Students maximize Opportunities at every turn

Panama Canal CEO RE-engineering commerce

New Cards on campus
Kenneth and Nancy Evans
FROM THE PRESIDENT

ne of the great privileges of serving as president is the opportunity to attend commencements. In my career I have attended 90 Lamar commencement exercises, and, in my 14 years as president, 30,245 individuals have become Lamar graduates. I have greeted most of them as they crossed the Montagne Center stage. Each passage not only signifies individual achievement, but the significant promise for the future of the region and beyond.

Lamar’s next president, Dr. Kenneth Evans, joined me on the platform at spring commencement during a brief campus visit. He will take the reins July 1, and I trust you will join Susan and me in welcoming Ken and Nancy Evans to the campus and community. Together they bring a wealth of perspective on not only higher education but also what it means to be leaders with care and passion.

In this, my final edition of Cardinal Cadence, I want to express again that it has been a tremendous honor to serve. As I step away from the office and Susan and I move into the next chapter in our lives, I look forward to returning to my first loves — teaching and music — and to the faculty of the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music.

During this leadership transition in Lamar’s 90th year, I am confident that there are even greater days ahead for our university. That confidence is reflected in the continuing support for Lamar’s Investing in the Future comprehensive campaign that is on target to meet, or exceed, its $125 million goal. We are so grateful for the generosity of so many who have given to better our university and to enrich the lives of our students.

Everyone should have an opportunity to leave a legacy at Lamar, and one way to do so is to participate in the campaign by purchasing a brick in the Cardinal Walk of Honor. Together, we can support the university and enhance the campus quadrangle. These are exciting days!

With Cardinal Pride,

James M. Simmons
President
Lamar University

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

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Circulation includes 12,300 copies distributed to alumni, faculty, and staffs of Lamar University. If you have received more than one copy of this publication, please let us know.

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Cardinal Cadence (USPS 017-254) is published bimonthly by Lamar University, Division of University Advancement, 855 Jim Gilligan Way, Beaumont, Texas 77713.

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Building business

by Larry Acker
A successful engineering career starts with a strong engineering education. Larry Norwood ’72 credits his industry success to the foundation he received as a chemical engineering major at Lamar University. That's why he and his wife, Cynthia (Smesny) Norwood ’72, decided to create the Larry and Cynthia Norwood Chemical Engineering Scholarship.

“We wanted to give something back to the university and to add some scholarships that hopefully will help undergraduate and graduate students pursue a career in chemical engineering, have successful careers and be really great contributors to our society,” Norwood said.

The Austin couple’s $1 million gift to the Investing in the Future campaign creates an endowment to provide scholarships for both undergraduate and graduate students in chemical engineering.

Cynthia Norwood said it was important to her to ensure that at least half the scholarships benefit undergraduates. “Graduate students have more opportunities to work as teaching assistants and other avenues. A beginning student needs more help. We wanted to give them a leg up,” she said.

As a former teacher, Cynthia understands the value of encouraging students to persist in their educations. She completed her studies at Lamar in three years, graduating with honors in English and history with teaching certifications in both. She then taught senior high English for eight years in Dayton, her hometown.

Larry started his studies at Lamar in 1968, attracted by the strong engineering program, availability of a cooperative education program and the proximity to Cynthia, who was a senior in high school while he was a freshman at Lamar. They had begun dating the year before while he was a senior at Liberty High School. Larry and Cynthia married while both were Lamar students and moved into married student housing on campus, an older building removed about 10 years ago to make room for campus improvements. “It’s really interesting to see all the progress and improvements and changes on campus,” he said.

During his days as a Lamar student, Larry took a co-op position with Lubrizol Corp. He continued working for Lubrizol through the co-op program, alternating semesters at work with those in the classroom, until graduation when he went to work for the company full time. Larry advanced steadily through the company from section superintendent to operations manager to works manager to corporate vice president of operations. He retired last year, soon after they relocated from Cleveland, Ohio, to Austin, but he continues to do consulting work for Lubrizol, particularly on projects in China that he had been involved in initiating. “I’ve been spending probably 50 percent of my time for the past year in China, but we’ve just about completed the plant. I’ll probably continue to do a little consulting on a couple of other projects,” he said.

Cynthia took a break from teaching in 1980 when a promotion for Larry prompted their first move from Texas to Ohio. A chance encounter there inspired a new passion, and she never returned to the classroom full time. “We went to the apple butter festival. There was a lady making a rug, and I was mesmerized. That’s where it started. I studied under several different teachers and became somewhat of an expert in rug hooking and turned it into a small business,” she said.

Cynthia began teaching rug hooking workshops across the country in 1986 and serves on the national board of the Association of Traditional Hooking Artists. Her first book on the art, “Creating an Antique Look in Hand-Hooked Rugs,” was published in 2008, and she is working on her second, for which she recently signed a contract, tentatively titled “Primitive Rugs for the 21st Century.” Her specialty and favorite style is primitive antique-looking rugs. The art involves dying fabric then cutting or tearing it into strips before using specialized tools to pull the fabric through a linen base to create a unique work of art. “I was always interested in art growing up, but I didn’t see that as a career. I didn’t want to be a starving artist,” she said. “When I got the chance to do art, I was back into it.” Cynthia creates her own designs and has shared her knowledge with hundreds of students, including an adult niece who is also “hooked” on the craft.

Both Larry and Cynthia have fond memories of the excellent teachers they encountered at Lamar. She cited Winfred Emmens in the English department and Ralph Wooster in history in particular. Larry said Jack Hopper, dean of the College of Engineering, was probably his favorite professor. “I really felt like the professors I had really wanted the students to succeed. That came across to me,” he said. “That was what made Lamar special.”

With the scholarship in the Norwoods’ name, students now will have an additional tool to help them succeed. Hopper said the fact that it will be available for students pursuing not just bachelor’s degrees, but those working toward master’s and Ph.D. degrees “makes it a very different and special major gift for us.”

“Having support for Ph.D. fellowships will be a first step in a major move toward more support for research,” Hopper said. “The university is moving in a direction of more scholarly activity and more research. For that to happen, you have got to have faculty who come in with the expectation of carrying out research and you’ve got to have significant resources to hire Ph.D. students.”

Hopper said he appreciates the Norwoods’ support both financially and through Larry’s service on the College of Engineering Advisory Council. “Anybody at his level of management can make extremely valuable contributions to giving vision and direction to the college,” Hopper said.

The Norwoods said they are happy that, through the scholarship and through Larry’s service, they are able to give something back. “Lamar was a place where we felt like we got a great education,” Larry said. “It enabled us to have a really good career, a challenging career. We’re hoping to help students have a chance to have a successful career like we did.”

The Norwoods said they are happy that, through the scholarship and through Larry’s service, they are able to give something back. “Lamar was a place where we felt like we got a great education,” Larry said. “It enabled us to have a really good career, a challenging career. We’re hoping to help students have a chance to have a successful career like we did.”
We express our deep gratitude to the alumni and friends of Lamar University who have recently established endowments and gifts through estate plans. These gifts encourage students to pursue a college education and help faculty create innovative learning environments. An endowment creates a legacy that becomes a permanent piece of Lamar’s history. To learn more about those who have given to Lamar or to find out how you can begin your own giving plan, we invite you to visit our website at www.lamar.edu/development. In this issue of Cardinal Cadence, we are honored to acknowledge our Dream Makers.

The Mike and Pat Aldredge Mirabeau Scholarship was established in 2008, and the endowment was completed in 2012. This is the fourth endowment the Aldredges have generously gifted to Lamar. Mike ’61 and Pat (Peterson) ’61 both attended Lamar and are long-time supporters of the university. Mike is a Lamar Distinguished Alumnus and past president of the foundation and alumni boards. He now serves on both the Foundation Board of Trustees and the College of Engineering Advisory Council and is Co-Chair of the Investing in the Future Campaign Cabinet.

Karen and Phil Drayer endowed the Mary Katherine Bell Regents Scholarship in Mathematics in memory of Mary Katherine Bell and in honor of the enormous difference her influence as a teacher made in Phil’s life both in high school and at Lamar. Phil ’65 holds an electrical engineering degree from Lamar, is a Distinguished Alumnus and serves on the College of Engineering Advisory Council, the Foundation Board of Trustees and the Investing in the Future Campaign Cabinet. Mary Katherine Bell was a highly decorated member of Lamar’s faculty. She received the Regents’ Professor Award in 1974, the Minnie Stevens Piper Professor Award in 1978 and the Eminent Professor Award in Mathematics in 1979.

Gerard Bonura ’77 established the Margaret Bonura Memorial and Gerard Bonura Scholarship in Nursing in memory of his mother, Margaret. Gerard earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from Lamar. His mother, Margaret, lived with him the last seven years of her life, during which time Gerard provided for her personal care. His years of caring for his mother helped Gerard realize the need for future health care providers for the elderly. He honors his mother with this scholarship to provide financial assistance to those who will work in the field of nursing and provide health care into the future. He also supports the Alicia Christine Bonura Memorial Scholarship in Engineering.

The King A. Campbell Scholarship in Business will be established through the estate plan of King Campbell ’70, ’72. He earned both a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and an MBA from Lamar. The scholarship will be established in memory of King’s father, Everett A. Campbell and his daughter, Margaret Bonura. The scholarship opportunities for undergraduate, graduate or doctoral students. Larry graduated from Lamar with a chemical engineering degree and took full advantage of the co-op program as a student. After graduation, Larry went to work for the Lubrizol Corp. from which he retired as vice president for operations in 2012. He is a valued member of the College of Engineering Advisory Council, sharing his wealth of experience and knowledge to benefit future generations of students. Cynthia is a Lamar cum laude graduate in history and a successful author, instructor and business owner.

A two-time graduate of Lamar, Yvonne (Smith) Ritter ’71, ’73, endowed the Yvonne Ritter Scholarship in English and Modern Languages. Yvonne earned a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Master of Arts in English. After a career as a teacher, Yvonne went on to obtain her real estate license and became an entrepreneur. She retired in 2012 after 40 years as a leader in Southeast Texas real estate. Yvonne credits her liberal arts education at Lamar with providing the tools she needed for success.

Jimmy and Distinguished Alumnus Susan (Williams) ’68 Simmons, through provisions in their wills, have provided a gift to the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music in the College of Fine Arts and Communication.

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

A lifelong native of Southeast Texas, Patricia A. Snyder ’88 has made provisions through her estate to establish the Patricia A. Snyder Innovation Fund in Engineering. A lifelong native of Southeast Texas, Patricia graduated summa cum laude from Lamar with a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics. She taught mathematics at Monsignor Kelly High School for more than 35 years and served as department chair most of that time. Patricia has served on the vestry of St. Mark’s Church and on the All Saints’ school board. She continues to be active with St. Mark’s.

Joe ’88 and Charlotte Ware established the Joe and Charlotte Ware Presidential Innovation Fund. The president of Lamar will use this restricted fund to further the mission of the university. Joe graduated from Lamar with a Bachelor of Science in Geology. In 1965, he began a career in the pharma-ceutical business that spanned more than 35 years. Joe and Charlotte also established a scholarship in earth and space sciences in 2007.

Distinguished Alumnus Michele (Yennie) ’88 and Mitch Smith endowed the Patzy and Michael Yennie Scholarship in Accounting to honor Michele’s parents. Michele, a graduate of Lamar with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting, serves on the Foundation Board of Trustees and is a past member of the Alumni Advisory Board. She and Mitch are both attorneys and strong community leaders in Beaumont. They were named 2013 Neches River Festival Citizens of the Year.
ON CAMPUS

Gladys City raises a ruckus
Spurred by Gladys City Boomtown Museum was the site of a rowdy and raucous celebration of Southeast Texas’ ranching heritage. April 20, the Cowboy Ruckus. This rollicking 5 celebration of Beaumont’s wilder days featured world-champion whip-cracker and trick-roped Chris McDaniel, the Beaumont 1860s Vintage Base Ball Club, the Former Texas Rangers Association, and the Back Porch Friends Dulcimer Group. The day rounded out with blacksmithing and printing demonstrations, butter churning, soap making and jewelry demonstrations. Children and adults alike tried their hands at calf roping, old-time games and other contests, including a “cow patty” toss, a pie-eating contest and a tug-o-war contest.

Lawson receives honorary doctorate

Online nursing graduate program tapped No. 2 by U.S. News & World Report
U.S. News & World Report ranked Lamar University’s online graduate nursing program as second in the nation out of 101 programs evaluated.

The ranking is based on four criteria: faculty credentials and training, student services and technology, student engagement and admissions selectivity. “We are very proud of our well-prepared faculty,” said Nancy Blume, director of graduate nursing studies at Lamar. “They are the backbone of our successful program.”

“The top score was 75.0, and Lamar scored 74.5. The next Texas school on the list, UT-El Paso, came in at 71,” said Brenda Nichols, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “Of the four major areas considered in these rankings, we scored highest in faculty credentials and training.”

Lamar’s nursing program’s second-highest score was in student engagement, a reflection on its best practices, class size, student retention and graduation rates, Nichols said. The program also scored well in the area of student services and technology.

Other Texas school rankings were UT-El Paso, 11, Texas Christian, 25, Texas Tech, 30, Texas A&M-Cooper Christi, 31, UT-El Paso, 56, San Angelo, 64, and UTMB, 65.

“I believe that this ranking proves that we have made the best choices for ourselves and our students as we have moved to an online graduate program,” Nichols said. “We offer students an excellent education at a great cost and have tremendous faculty.”

Students net top awards in design challenge
Four senior mechanical engineering students won three top awards in the Texas Space Grant Consortium Design Challenge Showcase, held in Houston April 15.

The team, named the “Astro Cardinals,” took honors for top design team, top poster award and top presentation award. Taking home the accolades were: team leader Philip Dulos, Beaumont; Manual Hernandez, La Villa; Don Perry, Beaumont, and David Robinson, The Woodlands.

The TSGC Design Challenge is a unique academic experience sponsored by NASA and administered by the Texas Space Grant Consortium since 2002, offering undergraduate students an opportunity to propose, design and fabricate a solution to a topic of importance to NASA and its mission.

Students cite access to faculty as stellar
The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business conducted a review of Lamar University students to report on student involvement regarding academics, student-faculty relationships, and campus life. MBA director Jeff Dysan ’82 said when Lamar’s MBA program had their AACSB review, one of the strongestresults was that students described access to faculty members as incredible. Many students reported that faculty members know them by name and care about them personally; because of that, the students view them as credible sources.

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LU announces record-setting 100 Mirabeau Scholars for 2013

Lamar University welcomes a record-setting 100 recipients of prestigious Mirabeau Scholarships to campus this fall 2013. The increase in Mirabeau Scholars coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Honors Program at the university, officials said. “The Mirabeau Scholarship is one of the most prestigious and competitive scholarships we offer,” said Stephen Doblin, provost and vice president for academic affairs. “Mirabeau Scholars are held to a higher level of academic and extra-curricular performance because these students are among our best and brightest.”

Each scholarship carries a value of more than $80,000 over eight semesters of support and covers all expenses. With complete tuition, fees, room and board assistance, plus a stipend for books and supplies, the financial benefit to the students is obvious. The university benefits as well, Doblin said, “from having exceptional students who live on campus, who are involved in university activities, and who hopefully push their fellow students to excel.”

Just to be considered for the scholarship, students must achieve an SAT score of 1250 (excluding the writing score) or higher or a composite ACT score of at least 28, and demonstrated excellence in prior academic work. In addition, documented excellence in a variety of leadership, service, and/or creative endeavors is expected.

MBA students trounce final eight to win national title

Four MBA students, Chinenye Egeke, Hugues Joannes, Lisha Lai and Xunui Fan, have become the US Global Management Champions by winning the world’s largest strategy and management competition.

The team, known as “The Conquerors,” battled through the three rounds of competition. Their most recent win was captured on the national stage at the New York Stock Exchange March 25. “The Global Management Challenge is a highly competitive strategy and management competition,” said Jeff Dyson ’82, director of Lamar’s MBA Program. “The competition was very fierce with teams competing from 21 universities including, Duke University, University of Virginia and University of Chicago.”

Gubala and springer spaniel honored

Sara Gubala, instructor of political science, and her springer spaniel, Kennedy, have a way of brightening up a room. Through their service in the community, they have brought smiles to children and seniors and helped motivate injured patients toward recovery.

The pair was honored with Lamar University’s Julie and Ben Rogers Community Service Award for 2012. “Julie and Ben Rogers have done a lot for the community, and to be put in a category with them this award is really amazing,” said Gubala. “The volunteer work that I have done has always been a part of my life, so it was a real honor to be recognized for that.”

Gubala and Kennedy are a registered pet therapy team, certified by Intermountain Therapy Animals and Pet Partners, formerly Delta Society. They are also involved with a local volunteer chapter called Paws4Love. The duo volunteered at Baptist Hospital a few days a week on the pediatrics and rehabilitation floors. Gubala said a therapy animal can often motivate patients to perform better during rehabilitation sessions.

“On the rehab floor, she is working with patients who are learning to walk again, who may have had a stroke, and who have limited mobility or communication,” she said. “Some patients will walk the entire length of a hallway because they are more motivated by walking a dog.”

Kennedy and Gubala have also raised money for cancer research.

Erik Qualman explored digital trends

Erik Qualman spoke about the power of social media and the digital trends in today’s business world in a public lecture April 9 as part of the Lamar University Academic Lecture Series.

“The students were delighted to hear from Erik Qualman,” said Henry Venta, dean of Lamar’s College of Business. “Our students have grown up with social media and they feel in control of that technology more than any other generation.”

Often called a Digital Dale Carnegie, Qualman is the author of “Socialnomics: How social media transforms the way we live and do business.” He is the global vice president of online marketing for EF Education, the world’s largest private education provider.

Qualman has made a phenomenal impact on the education of students of poverty not only in the United States, but in Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, China, Hungary, Slovakia and the United Kingdom,” said Dorothy Sisk, director of LU Gifted Education. “The two things that move a person out of poverty are education and relationships,” Payne said.
LU announces 2013-2014 Ambassadors

Lamar University has selected 12 students to serve as Lamar Ambassadors. They will join 18 returning Ambassadors in representing the student body at official university events during the 2013-2014 academic year.

“The success of the many strong academic programs at Lamar University is due, in large part, to our collaborations with community and civic leaders,” said President James Simmons. “Our Ambassadors allow the university to connect accomplished students with these important leaders, strengthening critical bonds and increasing opportunities for all students of our university.”

Newly selected Lamar University Ambassadors are Zach Holt, Barrow, chemistry/chemical engineering, from Beaumont; Jeremy Allen, management information systems, Jason Harten, chemical engineering, Charles Huyhn, chemical engineering/pre-med, Lydia Rosario, accounting; Ben Yett, electrical engineering, and Kevin Zabala, chemistry/pre-med.

At first, I was a little timid about joining STAIRSTEP,” he said. “When I actually got started researching and working with other students, the timidity went away, and I loved it. Studying how light interacts with the world around us gave me incredible insights into various realms of physics and things started to make sense.”

Ware began graduate school this fall at Purdue University; where he was awarded the Purdue Doctoral Fellowship. He said he feels the STAIRSTEP experience gave him an advantage over other students during the application process.

“With two years of research experience under my belt, I had a leg up on other applicants,” he said. “Now that I am accepted, I feel like I am ahead of my peers because of experiences I have had.”

Lamar University has been recognized by Princeton Review’s “Best 296 Business Schools: 2013 Edition” for its exceptional MBA program in the College of Business. Of the 296 business schools, 280 were from the U.S. and 16 were international.

“We are among the top 296 business schools nationally and internationally,” said Jeff Dyson, ‘82, MBA director. “Management knowledge, organizational perspective, and analytical skill and ability are all important things we focus on for the students in our business school. Our mission is to make students who attend Lamar’s MBA program relevant and competitive not only in business, but in life.”

The school rankings are derived from an 80-question survey given to students attending the schools and take into account how these students rate their experiences with the institution, MBA program, campus life, student body and faculty.

“Our MBA program is shockingly affordable, and also very diverse and very engaging,” Dyson said. “The competitive MBA admissions requirements help us ensure that we get the right people in the program.”

STAIRSTEP program exceeds goals

LU’s STAIRSTEP program, designed to retain students in science and technology-related fields and help them advance into professional fields and graduate school, has exceeded its goals in student retention and placement.

Students Advancing through Involvement in Research Student Talent Expansion Program (STAIRSTEP) exceeded its 70 percent retention rate goal by 21 percentage points. As of October, 91 percent of participants retained their Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)-related majors. And, at 83 percent, the program also exceeded its 80 percent goal of transitioning students into graduate school or STEM-related fields within six months of graduation.

Peggy Doorschauk, professor of computer science and director of STAIRSTEP, said the program covers five disciplines: computer science, mathematics, geology, chemistry and physics. Students work together in teams under the guidance of a faculty mentor in their respective STEM disciplines.

Graduates attest to program success

William Ware, a physics and electrical engineering graduate from Huntington, said the research he conducted during the STAIRSTEP program, with faculty mentor Christian Bahrim, associate professor of physics, helped him excel in his coursework at Lamar. Ware received a Plummer award upon graduation from Lamar in May 2012.

“With two years of research experience under my belt, I had a leg up on other applicants,” he said. “Now that I am accepted, I feel like I am ahead of my peers because of experiences I have had.”

Lamar in May 2012.

Lanning earned a Society of Physics Students Undergraduate Presentation Award at the conference for outstanding poster presentation. “I feel that I have developed skills as a researcher, skills necessary to write and communicate my ideas clearly and, the most challenging for me, the confidence necessary to be a good presenter,” he said.

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Ning Lanning, physics and mathematics graduate from Orange, presented his research with his mentor, Bahrim, at the 2012 American Physical Society March meeting in Boston, Mass. The conference is the largest physics meeting in the world, hosting as many as 7,000 research presentations.

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Computer science students place in Top 20

Three computer science majors placed in the Top 20 at the Association on Computing Machinery’s South Central Regional Programming Contest at Louisiana State University Oct. 19-20.

The Cardinals team placed 19th overall out of 58 teams from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Mississippi. “In fact, this team outperformed some teams from Texas A&M, UT-Dallas and Rice University,” said Stefan Andrei, associate professor of computer science. “The ACM ICPC contest is the most important computer programming competition in the world,” Andrei said. The Cardinals team members, Zebulan Barnett of Lumberton, Matthew Williamson of Hardin and Reza Shalouri from Beaumont banded together all teams from McNeese University, Abilene Christian University, Texas Christian University, University of Houston and many more.

Graduates attest to program success

William Ware, a physics and electrical engineering graduate from Huntington, said the research he conducted during the STAIRSTEP program, with faculty mentor Christian Bahrim, associate professor of physics, helped him excel in his coursework at Lamar. Ware received a Plummer award upon graduation from Lamar in May 2012.

At first, I was a little timid about joining STAIRSTEP,” he said. “When I actually got started researching and working with other students, the timidity went away, and I loved it. Studying how light interacts with the world around us gave me incredible insights into various realms of physics and things started to make sense.”

Ware began graduate school this fall at Purdue University; where he was awarded the Purdue Doctoral Fellowship. He said he feels the STAIRSTEP experience gave him an advantage over other students during the application process.

“With two years of research experience under my belt, I had a leg up on other applicants,” he said. “Now that I am accepted, I feel like I am ahead of my peers because of experiences I have had.”

Ning Lanning, physics and mathematics graduate from Orange, presented his research with his mentor, Bahrim, at the 2012 American Physical Society March meeting in Boston, Mass. The conference is the largest physics meeting in the world, hosting as many as 7,000 research presentations.

Lanning earned a Society of Physics Students Undergraduate Presentation Award at the conference for outstanding poster presentation. “I feel that I have developed skills as a researcher, skills necessary to write and communicate my ideas clearly and, the most challenging for me, the confidence necessary to be a good presenter,” he said.

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Mechanical engineering students perform well in Mini-Baja competition

A group of 10 senior mechanical engineering students, also known as “Cardinal Racing,” who designed, built and raced an all-terrain vehicle took first place in a sled-pull event and finished 30th overall out of the 100 teams at the 2013 SAE Baja East competition in Cookeville, Tenn., April 18-21.

The goal of this intercollegiate competition was to construct a functional, durable, versatile and cost-effective vehicle that could be mass-produced by a fictitious firm. To ensure the competition that puts the vehicles through its paces in a variety of dynamic tests, hill climbs, chain pulls, maneuverability, rock crawls, suspension and traction as well as a four-hour endurance race. In addition to taking first place in sled pull event, Lamar’s team finished 26th in suspension and traction, 29th in acceleration, 33rd in design and endurance race, 35th in maneuverability, and 63rd in cost.

On the “Cardinal Racing” team were: Trey Porter and Eddie Strickland, all of Beaumont; Adam Tanton, Silsbee; Kyle Horton, League City; and Ryan Clarke and Peter Newell, Baytown; Kyle Horton, of Beaumont; Adam Tanton, Silsbee; and Lauren Solis, first grade, Tyrell Elementary, Beaumont.

Four pedagogy students honored for excellence

Four professional pedagogy students were honored for excellence by the Center for Research Evaluation Advancement of Teacher Education’s (CREATE) Quest for Quality Teacher prep in Texas program.

Student teacher supervisors nominated the four students: Lauren Solis of Nederland, Erica Warner, Mauriceville, Lindsey Stephens, Nederland, and Kathryn Renee Vincent, Tyler, for the honor.

“They go out into the field and work with a mentor teacher and eventually take over the class,” said Gayle Lynn Fairley, director of the office of field work in the Professional Pedagogy Department. “It is like an internship program—they don’t get paid for it, but they get credit hours. They take everything they have learned in their university coursework and start applying it in the classroom under the guidance of a mentor.”

All four students currently teach in their own classrooms: Kathryn Vincent teaches seventh-grade math at Marshall Middle School in Beaumont; Erica Warner fourth-grade English and Language Arts and Texas History; Mauriceville Elementary, Lindsey Stephens, first grade, Helena Park Elementary, Nederland; and Lauren Solis, first grade, Tyrell Elementary, Beaumont.

CS student recognized in international competition

Demetrius Taylor, computer science senior from Dayton, earned third place in international competition at the 44th ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education in Denver, Colo. The annual symposium, sponsored by the Association for Computing Machinery’s Special Interest Group on Computer Science Education, is the premiere showcase for computing education in the U.S.

By presenting his poster entitled “Enabling a resource limited robot to formulate complex plans,” Taylor was selected as a finalist and went on to the next round, an oral presentation of his research. His poster described research he performed last summer as a McNair Scholar under the direction of his faculty mentor, computer science University Professor Peggy Doversch. “To my knowledge, this is the first time a LU student has made it to the finals in this international undergraduate student research contest,” Doversch said.

Historical interpreter Bill Barker brings Thomas Jefferson to life

Historical scholar Bill Barker is praised as the quintessential Thomas Jefferson – an interpreter who not only embodies the third president but becomes him.

“Meeting Barker is as close as you can get to meeting Thomas Jefferson,” wrote one reviewer.

Southeast Texans took advantage of the opportunity to meet Jefferson, via Barker, when Lamar University presented “An Evening with Thomas Jefferson on the American Presidency.” The College of Arts and Sciences and Depart- ment of History sponsored the presenta- tion. The program was made possible in part by a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endow- ment for the Humanities.

Barker, who is associated with Co- lonical Williamsburg, examined the office of the president in historical perspective through his portrayal of Jefferson. For more than 25 years, Barker has dedicated his life to educating the public about Jef- ferson – his ideas, life and legacy.

“Although Barker portrays Thomas Jefferson as president from 1800-1808, many of his topics still resonate today. These include civil liberty, representa- tive government, political parties, the Bill of Rights, presidential power and the relation among the three branches of government.

“The presidential campaign of 1800 was one of the most bitter in U.S. his- tory, and Barker, as Jefferson will explain how negative campaigning, partisan politics and contested elections have been part of our political system since the early days of the Republic,” Scheer said.

Barker interpreted Jefferson without using notes and left the audience with the distinct impression they were in the presence of one of the founding fathers.

Student chapter named No. 1 chapter by Ducks Unlimited

The Lamar University chapter of Ducks Unlimited is the No. 1 “Sweet 16” university chapter for 2012, the organization announced recently.

Each spring, the international nonprofit conserva- tion organization names the top university programs to the “Sweet 16” for their role in fundraising for the conservation of wetlands and associated upland habitats for waterfowl, other wildlife and people.

Lamar’s Ducks Unlimited student chapter raised $65,464 in 2012. That accomplishment set a new record among all “Sweet 16” chapters, said Ducks Unlimited Area Chairman and Lamar Chapter President Josi Courville. “To add to our achievements, Lamar University ranked 76th among the more than 2,700 Ducks Unlimited Chapters in the nation and are now recognized as one of the President’s Elite Chapters in 2012,” Courville added.

To commemorate the accomplishment and to thank LU President James Simmons for his support of the student chapter, Josi Courville and chapter members Jami Courville and Eric Payton presented him with a 75th Anniversary Pintail decoy signed by each of the chapter’s members.
Maxwell to be honored for international achievement

Elisabeth Maxwell, Beaumont biology major and LU Ambas- sador, has received the Marian Beane/Charles Gliozzo Domestic Student Award for International Achievement.

Phi Beta Delta International Scholars Honors Society gives the award to one student member at the national level. Maxwell accepted the award at the society’s national convention in North Carolina April 11-13.

Maxwell spent three months on the coast of South Africa working with a shark conservancy in 2011 and spent the sum- mer in Mozambique working with a Marine Mega Fauna field research station in 2012 as part of her research for the B эк Fel- lowship, Lamar’s most prestigious undergraduate honor.

Maxwell said she was surprised and honored when she received word she was selected to receive the award. “I feel like this award is more about all of the people who have helped me to get to where I am,” she said. “I didn’t get myself to Mozam- bique. A lot of others worked really hard to get me there, and I was just able to have the experience.”

Catalina Castillon, president of the Lamar University PBD Beta Xi Chapter, said the award is a great accomplishment for Maxwell and the Beta Xi Chapter. “It is a great honor for our Beta Xi chapter,” she said. “It fills us with pride and places us on the international map. Elisabeth competed at the national level against students from other universities with PBD chapters.”

Electrical engineering students recognized in national competitions

Nine senior and two junior electrical engineering majors received top honors in a recent competition in Colorado, sponsored by IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers), the world’s largest professional association for the advancement of technology. Lamar’s student teams from the Phillip M. Dwyer Department of Electrical Engineering competed against teams from 12 states including more than 100 colleges and universities. Of the four competitions Lamar’s students entered, they won first place in two and second place in another.

Senior Bryus Deagle of Lumberton took first place in the student paper competition. Deagle researched current techniques used to detect and remove ocular artifacts from electroencephalograms, a graphic record of the electrical activity of the brain.

“It was an honor just to go to Denver to compete with so many bright engineers from prestigious universities from across the country,” said Deagle. His award is the fifth time a LU engineering student has won first place in this award since 1972.

Junior Jason Cox, Beaumont, and Aaron Crawford, Buna, took first place in the student ethics competition, the first time Lamar has partici- pated in the event. Teams were required to present a case about real-life situations of questionable ethical decisions to a panel of seven engineers. They were then required to defend their analysis by answering questions from the panel.

Team CREWED, composed of seniors Alan Cleveland, Missouri City; Phillip Haff, Beaumont; Chase Patten, Port Arthur; and Stanley Rich- ardson-Whyte, Missouri City, took second place in the annual Center for the Commercialization of Electrical Technologies Student Design Contest. This year’s event challenged students to design a lightweight and portable robotic device for removal and replacement of residential kilowatt-hour meters to help mitigate the danger of potential arc flash.

Team SERFE, composed of seniors Tyler Rogers, Johnson Royce, Beaumont; David Stone, Silsbee; and Spencer Wigginton, Lumberton, finished in fifth place in the robotics competition. The aim of this year’s contest was to help determine the level of human intervention needed for the re-vegetation of a forest after a wildfire. Each team was required to de- sign and build a fully autonomous robot capable of navigating a simulated forest to collect soil samples.

In other competitions, seniors James Blackshear, Warren; and Derek Kalmer, Vidor, won the technical poster and technical presentation award at the 2013 Trinity College Fire Fighting Robotics contest held April 6 in Hartford, Conn.

Forming the EEI team, Blackshear and Kalmer were responsible for the design of robots that can assist the needs of a firefighter in real-world situations.

Joseph Hancock, Beaumont, and Kevin Lai, Houston, won honor- able mention in the top overall team award at the NASA Texas Space Grant Consortium Design Challenge held April 15 in League City.

The team’s project was to design and demonstrate an adaptive lighting controller that monitors the output light of an LED light source for degrada- tion of light intensity and/or color intensity changes for specific applica- tions to future spacecraft conducting deep space missions.

Celebrating 60 years of Pulse

Pulse, Lamar University’s student-created literary magazine, has released its 60th edition. “For more than half a century, Pulse has represented Lamar’s commitment to the literary arts,” said R.S. ‘Sam’ Gwynne, pro- fessor of English and modern languages. “We can be proud of published authors like Leon Stokely, a 1968 Lamar alumnus whose work first appeared in its pages. Other participants, like Amber Rigney, a 1998 alumnus, have gone on to important editorial positions.”

Cary Nichols of Port Neches, Pulse editor and English graduate student, said Pulse showcases work from students of different disciplines.

“I had the opportunity to see a lot of work from budding writers,” he said. “It is good to see we have good writers, not just in the English department, but all over campus.” The magazine is funded by donations from patrons of the arts.

Winners for this edition are Quinton Gaines of Beaumont for best undergraduate free verse, Donald Case of Point for best undergraduate formal poem, Kevin King of Vidor for best undergraduate prose, and Tasia Zatar of Beaumont for both the free verse and formal graduate poem categories. Alaina Bray of Hamshire won best critical essay. Ashley Cook of Port Arthur, Adam Gorrel of Bridge City and John Jashinski of Silsbee received Lamar-Longman Awards for best freshman critical essay. Jashinski won a second Lamar-Longman Award for an additional essay.

MBA students win GAME competition

Three Lamar University MBA students placed first in graduate-level value funds at the Global Asset Management Education (GAME) conference April 3-6 in New York City.

Ashley Angelle ’12 of Bridge City; Elly Garner ’12, Orange; Billy Pattarozzi ’12, Beaumont, and members of the Lamar University Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF) were led by Thomas Thompson, professor of finance.

Garner earned her MBA in general business from Lamar in 2012 and works part time as an ac- counting assistant at LEGO Services, LLC. Pattarozzi is a 1983 graduate of Lamar with a bachelor’s degree in information technology and works for MUW. He sees the MBA as a valuable comple- ment to his business and technical skills. A 2012 graduate of Lamar with a bachelor’s degree in finance and economics, Angelle is a secretary at Germer Gertz, LLP and plans a career in the finance industry.

Based on approximately 11 percent performance for 2012 and for the third consecutive year, the Lamar Stu- dent Managed Invest- ment Fund placed first for graduate-level value funds. Other graduate level fund winners were Fordham Univer- sity for growth funds and Rice University for core funds.

Jim Armacost named new director of sustainability

Lamar University has created a new office of sustainability with the goal of making the university as efficient and environmentally friendly as possible. Jim Armacost, assistant professor of biology, has been named the university’s first director of sustainability.

Armacost has been at Lamar University since 2007 teaching courses in ornithology, conservation biology, tropical forest ecolog- y, avian ecology, bird conservation, and invasion ecology and has served as a member of the Faculty Learning Committee on Sustainability.

The creation of the new office and position is part of Lamar’s strategic plan to promote sustainability in all aspects of university life, following Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) principles in renovation and construction projects when- ever feasible, and establishing a recharging station on campus.

“Lamar is making efforts to become as sustainable as possible in all of its activities,” Armacost said. “This means conserving energy; minimizing the amount of waste we produce and mini- mizing our environmental impact while still accomplishing the educational goals of the institution.”
LU honors Xu as 2013 University Scholar

Qing Xu has been selected as 2013 University Scholar. President James Simmons announced the honor during a ceremony April 10. The University Scholar Award is the most prestigious research honor bestowed upon a faculty member at Lamar.

“The criteria encompass current and continuous exemplary scholarly research and projected future impact for the University. Without a doubt his collaboration on industry projects with five major corporations is exceptional and a role model for public/private research,” said Jack Hopper, dean, College of Engineering. “Dr. Xu’s scholarly endeavors continue the high standard for outstanding research performance by Lamar’s faculty.”

Xu’s research is in the areas of large-scale dynamic simulation and optimization, production scheduling and planning, multi-scale systems integration, soft-sensor technique development, and industrial pollution. He has published more than 63 peer-reviewed research papers, and has served as principal or co-principal investigator on funded projects totaling in excess of $1 million. These include funding from the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Defense and leading petrochemical companies.

Xu joined the Dan E. Smith Department of Chemical Engineering in 2005. Four of his recent papers have received best paper awards, from three different American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) divisions. Because of his excellence in research, he has been appointed as the chair-elect of Process Research and Innovation Subdivisions of AIChE, and the programming chair of the Green Chemistry and Green Engineering Subdivisions of the American Chemical Society (ACS).

Carl named Fellow

Edelen Dugas Carl, chair of the J.O. Anne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing, has been inducted into the National League for Nursing’s Academy of Nursing Education with the credential of fellow. She joins the academy’s 117 fellows representing nursing schools and programs throughout the United States.

“NLN fellows include nationally recognized leaders in the nursing profession. To be a fellow with these outstanding nurses is an amazing opportunity,” said Carl. “Receiving this prestigious honor also brings recognition for Lamar University and the excellent nursing programs we offer.” As a fellow, I have a network of leaders in different areas of nursing with which I can collaborate to address important issues or work on special projects related to nursing education.”

Carl is known for her work in the public policy arena, with emphasis on nursing education policy. Her work at the national level includes chairing the Committee on Accreditation and Approval of Nursing Programs for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN). She served as co-investigator of two large research studies that led to a public policy regulatory model recommended by NCSBN and adopted by many states including Texas.

Guo and Wei net National Science Foundation grant

John Guo, assistant professor of chemical engineering, and Suying Wei, assistant professor of analytical chemistry, have received a $844,180 National Science Foundation grant entitled “EAGER: The First Steps toward Giant Magneto-resistive Carbon Nano Composites.” Researchers will examine the surface functionalization of commercial magnetic nanoparticles and will evaluate the feasibility of the large-scale production of carbon nanocomposites.

The success of this project will advance the knowledge required to manufacture next-generation GMR materials and will also have potential for device miniaturization and weight reduction.

ACM recognizes LU’s Andrei

The Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) has recognized Stefan Andrei, associate professor of computer science, as a Senior Member. The world’s largest educational and scientific computing society, ACM delivers resources that advance computing as a science and a profession. Its international senior member program, initiated in 2006, includes members with at least 10 years of professional expertise who have demonstrated performance that sets them apart from their peers through technical leadership and technical or professional contributions.

“I think my greatest reward is actually the fact that I am working with students,” said Andrei. “When I see the students happy for their achievements, this makes me feel younger.”

Das recognized for teaching excellence

The Mathematical Association of America will honor Kumer Das, associate professor of mathematics, in 2013 Alder Award for distinguished teaching at the Math Fest Ceremony in Hartford, Conn., August 2. Each year, no more than three mathematical science faculty members from the U.S. and Canada are honored with this national award.

He teaching at Lamar University has influence far beyond the classroom. Das’ students and colleagues wrote of his extraordinary teaching success in letters of recommendation that accompanied the award nomination: “I am totally honored and immensely grateful,” said Das.

One student wrote, “Dr. Das is an energetic, enthusiastic, passionate, sincere, and patient professor. His students value his classes not just for their educational benefit, but for the overall experience which includes the successful use of technology as both a content delivery tool and a pedagogical tool, his sense of humor, and his extraordinary patience level.”

Teaching skills seem to be passed down from generation to generation. “My father was also an awarded teacher in Bangladesh,” Das said. “I follow his footsteps and feel very proud.”

Forret provides insight into slavery

Jeff Forret, associate professor of history, has published his second book, “Slavery in the United States.” The book is part of the “Issues and Controversies in American History” series by New York publisher Facts on File and explores issues such as the role slaves played in the American Revolution and the implications of the U.S. Constitution upon slavery.

Forret examines religious justifications for slavery, the history of the transatlantic slave trade and other topics. Each chapter is designed around an issue that was debated among historical actors. Forret tells the story of American slavery through the voice of historical agents to capture an authentic narrative about the issues the book addresses.

“The book itself is very much grounded in primary sources,” he said. “It uses the words people alive at the time would use to discuss these various issues.”

Alasti named SPME Fellow

Sanaz Alasti, assistant professor of criminal justice and a native of Iran, has been named a Fellow of Scholars for Peace in the Middle East. Alasti did post-doctoral research in comparative studies of capital punishment at Harvard School of Law in 2011. She is the author of several books on criminal law, the criminal justice system, comparative punishment practices and rituals, and criminology.

Alasti will present her research in comparative criminal justice systems in the Middle East at the fifth seminar organized by the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences, in co-operation with the NATO School. The seminar will focus on “Shari’a Law and Military Operations” in the Middle East.

Scheduled Nov. 19-24 at the institute headquarters in Siracusa, Sicily, the seminar will provide instruction on Shari’a Law by international scholars to officials and advisors from NATO member countries. Faculty members are invited from all around the world to cover a broad variety of issues such as crime and punishment in Shari’a Law, law of armed conflict, religiously motivated political violence, women’s and minorities’ rights and operational issues.

This conference is unique in that it is being held in an Italian city surrounded by Mussolini’s remains, the world’s largest democracy, and the largest Muslim country. It will provide a forum for the surrounding issues to instruct NATO officials in laws of the Middle East and on religious law differs from secular law.” Usually when you attend a seminar or conference, the attendees are scholars, graduate students from my field, or criminologists,” Alasti said. “At this seminar, the attendees are NATO officials, legal advisors and judges, so I believe it will be a different experience to work with them as opposed to scholars in my field.”
Le Grand Bal

Alumni and friends came out to style to honor Sallye Jane Keith of Beaumont, a beloved philanthropist and civic leader, for her myriad contributions to Lamar University, the community and the arts. Presented by Lamar University’s Friends of the Arts, Le Grand Bal is the major annual fundraiser for the College of Fine Arts and Communication.

5. Sally Bundy, Earl Brickhouse ’50.

7. Rod Carroll, Dawn Mathis, James Vanderleeuw and Nick Lampson ’68, ’74, get together during the 2013 Brooks Conference April 18 at Lamar. The Jack Brooks Chair in Government and Public Service hosted the event, which focused on substance abuse. The conference and chair honor the late U.S. Rep. Jack Brooks, who served in Congress more than 40 years. Carroll is Brooks’ son-in-law. Mathis, with the Drug Enforcement Administration in Houston, was keynote speaker, and Vanderleeuw, a professor of political science, holds the Brooks chair and is conference director. Lampson was among about 130 participants in the conference.

8. John Nguyen of Nederland celebrates the December 2012 graduation of his daughter, Lan Nguyen, a recipient of the Plummer Award.

9. Supporting CASA of Southeast Texas at the Justice is Served Dinner April 23: CASA board member and LU Dean Henry Venta, left, with President James Simmons; Vernice Monroe, special assistant to the president for multicultural issues at LU, who won CASA Child Advocate of the Year; and Toni Mulvaney, CASA board member and volunteer advocate and professor of accounting and business law at LU.

10. The red and white Lamar University flag and a freshly painted crosswalk of the same colors shout victory on Main Street at BP Texas City. Conceived by the Maintenance, Reliability and Projects groups, the month-long contest called “Crossing Main Street the United Way” raised $13,564, with $4,020 poured in by graduates of Lamar.

11. University professor of earth and space sciences James Westgate was an invited keynote speaker at the 9th International Conference on Hands-on Science in Antalya, Turkey. He also presented a workshop, “You are what you eat: determining the diet of extinct animals,” at the first Children’s Summit on Hands-on Science and Environmental Education. Kids from across Turkey marveled at the large fossil tooth from a 4 million-year-old, 40-foot C. megalodon shark.

12. Provost Stephen Dubin congratulates retiree Ku-Yen Li, professor of chemical engineering, and his wife, Tsong-Dsu “Sherry,” instructor of chemistry. The couple was among 14 retirees honored at a reception April 10.
Ann Die-Hasselmo, retired Lamar University President, conferred the medallion of University Professor “as a lasting symbol of this high honor and esteemed faculty award by Lamar’s academic community.”

Professor Lou is committed to scholarly activities that foster knowledge, discovery and innovation in research and engineering education,” said Jack Hopper, dean of the College of Engineering. “She is an exceptionally gifted instructor, receiving recognition year after year from her students and professional peers. She is one of Lamar’s premier researchers and is recognized widely for her service to the university, industry and the profession of chemical engineering.”

Recently, Hopper noted, Lou was listed among the “Top 100 Most Talented” by Shanxi Province in China—a province of almost 40 million people.

“Dr. Lou has been an outstanding faculty member, contributing significantly to the recent successes of the chemical engineering department,” said T.C. Ho, her department chair.

Lou has made significant contributions to Lamar, chemical engineering and, most importantly, to her students, said Stephen Doblin, provost and vice president for academic affairs. “In her steady, humble and focused manner, Dr. Lou has grown into one of Lamar’s most productive and accomplished faculty members. She is appreciated by her students, admired by her colleagues and respected by her national and international peers. Her standard of excellence is readily evident throughout the university.”

Lou is one of the world’s most productive environmental researchers, Doblin said. She has published 28 peer-reviewed journal articles, authored six book chapters, served on four invited international panels and delivered more than 100 professional papers—in just 12 years of service.

Since 2002, Lou has been principal investigator or co-principal investigator on 33 funded projects. To fund these efforts, she has received more than $2.1 million in funded research. She was honored in 2009 as University Scholar and in 2004 with a Merit Award.

After receiving a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering from Zhijiang University, she earned master’s degrees in chemical engineering and computer science and a doctor of philosophy in chemical engineering from Wayne State University. Early in her career, she was a petrochemical engineer in China, but her true calling was in academics where her area of interest include momentum and heat transfer, process controls, optimization processes and sustainability.

Lou has received four funded projects totaling $75,000 to enhance instruction, including two from the National Science Foundation and one from the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance. She serves as faculty advisor for Lamar’s chapter of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and as a mentor to undergraduate chemical engineering majors. Lou is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, American Chemical Society, Sigma Xi scientific research society and Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society.

A Registered Professional Engineer in Texas, Lou has held office in professional organizations, has chaired dozens of sessions at professional conferences and meetings around the world and is an editorial board member for several professional journals. She is a proposal reviewer for the National Science Foundation, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation, Texas Emerging Technology Fund, Texas Hazardous Waste Research Center, Gulf Coast Hazardous Substance Research Center and national research agencies in South Africa, Qatar and the People’s Republic of China.
Farewell President Simmons

Alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends of Lamar University extended applause and appreciation March 2 for President Jimmy Simmons and First Lady Susan (Williams) Simmons ’68, who have ushered in a new era at LU, priming the university for future growth and success. Simmons accepted those best wishes before he returns to the faculty this year after more than 14 years of service as president and 44 years with the university. He will teach as president emeritus in a building that bears his name, with the nearby garden named for Susan, both in tribute to all he and Susan have worked toward and accomplished.

A Standing Ovation for Jimmy and Susan Simmons” began with the Lady Cardinals’ and Cardinals’ basketball games with special presentations during halftime of the men’s game and a reception on the arena floor afterward.

1. Celebrating the naming of Jimmy Simmons Boulevard are, from left, LU Ambassador Joshua Barnes, Distinguished Alumna and First Lady Susan (Williams) Simmons ’68, Beaumont Mayor Becky Ames, President James Simmons, and Ambassadors Paul Rizk, Rachel Banaga and Daniel Ward.
2. Mary Ann (Johnson) ’65 and Distinguished Alumnus Don Lyle HD ’06 with President James Simmons, center.
3. Students jam with Cardinal Spirit at halftime during the LU vs Oral Roberts University basketball game that bookended the Ovation tribute to the president and first lady.
4. Distinguished Alumnus Mike ’65 and Pat (Petterson) Aldridge ’61.
5. Simmons family
6. Regents David Montagne ’74, Chairman Donna Williams, President James Simmons, Regent and Distinguished Alumnus William Scott ’70, Chancellor Brian McCall, former Regent Trisha Pollard, Regent Charlie Amato.
7. Cardinals basketball team Manager Andrea Bohanna, left, with, front row from left, Donley Minor, President Simmons, Keilan Blanks, back row from left, Rahn Mitchell, Ames Wilson and Donnell Minton.
8. Susan (Simmons) Howell 65 with her brother, Jimmy
9. Distinguished Alumna and First Lady Susan (Williams) Simmons ’68 and President James Simmons.
10. Vice President for University Advancement Camille Mouton, left, with Distinguished Alumnus Phil ’97 and Karen Dreyer.
11. President James Simmons, Distinguished Alumna and First Lady Susan (Williams) Simmons ’68.
12. Senior Donley Minor.
13. Laurie (House) Richel ’85, Distinguished Alumna and First Lady Susan (Williams) Simmons ’68.
14. TSDU Regents and LU Ambassadors cheer as Chancellor Brian McCall announces President James Simmons will be honored as president emeritus.
15. Distinguished Alumnus Dan ’69 and Sandra Smith with Distinguished Alumna and First Lady Susan (Williams) Simmons ’68.
Preserving history

Brooks-Shivers Dining Hall: A lasting legacy

The Brooks-Shivers Dining Hall will perpetuate the legacy of two men who were instrumental in efforts to make Lamar a four-year college. Regents of The Texas State University System unanimously transferred the name from the Brooks-Shivers dormitory, which is being re-purposed as a part of campus enhancement.

Their action emphasizes the importance of preserving the history of Lamar while moving forward as a university. The state-of-the-art dining hall opened in 2005.


Robert Allan Shivers was born on Oct. 5, 1907, in Lufkin and spent his early childhood in the family home near Woodville. After his father moved to Port Arthur, he graduated from Port Arthur High School in 1924. After graduation from the University of Texas, he practiced law in Port Arthur until he was elected to the Texas Senate at age 27, the youngest member ever to sit in that body. Shivers served in the Army during World War II. He was elected lieutenant governor in 1946 and assumed duties as governor after Jester's death in July 1949, serving more than seven years as Texas' top official. He died on Jan. 14, 1985.

Born in Crowley, La., on Dec. 18, 1922, Jack Bascom Brooks came to Beaumont at age 5. He attended public schools, working as a carhop, grocery clerk, magazine salesman and reporter. He enrolled in Lamar Junior College in 1939 and completed his first two years of college at Lamar in 1941 before he transferred to the University of Texas, earning a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1943. After serving as a Marine on Guadalcanal, Guam, Okinawa and in North China, Brooks was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1946 at age 29. He went on to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives for 42 consecutive years—from 1953 through 1994. Brooks died on Dec. 4, 2012, just short of his 90th birthday. —LW

Jack Brooks: ‘A great friend of Lamar University’

Jack Brooks was a part of history, not only on the national stage but also in the emergence of Lamar University as a major institution of higher learning. “Jack Brooks’ life and service were closely tied to Lamar,” said President James Simmons. “He was an alumnus of Lamar, and he never forgot his alma mater. He was instrumental in the growth and development of the university throughout his public service. Jack Brooks was a great friend of Lamar University.”

When Brooks died Dec. 4, 2012, at age 89, his family selected the Montagne Center as the site of his memorial service—where a who’s who of public figures and those from all walks of life paid him tribute. Brooks shared the political stage with key political players of the 20th century—from House Speaker Sam Rayburn to Presidents John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. He was in Kennedy’s 1963 motorcade through Dallas, and, after Kennedy’s assassination, Brooks stood nearby as Johnson took the oath of office on Air Force One.

He earned recognition for the Civil Rights Act of 1964. A decade later, he played a major role in the investigation and impeachment proceedings of President Richard Nixon. He was known as a champion of civil liberties and a watchdog over government spending and operations.

While representing Jefferson County in the Texas House, he authored the bill making Lamar a four-year institution—the first new senior college in Texas in 25 years. That measure alone would have cemented his place in Lamar’s history, but his impact on Lamar goes far beyond that moment. His record in Congress was punctuated by his efforts on behalf of Lamar. In addition to his assistance in obtaining federal research and study grants and loans for construction, Brooks lent his personal efforts to help students, faculty and staff.

Lamar honored Brooks as a Distinguished Alumnus in 1975. He and his wife, Charlotte, have been honored as members of Lamar’s Spindletop Society, the university’s highest recognition of philanthropic support. Brooks’ impact on Lamar continues through the Jack Brooks Scholarship in Government and Public Service and the Jack Brooks Chair in Government and Public Service, which hosts the annual Brooks Conference. The Beaumont Foundation of America established a Southeast Texas Legends Endowed Scholarship in his honor. —LW

To contribute to the Brooks Scholarship or for information about establishing an endowed scholarship, contact the Lamar University Foundation at (409) 880-2117.
A frightening medical diagnosis at age 14 prompted Crystal Vandehoef to veer off course academically for a few years. Eventually, she found her way to Lamar University, where a variety of opportunities have put her on the path toward a future as a biomedically oriented researcher.

Vandehoef, a biology and chemistry major from Port Neches, Texas, was selected as one of Lamar University’s two David J. Beck Fellows for 2013. The Beck Fellowship covers all expenses including tuition, fees, books and on-campus room and board for one year, along with up to $10,000 for a summer project. Vandehoef will spend her summer as a research assistant at the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) investigating ankylosing spondylitis, the chronic inflammatory disease with which she was diagnosed six years ago. Vandehoef said she has found multiple windows into other interests or exploring another country, Vandehoef said she has had trouble finding scientific information on her disease and thought focusing on it as a research interest would be advantageous. “I want to do something to further cures and treatment options because I don’t like the treatment options that are available,” she said.

At NIAMS, she will work with Robert Colbert, deputy clinical director and chief of the Pediatric Translational Research Branch. In researching her disease, Vandehoef came across information on Colbert as a top scientist in the field and contacted him to ask about research opportunities. He invited her to work in his lab for the summer and wrote a recommendation for her fellowship application.

This will not be Vandehoef’s first foray into scientific research. After taking a few basics at Lamar State College-Port Arthur, she transferred to Lamar University in summer 2011 and quickly noticed flyers for LU’s STARSTEP program. That fall, she began participating in the program, which is funded by the National Science Foundation to help undergraduate students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics improve their research and presentation skills. With her mentor Christopher Martin, associate professor of chemistry, Vandehoef has worked on green chemistry research to redesign organic chemistry labs to improve yields and reduce waste. Since June, she also has been performing computational chemistry research working with researchers in Argentina on computer simulations to calculate the energy required for a variety of reactions. Vandehoef presented that research in April at the national meeting of the American Chemical Society in New Orleans.

“I want to get more into biology research, but I’ve already made the connections in chemistry, and you don’t want to leave a project open ended,” Vandehoef said. “I’ve asked Dr. Colbert to give me a list of procedures I should know. I’ll work with the biology professors at Lamar this spring to get caught up so that when I get to the NIH, I’m starting with something to offer.”

Additionally, Vandehoef serves as vice president of LU’s Student Association of the American Chemical Society and is a member of the American Medical Student Association on campus. She has also tunneled through the STARS and STARSTEP programs at Lamar. Vandehoef’s drive and focus today contrast sharply with her life during her high school years when her diagnosis forced her to give up the competitive sports she enjoyed. “I went through some hard times in high school,” she said. “I ended up going off the deep end for a while, but I think it has helped me grow.”

In applying for highly competitive M.D./Ph.D. programs, Vandehoef expects her research experience and the strong relationships she has built with LU professors to provide a significant advantage. “Getting the Beck Fellowship and the opportunity to work at the NIH has made getting into a program seem like a possibility, not just a lofty goal,” Vandehoef said. “With an M.D./Ph.D., you can teach and do your research at a medical school. I’ve definitely thought pretty hard about that because I enjoy teaching. I enjoy helping people understand things.”—BG

English, Spanish major explores Spain, Argentina

For Amy Morgan, studying at Lamar University has provided extraordinary opportunities and exposure to new cultures that she never envisioned while growing up in Sulphur. An English and Spanish major, Morgan traveled to Salamanca, Spain, in summer 2011 for a study-abroad program offered by Lamar. Recently chosen as one of LU’s two David J. Beck Fellows for 2013, she is now planning her second trip abroad. For her fellowship project, Morgan will travel to Argentina for a literary seminar, study and work on a literary translation in summer 2013.

“This time I’m going to be alone, not with a group from Lamar, which is exciting. I’ll get to see how I thrive on my own in a different environment,” Morgan said. “I’m also planning to stay with a family in Argentina. This is going to force me to step out of my comfort zone and push myself to really experience the culture.”

A long-time love of reading and literature made majoring in English a natural choice for Morgan. “Now it’s not just the story. I like the phrasing,” she said. “When I read something, I think, ‘that’s a really beautiful way that he wrote that.’ It’s not necessarily the plot or the characters. The writing itself has started to become more and more attractive to me.”

She added a second major in Spanish after taking a few classes to fulfill a foreign language requirement. “It’s fascinating,” she said. “A huge number of people speak Spanish all over the world. Each country is going to have its own version of the language, its own culture and history.”

The interest in Spanish sparked by her Lamar classes and professors prompted her decision to pursue a career as a literary translator. She applied for the David J. Beck Fellowship as a step toward that goal. During her summer project in Argentina, Morgan will have the opportunity to meet with author and translator organizer Mempo Giardinelli, whose work she plans to translate into English.

“Getting the chance to meet with the author will be a translating is going to be amazing. Getting to listen to all the different writers and translators and critics from around Argentina will be a really helpful learning experience for me,” Morgan said. “I don’t think translators get some of the credit they deserve sometimes. I feel like it’s overlooked. With a lot of the literature we have today, it wouldn’t be possible for us to read it without translation,” she said.

Along with her studies, Morgan has enjoyed her involvement in student organizations at Lamar. She has served as secretary and historian of the Honors Student Association and has enjoyed service opportunities with the Honors Program. She has a campus job in the Honors office. Additionally, she serves as president of Sigma Tau Delta, the English honor society, and is a member of Sigma Delta Pi, the Spanish honor society.

Lamar’s proximity to her hometown and the academic reputation made it an attractive choice when she was deciding on a college. She finalized her decision when she was offered a Mirabeau Scholar fellowship. Morgan said she appreciated the opportunity to live on campus and take advantage of the full college experience because of the scholarship. Perhaps her favorite part of Lamar University has been its classes because of the knowledge she has gained and the relationships she has built. “I really love learning and reading and getting to discuss different things with my fellow students and professors,” Morgan said.

Whether in a classroom on campus or exploring another country, Morgan has found multiple windows into other worlds and other cultures through LU. —BG

The David J. Beck Fellowships

David J. Beck Fellowships grow in number

A familiar refrain fills the room each year as a committee of Lamar University faculty and staff members review applications for the David J. Beck Fellowship: “I wish we had a Beck Fellowship for every one of these students.”

Senior Associate Provost Kevin Smith, who chairs the committee, has heard the refrain expressed by every committee member at least once.

“The difference in talent and dreams between the top-ranking candidate and the second, third, fourth and fifth is ever so fine,” Smith said.

Although selecting Beck Fellows each year still requires the committee to “split the finest of hairs,” the task has become a little easier thanks to a second generous gift from Distinguished Alumnus David J. Beck, one of the top lawyers in the country, established the unique fellowship program for Lamar University undergraduates with a $1 million gift to the Lamar University Foundation as part of the Investing in the Future comprehensive campaign. In late 2012, he increased the size of the fellowship’s endowment to $1.5 million with an additional gift of $500,000.

The endowment will now allow the university to name two Beck Fellows each year. Previously, LU had one Beck Fellow each year from 2009 to 2011. For 2012 and 2013, the endowment supported one fellowship and annual gifts from Beck supported a second.

The David J. Beck Fellowships are designed to reward top Lamar University undergraduates for their achievements while challenging them to push themselves further. Beck Fellowship projects have included a nursing internship in Ghana, independent biology research in Bolivia, research on sharks in South Africa and manta rays in Mozambique, and a modern pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral in England.

“It’s been delightful to spend time visiting with some of our best undergraduates, to listen to their ideas and their dreams, to see their plans and to feel their enthusiasm,” Smith said. “The Beck Fellowship truly is a life-shaping, transformational gift. It makes a Lamar University education infinitely more valuable.”—BG
A can-do attitude
LAMAR UNIVERSITY WELCOMES KENNETH AND NANCY EVANS TO TOP POST

by Brian Sattler

Kenneth Evans has been selected as Lamar University’s 18th president after an extensive national search. Texas State University System Chancellor Brian M. Kent described Evans as “fresh blood with new ideas” and praised his extensive experience in areas where Lamar wants to grow.

“Lamar University has a great tradition,” Evans said. “Nancy and I are excited about the promise of the future for Lamar, and its role in the Beaumont community and beyond.”

“I am particularly impressed with the entrepreneurial spirit exemplified by the administrators, students, faculty and staff,” he added. “There is clearly a can-do attitude at Lamar. It is also evident that Lamar benefits from being part of the TSUS. It is embraced by the communities of Southeast Texas and has strong legislative support.”

Evans’ background portends an impressive array of experiences from which to draw. Evans has served since 2007 as dean of the Michael F. Price College of Business at the University of Oklahoma. He previously served as associate dean of graduate studies, assistant dean of undergraduate studies and chair of the marketing department at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He has worked in a variety of research, teaching and administration positions at Arizona State University, the University of Colorado and California State University, Sacramento.

Prior to his academic career, Evans worked as a consultant and marketing representative at several northern California companies.

Evans, who will take office July 1, looks forward to “talking to university people—regents, administrators, faculty, staff, students, alumni and shareholders—to get a more informed perspective of the issues and opportunities facing Lamar and, for that matter, universities in general.

“How we address the challenges facing us will be determined by a collective community of the university and external stakeholders working to carve out a clear vision,” Evans said.

Recognizing that around 30 percent of Lamar’s credit hours are generated through online programs, Evans sees important work ahead in that area to “protect what Lamar is doing in that space. Normally, the best way to protect online space is to grow additional opportunities and to constantly ramp up and stay ahead of the competition.” That includes creating courses and programs not yet offered and offering existing programs in new places that result in increased enrollment.

Another area of opportunity Evans sees for growth is providing endowments of completion. “A lot of people are not necessarily looking to come back to get an additional degree,” Evans said. “They are looking for an enhancement of key skills that they need to be competitive.” Offering an endowment of core competency may be attractive to many potential students.

He understands the importance of fundraising and community engagement. “Lamar has done a fantastic job with its first comprehensive campaign,” Evans said.

“That really shows the level of support for the university among its alumni and the community.”

Selected following an exhaustive national search that yielded more than 70 applications and nominations, Evans holds a bachelor’s degree in English and political science from the University of California, Davis, a master’s in business administration from California State University, Sacramento, and a Ph.D. in marketing from the University of Colorado. He has conducted extensive research and authored more than 70 journal articles on interpersonal influence, sales management, services marketing, and marketing management and theory.

Evans’ teaching and research is extensive, but it is his recent leadership experience that provides a special fit with his future role. As a dean, Evans strove to make “all the pieces work together,” providing the right support infrastructure, managing a team, and “helping the division heads recruit great faculty and keep them.”

That job also included fundraising and finding “opportunities for donors to connect to the college in meaningful ways, such as with scholarships, endowed faculty positions or supported programs.”

As undergraduate assistant dean, Evans gained a perspective on the particular challenges faced by freshmen and sophomore students that affect retention and matriculation. “These issues are really, really critical,” he said. “In those first couple of years, some navigate with no difficulty at all and others need a little more help.”

Born in Pittsburgh, Pa., he grew up in Chicago where he attended public schools through the fifth grade, when the family moved to the San Fernando Valley, Calif. He was the first in his immediate family to earn a college degree. His father served as a radar technician during World War II, then continued working in technology for several major engineering companies, completing his career at Jet Propulsion Laboratories in Pasadena, Calif. “My parents knew the economic value of a college degree though neither had one,” Evans said. “They couldn’t help me through the process. They did their best, but they had not been there. I am proud to be a product of public education, as such, I am committed to working toward its continued success.”

Evans considers himself “a big sports nut” and believes trading crimson and cream for red and white will not be hard. He and Nancy anticipate watching the Cardinals on the court and field. “Nancy is a huge basketball fan, so she is very much looking forward to the basketball season,” he said. Evans played basketball, golf and football at different points in high school and college and ran daily as part of an active lifestyle.

“I like the outdoors a great deal,” Evans said. “When I have time, I enjoy hiking and whitewater canoeing.” His hobbies include woodworking and bicycling.

Ken and Nancy met while they were freshmen at University of California, Davis, and married after graduation. A career elementary school teacher, Nancy retired from the Columbus Public Schools when the couple moved to Norman, Okla.

“After I retired, I became a student. I signed up for the dance training program, studio painting and master gardening classes, things I was interested in but had never had time for when I was working and raising our family,” she said. “I am looking forward to getting to know the community and exploring Beaumont.”

The couple has two sons. Paul and his wife, Ellie, live in New York City, where he is a commercial litigator and she is a professional dancer. Paul graduated from the University of Missouri and Ellie from Washington University in St. Louis, where Paul also earned his law degree. Brian graduated from Berklee College of Music in Boston with a bachelor of fine arts and was then a musician and audio professional. He recently changed tracks and is now working toward a master’s in electrical engineering at the University of New Mexico.

While Evans will soon be updating his wardrobe to more reds and whites, it is the figurative donning of a new role he describes: “Right now, I’m looking at the shirt in the package, but I haven’t actually unraveled it yet.”

Indications are it is destined to be a very good fit.
thoughts of Lamar University as similar to a big family. A year after his European trip, Robbins left for Washington, D.C., for an internship with former Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison. “I was supposed to do this internship only during the summer session for my degree,” he said. “But the legislative director actually asked me to stay. I ended up interning for nine months. I learned on the job, and I got involved. This was an amazing experience.” Robbins got an up-close view of how this country runs by working on taxes, budgets and Social Security issues and by preparing speeches with Hutchison. “Now, I love all those things because I got to understand really what is involved.” He said he applied the concepts and political skills that Lamar’s professors taught him and he felt prepared. “I learned the theories at Lamar in order to be able to practice them out there, in the real world,” he said.

Along with his academic pursuits in and out of the classroom, Robbins has enjoyed his involvement in student organizations. He has been the president pro temp of the Student Senate for almost two years. Also, he is an active member of Circle K International and one of the leaders of the Catholic Student Center and the Lamar Adoration Community Theology and Service (ACTS) retreats. Those activities helped him to make new friends and deepen his faith. Robbins credits his community service, leadership development and friendships made through organizations with helping him grow, develop his personality and improve his social skills.

His future goal is to find a job in the field he loves. He would like to work one or two years to really get an idea of the job he wants to do and maybe later, apply for graduate school. “I have been talking to a couple of law schools and MBA programs, and they all recommend some experience post-graduation,” he said.—JA

Newchurch frames her own future

Ashley Newchurch has always been interested in art and chose to attend Lamar University to pursue her dreams. Her interest in art comes from finding something that she was good at and from enrolling creating things others can appreciate.

A native of Chicago, Ill., Newchurch moved to Houston at age seven to live with her dad and her stepmother, after the death of her mother. Her dad passed away seven years later. “My stepmother has been the main reason I’ve come so far,” she said.

Newchurch first heard about Lamar through her sister, Nichola Quinnery ’04, who graduated from Lamar with a bachelor degree in corporate communications. “I would spend some spring breaks in Beaumont with Nichola,” she said. “Lamar University became my comfort zone.”

Although she was accepted to other colleges, LU was her top choice. “The art department is what convinced me to stay,” she said. “I made so many connections that I felt it was my own special community.” She received both the Lorene David Scholarship in Art and the Lee G. Griffin Scholarship in visual & Performing Arts.

Newchurch used to picture herself working as an animator for companies such as Pixar or DreamWorks. “I was told there was a man, Kelly Asbury, who graduated from Lamar and went on to do the animation for the movie ‘Shrek,’” she said. “So I started off as a graphic design major in hopes of following that dream.”

After a few semesters, Newchurch realized the program did not match her interests because it related more to advertising than illustration. “I changed my major to art education, and I fell in love with one of the required courses, the textile class,” she said. “I will be graduating with a degree in fiber arts.”

Along with studies, Newchurch has enjoyed her involvement in organizations. She was the T-shirt designer for the poetry association Poetic Souls and was an active member and then the secretary of the Lamar chapter of the National Art Education Association, the leading professional membership organization for visual arts educators. “Those activities were a great experience full of educational workshops,” she said.

Newchurch is now completing an internship at the Dishman Art Museum on campus. “I am currently working on a children’s program for the museum,” she said. “[I also set up and take down art and handle paperwork for events.] I learn a lot about the museum side of art.”

Newchurch’s college experience helped her define and set her goals. “In art, there are two main options, the curating side and the creation side,” she said. “I prefer the creation side of art because it is more of a hands-on experience. I would rather make art than teach it.”
Joshua Barnes has an eye on the future. The Beaumont mechanical engineering and physics major has developed a system to measure the sustainability of the products Americans produce and consume. Barnes said the computer-based program provides a system that allows producers to manufacture more responsibly while simultaneously giving the consumer the opportunity to purchase more responsibly.

Lamar University seemed like a natural fit for Barnes. Both his parents attended the university, and Barnes said he was attracted to Lamar’s strong engineering program.

“I met Provost Stephen Doblin at the open house, and he recommended I look into the Honors program,” he said. “From there, the ball just kept rolling. I would go by his office every semester to talk about my progress. He is the one who suggested the McNair program to me. I think that relationship has been very instrumental to my success as a student.”

The now two-time scholar in the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program said his interest in sustainability developed during his first area of research with mentor Richard Gachot, associate professor of interior design. Barnes wanted to create a sustainable program to measure a product’s sustainability, so he had to create one.

“That is about where my initial research ended,” he said. “I never got the car done, but what I did do was create a system that we haven’t seen before. It was like a ‘eureka!’ moment. I realized that everything we do affects the environment, the economy, the quality of life, and even life itself. Becoming aware of that, I realized we need something better in America to fight entropy. And sustainability is a good way to do that.”

For his second McNair project, Barnes worked with Zhanhu Guo, assistant professor of chemical engineering, on expanding a sustainability mapping system from his original research. Under Guo’s guidance, Barnes created a user-friendly, spreadsheet-based software for consumers and manufacturers to use to compare different products, thereby assessing a product’s impact on the environment and human life.

“It brings a lot of things into context,” Barnes said. “Not only does it measure the aesthetic elements, but also how it affects the job market, right down to the materials, whether they are recyclable, renewable, or carcinogenic. These terms are built into the program and are given quantitative distinctions.”

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American Sign Language major seizes opportunities

Adrain “A.J.” Webb, American Sign Language major from Dallas, has an eye for opportunities. During his college career, Webb has become a Lamar Ambassador, a McNair scholar, vice president of the rugby team, Black Student Association historian, president of the sailing club and an LU cheerleader.

Among Webb’s fortuitous experiences was a chance meeting in high school with former Lamar staff member, Kristen Ducres, who serves as grant coordinator in the Department of Deaf Studies & Deaf Education. Webb grew up using sign language with his parents, who are deaf. He said the meeting with Ducres introduced him to the idea that sign language can be a useful skill in the professional world.

“My family uses sign language in our everyday lives, but I didn’t really know you could make it a career until I was introduced to Ms. Ducres,” he said. “She really came at the perfect time for me because graduation was coming up and that really helped solidify what I wanted to do.”

The interdisciplinary approach in the Deaf Studies & Deaf Education Department made LU a good fit for Webb. The Bachelor of Arts in American Sign Language track trains students for applications in education and interpreting and leads into available master’s and doctoral programs as well.

Webb started learning sign language right along with English as a child. Despite this early cultivation, he said he still has a lot to learn. “My mother grew up oral,” he said. “Because the majority of us in the house were hearing, we focused more on speaking than on signing.

“I discovered all sorts of internships and other opportunities that I never knew were available,” he said. “There are so many things you can do with ASL: theatre, education, medical; I just depends on your own personal interests, creativity, ingenuity and determination.”

From technique to body language to interaction with students, Webb said he has great admiration for the Lamar ASL faculty and staff.

“Andrew Byrne, instructor in the Department of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education, really helped me with technique,” he said. “I love his signing skills. Signing is like any other language, it has its own dialects. Byrne’s signing is very smooth and crisp.”

Webb said it is important to have mentors who are not only proficient in their skills and profession, but who also push and challenge their students.

“Amber Galloway Gallegos, interpreter and adjunct instructor in the College of Fine Arts and Communications, has skills that are incredible,” he said. “To see someone that good can be intimidating, but I think everyone should have a mentor like that—someone so good at what they do, you wonder if you can ever get to that level. But they help you along the way until you get there. I love her teaching methods. It is a great way to learn—to have fun and interact with a teacher who is encouraging and helps you build a strong foundation.”

Webb said being a Lamar Ambassador has proven to be an invaluable experience. “I have become aware of a wealth of resources for students on campus, built relationships with faculty, and attended campus and community events as a representative of Lamar,” he said. “You get to network with different people, hear their stories and learn how they got to where they want to be.”

The passion Lamar faculty and staff have for the university and its students is a big part of what attracted Webb to Lamar. “Lamar’s faculty has a desire to reach out and share their love of the university with incoming students and members of the community,” he said. “They want you to have a relationship with you and help you be successful, and they make themselves available and help you discover opportunities on campus that may benefit your education.”

Webb’s experience in athletics at Lamar has helped him form positive relationships while keeping his mind and body both sharp and healthy. Webb’s activity on the Lamar Cheerleading Team helped hone his strength and endurance while promoting friendship and teamwork. He said cheerleading is a fun way to stay in shape and represent the university.

Webb’s experiences have converged to produce a well-rounded student. The skills he learned from his various activities, Webb has applied to other aspects of his life to get the most out of his experiences.

“There are things I have learned in cheerleading that I apply to rugby; but also in life in general, such as organizational skills and teamwork,” he said. “I may not have learned those things in the same way without those experiences.”

After graduation, Webb plans to attend graduate school to pursue a degree in audiology. He said his career goal is to work as an interpreter for the Central Intelligence Agency—ASD.
Exhibit features Texas poet and scholar


“As a proud graduate of Lamar University, it was such a great honor for me to have my life and career as a writer recognized and exhibited at the Gray Library of my alma mater,” Oliphant said. “It was also an honor to get to see photos and memorabilia of my former teachers on display, for they continue to mean the world to me.”

The exhibit included a glimpse of his career: a copy of the first publication of “Pulse,” Lamar’s student literary journal, in which Oliphant was first published; and a manuscript typewritten Oliphant used to type his early manuscripts.

Born in Fort Worth in 1939, Oliphant’s family eventually settled in Beaumont where he graduated from South Park High School at Northern Illinois University. Oliphant began his teaching career in 1963, ultimately spending 30 years at the University as Texas assistant professor, editor of a scholarly journal, and coordinator of the freshman seminar program.

In 1985, Oliphant began his writing career by penning a sonnet to a prospective girlfriend during his sophomore year at Lamar. Although the young lady did not fall in love, Oliphant did with writing. His published works include 28 books, including four books on the history of Texas and three eddies on the topic of Texas poetry. He published many translations of Chilean poetry, one for which he was awarded the poetry prize at the 2007 New York Book Festival. Oliphant is also a past winner of the American Book Award.
Scott Nicholson '78, B.S. civil engineering, earned a master’s degree from the University of Texas-Arlington and is owner/agent for University Real Estate in Beaumont. He retired from the Air Force as a lieutenant colonel and is a pilot for Delta Air Lines in Houston. He lives in The Woodlands with his wife, Vikki.

Jacque (Broussard) Foreman '80, B.S. home economics, earned a master’s degree in family and consumer science, is a senior consultant for Neuro Serve LLC. He is president and Special Counsel for Legal Education and Technical Assistance at the Truman incidence Justice Department in Austin. She lives in Plano, Texas.

Ed Dubose '87, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a board-certified neuro-intraoperative monitor for Neuro Serve LLC. He is president and owner of the company and lives in Beaumont with his wife, Kellie.

Mark Hogge '85, B.S. criminal justice, earned a 30-year service award from the Beaumont Police Department. He lives in Beaumont. He is serving his second term as chairman of the board of trustees for Texas Medical Affairs Institute. He is medical director of maternal fetal medicine at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, where he lives.

Nydia Thomas '83, B.S. government, is an attorney and president of William H. Thomas & Associates. She lives in Midlothian with her husband, Grant.

Michael Gaines Jr. 12.

Judy Thomas '87, B.S. psychology, is chair of the U.S. Naval War College Strategic Studies Program. She is president-elect of the Naval War College Foundation and lives in Newport, R.I., with her husband, Jeffrey.

Lisa (Menefee) Bernard '87, B.B.A. accounting, is office manager for CMC Insulation in Beaumont. She lives in Midland with her husband, Mark. She is a project coordinator for ExxonMobil in Beaumont. She retired as an educator from Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School. She lives in Orange.

Donny Milne '86, B.S. computer and information sciences, is principal and national practice leader for cybersecurity and privacy for Grant Thornton LLP. He lives in Galveston with his wife, Janice.

Deana (French) Bernard '90, B.A. accounting, is office manager for CBC Technologies. She lives in Nederland with her husband, Jeffrey. She is owner of Bernard Pool Services. She lives in Nederland.

Jeffrey Zabala '69, B.S. music, is a project manager for American Medical Response, Non-Emergency Transportation in Houston, where she lives with her husband, Scott.

Mary (Harris) Keeler '87, B.S. nursing. She also works for NeuroServe LLC. He is president and owner of the company and lives in Beaumont with his wife, Kellie.

Candace Todora, Elise Becker '05, B.J.

Mary (Blanco) Legnion '69, B.A. psychology, is a board-certified neuro-intraoperative monitor for Neuro Serve LLC. He is president and owner of the company and lives in Beaumont with his wife, Victoria. She also works for NeuroServe LLC.

Rick Greig '80, B.B.A. management, '84, B.A. international business, is director of international business at Houston Baptist University. He earns a master’s degree in administration from Texas A&M University.

C.L. Rosen '88, B.S. mechanical engineering, is director of the NASA Johnson Space Center quality and flight equipment engineering division. He lives in Portland.

Bill Rigby '82, B.A. industrial engineering, is a well-planned business graduate attorney. He lives in Orlando, Fla., with his wife, Lisa. He is a member of the board of directors for Florida’s Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

Ed Donohoe '83, B.S. mechanical engineering, is division chief for the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston. He lives in Pearland.

Lisa (Fontenot) Bernard '87, B.B.A. accounting, is case manager for American Medical Response, Non-Emergency Transportation in Houston, where she lives with her husband, Glenn. She teaches at Adams Elementary in Boise, Idaho.

Mary (Gothia) Busmire '87, B.S. nursing. She is a project manager for American Medical Response, Non-Emergency Transportation in Houston, where she lives with her husband, Mark.

Bill Rigsby '87, B.S. mechanical engineering, is vice president of Specialized Services Association International. She is chair of the board of directors for Bernard Pool Services. She lives in Nederland.

Michael Gaines Jr. 12.

Jackson (Darwood) Foreman '88, B.S. business economics, is president and CEO of Miller & Associates in Port Arthur. He lives in La Porte. He is a member of the board of directors for Bernard Pool Services. He lives in Orange.

Lisa (Menefee) Bernard '87, B.B.A. accounting, is office manager for CMC Insulation in Beaumont. She lives in Midland with her husband, Mark. She is a project coordinator for ExxonMobil in Beaumont. She retired as an educator from Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School. She lives in Orange.

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Spring Community Service Project

Alumni give vegetable plants a healthy start in the garden at The Giving Field and help organize food stores at Some Other Place in Beaumont March 23.

1. Debbie (French) Riggs '89; Ellen (Walker) Riemstra '62, '80
2. Pat (Gafford) Coldwey '70

CLASS NOTES

INVESTIGTURE OF THE 15TH PRESIDENT OF LAMAR UNIVERSITY
DR. KENNETH R. EVANS
NOVEMBER 7, 2013 | 3 P.M.
MONTAGNE CENTER
LAMAR UNIVERSITY CAMPUS
Alumni, friends, students, faculty and staff are invited to attend.

Baseball Tailgate
LU alumni and parents of current LU students gathered April 26 to see Cardinal victory over Stephen F. Austin at Vincent-Reck Stadium.

3. John Lovettney, Josh Lovettney '10
4. Ken Bullion '70, Tina (Castaneda) Bullion '70, Linda (Doss) Mcdafden '72, Murphy Mcdafden '71
5. Johnnie (Crtin) Durden '80, Vernon Durden '84, Alumni Advisory Board president-elect; Juan Zabala '17, associate vice president of university advancement; Peggy Zabala '64, Sekoa Colvin, C.H. Colvin '89
6. Randy Still '60, Mandale (Adams) Still '77, '83
7. Carl Vioter '85, '12, Darla Eason '89
8. Candace Todora, Elise Becker '05
9. Billy Cosgale, Ryan House, Dot (Tudor) Cosgale '59, '80, Susan (Blanco) Legnion '69, Sally (McDonald) House '69, '87, Ron Legnion '70
10. Kenneth Jackson, Phyllis Freeman-Stewart '87, Tony Stewart '72, Espanola Jackson '12, ShaPama (Powell) Gaines '83, Michael Gaines Jr. 12.

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Kenneth Bohlen ’97, B.B.A. management, is supervisor for AAI Cooper Transportation in Orange, where he lives. Willy (Deb) Davis ’97, cert. office administrator, ’95, B.B.A. applied arts and sciences, is a senior vice president of Humana Resource Development, Richmond, Va. She lives in Orange.

James Levine ’91, B.B.A. accounting, is a certified professional accountant for Alliance Group in Houston. He lives in Sugar Land.

Michael McAlary ’91, a secondary education, earned a master’s degree from Houston State University and is director of special education for the Conroe school district. She lives in Waco.

Katy (Battin) Colvin ’92, B.S. psychology, lives in Cypress with her husband. Todd is an account underwriter for Stetich Insurance Co.

William Davis ’92, B.S. knowledge, ’92, M.Ed. school administration, is principal of Akins High School. He lives in Humble.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education named William Johnson ’92, B.B.A. management, ’92, M.B.A., Ohio Professor of the Year. She earned her doctoral degree from the University of Houston and is associate professor of marketing and director of experimental learning for the Farmer School of Business at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. She lives in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Rich (Stricker) Bock ’92, B.S. communication, is a creative for Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Gary Greene. She lives in Houston with her husband, B.B.A. marketing. He is a sales specialist for Armstrong Pharmacists.

Susan (Seifert) Bratko ’93, B.S. business economic-subsistence crops, was a nominee for Teacher of the Year for the Little Cypress-Mauriceville school district. She lives in Orange.

Kevin Roy ’85, ’93, Jill (Taft) Roy ’90, B.A. business management, is an associate director for Florida Gulf Coast University. She lives in Fort Myers, Fla., with her husband, Marc.

Pam (Washington) Simons ’93, B.S. criminology, is principal of Whataburger School in Port Arthur, where she lives. Tommy Benham ’94, B.S. civil engineering, is a general manager for Boeing Buildings. He lives in Portland with his wife, Tammy.

Gregory Little ’94, B.S. civil work, ’92, M.B.A. auditing and development, is a regulatory surveyor for the Department of Aging and Disability Services. He lives in Beaumont.

Andrew Sandy/Myke Wyco ’94, B.S. nursing, is a registered nurse for the Houston school district. She lives in Spring.

Distinguished Alumni

LU honored five outstanding alumni ‘Feb. 22 at the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner. Honorees for 2013 were Wildflowers ’72, Bob Jones ’73, Jerry Reece ’66, Bill Scott ’70 and Susan (Williams) Simmons ’68.


The Texas Gang Investigation Association awarded the “Tad Poe Dinner-Grand Judge Award” to 252nd District Court Judge Louis Walker ’97, B.B.A. management. The statewide award is given annually to a judge for his or her efforts to help combat gang activity. He lives in Beaumont.

Greg Westbrook ’93, A.A.S. management, is principal of Dowling Elementary in Port Arthur, where he lives. Renick Shulman ’90, M.A., history, earned a doctoral degree from the University of Houston and is faculty advisor to the chapter for diversity and inclusion for the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where she lives.


Daniel Tuck ’90, B.S. communication, earned a master’s degree from Prairie View A&M University in curriculum and instruction/reading and reading disabilities and a master’s degree from the University of Houston in educational leadership. He also earned an educational doctoral degree from Capella University. He is a counselor of Diagnostic Reading Success and lives in Houston.

Paige Prudon Harvey ’91, B.B.A. marketing, is the owner of The Collection of Fine Gifts and Accessories. She and her husband, Harvey, have two children. One son, Mark ’98, B.B.A. marketing, and a daughter, Michelle ’96, B.A.S. radiology, graduated from Lamar. They live in Orange.

Glenda (Mencher) Fankhauser ’90, M.L.S. school administration, is principal of Dowling Elementary in Port Arthur, where she lives. Andrea (Landry) Wyche ’94, B.S. nursing, is a regulatory surveyor for the Department of Aging and Disability Services. He lives in Beaumont.

Ahmal Tuck ’90, B.S. communication, earned a master’s degree from Prairie View A&M University in curriculum and instruction/reading and reading disabilities and a master’s degree from the University of Houston in educational leadership. He also earned an educational doctoral degree from Capella University. He is a counselor of Diagnostic Reading Success and lives in Houston.

Supervision and Correction Department. He lives in Lumberton.


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Cardinal CadenCe
Wood '03
Antoinette (Motley) Joe Wood; Gretchen Carpenter '00
5.
Daniel '80, Tony Nguyen '01
4.
Barnes '08 (Thomas) Parish '01, '03, '12, Carolyn (Kelley) son) Street '10, Caitlin Kruger '09
3.
Patricia Snyder '68, Pat (Holland) Satterwhite
2.
Lawanda Shelvin, Kandy (Anderson) McFarland
1.
Tony Nguyen '01 at the March 28 Wine and Sushi Tasting. Tony Nguyen '01 created sushi appetizers created by Koi owner
Wine Tasting
Beaumont-area alumni enjoyed a selection of wines chosen by Kandy (Anderson) Daniel '80 of WineStyles to complement sushi appetizers created by Koi owner Tony Nguyen '01 at the March 28 Wine and Sushi Tasting.

Golden Circle
LU honored 50-year-plus graduates at its inaugural Golden Circle brunch last November. Alumni of the classes from 1924 to 1962 attended the event, held in conjunction with the 50th-anniversary reunion of the Class of 1962.

1. Billy Davis, Joanne (Webb) Davis '92, '78, Sharon (Compton) Woodhead '74, Ben Woodhead '54
2. Jimmie Adams '51, Janice (Zahri) Adams '58, Mary Jane (Thompson) Ford '84, Roy Culver Sr. '55
3. Concordia (Mazzagatti) Cloninger '38 and her daughter, Julia Shleton
4. Fran (Rosash) Massey '62, Brenda (Cassino) Havens '61, Loyd Havens '56, Eric (Browder) Tucker '61, Walter Tucker '78
5. Calvin Carter '00, B.F.A. studio art, created the 2012 Coastal Conservation Association stamp print for Texas, and his painting of a crappie was approved as the 2013 freshwater stamp for Texas. He has been commissioned for artwork in King Salmon, Alaska. He lives in Jasper.
6. Malorie (Manschack) Clayton '93, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, was a nominee for Teacher of the Year for the Little Cypress-Mauriceville school district. She lives in Orange.
7. Cindy (Mazzagatti) Cloninger '38 and her daughter, Julia Shelton
8. Lawanda Shelvin, Antoinette (Motley) Carpenter '00
9. Joe Wood; Gretchen (Wagner) Wood '03

Mary (Polgar) McNicol '96, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, earned a master’s degree in rehabilitation counseling from the University of North Texas. She lives in Burleson.

Dr. Crystal (Blair) '97, B.S. chemistry, '97, B.S. biology and Lance Beauford '97, B.S. chemical engineering, have opened Ahsahn Wellness Center in The Woodlands. She earned her medical degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. He is a director for the University of Houston. They live in Spring with their two children.

Jay Morrow '97, B.S. biochemistry, Ph.D. M.S. zoology, is senior vice president for Innovation. He lives in Charlotte, N.C.

Mark Dubois '98, B.A. mathematics, is chief deputy for the Jefferson County District Attorney’s Office. Services Division and is responsible for the investigations division (business诈舞), Regional Crime Lab, budgeting, purchasing, grant writing functions, and police and responder codes. He lives in Lumberton.

Dr. Jason Flores '97, B.S. biology, earned a medical degree in dental surgery from the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston and earned a specialty in endodontics from the University of Pennsylvania. He is director of endodontics for the University of New Mexico. He and his wife, Amy, live in Rio Rancho, N.M.
Class Notes

Alumni Night
Cardinal basketball Feb. 16 LU vs. McNesse
1. Ellen (Walker) Rienstra ‘82, ’80, Alumni Advisory Board president, presenting the game ball
2. Ready for the game!
3. Lady Cardinal Basketball alumni

A Dinner & Conversation
During Dinner and Conversation Feb. 5, students and alumni professionals meet for dinner and discuss day-to-day realities students can expect in their chosen field of interest.

Clay David ’92, B.A.A.S., applied arts and sciences, earned a master’s degree from Ashland University and teaches in the Humble school district. He lives in Houston, with his wife, Melissa.

Mary (Fitzpat) Henry ’82, B.S.C. general studies, is a board member for the West Hardin school district. She and her husband, Jason ’95, B.S. Criminal justice, live in Sour Lake.

Abdul Kargbo ’02, B.B.A. accounting, ’03, M.S. mechanical engineering, is director of engineering and quality for Rockwell American Manufacturing in Jackson, Miss., where she lives.

James Collier ’04, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, earned a master’s degree from the University of North Texas. He works for Shaw Cowart in Austin, where he lives.

Andrew Stanley ’07, B.S. industrial engineering, is a technical engineer for Rockwell Automation. He lives in Orange with his wife, Megan.

Terumi, live in Honolulu.

Jason Yeaman ’07, M.E. school administration, is an alumni professional achievement award winner. He lives in Dallas with his wife, Terumi.

Amu (Taylor) Collins ’86, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches special education at the Little Cypress Manor school district. She lives in Port Neches with her husband, Terumi.

Kimberly Darwitz ‘96, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, attended the University of Tennessee, made the presentation.

Larry Gene Drake ’72, M.Ed. counseling and development, who is chancellor of the University of Tennessee, inside the presentation.

David Sanders ’08, B.S. kinesiology, earned a master’s degree in health and human performance—sports administration—and lives in Knoxville, Tenn.

Wade Salazar ’96, B.B.A. finance, ’97, B.B.A. accounting, is a chief information officer and co-founder of Analytics and Measurement Services Corp. and lives in Knoxville, Texas. Jamey Clough ’72, M.Ed. counseling and development, who is chancellor of the University of Tennessee, inside the presentation.

Dale Sanders ’78, ’79, B.S. educational administration, is a senior staff engineer for Golden Pass LNG. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Ian.

Shapeshi Patel ’07, B.B.A. business administration, is a technical engineer for CME Group. He lives in Chicago, Ill.

Frank Morrell II ’07, B.S. electrical engineering, is a senior software engineer for CME Group. He lives in Chicago, Ill.

Claire Flesher ’07, B.B.A. finance, ’07, B.B.A. accounting, is a chief information officer and co-founder of Analytics and Measurement Services Corp. and lives in Knoxville, Texas. Jamey Clough ’72, M.Ed. counseling and development, who is chancellor of the University of Tennessee, inside the presentation.

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10s

Kathleen Albinson '10, B.S. marine, was
a wildlife rehabilitation intern at the
Marine Mammal Research Station in
Mobile, Ala. She lives in Houston.
Elin Broggi '10, B.S. biology, 77, M.S.
ecology, is managing director of
Echinacea, a bioactivator, at Texas A&M. She is from Fort Worth.
Paula Searle '10, B.S. industrial engi-
erizing, is a project engineer for
Triumph Aerospace in Albany, Ga. She
lives in Houston.

We will miss...

We will miss...
Lady Cardinal golfers pick up fourth crown, lead Southland

Lamar University began the final round of the 2013 Southland Conference Tournament four strokes behind leader Central Arkansas, but the Lady Cardinals roared back in blustery conditions to earn their first league title in women’s golf since 2006. The Lady Cardinals closed the tournament from Frisco Lakes Golf Club with a 12-over-par total of 300 for a 54-hole score of 891 (+27) to finish seven strokes ahead of Oral Roberts and Sam Houston State who tied for second at 898 (+34).

Lamar, which won Southland titles in 2003, 2005 and 2006, picked up its fourth conference crown to lead all Southland schools. The Lady Cardinals also picked up the Southland Conference’s automatic berth into the 2013 NCAA Golf Championship, earning a trip to the Central regional.

The Central Regional was played at the Jimmie Austin OU Golf Club in Norman, Okla. It was the third trip to regionals for Lamar, which won Southland, and registered eighth Top 10 finishes on the year. A native of Vietnam, Ngo picked up her first career title earlier this year when she won McNeese State’s Le Triomphe Collegiate Invitational. Junior Katelyn McDougal led Lamar with a fourth-place finish to round out the Lady Cardinals’ lineup.

In addition to landing two players on the all-conference first-team, Brian White was tabbed the Southland Conference Coach of the Year for the second straight year.

Three men’s golfers named all-conference

Lamar University was well represented on the 2013 All-Southland Conference Men’s Golf Team as Stephane Dubois and Erik Knudsen earned second-team honors and Greg Wiggins was named to the third team. A junior from Brampton, Ontario, Dubois led the Cardinals with a 74.38 scoring average for 34 rounds. The Wisconsin transfer posted four straight Top 20 finishes to close the spring season.

Knudsen finished just behind Dubois in scoring average at 74.71 strokes per round with three Top 10 finishes on the season. A native of Pocketvalley, Norway, Knudsen placed eighth at the conference tournament and tied for sixth at the Rayno City Collegiate Championships earlier in the spring.

Wiggins earned third-team honors after an outstanding freshman campaign that saw him post a 75.12 scoring average. A native of Hamburg, Germany, Wiggins led the Cardinals with a tie for fourth place at the Southland Conference Tournament.

Cards look forward to fall

Lamar wrapped up a successful spring football season in April with the third annual Crawfish Bowl. Prior to the game, Lamar held the first Crawfish Cookoff Competition with nearly a dozen teams participating and several hundred people enjoying the good food and fun.

The Cardinals will open the 2013 season at home on Aug. 31 when Oklahoma Panhandle State visits Provost Umphrey Stadium. Lamar will host six games this season, including closing the year with home games against rival Stephen F. Austin and McNeese State. For the second straight year, Lamar will play a pair of FBS opponents on the road with games at Oklahoma State and Louisiana Tech.

Season tickets are on sale, and single game tickets will go on sale Aug. 1. To order tickets, or for more information, contact the Lamar ticket office at (409) 880-1715 or visit the Lamar athletics web site at www.LamarCardinals.com.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 31</td>
<td>Oklahoma Panhandle</td>
<td>Provost Umphrey</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 7</td>
<td>at Louisiana Tech</td>
<td>Ruston, La.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 14</td>
<td>at Oklahoma State</td>
<td>Stillwater, Okla.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 21</td>
<td>Bacaune College</td>
<td>Provost Umphrey</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 28</td>
<td>at Grambling State</td>
<td>Grambling, La.</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Oct. 5</td>
<td>Rice</td>
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<td>Oct. 12</td>
<td>at Sam Houston State*</td>
<td>Huntsville, Texas</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 19</td>
<td>Central Arkansas*</td>
<td>Provost Umphrey</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 26</td>
<td>at Southeastern Louisiana*</td>
<td>Provost Umphrey</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 2</td>
<td>Nicholls*</td>
<td>Provost Umphrey</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 3</td>
<td>at Northwestern State*</td>
<td>Natchitoches, La. (SLCTV)</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 16</td>
<td>Stephen F. Austin*</td>
<td>Provost Umphrey</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 23</td>
<td>McNeese State*</td>
<td>Provost Umphrey</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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* Southland Conference Game; Home Games in Bold; All Times Central and Subject to Change.
A new era in women’s basketball at Lamar got under way April 30 as Robin Harmony was named head coach of the Lady Cardinals.

Harmony comes to Lamar with an impressive resume of success as both a player and a coach. The Hershey, Pa., native was a standout player at the University of Miami, totaling 1,308 points, 750 rebounds, 415 assists and 314 steals in four seasons. She still holds the Miami single-game record for assists with 14 and is 10th on Miami’s all-time scoring chart and fifth in rebounding. She was the first women’s basketball player to be inducted into the university’s Hall of Fame.

Harmony was on Miami’s coaching staff for 18 seasons, the final 12 as associate head coach. Harmony acted as interim coach for two games in her final season with the Hurricanes, posting victories in both contests. During her time at Miami, Harmony helped the Hurricanes win three Big East regular-season championships, two Big East Conference Tournament Championship, reach the postseason seven times and advance to the Sweet 16 on one occasion.

Harmony left Miami to become the first head coach at St. Thomas University, an NAIA school in Miami. In her six seasons at St. Thomas, Harmony posted a 131-48 record, leading the Bobcats to three appearances in the NAIA National Tournament. Last season, Harmony guided St. Thomas to a 27-4 overall record and 14-0 Sun Conference record, earning conference Coach of the Year honors for the second time.

“I’m excited to be at Lamar,” Harmony said. “I’m looking forward to the challenge. I am thrilled to be back in Division I.” Harmony replaces Larry Tidwell, who left Lamar after six seasons to become the head coach at UT Pan American.

Harmony promises the Lady Cardinals will play an exciting style of basketball. “We’re going to come out pressing from the start,” she said. “We’re going to work hard for all 40 minutes.”

Harmony’s teams were known for their defense at St. Thomas, as the Bobcats twice ranked second in the nation in scoring defense and twice were in the top five for steals per game, 3-point field-goal percentage defense and turnover margin.

“With you still have to put the ball in the basket in order to win,” Harmony said. “We’re going to use our defense to create offense.”

Last season, the Lady Cardinals were 22-11 overall, advancing to the second round of the Women’s Basketball Invitational. “We have good players returning,” Harmony said. “I’m very impressed with the talent level here.”

SUCCESSFUL DEBUT PROVIDES PRELUDE TO GREAT SEASON

Softball returned to Lamar University this year for the first time since 1987, and what a debut it was.

The Lady Cardinals ushered in the new era in dramatic fashion as freshman Ashley McDowell hit a walk-off home run to give Lamar a 3-2 win over UTSA to the delight of a standing-room-only crowd at Ford Park.

McDowell’s walk-off homer was just one of many highlights from the Lady Cardinals’ season. The team shattered many of LU’s single-season records, including wins, home runs and runs scored.

The Lady Cardinals surprised almost everybody except themselves as they finished fifth in the Southland Conference standings, qualifying for the Southland Conference Tournament.

Lamar gained entry into the tournament in dramatic fashion. The Lady Cardinals swept a three-game series from Houston Baptist on the final week of the regular season. Lamar used walk-off home runs to win both games of a Saturday doubleheader, as McDowell hit the game-winner in the opener and Candidy Carter hit the game-winning blast in the nightcap.

In the final game of the series on Sunday, Carter scored the game-winning run on a wild pitch in the bottom of the seventh to earn Lamar the win and a spot in the tournament.

“This is a team that never gives up,” Coach Holly Bruder said of her Lady Cardinals. “They just kept battling all season long, and it paid off. They have done a great job representing Lamar.”

Carter earned third-team All-Southland Conference honors in center field and set a Lamar record with 31 RBIs this season.

McDowell, who clubbed a school-record 12 home runs, was honorable mention at first base. Left-hander Shannon Millman, who set school marks with 17 wins and 136 strikeouts, received honorable mention status as a pitcher. Left fielder Jennis Holland and catcher Beverly Corry also garnered honorable mention kudos.

Lamar’s fans were out in droves at home games at Ford Park. Pregame tailgate parties were a ritual in the parking lot, and the fans carried their enthusiasm into the stands, providing a great atmosphere for softball.

The Lady Cardinals fed off the enthusiasm generated by their fans, posting a 16-5 home record.

Offering one of the best playing surfaces in the conference, Ford Park was turned into a Division I facility thanks to the efforts of Bruder and a legion of volunteers and supporters. Plans are in the works to build a permanent softball facility on campus that would allow even more of the Lamar community to enjoy the excitement of the Lady Cardinals.

“Our goal is to just get to play in the Southland Conference Tournament, but to win it on a regular basis and play in the NCAA Tournament,” Bruder said. “Our goal is to just get to the Southland Conference Tournament, but to win it on a regular basis and play in the NCAA Tournament.”

After what the Lady Cardinals have accomplished in their first season, that goal is definitely achievable.

Quick Hits

Joe Wade, the twin brother of former Cardinal standout Tom Wade, has had a fantastic final campaign in the Red and White, earning the Southland Indoor Track Athlete of the Year award in the process. The graduate student out of Isle of Wight, England, has already earned a Master’s degree from Lamar, and he’s pursuing a second with a 4.0 GPA. At February’s Southland Indoor Championships, he earned a second straight mile title to go along with all-conference honors in both the 3,000 meter run and distance medley relay.

“This is something that I’ve really wanted to get,” a smiling Wade revealed. “My brother got it last year, and he got all the awards, so I was really motivated to try and win it this year. In addition to that, it’s also the kind of award that will reflect well on me after I leave Lamar.”

He just wanted to match his brother

Joe Wade, twin brother of former Cardinal standout Tom Wade, has had a fantastic final campaign in the Red and White, earning the Southland Indoor Track Athlete of the Year award in the process. Wade, a smiling

Ashley McDowell

All-time strikeout leader

Lamar knew that its pitching staff could be something to remember entering the 2013 season, and the experienced duo of Jonathan Dziedzic and Eric Harrington have left little to question as the season winds down.

Dziedzic, a Boston Red Sox draftee a year ago, claimed the top spot on the school’s all-time strikeout list on April 5, helping Lamar knock-off then-first place Southeastern Louisiana on the road. The redshirt-junior southpaw out of Humble has over 300 K’s for his career, surpassing the previous mark of 251, which was held by William Delage.

Harrington, brother of former Cardinal hurler Aiken Harrington, is on track to finish the 2013 season with nearly 400 innings pitched for his career, besting David Poss’ mark of 355.2, which was set from 1984-1987. He also ranks high on the all-time strikeouts list, trailing Dziedzic with 257.
Arts and Culture

LITERARY LAMAR

The Texas Institute of Letters honored Jim Sanderson, professor and chair in the Department of English and Modern Languages, with the Kay Catullan Award for short-story writing. The institute—considered the most prestigious literary organization in Texas—presented the award April 6, at its annual meeting in San Marcos.

Sanderson's award-winning short story, Bandero, was published in Descant, the literary journal of Texas Christian University. The award recognizes the best short story written by a Texan or about Texas, Sanderson said.

Jerry Craven '64 was a finalist for Brenda Wittman, which appeared in the Concho River Review at Angelo State University. Craven is editor-in-chief of the Lamar University Press, a literary publisher launched in 2012. The award recognizes the best short story written by a Texan or about Texas, Sanderson said.

Tracie VanLaw as the Gentlewoman confers with Michael Underhill as the Scottish Doctor. Witches, warfare, murderous ambition, oh my! The Department of Theatre and Dance presented the classic tragedy Feb. 28-March 3 as the first offering in its “ Bard on the Bayou” series. Jo Guth, instructor of theatre, directed the fast-paced thriller of witches, prophesy, murderous ambition and warfare—a play he describes as “one of the greatest ever written.” The production moved the action to a contemporary setting.

Right: Lady Macbeth (Natalie Car- denal) welcomes King Duncan (David Hooker) and the Scottish Lords to the Macbeth’s castle in an updated inter- pretation of William Shakespeare’s Macbeth.

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The Lamar Civic Orchestra paid tribute to iconic operatic duo Gilbert and Sullivan in concerts April 16 at Lamar State College-Port Arthur and April 30 at Lamar University. Performances featured selections from The Pirates of Penzance, The Mikado and H.M.S. Pinafore. Kurt Gilman, chair and associate professor in the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music, conducts the orchestra. Libertad William Gilbert and composer Arthur Sullivan collaborated on 14 operas between 1871 and 1896 . . . The Industrial Carillon, Lamar’s new music en- semble, presented Hindemith music master Ustad Ghulam Farid Nizami April 22 in its first concert of

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Cardinal inspiration

by Louise Wood

M usician Joel Love ‘07 is already acclaimed as a composer, with prestigious commissions, performances and honors to his credit, reflecting an eclectic array of artistic expression. But when he received a commission for a work honoring Wayne Dyess—a friend and mentor—he found the process daunting and uplifting.

“It was an emotional process on many levels,” said Love, whose composition, A Cardinal’s Hymn, left the Lamarian!! audience in awe at its world premiere March 7. The Lamar Wind Ensemble performed the work in tribute to Lamar’s longtime director of jazz studies, who died Feb. 27.

“It was a pleasure and a joy to write it,” said Love, a LaBelle native and Hamshire-Fannett High School graduate and I hope it gave people some catharsis in the wake of Wayne’s passing.”

When he began writing the piece, Love said, he came up with a melody that was familiar, simple and strong—and whose defining melodic characteristics re-appear—meditating on the range of the emotions that took place.”

When Lamar’s Gamma Zeta chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi, national honorary band fraternity, commissioned Love to write the work, he said, “I honestly felt humbled by the honor of offering a piece to a man who has deeply influenced innumerable lives, including my own.

“I was overwhelmed by his passing, knowing that a piece I wrote in his honor would be premiered only days later,” Love said. “Because I had such a strong connection to Wayne—being that I played piano in both the Night & Day Orchestra and the Lamar Jazz Band, it was particularly touching to hear the Lamar Wind Ensemble give such a great rendering of the piece.”

“A Cardinal’s Hymn is spiritual, energetic, warm and brilliant, all at the same time,” announces Byron Balentine told the audience. “It also holds a touch of poignancy. Whatever words you can think of to describe Wayne Dyess, you will hear them in this composition.”

Scott Deppe ‘90, ’12, director of bands, conducted the Wind Ensemble in the performance. “It was a real honor to present the world premiere of A Cardinal’s Hymn in tribute to Dr. Dyess,” Deppe said, adding that it was also a momentous occasion to feature another Love composition, Aurora Borealis, which was selected for performance at the 2013 Society of Composers Inc. National Conference in Columbus, Ohio. The Texas A&M University Symphonic Winds recently performed Aurora Borealis, which was selected as a finalist in the third international Frank Ticheli Competition, the largest competition for wind ensemble in the world.

Love’s music explores an eclectic mix of genres, from short video pieces to works for chamber and large ensembles. It creates colorful landscapes of sound through the use of image, melody and tonality, and seeks to reveal the connection between music and spirituality.

Love began playing music at age 11 and composing at 14. He earned his bachelor of musical composition from Lamar in 2007 and his master of composition from the University of Houston in 2010. He is now completing his doctor of musical arts in composition at the University of Texas.

“My career has been affected by the wide variety of skills I was able to cultivate as a student at Lamar University,” Love said. “I was able to play trumpet in the Wind Ensemble, play piano in the Jazz Band, take piano with world-class teachers (Betty Hines and Jimmy Simmons); take composition lessons from perhaps the smartest man I’ve ever met, Nick Rissman; and to have my new works read and premiered in all of the above ensembles.

“I would be very surprised if an undergraduate at a much larger institution were able to have the same kind of all-inclusive and rounded experience as I did. I still use the things that were taught to me at Lamar as a foundation for many things that I do.”

Among those premieres was the choir’s 2006 performance of O Nata Lux, which Love composed for chorus, piano and goblets. “If you run your finger slowly along the rim of a crystal glass or goblet, a high, definite and very ethereal pitch resonates,” Love explained.

Love’s Lamar career also included writing the score for a communication department documentary on Hurricane Rita and working as an announcer for KVLU public radio.

Rissman, associate professor of music, recalls, “Every week, in our composition lesson, he would ask me if I had read such and such (Hawking’s new book on black holes, Calder’s new book on physics, Leonard Feather’s new book on Charlie Parker, etc.). Our lessons would run over because we spent so much time talking about books and ideas, as well as composition, and in the process . . . I would rush out and buy the books, just to stay up with him.”

PRMA Recordings, a New England-based audio production house, selected Love’s Synchronicity in Purple Minor for publication in its 2012 Anthology Real Fiction received a Compositional Excellence Citation from the New York Youth Symphony. Da Camera of Houston presented Love with an Aspiring Artist Award and the commission of Just One Reason.

Love’s works have been performed by The Aura Contemporary Music Ensemble, The Boston New Music Initiative, the Ohio State...
A college love story

It’s not unusual for people to meet in college, fall in love, marry, have children and live happily ever after. Although Frederic ’60 and Ruth (Findley) Day ’57 found each other in college and fell in love, theirs is anything but your typical college love story. Their quest for education brought them together in college, which eventually led to their “happily ever after” and, ultimately, to the establishment of an endowed scholarship for Lamar students.

At a young age, and after nine years of marriage, Ruth (Findley) Evans became a young widow with three children to support. She always wanted to be a teacher, so she attended the University of Texas at Austin to fulfill that dream, as well as to make a living for her young family. Fate, however, dealt her a new hand when she met a dashing young airman, the roommate of a college friend with whom she had regularly been driving to school.

“I’ll never forget this as long as I live,” Fred said while reminiscing about how he and Ruthie met. “I needed to pick up an extra class and asked my buddy for advice. The advice he gave was to talk to this driver, Ruth Evans. So, I called her, and, being an English major, she suggested a literature course. I’d never taken a literature course, but I thought it would be an easy class, so I enrolled.

“The first day of class, just as the professor was introducing the course, the door opened and in walked this little brown-haired gal who sat down in the front row next to me. I quickly slipped her a note that said, ‘Hi, I’m Fred.’ Not being one for shyness, she immediately blurted out for all to hear, ‘Hi, I’m Ruthie.’ The professor was less than pleased with us, to say the least. We both made the worst grades of our college careers in that class.”

Fred was attending classes at UT while on temporary duty in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He was taking advantage of a degree completion program called Operation Bootcamp. While he was eventually sent back to his base in South Carolina, he stayed in touch with Ruthie through daily letters.

He finally called Ruthie and said, “We have to get married.” They tied the knot, but were almost immediately separated by his military obligations. A year went by when he was stationed in New Mexico where he decided it was time to end his military career. By this time, Ruth had completed her bachelor’s degree in English and was teaching in Austin. Taking advantage of a job placement program, the new family moved to Port Arthur where she began a teaching career while he went to work as a chemist for Texaco.

“I’ve always been intrigued by science because, through science, you get to answer questions, ‘Why?’ Fred said. “Texaco wouldn’t allow me to transfer to the research department without a college degree, so I enrolled at Lamar to complete my degree in chemical engineering.”

He spent six years as a chemist while taking college classes at night until he earned his bachelor’s degree in 1960. According to Fred, there was no path for professional development as a chemist, but within a month of transferring into the research department he was named a senior chemical engineer.

Years later, Ruthie also decided to return to school to acquire her master’s degree in English, which she completed in 1975. She had a 29-year teaching career at Sam Houston Elementary in Port Arthur.

“Ruthie was an extraordinary teacher,” Fred said. “She deeply believed in the benefits of an education. She didn’t need a master’s degree, she just wanted to have one.”

Fred died in 2007. To honor her memory and dedication to education, Fred established the Ruth E. and Frederic F. Day Scholarship in Sciences. The endowed scholarship was established for Lamar students who plan to major in the sciences: computer science, mathematics, biology, chemistry, earth sciences, physics and geology.

“I wanted to do something good with my assets, and I can’t think of a better place to bestow my money than on the students at Lamar,” he said. “This country needs scientists, and it just makes me feel good to know this will help.”

Fred developed a love for sailing through the years that continues today. He was a sophomore in high school when a teacher invited him on his first sailing trip. Although they spent most of the day drifting and paddling from a lack of wind, he got the sailing bug. Now, even without his fastball, he still enjoys getting out on the Gulf in his sailboat.

“Sailing is an incurable disease,” Fred said with a wide smile. “If you ever catch it, you’ll never get over it.” —LA
Born in Beaumont as the eldest of four children, Petry has had an entrepreneurial bent since childhood. Growing up in nearby Cheek, he and his sister “would find old soda bottles, wash them out and collect the refunds at the grocery store,” Petry said.

When he was 9 and his sister 7, the two began a business mowing lawns. “We would cut the grass at the car wash, the neighbor’s yards, the convenience store,” he said. “It was great because as little kids they’d often give us something to eat or drink, too.”

“We were making $20 a yard, and that was a lot of money back then,” Petry said. “So after school, we might cut a couple of yards and on weekends do four or five.”

Petry graduated from cutting yards to helping his uncles remodel houses, experience he later parlayed into building houses on his own.

While in high school, Petry developed a new venture—installing peephole doors, which later expanded to include installing deadbolt locks and ceiling fans. “I was the kind of kid who would learn how to do something, and then I would get other people to do it for me,” he said.

“At one time, I had eight or nine guys installing peepholes. We had tackle boxes with a drill in the bottom, and a tray was full of peepholes to take to apartment complexes in Houston. We’d go knocking on doors and installing peepholes. We easily would make $400 to $500 on a weekend.”

Petry graduated from Hebert High School in 1980 and earned an associate degree in drafting from Lamar University in 1982. He went to work for Bethlehem Steel, performing piping, mechanical, electrical and structural drafting.

He learned of Marlene through a mutual friend, but the couple first met when he took the initiative and introduced himself at Howard’s Grocery in Port Arthur, where she worked. “Her first words to me were ‘you need a haircut,’” Petry said. “I had an Afro at the time. It was working for me, but she thought differently.” The couple married in 1987 and made their home in Beaumont.

Soon after they married, Roosevelt built a “snack shack” that Marlene operated, providing hot lunches for students at Port Arthur’s Lincoln High School. “We stayed busy, but when they went to a ‘closed campus,’ that ended,” Petry said.

Marlene later decided to pursue a career in nursing and earn an associate’s degree in that field from LU in 1996. She went on to obtain a bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and a master’s degree in nursing education from Regis University. She worked as an intensive care nurse in Stafford and as an education resource specialist at Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston. Today, she is senior vice president of GP Industrial Contractors.

When vinyl siding became popular, Petry was soon working four or five projects at a time, at a price far below the competition, and “still making very good money.” He came up with an innovative approach to a product that would enhance the appearance of a one-story home. “From outside, it would look like it was two-story. It was selling like hotcakes,” he said. “People liked that look. We were making $12,000 to $15,000 a house, and we did a bunch of houses,” he said. In addition, he also worked in an area affected by an injury there prompted him to return to Lamar, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in industrial engineering.

He had his sights set on going to law school, but, four years after graduating from Lamar, he had a conversation with Morris Albright Jr. about the idea of opening up a minority business to help Albright’s business, Gulf Copper, secure more work with area refineries and chemical plants. Soon, Albright and Petry joined with Pat Simmons (Guillory ’88 and Joe Deshotel ’74 in business.

“You can see that I’m a minority,” Petry said. “I don’t want to highlight that I’m a minority. What I want to highlight is that we can get you a competitive price, that we can meet your schedule, that we can get you the quality you’re looking for and that we can save you money,” Petry said.

“If I got a job because I was a minority, that’s a temporary, a short-term relationship. I felt that if I got in because I could save you some money, that I could meet your schedule in a safe way and give you quality work, that’s what would build a long-term relationship. That’s what has made GP successful,” Petry said.

The first partner Petry bought out was Deshotel, followed by Gulf Copper and, eight or nine years ago, Guillory.

Today, GP Industrial Contractors Inc. is headquartered in Port Arthur and has fabrication facilities in Port Arthur, Vidor and Henderson. With more than 76,000 square feet of shop space and 375 employees, the company has done projects for ExxonMobil, Motiva, Enterprise Products, DOW Chemical and many other companies, as well as Houston’s Minute Maid Park and Toyota Center.

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When vinyl siding became popular, Petry was soon working four or five projects at a time, at a price far below the competition, and “still making very good money.” He came up with an innovative approach to a product that would enhance the appearance of a one-story home. “From outside, it would look like it was two-story. It was selling like hotcakes,” he said. “People liked that look. We were making $12,000 to $15,000 a house, and we did a bunch of houses,” he said. In addition, he also worked in an area affected by an injury there prompted him to return to Lamar, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in industrial engineering.

He had his sights set on going to law school, but, four years after graduating from Lamar, he had a conversation with Morris Albright Jr. about the idea of opening up a minority business to help Albright’s business, Gulf Copper, secure more work with area refineries and chemical plants. Soon, Albright and Petry joined with Pat Simmons (Guillory ’88 and Joe Deshotel ’74 in business.

“You can see that I’m a minority,” Petry said. “I don’t want to highlight that I’m a minority. What I want to highlight is that we can get you a competitive price, that we can meet your schedule, that we can get you the quality you’re looking for and that we can save you money,” Petry said.

“If I got a job because I was a minority, that’s a temporary, a short-term relationship. I felt that if I got in because I could save you some money, that I could meet your schedule in a safe way and give you quality work, that’s what would build a long-term relationship. That’s what has made GP successful,” Petry said.

The first partner Petry bought out was Deshotel, followed by Gulf Copper and, eight or nine years ago, Guillory.

Today, GP Industrial Contractors Inc. is headquartered in Port Arthur and has fabrication facilities in Port Arthur, Vidor and Henderson. With more than 76,000 square feet of shop space and 375 employees, the company has done projects for ExxonMobil, Motiva, Enterprise Products, DOW Chemical and many other companies, as well as Houston’s Minute Maid Park and Toyota Center.

Petry recently gave a lecture on campus about what led to his business success. His mother, Cewillow Catherine richard Petry, attended and has reason to be proud of each of his children. In addition to Petry, all are graduates: Pamela ‘89 and Mary yolanda ‘93 and Eric ‘95.

National Society of Black Engineers, Ever Ready Lodge No. 506, Port Arthur Rotary Club, and on the board of directors for Junior Achievement and United Way.

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A s civil engineering projects go, the $5.25 billion expansion of the Panama Canal is far from the largest underway today, but, in terms of impact, the world is taking note. Completion of the project will result in changes in shipping world-wide, creating new opportunities for ports in the U.S. and elsewhere that are preparing to handle the larger post-Panamax class of ships that will be able to use the new locks.

Lamar University alumnus and CEO of the Panama Canal Authority, Jorge Quijano ’73, ’74, is at the helm of the expansion program. Considered by many the eighth wonder of the world, the canal cuts through 50 miles of jungle and solid rock, providing a 10-hour shortcut from the Pacific to the Atlantic instead of a two-week passage around South America. The marvel of engineering begun and abandoned by the French, then resumed and completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has been in operation since 1914. Ships are lifted by a series of locks 85 feet to the level of man-made Gatún Lake, then lowered to sea level through a second series of locks. When the canal was opened, it set the standard for ship builders worldwide. In the decades that passed, a new class of super cargo ships emerged, carrying up to three times the cargo and threatening to relegate the canal to the dustbin of history.

When the U.S. began passing control of the canal to the people of Panama in 1979, a process of restoration of the existing locks and canal began, and the vision of expanding its capacity through a new series of locks to maintain the country’s position as a leading player in international commerce was born.

The project will double the Panama Canal’s capacity when it begins operation in 2015, allowing more and larger ships to transit. The new locks increase the maximum vessel size from 4,400 TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit used to measure capacity on the standard 20-foot shipping container) to 14,000 TEU. The project creates a new lane of traffic along the canal by construction of two new lock complexes, one each on the Atlantic and Pacific sides, each with three chambers and three water-saving basins, along with excavation of new access channels, widening and deepening of the navigation channels, and raising the elevation of Gatún Lake’s maximum operating level.

Quijano and his wife, Marcia, were in Beaumont in February when he attended meetings of the Civil Engineering Advisory Council and presented a program on the canal expansion to Lamar faculty and students as well as to members of the community, including representatives from the ports of Houston, Beaumont and Port Arthur. During the visit, Quijano received the Texas Industrial Engineering Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his work and dedication to the industrial engineering profession, and was named an Honorary Citizen of Texas by Texas Senate resolution. During his visit, Quijano highlighted the impact of the Panama Canal expansion on the U.S. Gulf of Mexico ports, focusing on those located in Texas.

“An important number of the vessels of various segments that transit the canal today have as port of origin or destination the U.S. Gulf of Mexico ports. Furthermore, once the Panama Canal expansion is concluded, there is also a great potential for exports of shale gas from this specific area that could use our waterway to markets in the Pacific,” Quijano said. A native of Panama City, Republic of Panama, Quijano did not find English challenging when he came to Lamar in 1971. His father served in the consular corps for Panama, so Jorge had attended English-speaking schools in Japan and Malaysia where he graduated high school.

Choosing Lamar was partly a question of finances, Quijano said. “My father wanted to send me to the States and said, ‘This is your budget.’” So, I had to look for a college supported by the state,” he said. He applied to and was accepted by Texas Tech, UT-Arlington and UT-El Paso, but it was the curriculum that attracted him to Lamar.

“College was the experience of leaving home and being on your own on a tight budget,” he said. Given one check to cover the entire semester, he knew he would have to make it stretch until time to fly home. That meant living frugally—lots of window shopping and traveling by bus rather than his ’65 GTO (at the height of the Arab oil embargo) to visit his girlfriend and future wife in Denton, where she was attending Texas Woman’s University.

He first considered majoring in civil engineering, but several of his cousins who were civil engineers thought opportunities would be better for him in Panama if he earned an industrial engineering degree.

“Industrial engineering requires learning a lot about all the other disciplines,” Quijano said. “At Lamar, we had great hands-on teachers that came out of industry. And I had the opportunity to work a little bit in the industry that helped me put all the...
Executive management courses at the Federal Executive Institute, with the managing of human resources. He is a graduate of more than three people, you have to invest in updating yourself. You can manage machines rather well, do linear program- ming very well and all you need is one guy to make a mess of the new locks. The existing locks will continue to operate alongside the new locks. The increase in the size of the new locks over the old was limited not only by the considerable cost of construction but also by the availability of water. Because fresh water that accumu- lates in Gatún Lake in central Panama is used to move the ships through the locks, it limits the ultimate number of transits that can be made. Thanks to an ingenious water-saving design, the new, larger locks use a third less water per transit than the old locks. The existing locks will continue to operate alongside the new locks.

“You can manage machines rather well, do linear programming very well and all you need is one guy to make a mess of things,” Quijano said. “So as soon as you become a supervisor of more than three people, you have to invest in updating yourself with the managing of human resources.” He is a graduate of executive management courses at the Federal Executive Institute.

In 2006, he was designated to manage the Panama Canal’s $5.25 billion expansion program and was appointed executive vice president of the Engineering and Programs Management Department in 2007. In September 2012, he was named CEO of the Panama Canal Authority.

The relationship of trust and construct over that a win-win situation,” Quijano said. “If there’s not trust, you don’t get anywhere. That’s something you don’t get from engineering school.” Jorge and María’s son earned a degree in Wales and has been practic- ing maritime law in Panama for more than a decade. Their daughter also works in Panama.

María earned a degree in physical therapy and biology and began working in Panama in bio-tech but later changed career paths, earning an MBA and then a master’s degree in human resources. “The op- portunity to help people really enthused me,” María said of her work helping the more than 10,000 employees of the Canal Authority during her 36-year career. She resigned from her position the day before Jorge’s appointment as CEO, and the couple now makes their home in a newly refurbished 1906 plantation home that was the governor’s home over- seeing the Culebra Cut through the Continental Divide. The location includes gardens that María looks forward to bringing to life and is a three-minute walk from Jorge’s office.

Completion of the canal expansion has huge implications for Panama’s 3.5 million people, but the transit of cargo is only part of the picture. Panama’s ports on both sides of the country are expand- ing operations as part of continued growth of the country’s logistics centers, or “Hubs of the Americas as we want to call it,” Quijano said. Increasingly, Panama’s ports are used for distribution of cargo from Asia throughout North and South America.

The challenges are tremendous, but the rewards make the effort worthwhile. “I have enjoyed every minute, if not second, of it,” Quijano said of his nearly four decades with the Panama Canal. When the new super cargo ships begin to transit the Isthmus of Panama in 2015, the nation will ensure its place as a leading player in international commerce with the capacity to change the very way we do business around the world for decades to come.

“I am a practicing attorney successfully defending international corporations in mass tort litigation. As incongruous as it may seem, that’s exactly the path Sandra [French] Clark ’76 has taken in her career. For her, it’s a matter of keeping balance in her professional and private life. Although she always wanted to become a lawyer, that wasn’t the first rung on her career ladder. Born and raised in Trinidad, a small East Texas town near Athens, she spent a year at Henderson County Junior College before transferring to Texas Tech, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in English. She’s a big advocate for community colleges for their ability to prepare students to attend a four-year institution, especially when they come from smaller communities.

Upon graduating, she accepted a position as an English teacher at Port Neches-Groves High School, where she also served as faculty sponsor for the Indianettes drill team. During her tenure at PN-G, she enrolled in the graduate program at Lamar and earned a Master of Arts degree in English. Attending a year of night classes and two summer sessions, she earned her degree with a 4.0 grade-point average. On a late-night bus trip returning from the football state championship game while chauffeuring her share of the 90 or so girls on the drill team, she decided that if she could handle this, she could definitely handle law school.

Clark joined the Beaumont law firm MehaffyWeber in 1980 immediately after graduating from the University of Houston Law Center and has become a leading product liability and toxic tort attorney. She has tried many complex cases and was one of two MehaffyWeber attorneys recognized by the National Law Journal in 2001 for obtaining one of the top 10 defense verdicts in the country that year. Recognized in “Best Lawyers in America” from 2001–2012, Clark was named “Beaumont’s Best Lawyers Product Liability Litigator – Defendant’s Lawyer of the Year” in 2011, an honor bestowed upon only one attorney each year. She is a “Texas Super Lawyer,” “Top 50 Female Super Lawyers in Texas,” named a “Top Lawyer in Houston,” as well as many other “Super Lawyer” designations and awards. She has also served on several prestigious bar committees.

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Keeping everything in balance

A t first glance, it’s difficult to imagine that a majorette, drill team sponsor, English teacher, accomplished pianist and a member of multiple local choirs could also be a tough tonic tort and product liability litigator successfully defending international corporations in mass tort litigation. As incongruous as it may seem, that’s exactly the path Sandra [French] Clark ’76 has taken in her career. For her, it’s a matter of keeping balance in her professional and private life.

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Ten years of piano lessons, at her mother’s insistence—or as- sistance, as she corrects herself—led her to play for their hometown church while growing up and, later, for the choir while attending junior college. Playing fueled her love of the fine arts. Clark has funded an endowed scholarship at Lamar in choral music and serves on the College of Fine Arts and Communication Advisory Council. She is a member of the Lamar University Foundation board of trust- ees and co-chaired the fine arts fundraiser le Grand Bal in 2012. She loves to sing and performs with her church choir at Trinity United Methodist, as well as the Interfaith Choral Society and the Beaum- ont Symphony Chorus.

“Through these choirs, I met several Lamar choral students and was so impressed with their talent and commitment that I wanted to establish an endowed scholarship for choral music,” Clark said. “I recently attended the annual Scholarship Dinner and it was great to see so many people who are supporting so many students.”

In her spare time, Clark loves to work in her yard, being a self-professed “crazy woman” when it comes to yard work. Hur- ricanes Rita and Ike wreaked havoc on her beautiful yard, and she is just now getting it back to the show quality she demands. She has one daughter, who is also an attorney, living in Chicago with her husband, who is a writer for the national satire publication The Onion. —LA
“Lamar University has meant so much to my family. I was overwhelmed when my children surprised me with a brick as a birthday gift. My sister, Colleen, and I decided to purchase bricks in memory of our parents, too.”—Sally (McDonald) House ’59

House’s family moved to the Lamar University campus when her father, Dr. F.L. McDonald, became president the year Lamar became a four-year college. Her parents walked the campus together every night.

House said her sister, Colleen (McDonald) Marks ’56 and Colleen’s husband, Bobby K. Marks ’56, both alumni, plan to buy Lamar bricks for themselves as well, and she’s buying one for her daughter, Laurie (House) Ritchel ’85.

“A lot of people can’t give a lot of money to the university,” House said. “But a lot of people can give a little bit that adds up and makes a big difference.”

Order today and add your LU affinity to your brick!

Each individual brick helps create an everlasting display. You may purchase a brick engraved for yourself or to honor or memorialize a friend or loved one.

The bricks of the Cardinal Walk of Honor—reflecting a network of friendships and relationships—will be a testament to the distinctive Lamar University experience and your support of your university.

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DR. KENNETH R. EVANS

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LAMAR UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

Alumni, friends, students, faculty and staff are invited to attend.

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