazy, have a son, Alex, 22, and daughter, Nikki, 20, who are students at the University of Tennessee.
Joanie Kleypas ’78 knew from childhood that she wanted to become a marine biologist, a passion spurred by her family and her fascination with Jacques Cousteau. Growing up in Groves, she tagged along with her older brother, Kenny, on fishing and diving trips in the Gulf of Mexico. She remembers those trips as risky since they weren’t yet dive certified, but exhilarating. “He was kind of a crazy guy, but he introduced me to a world I probably wouldn’t have been able to see as such a young girl.”

As a young adult, Kleypas continued exploring the world of marine biology as an oceanography major at Lamar University. Her broad-based education at Lamar laid the foundation that helped Kleypas build a career as one of the world’s foremost authorities on the impact of climate change on coral reef ecosystems.

At Lamar, Kleypas said, she learned from great professors who inspired her to keep going. “Professor Richard Harrell was my idol. He had a can-do attitude; he was funny, very up-to-date on issues; and he was outspoken. He was one of those wake-up professors—open your eyes; look around; there’s a lot of stuff you don’t know. Go out there and figure it out.” With the same type of hands-on, figure-it-out approach to science she encountered at Lamar, Kleypas has made important, although sometimes alarming, discoveries.

After completing her bachelor’s degree at Lamar, Kleypas earned her master’s at the University of South Carolina studying fish ecology. She then won a Fulbright Scholarship to pursue her doctorate at James Cook University in Australia, where she focused on the Great Barrier Reef. After earning her Ph.D., Kleypas took a position with the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo., and began exploring how coral reefs have affected climate in the past. Frightening coral bleaching episodes in the mid 1990s then inspired her to shift her focus.

“I don’t have a climate background,” Kleypas said. “I am a marine biologist, and with the research being published worldwide. I realized the importance of human-driven science on coral reefs and the organisms that depend on them.”

In addition to her continuing work on ocean acidification and coral reefs, Kleypas is broadening her research into methods of improving marine conservation efforts. “If one of my students just research the demise of an ecosystem, many of us would rather switch gears and start looking for solutions,” Kleypas said.

“Science is always a lot better when it’s fun and optimistic,” Kleypas said.

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Joanie Kleypas ’78

Kleypas said she realized once she went to graduate school that Lamar had prepared her with an excellent education in a relaxed atmosphere that she enjoyed. Lamar also provided an educational home for her family. She was one of seven children, and all but one of her siblings at least started college at Lamar.

She first discovered her love of scuba diving on those risky trips into the Gulf of Mexico with her brother and still loves exploring underwater places when she can. That continuing pursuit of what’s cool, what’s interesting and what questions need answers has kept Kleypas passionate about her work. “You figure out what you like, what really turns you on, and if you always stay true to what you care about, you’re always going to do a good job,” she said.

“I think that’s what I’ve done, and it’s not always been easy, but I’ve never regretted it. It takes you to some really nice places.”

Kleypas has made important, although sometimes alarming, discoveries. After completing her bachelor’s degree at Lamar, Kleypas earned her master’s at the University of South Carolina studying fish ecology. She then won a Fulbright Scholarship to pursue her doctorate at James Cook University in Australia, where she focused on the Great Barrier Reef. After earning her Ph.D., Kleypas took a position with the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo., and began exploring how coral reefs have affected climate in the past.

Frightening coral bleaching episodes in the mid 1990s then inspired her to shift her focus. “Since I was at a climate center and coral bleaching was such a consequence of climate change, I was in the right place at the right time. I started looking at how sea surface temperatures are going to change in the future and what that means in terms of the future of coral reefs,” Kleypas said.

MUCH OF KLEYPAS’ WORK AT THE time relied on computer modeling. A mentor challenged her to model chemical changes in the ocean caused by the addition of carbon dioxide. That led to her groundbreaking work on ocean acidification. Additional carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is absorbed by seawater, causing chemical reactions that produce carbonic acid and reduce the pH of the seas. When conditions become too acidic, coral reefs and the organisms that depend on them may be threatened by a reduction in the calcification rates that corals need to grow.

“It’s a combination of curiosity-driven science and problem-driven science. I always like to say science is simply detective work. I get a lot of questions now about what’s going to kill coral reefs first. Is it going to be temperature increases, or is it going to be acidification? Really, they’re both occurring at the same time. They’re both caused by carbon dioxide increases in the atmosphere,” Kleypas said.

Her findings served as a wake-up call to the scientific and broader communities. Kleypas visited Washington, D.C., to meet with lawmakers and testify before Congress about the issue, which led to passage of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act in 2009. When she began her research on the topic in 1997, Kleypas said, she could count on two hands the number of scientific papers on ocean acidification. Now she cannot keep up with the research being published worldwide.

“It’s very exciting. I think researchers are more and more solidified that this is an important issue, and we’ve got to get to the bottom of this pretty quickly,” she said.

Kleypas was one of the first to recognize the importance of Kelyaips work. Last year, she won a prestigious Heinz Award, administered by the Heinz Family Foundation, recognizing outstanding individual contributions to important issues including the environment and public policy.

Kleypas also was a 2008 Fellow of the Lepold Leadership Program at Stanford University and serves on multiple national and international panels to address issues of climate change and marine ecosystems. She continues to work as a scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research. Her husband, Steve Worley, also is an oceanographer at the center, where she works on data management for a variety of projects. She likes to joke that the Rocky Mountain location gives her equal access to all oceans.

The fragile world beneath

by Beth Gallapay
A HAND with LAND

by Brian Sattler

Terms forever branded into the vernacular of Texas. None of these happen without the landman.

It is the landman who makes the exploration, the drilling and the rewards possible. J. Mark Smith ’79 is a landman whose business, while firmly rooted in Texas soil, extends well beyond the Lone Star State.

As a land professional, the landman guides the acquisition, development and management of individual properties where oil and gas exploration takes place. That essential job is played out in title work, lease purchasing, negotiation and contract preparation such as operating agreements, farm out agreements, surface damage agreements, lease administration and the myriad other details part and parcel to the drilling and management of wells.

A graduate of Forest Park High School, Smith grew up enjoying the plentiful opportunities for hunting and fishing the region affords. So, when it came time to choose a college, “I didn’t see any reason to go off somewhere when I had everything here in my backyard.”

At Lamar, Smith majored in marketing and stuck to business to get through in four years. “I wanted to finish on time, and I guessed I’d figure out what I’d do after that,” he said. He was president of Phi Delta Theta for two years and an avid Cardinals fan.

“That was back when the Cards played in McDonald Gym, and we had the longest winning streak going,” Smith said. “You made sure you got there early just to be sure to get in. There’s some real home cookin’ when it’s packed and everyone is hollering.”

When he graduated, oil prices were skyrocketing thanks to the Arab oil embargo. “A good fraternity brother of mine became a landman in Houston,” Smith said. “He talked me into giving it a try. My dad had a good career with IBM, but I’d seen the pressure that comes with working for a big corporation and had decided that really wasn’t for me. So I tried being a landman.

“It was a natural fit,” he said. “I got to travel, meet people. I felt right off the bat that this was what I wanted to do.”

The first 20 years, I was traveling, trying to build the company,” he said. “I was literally gone all the time, putting 55,000 miles on my car every year.”

He and his wife, Denise (Lytle), who also attended Lamar, have three children, ages 26, 25 and 17.

“1986 was a bad year,” Smith recalled. “Our first child was born in ’85, and then oil dropped to $8 a barrel. Then our second child came along the next year. It was rough. A lot of my friends got out of the business. I was fortunate and was able to keep working. In the second half of ’87, things finally turned around. That’s why I tell all the young people who work for me, ‘Save your money. I preach that all the time.’

Since those lean years, J. Mark Smith & Associates has boomed. In addition to providing services throughout Texas, the company has a Denver office providing services throughout the Rocky Mountain states and, earlier this year, opened an office in Illinois. “About 25 of our Texas guys are up there now,” he said. “They’re all excited about opening day at Wrigley Field.”

Today, Smith is a partner in the JAMA Group, providing professional land surveying, GIS mapping, right-of-way services and environmental assessments and services. “The oil and gas business has really changed,” he said. “GIS mapping has become a huge part of the industry, and we started our own survey company because it seemed that our clients were always waiting for a surveyor.”

“About 10 years ago, the business improved so I didn’t have to travel as much. I decided then that I wanted to give back and get more involved with Lamar and with the community,” Smith said.

“I didn’t see any reason to go off somewhere when I had everything here in my backyard.”

J. MARK SMITH ’79

He has held to that promise, serving on the boards of the Lamar Uiversity Foundation, Cardinal Club and the Texas Energy Museum. “We have a suite for the football games, and we have it packed for every game. We have a wonderful time out there,” he said. The couple supports the arts as well. “We really enjoy going to Le Grand Bal,” he said.

Ample trophy mounts throughout the building attest to the fact that Smith still enjoys the outdoor avocations that kept him in Southeast Texas so many years ago. He also looks for trophies of another sort.

“Besides the land business, we do a lot of speculating on our own,” Smith said. “We put together the leases for an equity position for small companies. I enjoy doing that at this stage in my career. I’ve done enough contract land work for a fee that I enjoy putting together whole projects. I enjoy seeing a well drilled, looking at the drill logs and seeing if they come up with anything. That to me is the fun part of the business.

“I look forward to spending more and more of my time putting together projects where you see it from the beginning to the end.”
A drive to provide his wife and family with a better economic life than the one he grew up with has propelled Rod Rice '66 through a series of smart career moves and ultimately to entrepreneurial success as the founder and chief executive officer of a chain of fitness equipment retail outlets.

Launched in a leased storefront in Beaumont in 1981, Fitness Expo now owns a warehouse outside New Orleans along with four stores in Louisiana and one in Jackson, Miss. Each store serves retail customers looking for cardio and strength-training equipment and provides a base for the corporation's strong commercial division. Fitness and wellness centers at universities, hospitals, hotels, apartment complexes, police departments and more have come to rely on Fitness Expo for quality equipment and service.

"We've had people who wanted us to franchise, but I never considered it seriously. It's the only way you could ever go public, and our industry is not compatible with public ownership," Rice said, "but I never wanted to go public. It seemed to me," said Rice, who majored in accounting at Lamar. "It's a very personal, contact-oriented business. You not only have to have good equipment, but you have to have good people. Customers have to have confidence that you're going to do a good job, and you're going to stay in business." Rice started Fitness Expo after his own frustrating effort to build a home gym for his son, who developed an interest in weightlifting in junior high. Even on business trips to major metropolitan areas on the West Coast, Rice had trouble finding retail suppliers for fitness equipment because no specialty fitness stores existed. He ended up having things made by a welder in Austin.

"I got this idea that if I wanted it, someone else might, too," Rice said. It is research led him to manufacturers who sold equipment to hospitals and gyms, and he worked to convince them to stay from their distributor-based model and sell to him. "I spent a lot of time trying to get them to let me sell their products in Beaumont."

Opening Fitness Expo also fulfilled Rice's wish to open a business with his two children, whom he and his wife, Norma, are very close. After graduating from Lamar, their daughter, Georgia Rice '92, struggled to find a teaching job that did not involve special education, which she did not feel was a good fit. Their son, Rodney Rice, spent a semester at Lamar, but was more interested in working than in pursuing his education at that time.

"I had the business knowledge, but I also had two really hard-working kids who dedicated a lot of their early years to helping build what we did," Rice said. He attributes the success of the business to the combination of assets the family brought together. Rice provided the initial idea, knowledge he gained from his Lamar education and experience as a working professional, and his investment of necessary capital to get started. His daughter provided meticulous, mistake-free oversight of the books although her degree was in education rather than accounting. His son is a natural salesperson with an outgoing personality and an interest in the fitness industry. In the early years, they all sacrificed. Rice kept his job at Gulf Consolidated initially and drew no salary from Fitness Expo. He limited his children's pay to accumulate additional capital to invest in the business. As they tested the Beaumont market, Rice also studied nearby areas with larger populations and no competition in the fledgling fitness industry where they could grow their business. He settled on the Interstate 10 and Interstate 20 corridors, from Beaumont to Mobile, Ala., and Shreveport, La., to Jackson, Miss. That decision prompted the family to move to Mandeville, La., in the mid-1980s and later to close the Beaumont store, which did not perform as well as their other locations.

The work ethic required to make Fitness Expo successful already was well established in Rice's character. He and Norma met one summer while he was working at a service station in Kountze near the movie theater her family home was 950 square feet. Her family home was a "great-grandfather's house, a house with a car, telephone, television, refrigerator, all the things we didn't have in my family," Rice recalled. "I'll never forget telling some of my friends, 'I'm dating a rich girl.'"

Years later, he measured success by knowing that his six younger grandchildren and three great-grandchildren will have more options. "You have to have a lot of luck to go along with everything else, but you have to do the right things," Rice said. "I'm not going to do the wrong things, either." When asked about the choices he did as a result of his successes, due in part to his hard work and strong educational foundation.

"You have to have a lot of luck to go along with everything else, but you have to do the right things, too," Rice said. "I'm not going to do the wrong things, either." When asked about the choices he did as a result of his successes, due in part to his hard work and strong educational foundation.

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Perhaps most important to Rice is the success he has found in his marriage and family. He and Norma celebrated their 54th anniversary in 2011 and enjoy listening to live music, attending operas and theatre productions, and traveling. "I used to be a big money manager in a company town, was unaccredited and offered few resources. Then he enlisted in the Army hoping to get the GI Bill to pay for college. Unfortunately, that did not happen because he served during a 10-year lapse in the GI Bill.

"Without Lamar, I don't know what I would be doing these days," Rice said. "Lamar was a place you go and learn and improve your quality of life." He settled on an accounting major through a process of elimination. Becoming an attorney or doctor did not fit, because those would require professional school in another city. He would have liked to coach, but that did not have enough job security and might require moving from city to city. He honed in on business and decided that accounting offered the best option for job prospects.

"I started out with a lot of obstacles, but I was so interested in learning that it wasn't difficult for me," said Rice, who completed his degree in three and a half years. He recalled several professors who made an impression, including J.D. Landes, dean of the School of Business. "He was in sociocology, Wesley Norton in insurance, David Taylor in marketing, and Iabella Allen and Clarine Branom in English. Branom failed him on one paper for misspelling "its" as "it's" 15 times. He hadn't made that mistake since. H.A. Barlow provided a strong background to prepare accounting students for the CPA examination. Rice remembers Barlow's dedication as instrumental to his and other Lamar students' success in becoming CPAs. Charles Partin in economics told students, as Rice recalls, "I don't care if you get a degree from H-avoid or Lamar; you're going to learn as much here, and you can be just as successful. I agree with him totally on that."

Rice said he feels fortunate to consider himself successful by several measures. At 74, he has maintained good health, working regularly in a well-equipped gym at his new home in Mandeville, La., and swimming in the enclosed pool he built with a swim current. After graduating from Lamar, he enjoyed a successful 10-year career with the Internal Revenue Service before moving on to an executive position with Gulf Consolidated. That job allowed him to continue learning how to conduct business and how to treat people by observing the example set by respected colleagues like Rudy Williams, father of Lamar University first Lady Susan (Williams) Simmons '68. Rice cited Williams as a tremendous influence by setting an example set by respected colleagues like Rudy Williams, father of Lamar University first Lady Susan (Williams) Simmons '68. Rice cited Williams as a tremendous influence by setting an example set by respected colleagues like Rudy Williams, father of Lamar University first Lady Susan (Williams) Simmons '68. Rice cited Williams as a tremendous influence by setting an example set by respected colleagues like Rudy Williams, father of Lamar University first Lady Susan (Williams) Simmons '68. Rice cited Williams as a tremendous influence by setting a tremendous influence by setting a tremendous influence by setting a tremendous influence by setting a tremendous influence by setting a tremendous influence by setting a tremendous influence by setting a tremendous influence by setting a tremendous influence by setting a tremendous influence by setting a tremendous influence by setting a tremendous influence by setting a tremendous influence by setting a tremendous