

A P U B L I C A T I O N O F L A M A R U N I V E R S I T Y

CADENCE

CARDINAL

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Gradsgo global

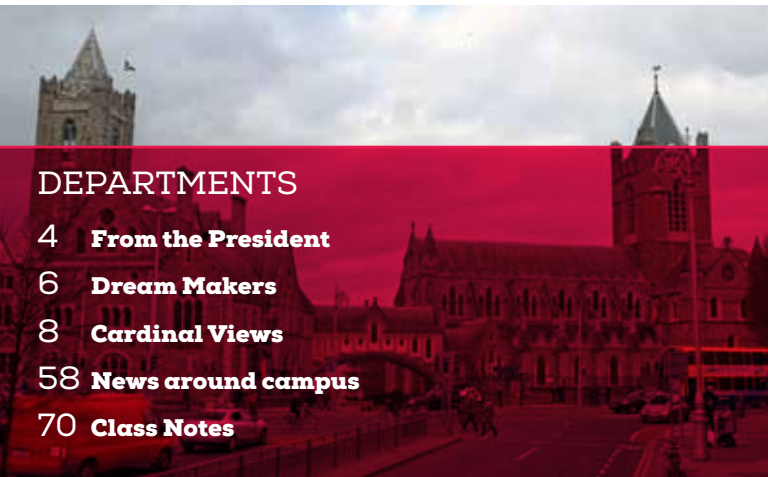
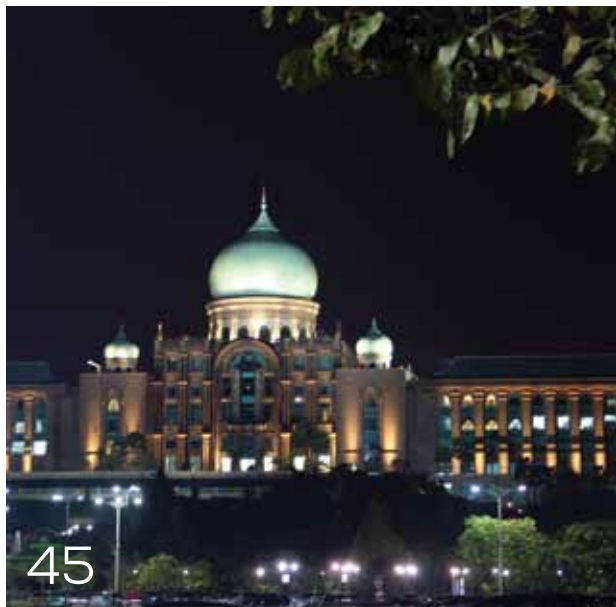
Alumni build companies, revolutionize thinking and inspire others

Views expand
through study abroad opportunities

Global LU

Cardinals are influential at home and abroad, their reach limited only by their imagination. For the alumni and students featured in this issue, their time at LU prepared them to seek opportunity and capitalize on it for success across the globe—whether entrepreneurial, corporate or philanthropic. At Lamar University, a Texas state of mind motivates graduates to become leaders.

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GOUTHER

As you read this summer issue of *Cadence*, know that we are actively preparing for perhaps one of the busiest academic years in recent history. With the many existing and new programs and departments on campus, Lamar University is expanding its offerings and welcoming new administration.

We have three new deans, including Derina Holtzhausen as the dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication, Srinivas Palanki as the dean of the College of Engineering and Robert Spina as dean of the College of Education and Human Development. James Marquart also joins us as provost and vice president of academic affairs.

You will see in the following pages just how global our alumni and students truly are. With many alumni working now or in the past around the world, each has a unique story. LU students are featured during their recent travels through our Office of Study Abroad under the guidance of the new director of the program, Jeffrey Palis. The opportunity for academic credit as well as cultural interests and local company visits provided a once-in-a-lifetime experience for more Lamar University students than ever before during spring break and summer sessions.

For our graduate business students, Janie and Mark Steinhagen created the Steinhagen Global Fellowships. One faculty member and four students traveled to China this summer as Steinhagen Global Fellows. Another business student, Jeremy Allen, has had more than one amazing international experience in countries like Spain, Argentina and Panama among other travels.

Along with a world-view of LU, this issue features many other happenings on and around campus. Timothy Roden, associate professor of computer science, is developing smart insole software that is becoming a reality. Our rankings, especially in our online programs and our nursing program, showcase our excellent degree offerings as well. We also are offering for the first time an online MBA degree beginning this fall. Lamar University entered into a partnership with Microsoft to expand offerings within their Teaching with Technology Program making it easier for teachers to earn a master's degree while additionally becoming a Microsoft Certified Educator.

As I mentioned before, LU is advancing at a quick pace with numerous activities on campus. The Texas Legislative Session this year approved funding that will greatly assist us with strategic initiatives. It is a very exciting time for our university. As always, please feel free to share your feedback on the magazine. Lamar University is "A Texas State of Mind."

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Evans, President



The Lamar University President's Circle was created by President Evans to recognize extraordinarily committed individuals who have chosen to provide ongoing support to further the success of Lamar University. These dedicated alumni and friends are taking the lead by making a commitment to help the young men and women of Lamar University achieve their dreams and enable faculty to reach more ambitious goals.

Won't you join them?

Members are able to support the strategic priorities that are most meaningful to them. There are limitless opportunities available to make a difference.

These influential donors are touching lives every day with generous gifts to support academics, scholarships, research, internships and more.

President's Circle members

- ★ are a network of Lamar University supporters, valuable to the President and leadership of the institution
- ★ uphold and promote excellence in the educational experience at Lamar University
- ★ provide funds for continued growth and distinction in chosen areas

President's Circle members gain unique privileges, including special communications, preferred seating at selected university events, invitations to exclusive activities and unique opportunities to interact with students. Membership is open to individual alumni and friends of Lamar University based on varying contribution levels.

Each level may be met through a single contribution (qualifies for that level membership for a five-year period) or through a pledge of five annual payments.

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To become a member, call Lamar University Advancement, (409) 880-8422.

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DreamMakers

We express our deep gratitude to the alumni and friends of Lamar University, known to us as Dream Makers, 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 LU's history. To learn more about how you can begin your own giving plan, we invite you to visit lamar.edu/development. In this issue of *Cardinal Cadence*, we are honored to acknowledge our Dream Makers.

Carmen Jordan established the **Carmen Angelle Jordan Scholarship in Finance** in appreciation of the "tremendous faculty at LU and their guidance in preparing her for a rewarding career as a banker," she said. The Nederland native earned a B.B.A. in finance from LU. Now, she is president of the Houston market for Iberia Bank. The scholarship benefits students who major in finance.

To benefit students pursuing a degree in business, Terry Kelley '65 established the **Terry Kelley Business Scholarship**. Kelley earned a B.B.A. in marketing from Lamar University. His experience in Texas banking spans more than 40 years and includes tenure as a co-founder and president of Team Bank and chairman and CEO for Bank One.

Gifts from family and friends of Eleanor McIlwain Stevens endowed the **Eleanor McIlwain Stevens Memorial Scholarship** in her memory. She was an LU assistant professor in the College of Business for more than four decades and, later, director of the Advising Center. She was proud to have served Lamar University in addition to her commitment and service to Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

Clayton '69 and Georgia '68 Lau established the **Clayton and Georgia Lau Faculty Development Fund in Business** to be used at the discretion of the dean of Lamar University's College of Business. It is designed to strengthen the college's ability to recruit and retain the most talented faculty and to continue building a curriculum known for excellence. Clayton serves on the College of Business Board of Advisors and is an Alumni Board past president.

Bill '70 and Gay '80 established the **Bill and Gay Scott Presidential Innovation Fund** to support LU's strategic initiatives at the direction of the university president. CEO, chairman and co-owner of Trans-Global Solutions Inc., Bill was appointed to the Texas State University System Board of Regents in 2013 and is a Lamar University Foundation trustee. He also serves on the university's College of Business Board of Advisors. Gay is a past Le Grand Bal honoree.

A gift from Gene '61, '80, and Elizabeth Arnold created the **CICE Innovation Fund** to further the mission of LU's Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship. Gene holds both a B.B.A. and an M.B.A. from Lamar University. Elizabeth attended LU and has been a faithful supporter. The Arnolds previously established innovation funds in business and audiology.

A pledge from the Linda and Jack Gill Foundation of Texas established the **CICE Student Internship Fund** and **CICE U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration Fund**. The dean of Lamar University's College of Business will use the student internship fund to support internships for students working to gain experience through LU's Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship. A portion of the economic development fund will match a Federal Economic Development Administration University Center grant to support the work of the center. Jack Gill '58 was named a Lamar University's Distinguished Alumnus in 1989 and served as president of the Lamar University Foundation from 1990 to 1992.

The **Monica and William Harn Scholarship in Speech and Hearing Sciences** is an endowed scholarship benefitting junior- or senior-level students pursuing a degree in the speech and hearing sciences. Monica and William (Bill) Harn joined the Lamar University faculty in the Department of Communication Disorders and Deaf Studies in fall 2002. When the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences was created in fall 2006, Bill became the new department's first chair. He served in that capacity until 2013 when he became Dean of Graduate Studies. Monica Harn became chair of the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences in 2013.

The **Kay Fuller Scholarship in Graphic Design** is an endowed scholarship that benefits students majoring in graphic design. Kay Fuller founded Kay's Composition in Beaumont, and, as her business grew during the 1970s, she employed several LU students and graduates. This history with Lamar University and her career in the graphic arts industry inspired her to endow this scholarship.

Joe '68 and Becky Williams endowed the **Becky and Joe Williams Scholarship in Audiology** to provide funds for doctoral students studying audiology. Joe and Becky are both community volunteer leaders in Houston and very active in their synagogue. Joe is a Lamar University Foundation trustee currently serving as chair of the Audit Committee.

Gregory Byrd '72 and Brenda Landrum established the **Jackie Wayne Byrd Memorial Scholarship** in their brother's memory to support LU's baseball players' tuition for summer school and for semesters after they have fulfilled their four years of eligibility. Jackie Byrd '70, '80, earned a bachelor of science in secondary education from Lamar State College of Technology and pursued his passion for playing baseball. After beginning a successful career as a coach, he returned to Lamar University to earn a master's degree in education.

To begin your own endowment or to add a gift to an existing endowment, please contact the Lamar University Foundation at (409) 880-2717.

**Texas State University System
night at the Houston Live Stock
Show and Rodeo.**

Juan Zabala '07, Peggy Zabala, Clayton Lau '69, Pam (Dugan) Springer '69, Jerrol Springer. Both Clayton and Pam are volunteers with the rodeo.



**LU bestows three
honorary doctorates**

During the commencement ceremony Dec. 13, President Kenneth Evans awarded the Doctor of Humane Letters degree to LU friend and philanthropist Regina Rogers and to outstanding alumni Hermann Ortega '67, '72, and Will Crenshaw '67. Pictured, Provost Steve and Suzye Doblin, with Regina Rogers.



Joel Grothe, assistant professor of theatre, appeared in the Houston Grand Opera's production of "Die Walkure," April 18 - May 3.



Brian LeTraunik, theatre instructor, will be the resident fight director and stage combat instructor at Central City Opera in Colorado this summer.



The Lake Charles Alumnae Chapter of the Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity initiated Bryan Proksch, assistant professor of music literature and musicology, as a National Arts Associate this past April, recognizing his distinguished contributions in support of the musical arts.



Christopher Troutman, assistant professor of drawing, accepted the grand prize at the 66th Miyazaki Sougou Art Exhibition, which includes a paid trip to Paris, France, this summer. He will exhibit artwork inspired by the trip at Miyazaki Prefectural Art Museum in October.



Eleanor Garrett receives a President's Circle plaque from Juan Zabala '07 at Garret Industries headquarters in Garland. She and her late husband Charles Garrett '59, '11-HD, were inducted into the President's Circle last October.



Le Grand Bal

Le Grand Bal celebrated its 40th anniversary in honor of the "Legends of the Arts" in Southeast Texas during a gala evening of dining and dancing March 28 in the Dishman Art Museum and Montagne Center.

- 1 Co-chairs for Le Grand Bal: Legends of the Arts, Mandie and Dr. Garrett Peel with Keith Carter '70
- 2 Susan and Russ Schultz, dean of College of Fine Arts and Communication, with Bal honorary guest artist John Alexander '68
- 3 Party Crashers band at Le Grand Bal
- 4 Le Grand Bal honorees Michele (Yennie) '88 and Mitch Smith
- 5 Le Grand Bal committee members



The Glass Menagerie

The Department of Theatre & Dance performed Tennessee Williams' semi-autobiographical masterpiece "The Glass Menagerie" Feb. 26 in the Studio Theatre.

- 1 Chloe Sullivan of Kountze as Amanda Wingfield; Sydney Haygood of Friendswood as Laura Wingfield; and Chaz Romero of Orangefield as Tom Wingfield
- 2 Sydney Haygood of Friendswood as Laura Wingfield (left) and Chloe Sullivan of Kountze as Amanda Wingfield
- 3 Chaz Romero of Orangefield as Tom Wingfield, Chloe Sullivan of Kountze as Amanda Wingfield; and Thomas Gentry of Friendswood as Jim O'Connor



Scholarship Recognition Dinner

Scholarship recipients met the donors who made their scholarships possible during the Scholarship Recognition Dinner April 22 in the University Reception Center on the eighth floor of the Mary and John Gray Library.



6 Lewis and Marsha Hoffer, former LU Foundation president, 2010-2012, with scholarship recipients

7 Distinguished Alumnus Mike Aldredge '65, alumni president, 1992-1995; Lamar University Foundation President, 1995-1996; and Investing in the Future Campaign cabinet co-chair, 2006-2013, with his scholarship recipients

8 Lamar University Foundation Trustee Terry and Lee Ann (Dean) Garth '79, left; with Kim Steinhagen, LU development officer; Roy Steinhagen, former LU Foundation president, 2006-2010; and Cathy and Richard Price '75, LU Foundation secretary

9 Floyd McSpadden, former Lamar University Foundation president, 2000-2002, and current director of planned giving, and Patti McSpadden with their scholarship recipients

10 Larry '73 and Cynthia (Smesny) Norwood '72 with their scholarship recipients. Larry serves on the College of Engineering Advisory Council.

11 President Ken and Nancy Evans

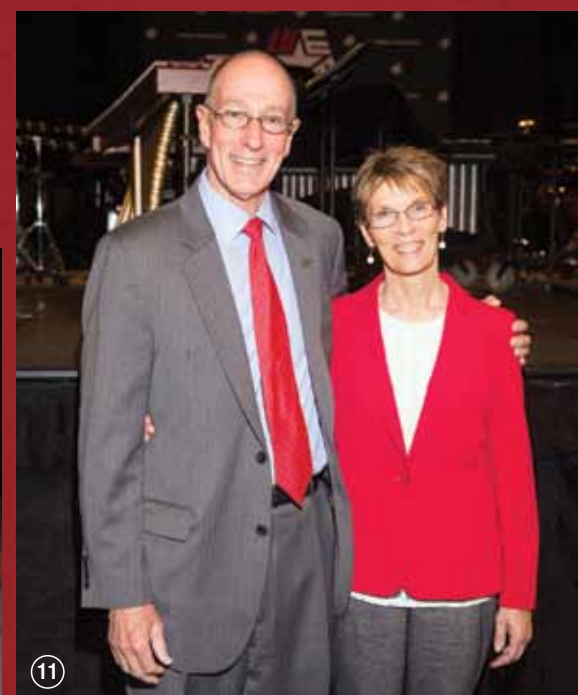
1 Frank and Nancy Newton from the Beaumont Foundation, right, along with the Southeast Texas Legends Scholarship recipients and Ted Stuberfield, left, director of the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities. Frank is president and CEO of the Beaumont Foundation of America.

2 Dr. Mark Kubala, left, with Distinguished Alumna Susan (Williams) Simmons '68; President Emeritus James Simmons, Distinguished Alumnus Don Lyle '63, '06-HD, and Maryann (Johnson) Lyle '65.

3 Jon and Patty Burmeister and scholarship recipients of the Scot Burmeister scholarship.

4 Juan Zabala '07, vice president for University Advancement, and Peggy Zabala

5 Mike '77 and JoAnn Bonura, Josh '14 and Lauren Bonura along with recipients of the Alicia Christine Bonura Memorial Scholarship in Engineering



AMY BECERRA

Realizing dreams abroad

by Brian Sattler

When Amy Becerra '14 crossed the stage a year ago and received her bachelor's degree in psychology, she became the first in her family to obtain a college degree. A few years before, she had been the first in her family to earn a high school diploma.

Soon her commitment to education would take her even farther. As a recipient of a 2015-16 Fulbright U.S. Student Award, she will return to Spain as an English teaching assistant. While an LU undergraduate, she was a McNair Scholar and visited Spain in 2013 during the summer as part of her McNair research. She presented her work at a symposium at Harvard University last year.

Since graduation, Becerra has been working on her post-baccalaureate classes for a teaching certification at LU and teaching full time at Memorial High School in her hometown of Port Arthur. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. in community psychology with the goal of teaching at a university, and sees teaching as a way to gain experience she believes will help realize her goal of creating mentoring programs for at-risk and first-generation students and as a way of giving back to the community.

As a first-generation minority, Becerra credits her education for improving her quality of life for herself and her family. "My parents came to the United States from Mexico, not knowing the language, in hopes of providing a better life for their children," Becerra said. "Their example in how they were able to succeed and adapt in a new environment was so inspirational for me."

"When I first went to Lamar University I had no idea what to expect," she said. "My first exposure was being a part of the learning community in the psychology department. Through that

experience, I learned of so many different things, including the McNair scholarship program." Because she lacked experience with higher education, it was Judith Mann, associate professor of psychology, and McNair program director Daniela Medley who opened her eyes to the possibility of studying abroad.

Mann and Medley introduced her to Norma Zarzosa, an instructor in English and modern languages at LU. "I started talking to her about study abroad, and she really encouraged me," she said. "We talked about scholarships and other avenues. When I went to Spain in 2013, it was one of the best experiences of my life."

Her Fulbright experience begins Sept. 7 and runs through June 2016. She will assist teachers and staff at a secondary school in Madrid with English language classes. She also plans to establish a community garden as part of her experience there. "Based on research I've done in psychology, students and people in general tend to be happier when they are more in tune with nature," she said. She hopes to integrate the community garden into the education experience and see it continue to be enjoyed long beyond her time there.

In the months before she boards her flight for Spain, Becerra is learning about what life will be like in Spain's capital of more than three million people. She also is connecting with the 40 or more colleagues in the program who will also be in Spain. "They will be my family away from home," she said. "There will be a lot of collaboration with each other's projects. It is really a well-rounded group of people, and I am really excited about working with them."

"When I came to LU four years ago I had no idea that I would be able to go abroad, much less stay a year in Spain," Becerra said. "That is something I thought was out of my reach."





MIGUEL ELARBA

by Larry Acker

The right tools for success

When he was old enough Miguel Elarba '90 joined his brothers in the family business, as most sons do in Venezuela. After high school, buoyed by the desire to attain an education and become an engineer, Elarba made the journey to the U.S. and enrolled at Lamar University in the College of Engineering. His dream came true in 1990 when he graduated as a mechanical engineer.

"There were about 15 students in most of my engineering classes," he said. "Students from the United States and Malaysia, but I was the only student from South America. That was good for me because it exposed me to people of different cultures."

Armed with a college degree, he returned to Venezuela, and again, went back to work at the 75-year-old family appliance business. He soon became involved in some special projects selling equipment to fertilizer companies that led him to form Copelarca in 1991. Copelarca has the distinction of being the largest Snap-On tool distributor in Venezuela for the past three years. With offices in Venezuela and Houston, he has expanded the distribution

beyond Venezuela to include the U.S., Spain and Panama. Elarba also has added high-pressure water pumps to his distribution inventory.

"By offering quality products, good service and personal attention, we have been able to maintain a thriving business in spite of the political challenges in my country," he said. "Running a business in Venezuela can be difficult, but you get accustomed to the changing political climate; however, there is still plenty of opportunity to grow a business. We still have major international companies coming to Venezuela to do business."

Elarba credits Lamar University instructors for giving him the knowledge to succeed in international business. The small class sizes were very good for him because it allowed Elarba to develop personal relationships with his professors. According to him, the professors really engaged the students, and "even though you may not particularly enjoy the class, the way they taught the classes made you see things for what they really were." He recalls a particular design course where the main project for the semester was to figuratively climb a tree and cut the limbs of the tree.

"The way the professors taught us to approach a problem and come to a viable solution made a huge difference in the way I approach any problem today," he said. "The education I received at LU, in the business that I'm in, helped me a lot. It prepared me for this world we're in now."

He supplemented his LU education with a certification in business administration from Harvard University in 2004. The certification was geared toward managing small to mid-size companies. It's tradition in Venezuela to pass the family business to the next generation. Elarba has a son who will graduate from high school this year and he has high expectations for him.

"While he is currently undecided if he wants to major in engineering, he will definitely be attending Lamar University."



THOMAS "TOMCAT" SEWELL

by Larry Acker

Coaching the fundamentals of life

Thomas "Tomcat" Sewell '84 was drafted by the Philadelphia 76ers in the first round of the 1984 NBA draft, alongside the likes of Michael Jordan, Charles Barkley, Akeem Olajuwon and John Stockton. He came to Lamar University in 1981 from Amarillo Jr. College to play basketball. He studied physical education and finished his collegiate basketball career as All-American, All-Southland Conference and SLC Player of the Year in 1984. He helped the Cards to three playoff appearances, two SLC conference championships, two NIT tournaments and one NCAA tournament appearance.

He spent the next 15 years playing professional basketball, winning five scoring titles in Europe and South America and earning the most valuable player designation in the Switzerland basketball league in 1987. Sewell eventually made the transition to coaching basketball in Switzerland, Holland, Cyprus, Mexico and England, before meeting some like-minded people in London who shared his interest in mentoring young basketball players.

For the past 13 years, Sewell has spent his time working with young people as the director, administrator and coach of Hoop Dreams Basketball Club, the basketball program he founded in London. The program focuses on helping youth develop good fundamental basketball skills to become better players who can compete for scholarships or play in European basketball leagues. The program is a non-profit organization and relies heavily on grant funding, which he also manages.

"When you're coaching, it's all about winning," Sewell said. "If you don't win, you're gone. What I'm doing isn't about winning. For me, it's all about helping young people reach their goals by mentoring them and instilling in them a sense of discipline. There are other more important things in life than basketball."

His stellar basketball career led to his induction into the Lamar University Hall of Fame in 1991. According to Sewell, being at LU was life-changing and will always have a special place in his heart. "It was a great experience, and looking back, I realize how fortunate I was to be able to have that opportunity," he said.



"Being inducted into the Lamar University Hall of Fame was a great recognition to receive," he said. "I could have played basketball nearly anywhere, but I chose LU because I knew I would be able to get out on the court and showcase my talents."

One of the people who had a profound influence on him was Paul Zeek. Zeek spent more than 35 years in the Lamar University athletics program in various capacities, including head athletic trainer, compliance director and senior associate athletics director.

"I still follow the Lamar basketball program and keep up with a few folks that are still around," Sewell said. "I try to send them some of my players occasionally. My son is becoming a good basketball player himself, so I might send him down to LU when the time comes."

JOHN ALBRECHT

by Cheryl P. Rose

Courting customers throughout the world

The first time John “Jack” Albrecht ’88 got on a jet plane was when his employer sent him on an international assignment. “It was a monstrous adventure,” he said. “I grew immensely as a professional by taking an international position. When I look back over my career as a self-employed person, my only regrets are things I didn’t try.”

Albrecht is the general manager of Albrecht Software Consulting (ACo) located in Vienna, Austria. The business offers systems consulting and process calculations for the process energy industries (gas, chemical,

power and renewables) and is now branching out to consumer products. Albrecht opened for business in 1994. When the company won a huge project in 2005, beating out companies 100 times bigger than ACo, their competitors began to respect them, Albrecht said. He now has two offices in Vienna with six employees and 11 contractors providing products and services to customers throughout the world, but concentrating on Europe. “We are really good at what we do,” he said.

Opening his own business in a foreign country was a bold decision for Albrecht. At the time, he had been working in Vienna as a consultant for Setpoint for several

years. “I discovered that being an engineer with a broad background who could understand computer programs and apply them to process know-how was not very common,” he said. “When I quit and started my own company, I got paid better, but I had to learn not just how to do business—accounting, forms, taxes—but business in a foreign country.”

Albrecht majored in electrical engineering while at Lamar University, combined with what he describes as the equivalent of a business minor, though at the time there was no official designation. His LU professors prepared Albrecht for his future career path by emphasizing a key message. “They made it very clear at Lamar University that anywhere you work as an engineer, you’re going to be in business,” he said. “The math is important, but at the end of the day, you’ve got to be innovative to make products your customers need without unlimited time or money. Nobody pays you to have a big brain. As an employer or customer, if you don’t have something to put in my products or services to help sell them, I don’t care how smart you are. You’ve got to deliver value. That was excellent preparation for the real world and an awesome starting point, even though I didn’t know where my career would go.”

Albrecht provides management and sales for the business, but he still does technical work as well. “I enjoy it, and it keeps me sharp,” he said. “It keeps my street cred. If I was just a manager, I would lose touch with the technical aspects which could hurt me in bidding for a project.”

Building a legacy is one motivation for Albrecht. “Some of the systems we built have been in operation for 10 to 15 years, functioning day in, day out,” he said. “And there is our logo on the screen, helping those businesses run their plants and make their products. That’s what keeps me coming in to work. For example, we have a new project building calculations. In about six months, this customer will have new software working that they will use every day, and it will help them make their plant more profitable. That’s a cool feeling.”

In deciding to go out on his own, Albrecht purposely decided to stay in Vienna and leave the engineering career ladder that many major corporations require, sending managers to Dusseldorf one year and Singapore the next, he described. “I love living in Vienna,” he said. “I’ve been here more than 20 years, and I’m still impressed with the beauty and history of this city. The quality of life here is awesome—clean air, clean streets, guaranteed health care—though the taxes are horrendous.”

Albrecht has maintained his American citizenship. He and his wife, Lara, intend to remain in Vienna, but would like to have a vacation home in Hawaii once they retire. As an expat, Albrecht blends in well. “My father’s family name, Albrecht, comes from Prussia, what is now the southern



part of Poland and the northern part of Czechoslovakia,” he said. “If I don’t open my mouth, no one knows I am a foreigner.”

In the offices of ACo, everyone speaks German, including Albrecht. However, international business is often conducted in English. Being a native English-speaker is an advantage in writing contracts and providing customer service, Albrecht said.

To be successful in any small business, ambition and organization are necessary, according to Albrecht. “A small business person is always prioritizing because you have to keep a lot of balls in the air,” he said.

Albrecht recently started a second business in clothing as an investment and to diversify. Though ACo has a nice niche market, competitors willing to work cheaper are always a factor. He notes that when he started his business in Vienna, Austria was on the edge of what was defined as Europe. Now the EU has 28 countries, and Austria is geographically central.

Albrecht returns occasionally to the U.S. He still has family in Houston, where he grew up. He recently attended a major technical conference in America to stay current, network and to listen for issues his business can address. “A medium-sized refiner will spend \$1 billion on crude,” he said. “If you can improve the process by half a percent, that’s a lot of money.”



CARDINALS IN EAST ASIA Discovering culture and business practices in China

by Caitlin Duerler



Hilary Allen
at the Mutianyu Section,
one of the best preserved
areas of the Great Wall.

The rapid growth of China's economy in the past decade, bring the prospect that this increased economic activity could bolster China's GDP to surpass that of the U.S. in less than 15 years, American business students have been finding ways to study in the east to learn more about the culture and how Eastern ideas might influence Western economics.

For years, the MBA in China summer study abroad program has offered graduate students the opportunity of studying contemporary business

and industry in China. "In the past only graduate students in the MBA program could participate," said Jeff Palis, director of Global Studies and Study Abroad. Now undergraduate students can participate in a unique experience to refine their appreciation for both eastern and western business practices.

Opening the program to undergraduates this year provided an opportunity for upper-class business majors to study abroad with LU instead of seeking programs with other universities or agencies. Junior business management major Jacob Martin had dreamed for years of going to China and was looking



At the Drum Tower in Beijing: front row, from left, Ryan Nunez, Shannon Duncan, Ana Leslie, Ashley Pippins, Kris Reynolds, Hilary Allen, Amy Lovoi, Shawn McCullough; back row, from left, Vivek Natarajan, Jacob Martin, Chad Prewitt, Russell Fruge.



- 1 Travelers gather in front of the Crocs manufacturing facility in Guangzhou.
- 2 From Left: Hilary Allen, Ryan Nunez, Ashley Pippins, and Ana Leslie at the Temple of Heaven in Beijing.
- 3 Vivek Natarajan standing on the Great Wall.

into other programs.

"I have always wanted to go to China, and I saw that we had a business program incorporating study abroad yearly. I thought, 'there's my opportunity,'" said Martin. "Once I saw that this group was open to undergrads, I jumped at the opportunity to participate."

The Business in the 21st Century course is an 11-day trip that includes facilitated interactions with significant international enterprises and cultural activities in the cities of Hong Kong, Guangzhou and Beijing. Janie and Mark Steinhagen created the Steinhagen Global Fellowships to cover the costs of study abroad for graduate business students. This year, one faculty member and four students traveled to China as Steinhagen Global Fellows. The trip, led annually by John Pate of Sinogate, an international business consultant agency, guides students through the country, where they experience

regional cuisine and indulge in new sights while rubbing elbows with major executives.

The business meetings varied from presentations by Hong Kong bankers to Guangzhou executive meetings and factory tours. Students witnessed the workings of major corporations, from concept to finished product. At the Crocs Factory, students learned about the ups and down the company has experienced and strategies it is implementing to build its consumer base.

"Not everything at Crocs is the foam shoe with the holes. Now they are trying out topsider styles, canvas lines and other things," MBA student Hilary Allen said. "Upstairs, employees were manufacturing a different line with the foam bottom and hand-sewing all the canvas parts in an assembly line."

During their stay in China, students took advantage of many modes of transportation, including subway,

rail car and a pedi cab—a rickshaw pedaled by a bicycle—to visit significant landmarks and other points of interest. Students also had fun sampling the six different types of cuisines, tobogganing down the Great Wall in Beijing and haggling over prices in markets.

Vivek Natarajan, associate professor of marketing and this year's faculty study abroad sponsor, found the trip not only taught students about international business practices and supply chains in China, but also helped them develop a positive, global perspective by taking them outside of their comfort zone.

"Students have picked up a good attitude. They have a healthy appreciation for global culture, but they also are very proud to be from the United States," Natarajan said.

ANITA RIDDLE

by Cathleen Cole

Using an engineering approach to purchasing

For Anita Riddle '93, '96, shopping is a science. The procurement manager for ExxonMobil was educated as an engineer, and she uses an engineering approach to purchasing. "I use my chemical engineering training where we model oil refining and chemical processes to model global purchasing processes in new ways," she explained. "We try to simplify the supply chain of everyday products necessary for manufacturing every day around the world. I am responsible for modernizing how ExxonMobil buys materials and services to maintain global operations. I also lead global analysis of how ExxonMobil spends to find better sourcing strategies."

Riddle, who earned a master of engineering management degree and a doctor of engineering degree from LU, is based at ExxonMobil's new campus in Spring, Texas. She often does business with companies in Canada, the Czech Republic, Argentina and Thailand and has visited Australia, Singapore, Italy, Russia, the United

Kingdom, France and Germany. Riddle also speaks Spanish, and that helps her feel more confident traveling in Europe and South America. She knows a little bit of German too. "I wish I knew Mandarin and Russian," she said. Even though English is the language of business, she added, it's still wise to learn another language if you only speak English.

Riddle's favorite international destination is the Patagonia region at the southern end of South America, shared by Argentina and Chile. "It's the most beautiful mountain range interspersed with lakes and little towns," she said. "It's an out-of-the-way paradise."

Previously analyzing and inventing better ways to process oil, now Riddle analyzes and invents better ways to optimize purchasing. As the procurement manager for a huge global corporation, she wants to make the supply chains "greener" and more socially responsible. "We analyze our supply chain for environmental and social responsibility factors to make sure our suppliers are good corporate and global citizens," she said. That's challeng-

ing because hundreds of thousands of products are purchased each year from an extensive number of suppliers. She works with huge databases and creates algorithms to accomplish this task. "It's a new combination of expertise," she said. "I'm known in ExxonMobil for being strong in data analysis and finding new opportunities to improve through very large data sets."

Riddle originally chose the field of engineering because of her father, John Riddle. He was an engineer in the copper mining industry in her hometown of Bisbee, Ariz. "I wanted to be an engineer because my dad was the best problem solver I'd ever met," she said. He also was a leader—a superintendent of mines—and his workers admired him. "I wanted to be a leader in an engineering field too," she added. At one point though, she aspired to be an astronomer. "My dad convinced me that an engineering degree was more versatile, and he was right," she admitted.

The engineer/procurement professional chose LU's engineering program because of its excellent reputation and the benefits Beaumont offered. At the time, she was single with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Cornell University and just getting out of the U.S. Army. She wanted to live in a city that had a solid oil and gas industry, a university so she could attend graduate school and an Army Reserve unit.

She had job offers in New Orleans, Houston and Beaumont and took a position in Beaumont as a process engineer for Mobil (before the merger with Exxon). "I wanted a practical, relevant advanced degree project that I could immediately apply to my job," she said. "It is a perfect match for a person working in an oil refinery."

She credits her engineering professors with teaching her the latest technologies to solve problems in the refinery—new ways to model processes and analyze data. Jack Hopper, former professor of chemical engineering and dean emeritus of the College of Engineering, was her mentor. "He gave me confidence to apply these new things to an existing refinery, and it worked!" she said. "I was able to optimize the equipment and then process flows through the equipment that had never been done before."

The alumna is still active with LU, serving on the College of Engineering Advisory Council and the Chemical Engineering Advisory Council. She also was elected to Lamar University Foundation's board of trustees.

Riddle is confident and analytical. "I'm a bold analyst," she said. Leadership and innovation also are important to her. "I have been mentored well, and I love mentoring people," she said. "I have been blessed at ExxonMobil to have bosses who believe in me. It's a cocoon of invention."

“We analyze our supply chain for environmental and social responsibility factors to make sure our suppliers are good corporate and global citizens.”

—ANITA RIDDLE





YOLANDA CONYERS

by Beth Gallaspy

Working together a world apart

Although she now calls Austin home, Yolanda Conyers '89 spends about half her year traveling the globe as vice president of worldwide functions for human resources and chief diversity officer for Lenovo, a global personal technology company with more than 60,000 employees.

"It's important for me to connect with employees in our 60 countries across the globe to help them solve problems and inspire solutions," Conyers said. "In the past few weeks, my travels have taken me to Barcelona, Beijing and Raleigh, N.C."

Conyers joined Lenovo in 2007 after the \$39 billion Chinese-based company acquired IBM's personal computer division and sought to merge Eastern and Western business approaches. "Our goal was to leverage the strengths—skills, products, services and brand—worldwide by integrating both companies as quickly as possible," Conyers said.

Her hire as chief diversity officer was a first for a company of Chinese heritage, but the company's "beyond diversity" policy encompasses more than just race and gender. "This policy is about how to acquire and weave into the fabric of the company the skills, experiences, cultures and other elements that make each Lenovo employee unique, from the factory level to executive management," she said. "Our goal is to encourage and welcome different perspectives, different cultures and different backgrounds to be part of our discussions and collaborative efforts to make the strongest possible decisions." The company's commitment to diversity starts at the top, Conyers said, with the top 100 executives representing 20 different countries. That approach helps Lenovo find solutions that truly reflect the global marketplace it serves.

Conyers attributes her success, at least in part, to the engineering skill set she began developing as a Lamar University student and refined with continu-

ous learning and growth throughout her career. "This knowledge base includes having a desire to problem solve and then ultimately reaching that resolution—knowing how to turn big concepts and ideas into reality and being able to use creativity to leverage different inputs from data or people," she said.

One important step in her journey came during her freshman year at LU when Richard Price, her calculus professor, urged her to join the National Society of Black Engineers and attend the national conference. Taking his advice, she met a Texas Instruments recruiter at the conference, which led to a three-semester internship followed by her first full-time job as a systems analyst after graduating with her computer science degree. "He told me it would open my world to so many possibilities, and it did," Conyers said. "Dr. Price helped so many Lamar students. I am very fortunate that I had the opportunity to learn from him and have him as my mentor."

From Texas Instruments, Conyers moved on to Dell where she worked progressively in leadership positions in product development, sales, human resources and procurement, rising to the company's executive team before being recruited to Lenovo. At Lenovo, Conyers has throughout her tenure promoted diversity in the workforce and attention to "The Lenovo Way," a set of guiding principles she led the way in developing and implementing to help employees work together to serve the company's global customers. In her current role, she also provides overall leadership to the global human resources team to support executive-level leaders in all phases of the business from legal, finance and marketing to strategy, research and technology, and worldwide services. Previously, as vice president of global human resources operations, she led a transformation of day-to-day human resources operations company-wide, ensuring consistency in systems, data and payroll management for the global workforce. In her first three years

with Lenovo, as vice president of people and organization capability, her responsibilities included overseeing global leadership development programs, employee training at all levels, and organization culture and design.

Conyers' successes and lessons learned led to her first book, *The Lenovo Way - Managing a Diverse Global Company for Optimal Performance*, published in 2014 by McGraw-Hill. Co-authored with colleague Gina Qiao, *The Lenovo Way* has been named a business book bestseller. It tells the story of Conyers' journey from her Port Arthur roots to Beijing as well as the stories of Qiao and of the company.

One of the most important lessons Conyers learned along the way was the value of taking risks. After a disastrous conference call with Lenovo's founder and a translator, she made a decision. "I knew that in order to efficiently make this cultural integration of East and West work, I needed to get out of my comfort zone and move to Beijing," she said. For three years, she moved her family, which includes her husband and two sons, to a city of 23 million where English is not the primary language. Her family and friends

in Port Arthur peppered her with questions about her "crazy move and the cultural differences that I was now facing on a daily basis." Part of her intention was to learn to operate in an Eastern culture so that she could translate the approach for Western colleagues. Initially, she encountered problems. "My Western style of doing business was not understood or well received, and I needed to better understand their work styles and, in turn, adapt mine. At Lenovo, we call this a zero mindset," she said. With time, she saw results. "In the first year, I started to see myself and my entire family shift in terms of being more open and less judgmental about other cultures and points of view. It turned out to be an incredibly rewarding journey."

Just as Conyers' family learned to adapt to a new culture, Conyers has worked diligently to help her colleagues across the globe adapt in integrating multiple cultures into a singular successful corporation that is now the number one personal computer company in the world and a growing provider of smart phones, tablets and other devices. She identifies three key strategies for achieving success.

"The first is that you must include respect for diverse cultures or teamwork across cultures as a core value for the company, which Lenovo does. Second, you must provide cross-cultural training to help employees understand different cultures in the company and to define a common way of working and communicating together," she said. Lenovo has done this through its managing across cultures course, which helps build better understanding, trust and plans for working together effectively. "The third strategy for successful cultural integration is having leaders who are fully engaged from the very beginning and who actually walk the talk," she said. To continue delivering on these strategies, the company has defined key actions it calls the "Five Ps" to guide its accountability: "plan before we pledge; perform as we promise; prioritize company first; practice improving every day; and pioneer new products/conquer new frontiers."

Wherever the next frontier or next flight takes Conyers, she is sure to take with her a problem-solving approach and appreciation for diversity as a core strength in building global business.



GIDEON TIBOR

by Brian Sattler

Beneath the waves

Much of Earth's geological record, as well as vast resources that can benefit mankind, lies beneath the waves covering 71 percent of the world's surface. To explore that world of lakes, seas and oceans, senior research scientist and senior lecturer Gideon Tibor '85 draws on a myriad of disciplines and the latest technologies.

He became interested in studying the ocean after serving more than five years as a patrol boat commander and a navigational officer on missile boats in the Israeli Navy. His journey to LU began after he left the service and decided to visit his father who worked at the World Bank in Washington, DC. "I decided to start my studies in the U.S., and, after applying to and visiting several universities, I chose Lamar University," Tibor said, in part because the biology department chair accepted him into the program and acknowledged the considerable experience Tibor had already gained at sea and through relevant courses he had taken while at the Israel Naval academy.

Foremost in his memories of his LU days is a field trip across the Gulf of Mexico from Beaumont to Key West. "It was the first and last time I ate a shark that we caught," he said. During his career, his studies have focused on the late Tertiary tectonic and sedimentary evolution of the Eastern Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee and on developing innovative methods for ocean color mapping. Today, he is a scientist with the Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research Institute.

A prolific researcher with scores of journal articles, abstracts, reports and conference proceedings to his credit, Tibor's studies have drawn support from competitive research grants in Israel as well as internationally from the European Commission, USAID and German-Israel grants. In 2010, he participated in

research in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea with the Titanic's discoverer Robert Ballard onboard R/V Nautilus. This was a great opportunity for him to learn how a modern research vessel works in deep water and to learn the unique methods that Ballard developed for sharing the data around the world in near real time. During that expedition, he also met Larry Mayer, director of the Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping (CCOM), a joint partnership between the University of New Hampshire and NOAA. He spent a sabbatical at the university in 2012 and established a memorandum of understanding between IOLR and CCOM.

Since Feb. 2013, Tibor has been the project manager of refitting the Bat Galim research vessel for the nation's Exclusive Economic Zone. The German-built support vessel will become a general-purpose research vessel to serve government agencies and academia. It will have the capabilities to map, sample and analyze the seafloor, sub bottom and sea column to a depth of 3,000 meters. It also will be fitted to tackle oil spills, to use remotely operated underwater vehicles and other autonomous vehicles, and to assist in search and rescue missions when needed. "My goal is to refit the Bat Galim into a 'mini' R/V Nautilus," Tibor said.

Tibor holds an M.Sc. and a Ph.D. in marine geophysics from Tel-Aviv University. His primary research objectives include the evolution of the Sea of Galilee and the Gulf of Eilat/Aqaba, the Messinian salinity crisis and its influence on Eastern Mediterranean processes, and developing innovative ways to monitor water quality in real time using remote sensing platforms (e.g., satellites, airborne hyperspectral sensors, drone and stationary multispectral cameras).

His doctoral research, published in 1992, focused on quantitative basin analysis of the Late Tertiary Levant passive continental margin in the Eastern Mediterranean and its implications to the understanding of the salinity crisis called the Messinian event. During the Late Miocene, the Mediterranean Sea

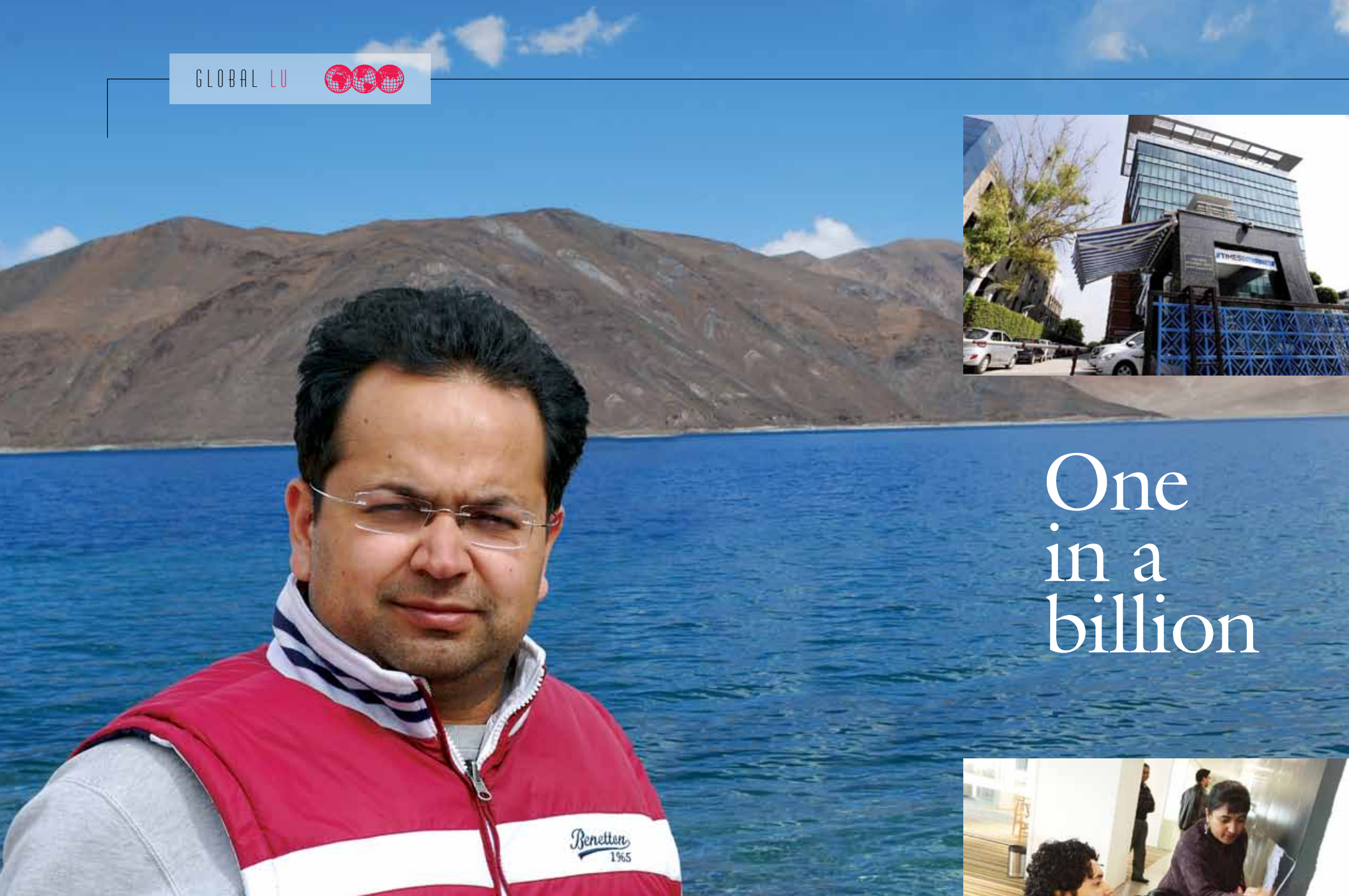


underwent periods of drying and partial filling, and more than one million cubic kilometers of evaporates were deposited in it.

In 2000, Tibor joined the Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research Institute as a senior scientist specializing in high-resolution marine geophysics and ocean color remote sensing. The national research institution (similar to NOAA) is the government's scientific advisor. It seeks to develop knowledge for the sustained use and protection of Israel's marine, coastal and freshwater resources. The IOLR's staff of about 180 scientists, engineers, technicians and support personnel, as well as visiting scientists and graduate students, conducts scientific research in oceanography, limnology, mariculture and marine biotechnology, addressing issues of national, regional and global relevance. In fulfillment of its mandate as a national institution, much of IOLR's scientific effort is focused on research, monitoring and assessment of the environmental status of Israel's neighboring sea areas and inland water bodies and predicting their response to external disturbances whether of human or natural origin.

During the past 20 years, Tibor has organized and led many high-resolution marine geophysical research cruises in and around Israel and has received numerous national and international research grants. In 2008, he expanded his role when he joined the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences in Haifa University as a part-time senior lecturer in the Department of Marine Geosciences. Currently, he is "teaching the training cruise course for Haifa University where the students learn how to plan, collect and process geophysical, geological, physical and geochemical data."

In addition to the study of the Messinian Event, he has developed a way to monitor water quality in near real time using ocean color remote sensing, taken a multi-disciplinary approach to studying the evolution of Lake Kinneret, and researched the evolution of the Gulf of Eilat/Aqaba, providing new data for dating the tectonic processes of the region.



One in a billion

JISHNU KINWAR

by Brian Sattler

With more than 1.2 billion people, the Republic of India is the second-most populous country on Earth and the most populous democracy in the world. A pluralistic, multilingual and multi-ethnic society, it also is rapidly becoming one of the world's largest Internet savvy populations.

Few can see that better than Jishnu Kinwar '01. With more than 15 years experience in developing and managing product platforms with a focus on payments, financial systems and digital content delivery, he is now head of information technology for Times Internet Ltd., India's largest digital products company. Kinwar has a finger on the pulse of all things digital and has plans in place to keep his company the leader in digital content delivery.

Times Internet is the digital venture of Times of India Group, a long standing leader in the print business, as well as an emerging leader in other forms of media, including radio, TV, magazines and more. The group's key brands include the world's largest English daily newspaper and second-largest financial daily newspaper, as well as India's largest women's and English film magazines, largest FM radio network, and the nation's leading English news, business news and entertainment channels. Since its inception in 1999, Times Internet has led the Internet revolution in India and now has more than 40 million unique visitors monthly.

"The Internet is a great leveler," Kinwar said. "It has allowed aggregation of a lot of small service providers, and it has allowed smaller cities to access the same goods as the major metros." The Internet also is increasingly important to the nation politically. "During May 2014 elections, we experienced seven times more traffic on our sites as the winning side used social media and the Internet extensively."

In addition to being the nation's leading Internet network, Times Internet also is a business incubation center. There, Kinwar is responsible for strategic planning for next-generation services ensuring the company will be on the cutting edge of digital content delivery. "Our CEO, Satyan Gajwani, defines Times Internet to be more like Sequoia Capital and less like Yahoo. We invest in individuals and ideas and support those ideas so they can become No. 1 in their domain. The goal is to create and fund independent businesses and empower the business heads to make decisions that any entrepreneur would in his or her own company."





“I would not be where I am without my degree in computer science from Lamar University.”

—JISHNU KINWAR

Guiding that development involves all of the technologies of the constantly evolving Internet-world – on a mammoth scale. But most significant to his success is Kinwar’s staff of around 50 highly skilled and talented people.

“Setting goals and aligning everyone’s interest in achieving those goals is what makes teams function,” he said. “Giving people a lot of freedom, then rewarding and recognizing their work is important. At the end of the day, life has a weird way of working out. Do good and good things will happen.”

Before joining the Times, Kinwar was with Eko India Financial Services, from 2011 to 2014, as vice president for retail sales and distribution, after serving as its vice president of technology. Previous to this he served as director of IT operations for Lime Labs, building a 24/7 global team in the U.S., India and Europe; director of system software services for EPL in Birmingham, Ala., senior network engineer for Texas Home Health, and a system administrator for Lamar University.

Kinwar holds a bachelor’s degree in engineering from Maharshi Dayanand University, New Delhi, an M.S. in computer science from LU, and an MBA from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

He was initially attracted to Lamar University in part because Beaumont offered a lower cost of living than many other options. He soon learned it “was considered one the best schools for people trying to change careers because of the rigorous curriculum,” he said.

Despite Kinwar’s background in chemical engineering, Larry Osborne, chair of the Department of Computer Science, encouraged him to pursue a new field. “I had to take six additional classes to catch up, and that turned out to be the best decision. I would not be where I am without my degree in computer science from Lamar University,” he said.



Gerald White, far right, with medical team

GERALD WHITE

by Larry Acker

California, specializing in treatments for prostate, urology and gynecological disorders. Advancing rapidly through a number of promotions with the company, White eventually became regional sales director for pharmaceutical rival AstraZeneca, leading a team of 11 district sales managers and more than 120 sales representatives covering California and Arizona.

In 2008, White founded Edge Medical Devices and Services Inc. distributor of cardiac rhythm management devices such as pacemakers, implantable cardioverter defibrillators, cardiac resynchronization therapy and other cardiology diagnostic products. Sales for the year ending in 2012 grew more than 300 percent with the formation of a separate division within the company to sell coronary and peripheral stents and balloons for angioplasty.

“Starting the business in the Philippines was more fortuitous than planned,” White said. “I originally attempted to start the business in southern California where I was working and living for many years, but the two manufacturers I approached decided not to give me a contract.”

A former cardiology customer, who was a native of the Philippines, suggested he should start the business in his native country. The suggestion at the time, according to White, was intended as a joke; however, after looking into the possibilities and conducting some research by phone, two weeks later he was on a plane to Manila. He contacted a manufacturing agent in Taiwan responsible for growing the Southeast Asian market who agreed to meet him in Manila and discuss the promising market.

“After conducting some market research locally, the agent arrived and saw first-hand what I described in terms of market opportunity. I was offered a contract from the same company that turned me down in California,” White said. “We are the first Biotronik distributor in the country to promote their cardiac rhythm management products.”

Edge Medical Devices and Services now has a sister company, CardioSource Medical Equipment, adding diagnostic equipment to the portfolio. “That expansion is part of an overall strategy to be a comprehensive distributor of cardiovascular products to our core customers and grow the profitability and market footprint within our cardiology franchise,” White said.

Air defense to biz offense

Military veteran Capt. Gerald White’s drive to achieve excellence in his military career translated to determined entrepreneurial spirit in a business career that started as a pharmaceutical sales representative. Today, White ’84 is president and chairman of the board for Edge Medical Devices and Services.

The company, headquartered in the Philippines capital of Manila, promotes and distributes vascular intervention products primarily focused on the dialysis market’s cardiovascular needs.

White began his journey at Lamar University, earning a bachelor’s degree in government in 1984. After graduation, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps and began a distinguished military career, reaching the rank of captain. White is credited with being the first Marine Corps officer to score 100 percent on the Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation System in the surface-to-air missile air defense system (HAWK and Stinger missiles). Because he consistently ranked No. 1 against peers in performance evaluations, he was selected for the Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course for air defense officers and pilots, a counterpart to the Navy’s Topgun Fighter Weapons School.

He left the military in 1989 to begin a career as a pharmaceutical sales representative with TAP Pharmaceuticals in

KELLY KIRKPATRICK

by Beth Gallaspy

Cultural aesthetics give life to imagination

Kelly Kirkpatrick '96 honed her artistic eye traveling the globe for photo shoots and similar assignments as an artistic and creative director for several magazine and fashion projects. Wherever her work and her passion for travel take her, she seems to find a bit of inspiration, be it the unique color palette of Iceland's striking landscapes or a little art gallery in Jamaica introducing her to beautiful pieces from a Cuban painter.

Travels to Paris a decade ago, when the training discipline parkour was an up-and-coming trend, later surfaced in Kirkpatrick's art direction of an award-winning fashion photo shoot for a Canadian magazine. Another photo shoot, called Circus of the Strange, reinterpreted ideas she remembered from the many underground theater performances she watched while living in London in the early 2000s.

"I've traveled quite a bit, and I really enjoy using that as inspiration for my work. I always collect anything and everything visual when I go to a different country to see how other people culturally have a taste for color or a style of illustration that seems to be popular," Kirkpatrick said.

By browsing through bookstores and visiting art galleries wherever her travels take her, she continues to broaden her perspective and fill her artistic toolbox. "I like to see what contemporary work is out there. It's a social commentary on what's happening in the culture. I do a lot of research to try to absorb what's happening."

Time spent living in London, Toronto, New York and then back to Toronto, with multiple trips to farther flung places, has refined her style and her aesthetic instincts. Now, after years of working for others in print, social media, advertising and marketing, Kirkpatrick has launched her own no-borders business using the wealth of experience she has amassed. Her online art gallery, ednasroom.com, began this year featuring quality contemporary art for "babies, children and the young at heart."

After the first of her two young daughters was born two and half years ago, Kirkpatrick began looking for quality artwork to decorate children's rooms that would inspire a sense of wonder. Not finding much available, and hoping to shift to a professional schedule that would allow her more time with her children, Kirkpatrick began working on Edna's Room, named for her grandmother whose intricate wallpaper she still remembers staring at with fascination as a child.

"I remember that feeling and thought it would be really nice to curate a body of work that might inspire other children to be creative and use their imagination by looking at beautiful art," Kirkpatrick said.

She has reached out to a variety of illustrators and photographers, mainly from Canada and the United States, to create her initial sales gallery and pulled together a range of talents she met in earlier phases of her career. "A lot of people from along the way will be represented," she said. Among her artists is the creative director for Hatley, a large gift and apparel retailer for whom Kirkpatrick worked for a decade, designing several lookbooks and campaigns and expanding the business into Europe. Her collection also includes bilingual work in French and English from an artist in Quebec, letterpress prints from a Seattle artist and pieces from a Hong Kong-born artist who she met in art school in Toronto, where she enrolled after graduating from LU with her psychology degree.

Kirkpatrick sees her initial customer base as primarily Canada, the U.S. and the United Kingdom, but would love to expand anywhere she can ship quality art for children. "Hopefully, there's something to cater to everybody no matter what their culture or background, something for every child," she said. She also is continuing to connect with other artists, including in the U.K., to expand her offerings.

Kirkpatrick, cultivating a global perspective began during her time at LU. A native of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, she attended on a golf scholarship. "I loved meeting different kinds of people from various backgrounds.



The culture was quite different from where I was from," she said. "I love connecting through food. Everywhere I travel, I always buy a cookbook. I still remember learning how to cook roux and gumbo when I was in Texas." Lamar University also provided her first opportunities to work in print. She has fond memories of writing for the student newspaper, the University Press, and the people she met there. Kirkpatrick said she enjoyed the art classes she took, but her schedule as a student-athlete did not allow her to take many. After LU, she attended art school, where a design research trip to Asia further fueled her understanding of design and her love of travel.

In her work at Hatley, Kirkpatrick traveled throughout Canada and the U.S. and was based in London for three years. "The culture there always seemed three years ahead of where I was from in Toronto. Everybody there was heightened in their knowledge of aesthetics." Her time in London also allowed her to develop her design skills by working with a typographer who produced large catalogues for London museum exhibits. After returning to a Toronto base, she moved into magazine work as a creative director and art director, then expanded into the online world, app development and social media as the industry evolved away from strictly print. Since then her work has included stints in New York for assignments from Lacoste and Blackbook magazine and broad travel for the fashion editorial photo shoots she conceptualizes and oversees. Freelance advertising work for brands and non-profits has also required sensitivity to various cultures and audiences.

"There's a certain aesthetic that probably works best for a given country or culture, but Canada and the U.S. are such big, diverse countries they have subcultures. You really can't do a broad brush to represent the whole country," Kirkpatrick said. Rather than putting too much emphasis on demographics in crafting her designs, she relies more on her well-honed, globally informed instincts to determine what will work and what will not for a given audience. That instinct should serve her well as she moves on to a new demographic—children and their parents.



JEREMY ALLEN

by Kara Timberlake

Cardinal spreads wings

During his time at Lamar University, Beaumont resident Jeremy Allen has collected not only airline miles but also cultural learning experiences.

"I have always wanted to be an international traveler," Allen said. "Each one of the places I have been has served as a kick-start to the next opportunity. The experiences and contacts I've gained through my travels have provided me more possibilities for the future."

He is pursuing a five-year program to earn a bachelor of science in management information systems and a master of business administration with minors in Spanish and business law. For Allen, his university abroad experiences began in the summer of 2013 when he traveled to Salamanca, Spain, to fulfill his Spanish minor course requirements.

"I wanted to use the knowledge I gained about the Spanish language while also furthering my Spanish-speaking skills," he said. "Overall, I wanted to diversify my experiences, share in other cultures and see the world."

After discovering the value of studying abroad, Allen, with the help of Antoinette "Toni" Mulvaney, professor of accounting and business law, and College of Business Dean Enrique "Henry" Venta, created "The Total Business Package: Connecting the Americas," a project combining three internships—at the Port of Beaumont, at the Panama Canal and in Argentina—into an educational experience.

"I got involved with these internships through contacts I've made throughout my university career," Allen said. "With the help of administrators and faculty, including the mentors I've worked with, I was able to receive funding and obtain invaluable experiences. I am thankful for the support I've received. Each of these people have helped me get where I am today."

Beginning his journey, Allen interned at the Port of Beaumont, Texas.

"At the Port of Beaumont, I had a corporate and managerial overview of every aspect of a maritime port,"

he said. "I learned a great deal about transportation and maritime industries. Being a business major, it sparked my interest to learn how those two particular industries affect Southeast Texas and the overall nation's economy."

After completing his internship, Allen traveled to Buenos Aires, Argentina, to work for the Bairexport Civil Association, an organization that provides seminars and mediation help with negotiations for public and private companies.

"I acted as a research assistant to those seeking to do business outside of the Republic of Argentina," he said. "Architects in Argentina and companies in Bolivia have already used my work. My first intern project was to research data referencing architects in the U.S., and I was later introduced to the company representative for whom I was compiling the data. I also was fortunate to attend a breakfast of Peruvian embassy officials and Argentine business representatives, along with the Chamber of Commerce, to discuss Argentine businesses that are seeking to export products and services to Peru."

A longtime LU connection paved the way for the third leg of Allen's diversified internship. After alumnus and CEO of the Panama Canal Authority, Jorge Quijano '73, '74, presented a program on the canal expansion to LU faculty and students, Dean Venta contacted him about future opportunities for students. One such opportunity bore fruit for Allen, allowing him to leave Argentina for Panama to work at the Panama Canal as an executive intern.

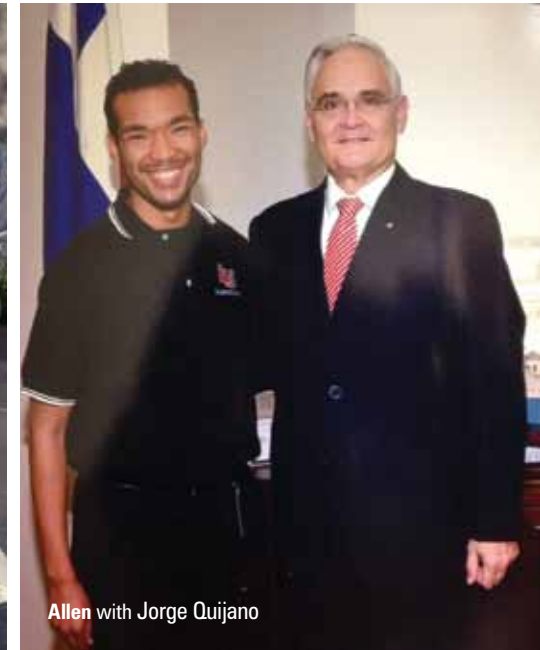
"I worked in business intelligence where I collaborated with many of the lead officials on developing their data governance scheme," he said. "My mentors there, Jacinto Wong, vice president of information technology, and Jorge Quijano, CEO. Mr. Quijano wanted me to utilize my previous internship experiences and learn about the Panama Canal from a business perspective, so I worked under the vice president of planning and business development where I analyzed the Arctic Route Passageway and made a recommendation to the council. This entire process allowed me to gain valuable knowledge about the transportation industry."



Jeremy Allen, right, with Sen. John Cornyn



Allen with President and Mrs. Ken Evans



Allen with Jorge Quijano

"My last stretch of study at the Panama Canal was with the vice president of legal affairs, which confirmed for me why I want to go to law school. I got to take a look into the legal infrastructure of the canal, and I was able to use my textbook knowledge about different laws and cases to evaluate how the instances relate to the actual practices by large corporate legal departments."

Allen said that Quijano taught him how to hone his leadership skills.

"Ultimately, Mr. Quijano allowed me to be under his wing," Allen said. "He mentored me and gave me access to a network of important contacts. Overall, he is the reason that I was able to have this awesome experience in Panama. He invited me to Panama, set up housing, and all I had to do was show up and be ready to work."

While in Panama, Allen received advice from Quijano on how to pursue his dreams.

"During my last work week, Mr. Quijano and I decided to have a short breakfast where we talked about perseverance and striving for excellence," Allen said. "One of the things mentioned was that I should focus on the actual job at hand and do the best I can at it. He worked for 10 years in an entry position before he got his first promotion. He relayed the message of hard work being the key factor. If I focus mainly on developing myself, someone will always see the work."

In the course of his international endeavors and with the guidance of Ricardo Colon,

LU assistant professor of accounting and business law, Allen accepted an internship at the Puerto Rico Department of State, serving under the leadership of Under Secretary of State Alexis Morales Fresse. Allen also took two transferable classes at Universidad del Sagrado Corazón.

"In life, I have always wanted to be in government or help people in some way," Allen said. "While in Puerto Rico, I worked with the Campus Puerto Rico initiative to promote Puerto Rico as a premiere academic destination, helped draft memorandums of understanding and connected the under secretary to individuals in specific state educational sectors. I also helped plan a conference event in Denver during the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities annual event for key officials and organizations to learn about the Campus Puerto Rico program."

Showcasing success as a student and international intern, Allen took the opportunity, provided by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Emerging Leaders Internship Program sponsored by Wal-Mart, to intern with the Latin America and the Caribbean department at the Center for International Private Enterprise in Washington D.C.

"I loved working with CIPE in the LAC department because the organization's about work with entrepreneur programs and developing businesses promoting democracy through market-oriented reform," he said.

"Being a business student and owning my own company that is contracted with the Texas Department of Rehabilitative Services, the Jeremy G. Allen Tutoring Program, I understand that the overall idea of private sector growth internationally is that it creates opportunities and economic development in underdeveloped communities. I learned so much professional and practical knowledge while adding to the skills I am learning as a student."

While interning in D.C., Allen said he enjoyed a visit from Kenneth and Nancy Evans.

"Dr. Evans visiting me on his work trip demonstrates how dedicated he is to student development," Allen said. "Dr. Evans has been instrumental in my career. I could not have embarked on this journey without his help."

Allen said the opportunities he has encountered center around the connections he has made at LU.

"I would have never thought attending Lamar University would have given me the opportunity to study abroad in Spain; intern in Argentina, Panama and Puerto Rico; and eventually lead to my selection as a scholar, interning with CIPE," he said. "LU donors have been essential in providing me the funding for these experiences. Their giving back has allowed me to thrive. I've been given many of opportunities since entering Lamar University as a transfer student, and it has been wonderful."



by Cheryl P. Rose

Growing up in Beaumont, Jack Everts '79 was eager to get out and experience the greater world. He attended one year at the University of Dallas primarily to take advantage of a semester abroad in Rome that was offered before transferring to Lamar University. After graduation, he spent several months backpacking around Europe before reporting to work and hasn't let the grass grow under his feet since.

Everts is the pipeline execution manager for ExxonMobil on the Alaska LNG Project, a proposed \$45 billion to \$65 billion plan to export liquefied natural gas by 2024. The project is a joint venture by ExxonMobil, ConocoPhillips, BP, TransCanada and the Alaska Gasline Development Corp. The goal is to treat and route the natural gas on the north slope of Alaska to

Nikiski in the south, the lead site for a liquefaction plant where gas will be cooled and condensed for export. Two pipelines, one running 60 miles and the other 800 miles, are an integral part of this enormous endeavor. The pipelines are in the preliminary stages of planning. Everts, who moved into his current position this year, is responsible for the broad technical and administrative oversight of the execution planning group and the engineering contractors' work as it relates to the pipelines and facilities execution planning.

During his time at Lamar University, Everts earned a degree in civil engineering that has served him well. "I believed then and still do that civil engineering offers the most diversity of jobs," he said. "You can go from building bridges to pipelines to any infrastructure around the world."

Based now in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Everts has

done his share of globetrotting during his 35-year career with ExxonMobil. During the years, Everts has had responsibility for design, operations and construction. Besides working in the U.S., he also has been on projects in the Gulf of Mexico, California, India, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Russia and the Arctic. "I've gone from a field engineer to design to execution construction, with some regulatory support and interface from the technical side," he said. "I worked in operations

for 10 to 15 years. One of the keys in this business is to learn how to operate, so you know what the client needs before designing and building."

The nature of pipeline work is to work yourself out of a job by finishing a project and moving on to the next one, Everts described. "On some projects, I only worked on the front end and didn't get to be with them all the way through," he said. "Then there were other

projects that we worked our heart and souls out, but they didn't get built for economic or regulatory reasons. My philosophy has been to look ahead to what are my next two jobs: Where do I want to work? Who do I want to work with? I've worked with some tremendously intelligent and hard workers throughout the world, and I've enjoyed what I've done."

With international living often part of the job description, Everts' family of his wife, Mary, and four sons has traveled



along, too. "We've been fortunate for our family to live in First World countries," he said. "The unfortunate part is I traveled a lot without my family. Once, my family was based in Houston, but I spent 100 days that year in Russia. Another time, my family was in Australia, but I spent 200 days in Mumbai, India. I missed a lot of the kids' events. My wife, Mary, is a saint. There were postings I turned down that may have hurt my career, but family comes first."

Though there were challenges, the Everts embraced the expat experience. "We loved our time in Brisbane, Australia," he said. "The weather and scenery were fantastic. I took a catamaran to

work. Where else do you do that?"

To make the most of a global business or lifestyle, Everts said it is important to be open-minded and adaptable. "You've got to accept different cultures and you have to be resilient to change," he said.

The Everts have passed on their sense of adventure to their sons. One son, who graduated last spring, begins his first job in Spain this fall. Another son volunteered for several months in Argentina after high school graduation.

Everts has been stationed in Calgary eight out of the last 11 years. He loves the rugged Canadian Rockies. Both he and his wife enjoy cycling and skiing.

With the Alaska LNG Project in early stages, Everts anticipates he may retire from this job. They may return to Texas then, but wherever there are grandchildren will probably top the list. Staying true to his philosophy of looking ahead, Everts said he is already thinking about activities and options for a stimulating retirement that will involve the four aspects—physical, spiritual, emotional and intellectual—that he ranks as important for quality of life.

ALLAN BOUNDS

by Cathleen Cole

Working in the hot market of super-chilled natural gas

Liquefied natural gas is natural gas super-chilled into a liquid state through a process known as liquefaction. This process also shrinks the volume of natural gas by a factor of 600, which makes it easier to store and transport by ship to places not connected by a pipeline. When LNG is warmed, or regasified, it returns to natural gas.

"It's got a lot of momentum right now," said Allan Bounds '81, '85, senior vice president of global LNG with Macquarie Energy in Houston. "It is one of the fastest-growing energy sectors."

Bounds is in charge of business development for Macquarie Energy, the third-largest natural gas marketing and trading company in North America. The energy marketing division sells natural gas, oil, coal and liquefied natural gas. Bounds works with businesses in countries all over the world including in Asia, South America, Europe and Africa. "My job is to place physical LNG into these countries," Bounds said. The LNG might go to government-owned or private energy companies. In many countries, there are no pipelines or adequate transportation infrastructure to move natural gas, so converting it to LNG is the most effective way to move it and store it.

Four liquefaction facilities are under construction in the U.S.: two in Texas, one in Louisiana and one in Maryland. Macquarie was highly involved in the Freeport, Texas, project. It also was one of the first companies to re-export LNG through the Freeport terminal. The company imports LNG cargo from another country, offloads it into holding tanks and then re-exports it to another customer. Storing it gives the ability to resell it at a higher price later. For example, the company might bring in a shipment of LNG in the summer and sell it in the winter. "It's a way to recapture the pricing differentials of seasonality," he said. "We're that missing part of the commodity chain when supply and demand don't match up exactly. We're not just flipping the product. It benefits the market." Bounds also is working on 10-year to 20-year contracts to sell long-term LNG cargos.

The energy executive travels internationally several times a year. He's been to Asia, Europe, South America, Mexico, Canada, India and the Middle East. Bounds always allows some time to visit important historical sites such as the pyramids in Egypt and the Great Wall of China. He and his wife, Lisa, consider Italy their favorite international destination. "I love the culture and the food," he said. "I love the history—the Roman ruins."



Although Bounds only speaks English, he recommends learning a second language for those native English speakers planning to go into international business. He's been able to do well because, he said, "English is the business language of the world."

What led him into a corporate career? "Business was always where I wanted to be," he said. "Business seemed to suit me." He got into energy, he noted, because it's hard not to in Southeast Texas. "When I had the opportunity to break into oil and energy, I took it," he said.

He's had many opportunities along his career path, including ones he gained at LU earning a bachelor of business administration degree in marketing and a master of business administration degree in management and finance. He's thankful for his mentor marketing Professor Robert Swerdlow, former associate dean of the College of Business. "He was a big influence on me," Bounds said of Swerdlow, who passed away in 2003. "He told me I was going to come back for my master's. He was very much a part of my college experience."

Bounds credits his time in the U.S. Navy with gaining leadership skills and nurturing his adventuresome spirit. He's outgoing, resilient and persistent to a fault, he said.

When it comes to being successful in business, Bounds believes, networking is important. "Get your face out of the computer," he said. "That's not networking. You've got to put some leather on the pavement. Face-to-face time is everything." You also have to be in it for the long haul. "Have a never-quit attitude," he advised. "Business itself is a marathon. You have to stay with it."

SATLER

KELVIN COLLARD

by Brian Sattler

Keeping business in the black so clients stay in the blue

Kelvin Collard '80 is executive vice president and chief financial and administrative officer of Universal Weather and Aviation Inc., a global business aviation trip management company with 47 locations in 20 countries.

Collard's accounting, finance and business experience from a wide variety of industries was just what the rapidly growing, privately held company needed to "bring its processes and controls up to a new level" when he joined the company in 2009.

The company has continued to grow, most recently adding its latest ground support location in the Philippines and announcing a new strategic partnership with NetJets China. The company has more than 1,700 employees around the world dedicated to making each client's trip a success.

Collard, who visited Lamar University in 2013 as an ExxonMobil Executive in Residence in the College of Business, began his 35-year career with Coopers & Lybrand, one of the original Big 8 accounting firms that are now part of Price WaterhouseCoopers. After nine years in public accounting, he expanded his career and embarked on an opportunity with Atlantic Richfield Co. for 12 years. His assignments went from financial reporting and analysis to controller to vice president of finance at several subsidiary companies, including Lyondell Chemical Co., where he spent most of his time. While at Lyondell, he led the implementation of an enterprise resource planning system and the integration and consolidation of the controller's functions.

Prior to joining Universal, Collard was the chief financial officer of The Brock Group, a private equity-owned specialty maintenance contractor. Within 16 months, he helped acquire six companies that increased the company seven fold.



A native of Houston, Collard came to LU in 1978 after completing two years at San Jacinto Junior College. "I came to Lamar University because I wanted to be what they termed at the time a 'Big 8' accountant," he said. "LU had a very good reputation for their business and accounting group, and all the Big 8 firms interviewed there." Collard earned a B.B.A. in accounting.

"The challenges of working for a global company are that you don't just have the U.S. accounting standards and the U.S. tax standards to manage," he said. Each country has its own accounting principles and tax structure that must be met. At the same time, "you are pulling information in from the various international locations and you have to convert it to the U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. So, the degree of complexity is a lot higher."

Collard and the company CEO recently finished a round-the-world trip visiting 10 company locations in 18 days. "We went around the world talking about our company's core values and holding workshops with the intent of establishing a consistent culture of winning from our clients throughout all of our operations," Collard said.

"Regardless of whether you are in accounting or you are in the operational environment, you have language and cultural differences that you have to reconcile and work within. It is very interesting because everywhere you go you have to adapt and change your presentation to fit those cultural differences."

The company itself has supported more than

30 charities and organizations. "One very close to us is assisting our wounded troops," Collard said. "For 11 consecutive years, Universal has helped severely wounded veterans heal emotionally and physically by donating the use of our company's aircraft and coordinating additional aircraft donations to get those wounded heroes to life-changing events in their honor."

"Just as Universal exists to support our clients' critical missions, our culture has always valued community responsibility, and this sense of 'winning by giving back' has only grown stronger as our business has grown," he said. "Around the world our people pride themselves on supporting greater causes—from providing educational opportunities to orphans, raising money for charities, or serving as mentors for the youth."

Universal played a role behind-the-scenes in transporting doctors and nurses to and from West Africa during the Ebola outbreak, helped sponsors attend the 2014 World Cup, and provided all trip logistics for the world's first Flying Classroom, an innovative effort to inspire and enlarge students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics spanning three continents.

"These are just a few of the types of missions and people we help 'move' around the world," Collard said. "I am proud to be part of an organization that makes an impact every single day. Whether we're supporting those who are strengthening global commerce, developing policy, or saving lives—as our promise states, 'we're moving organizations that then move the world.'"



VALERIE G. SEGOVIA

by Caitlin Duerler

Nuclear education empowers

Valerie Segovia '15 is stimulating young students' interest in STEM programs and challenging preconceived understandings of the word "nuclear." Through her work in educational outreach, she is furthering the mission of the Nuclear Power Institute (NPI) and Texas A&M University while also enlightening the world of the potential of nuclear applications, generating initiatives encouraging students from all over the globe to investigate the world around them.

With experiences ranging from teacher, counselor and principal, Segovia has been passionate about education and nourishing young minds since 1994. In September 2009, she made the transition from the classroom to her position as director of outreach and development of the NPI at Texas A&M University.

The NPI works with universities as well as two-year educational institutions and public schools to increase awareness about the benefits of nuclear energy. As opposed to fossil fuels, nuclear energy is the only energy source that can generate electricity reliably, efficiently and without producing pollution; however,

electricity is not the only benefit of nuclear power.

"The focus for educational outreach at the NPI is developing programs and training for students in the field of nuclear technology," said Segovia. "We are not just focusing on power, but also broader uses of nuclear technologies, such as its potential in medicine and making clean drinking water."

In working with universities and public schools on the local, state and international level, Segovia has organized programs to stimulate interest in broader STEM themes, often serving underrepresented populations. Programs targeted to high school students explore themes in science, technology, engineering and math as well as career options in these fields. Many programs, such as Power GRID (Girls Responding to Industry Demand) and POWER SET (Power Opportunities for Women Eager and Ready for Science, Engineering and Technology) specifically cater to generating enthusiasm in young women for these fields.

Working with the International Atomic Energy Agency, Segovia and the NPI also have established programs in countries where nuclear education is still developing. Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and United Arab Emirates benefitted from the Compendium of Resources and Activities for Secondary School Teachers and Students, a program proposed by Segovia in 2012 with the objective of sparking curiosity and increasing knowledge of nuclear science and technology.

"In initiating these IAEA programs outside of the United States, we are providing education for countries interested in pursuing nuclear energy thoughtfully and safely, and the IAEA is not just



acting as watchdogs for nuclear weapons,” she said. “This all leads to awareness and interest in the amazing programs and opportunities back in Texas.”

Although she earned her undergraduate and master’s degrees from the University of Houston in Victoria, Segovia first became familiar with Lamar University when, as a principal of Palacios High School, her superintendent sent her to the LU Principal Academy in 2007. Through this program, she not only received advanced leadership training and cultivated skills in problem solving and team building but also gained a head start on earning her Doctorate of Educational Leadership.

“The seed to pursue a doctorate was planted during my time at the Academy—I felt that the professors truly believed in me, which made me feel confident,” Segovia said. “I felt LU invested in me, and that the size of the program was cozy and allowed me to forge relationships with my professors.”

Familiarity with the university was not the only appeal in undertaking a doctoral degree—the university’s role in increasing its presence on the international level also assured Segovia of her decision to pursue educational leadership at LU.

“The efforts Lamar University is undertaking to increase their global impact, as well as the support I receive from peers and mentors, has provided me with tools to continue to educate students all over the world,” she said.

During her time at the Nuclear Power Institute at Texas A&M University and working on her doctorate at LU, Segovia has traveled all over the globe to attend conferences and give presentations regarding her experiences and current work with educational outreach programs. She has presented in Switzerland, the Czech Republic, Italy and Austria, as well as South Korea, Japan and Indonesia in regards to programs for both students and teachers.

Segovia was selected as Outstanding Doctoral Student and graduate commencement speaker for the May 2015 commencement ceremony at Lamar University. After graduation, Segovia will continue to improve and implement programs that help students at home and beyond.

Segovia lives in a small, coastal community with her husband and three children, where they enjoy being near the water to listen to the birds and relax outdoors. She has run several marathons and a triathlon not because of the competitive aspects but rather as a stress reliever and a moment for meditation. Segovia also enjoys working in her yard and reading, cultivating seeds and her mind.



May 2015 Commencement

TIPTON GOLIAS



Innovation and efficiency equals sustained growth

Tipton Golias ’59 grew up in Galveston, and the family moved to Beaumont in 1956 where he began attending French High School before continuing his studies as LU. He and his wife, Ann, founded Helena Laboratories Corp. in 1966, and, today, the company is the premier manufacturer of automated gel electrophoresis systems for serum proteins, immunofixation, cholesterol and hemoglobin analysis, and more. The company’s products have helped test more than a half billion people for blood disorders.

Under the Golias’ leadership, the worldwide company is still growing and developing new products and new technology. The latest expansion is in Petaluma, Calif., where their plastics subsidiary Labcon has acquired an 80,000 square ft. building to do E-beam sterilization, a huge advance over their current sterilization process.

“We’ve been aggressive since our beginning in looking outside the U.S. for sales, production and development,” Tipton Golias said. “One major effort is in Europe where we now have two facilities.” Helena Biosciences Europe is headquartered in Newcastle, England, where the company develops, manufactures and sells a wide range of laboratory products.

Helena also has a manufacturing plant in Emmen, Netherlands, where they develop and manufacture capillary electrophoresis products. Their base in Melbourne, Australia, is primarily a sales, service and distribution facility, but also does some manufacturing. The company’s base for the Asian market is in Tokyo, Japan, and is a fully independent development, manufacturing and sales facility. “Our global expansion efforts have been very advantageous,” Golias said, “and, quite often, good ideas originating in Asia and Europe have improved the products and technology in the US and visa-versa.”—LA

HERMANN ORTEGA



Individual or company: Productivity unlocks potential

Born in Bogota, Colombia, Hermann Ortega ’67, ’72, came to Lamar University to study chemical engineering and earned his bachelor’s degree and an M.B.A. He has more than 40 years of experience in engineering, operations and manufacturing.

Ortega worked for Air Products and Chemicals for 25 years, leading company expansion as vice president for global operations in the Americas. Later, he shared his skills with Honeywell International as vice president of integrated supply chain for the Specialty Materials Division where he shouldered global responsibility for 42 plants and managed an annual budget of more than \$3 billion.

Ortega demonstrated proven ability for building and leading successful organizations. While at Honeywell, he delivered more than \$100 million per year in productivity improvements. After retiring from Honeywell in 2009, he remains active in the consulting area, working as vice president of business development for Celerant and currently for MTG consulting.

“Hermann is a role model for students who desire to progress professionally to the highest ranks of a company,” Jack Hopper, dean emeritus of the College of Engineering, said. “He is an individual who took a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering, combined it with his own innate talent and advanced from an entry-level position to the leadership position of vice president.”

Ortega serves on the advisory board of the College of Engineering at LU and has established an endowed scholarship for engineering majors. The Hermann H. Ortega Scholarship in Engineering provides funding for full-time students seeking a bachelor’s or master’s degree in chemical engineering at Lamar University. He and his wife, Bea, have two children and two grandchildren.—LA



NOOR KHAN IBRAHIM KHAN

by Cheryl P. Rose

Building a blend of beauty and function

Noor Khan Ibrahim Khan '87 is building a legacy through his contributions to the most visually iconic and architecturally marvelous buildings in Southeast Asia that also are among the most energy efficient.

"As more and more people move into the urban areas of the world, smart buildings and smart cities are becoming increasingly important," Ibrahim Khan said. "We live in a world where we need to take care of our environment better, yet meet new expectations of a connected world."

The chief executive officer of KFM Systems based in Putrajaya, Malaysia, Ibrahim Khan's company specializes in building technologies, including building management systems, building security systems and high performance green building strategies. The company recently completed the Prime Minister's Office in Putrajaya. The building received a certified platinum rating, the highest achievable by the Green Building Index. KFM Systems attained this HPGB rating through energy conservation measures, including high efficiency motors and strategic controls of air conditioning units; the use of daylight and motion sensors to turn on the LED lights only when necessary; and 650 kilowatt peak solar energy panels to offset the use of conventional electricity from the local utility company. "This building's energy consumption is one of the lowest in the country as measured through its building efficiency index," Ibrahim Khan said. "It is now to be used as the example that all Malaysian government buildings should strive toward."

As a youth, Ibrahim Khan received a scholarship from the Malaysian government to study in the United States. After an intensive English language course at the University of Texas-Austin, he attended Lamar University, earning a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. "I have nothing but good things to say about my student days at LU and in America," Ibrahim Khan said. "I learned to adopt an open mind and appreciate the sometimes blunt opinions expressed by Americans, which was different than my



Petronas Towers at
Kuala Lumpur City Centre

reserved upbringing.”

Ibrahim Khan used his electrical engineering degree to venture into the construction field. “My strong interest in the IT boom led me to the field of building controls using computers and controllers,” he said. “My education at Lamar University helped me be open to new technologies and to want to apply them in my work.”

In the years since graduation, Ibrahim Khan has worked for several multi-national companies in the Southeast Asia region, such as Johnson Controls, Tyco and Schneider Electric. At KFM Systems, he is responsible for the company’s profit and loss management, including business development, sales closure, and timely and profitable project delivery and completion. During the course of his career, Ibrahim Khan has worked on several other significant buildings, including Changi Airport in Singapore and the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur. “As a professional accomplishment, I’m proud of delivering building control systems that are state-of-the-art and that our installations perform perfectly even after years of operation.”

Ibrahim Khan attributes his success in a global market to perseverance and being receptive to learning new technologies. He also believes it helps to be adventurous and willing to appreciate diverse cultures. “Having worked in companies where colleagues and clients come from all corners of the world, cultural sensitivity goes a long way to get things done,” he noted.

From his own experience as an international student, he encourages young people to seize any opportunity to study or work abroad. “My business travels in Asia, America, Europe and the Middle East have taught me that we all strive for happiness and a sense of accomplishment no matter where we are or where we come from,” Ibrahim Khan said. “Your personal journey will undoubtedly bring you to the same conclusion.”



Prime Minister's Office in Putrajaya, Malaysia



Ibrahim Khan on campus as a student

SZILVIA MALIK

by Daniel McLemore

Multicultural, multilingual, & multi-talented

Szilvia Malik Game '01 traveled more than 5,600 miles to study economics at Lamar University. With English as a second language for the Hungarian, she continued her educational and professional journey on a global highway spanning four countries and three continents.

Game first came to the U.S. in 1996 as a high school exchange student and attended Cathedral Christian School. Her host family at the time later encouraged Game to transfer her credits from her university in Hungary to Lamar University.

After earning her degree from LU, Szilvia returned to her native Hungary and earned a graduate certificate in journalism from Eszterhazy Karoly College. She worked for several newspapers as a free-lance writer before moving to Denmark to complete her master's degree in European cultural studies from Aarhus Universitet. It was there that she met her Australian husband, Ben, and moved with him in 2013 to Melbourne, Australia, where they currently live with their 2-year-old daughter, Matilda Róza.

Game began working as a producer and radio journalist for Australia's largest multicultural public broadcaster, SBS. SBS Radio broadcasts in 74 different languages with “the belief that all Australians, regardless of geography, age, cultural background or language skills should have access to high-quality, independent, culturally relevant Australian media.”

As a producer at SBS, Game developed one or two one-hour programs per week for the Hungarian-language program. Game said, “My daily duties included preparing interviews and features, editing and translating news items. I also broadcast the program live on-air, which included operating the technical equipment, reading the news, moderating talk-back shows and running live interviews.”

Game has spent a great deal of her time focusing on cultural issues plaguing Hungary. “I enjoy writing about stories that have the potential to make a difference. In the beginning of my career, I produced a big feature about the rise of racism in Hungary,” Game said. The article titled, “Racism was not fashionable before,” won the attention of The Hungarian Press Association, noting the article had the most impact on society in that given month, and it received the prestigious Award for Excellence in Journalism.



“Journalism is an amazing tool to give a voice to the marginalized, tell the stories of those who can encourage others and raise awareness of social, political, environmental or economic issues,” Game said. “I love that through this profession, one has the possibility to educate, connect, inspire and even change people.”

Game credits her global reach to opportunities to study abroad. “Studying at Lamar University was an amazing opportunity for me to gain confidence in speaking English and living in a new country. My degree from Lamar University was a key that later opened many international doors,” she said.

Currently staying at home with 2-year-old Matilda and working for SBS as a contributor, she offers this advice to young, aspiring students. “Love what you do. Being a journalist is incredibly hard. If you love what you do, your work will show it. It will influence people, and the joy you will get from that will make the whole experience worthwhile.”—DM





Cardinals in Ireland

Opportunities developed to fit students' schedules

by Caitlin Duerler

This past fall, President Ken Evans hired Jeffrey Palis as director of the Office of Study Abroad. Although Lamar University students have been traveling and studying around the world before the office's official establishment, Palis is working not only towards increasing the number of students who study abroad but also to reach out to a larger demographic by developing programs and initiatives to make study abroad both a more fulfilling and affordable experience for students.

Already this year, the number of Cardinals abroad grew by 50 percent, an impressive feat that was accomplished with a strategy in mind.

"We are growing our programs by the minute, but I think we also are doing it strategically," Palis said. "It's not simply a whatever-sticks-we-go-with-kind-of approach—it is what will fit best with what we do at Lamar University."

Traditionally, students would participate in LU study abroad programs during the summer. For many students who must work or intern during the break between spring and fall semesters, summer programs are not always a viable option.

"Our students work; our students often commute; our students have responsibilities outside of the classroom," Palis said. "So for us to expect or encourage our students to go abroad, we have to create opportunities that fit their needs and their schedules, and that's when we had the idea to create the spring break program."

The study abroad session offered during spring break increases the number of students who can participate without worrying about conflicting obligations during the school year.

"Spring break, for one, is a way for students to go abroad without getting behind in their coursework, without having to take a summer off, without the risk of turning down an internship or a co-op, so it fits," Palis said.

This year's course, Geography of Tourism taught by Sarah Schwartz, visiting assistant professor of earth and space sciences, examined different aspects of the experience of traveling to a foreign place. Topics included subjective experiences of what people expect before arriving at their destination and how it compares with their new perspective after visiting. The optional one-week trip to Ireland allowed students to apply knowledge from seminars to their actual tour.

"Sometimes when we were driving around, I would ask students, 'Is this the Irish landscape you expected, are these the green fields you expected?'" said Schwartz. "The coastline...is it what you associated with Ireland before you got here? They ate things like blood pudding, authentic foods they could experience."

During the week, students participated in numerous activities as a group, discussing topics from the course and sharing their excitement about their Irish adventures.

"We had traditional Irish dinner one night and listened to storytellers and musicians in Dublin," she said. "We went to a



heritage museum in Cobh, which was the last port of call for the Titanic before it left Ireland. We had a day where I hired a tour bus so that they could see the coastline and the countryside. We went on a tour of the Waterford Crystal Factory where we saw the crystal being made.

"We went to Blarney Castle; I think that is something that we as Americans associate with Ireland—the old, stone ruins and castles," Schwartz said.

The planned excursions permitted students to immerse themselves in topics covered in class such as dark tourism—travel to places where tragic events occurred.

"Dark tourism, generally, is visiting sites where traumatic things happened. It can be old battlefields, sites of genocide," Schwartz said. "We toured a replica of a famine ship, and we went to a cemetery with the burial plots of people who had died in the Irish Potato Famine."

Students from different academic backgrounds such as computer science and engineering often have set schedules during the year, so the structure of the class was a perfect fit for many of the students who attended the trip.

"I felt pretty lucky to have students in the class from a variety of backgrounds. They had interesting



viewpoints that I think we wouldn't have had if there were only majors from one field enrolled in the class," Schwartz said. "Some of the topics they chose to focus on in their papers reflected their interests. The students had different viewpoints, so we had great discussions. It was a very positive thing for the class."

Levi Morris, a mathematics senior from Orange, said that study abroad had not previously been an option for him because of the course requirements for his degree; however, the course design of seminars and a trip gave him an opportunity to expand his horizons.

"During the semester, you took classes, and the trip was optional," Morris said. "I liked this structure because during the week in Ireland, the focus was more on the cultural activities rather than coursework. It was a different learning style that I had never experienced before and I am really happy to have gained that additional perspective."

Study abroad is not just about tying in

experiences in the classroom with their real-world counterparts, but also providing young travelers with the confidence to plan international trips independently.

"I tried to give students a lot of options and free time to explore," Schwartz said. "I really want them to come out of the trip feeling that they can go to a country by themselves or with a friend and navigate a city by themselves, navigate airports by themselves. So I wanted to give them time to explore on their own and become confident in their abilities to do that."

Leisure time in their new country gave students the opportunity to not only arrange excursions for themselves but also seek moments of solitude and contemplation.

"One thing I really enjoyed was the amount of free time that we had. While we had all these structured activities, we did have free time in the mornings to walk around the city," Morris said. "My favorite thing was the second morning in Cork, climbing to the top of St.

Patrick's hill—a steep hill with an incline of about 20 degrees. Once I reached the top, I had a view that overlooked all of Cork—the most beautiful site I have seen in all my life. It is the cityscape you would imagine from puzzles. You could see the city, and how active and pretty it was," he said.

"This experience more than exceeded my expectations," Morris continued. "The week I had in Ireland was one of the best times of my life, and has me searching for more reasons to travel. It was both educational and enjoyable, and I learned more than I expected about Ireland, tourism and even myself. This was truly the trip of a lifetime, and I wish it had been a longer visit."

The significance of these experiences abroad for students is life changing. For many students who have never traveled outside their



home region, trips such as the ones organized by the Office of Study Abroad provide meaningful experiences and augment students' viewpoints.

"This trip gave me a more global worldview. It reminded me that there is more to the world than just Southeast Texas and the state of Texas," Morris said. "It has me considering both domestic and international options for furthering my education. I don't know what the future holds for me, but I like to think the door has been opened a little bit more."

As Palis works to help students find ways of financing study abroad, he has informed students of scholarships for which they are eligible and successfully pursued funding such as the 100,000 Strong in America grant.

Palis is already looking for other means to support students and sustain programs.

"Our administrators have been as supportive as they can be in terms of scholarship funding," he said. "But I think as we are looking to grow the programs and sustain the programs, we will need to create avenues for funding through grants, scholarships and stipends for our students."

Alumni who are interested in supporting Cardinals in need with opportunities to expand their horizons through international study and travel can find out more information about establishing an endowed scholarship by contacting Jeffrey Palis, (409) 880-8229, jpalis@lamar.edu, or the Lamar University Foundation, (409) 880-2117.



STUDENTS WIN GILMAN

Competitive scholarship supports students in need

This past spring, seven undergraduate students who dreamed of studying abroad but did not believe they would have the financial means to do so, had their wishes fulfilled when they found out they were chosen to receive the Gilman Scholarship.

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, the same agency that administers the Fulbright Scholarship, sponsors the taxpayer-funded Gilman Scholarship Program.

Although the award amounts vary depending on the length of study and student need, the average award is approximately \$4,000, with the top award being \$8,000, available only to applicants studying a critical need language—non-Western European languages critical to U.S. national security—while abroad.

Chiung-Fang Chang, associate professor of sociology and

sponsor of the Sociology in China and Taiwan program for the past two years, discovered the scholarship at the LU study abroad fair this year and encouraged students enrolled in her program to apply. Five received the prestigious award: Nicole Kyles-Burton, Celeste Fisher, Toryria Munson and Walter White, all of Beaumont, Nathaniel Henry of Winnie and April Henderson of Orange.

"I learned that our students at LU have embraced the study abroad program. They are willing to try new things," she said. "The Gilman Scholarship is a comprehensive application process. You have to begin with a clear goal of why you want to go to that country and what you hope to accomplish, while also participating in some sort of volunteer work."

The students who applied for the Gilman were interested in a study abroad trip that not only exposed them to new cultures

and experiences but also would help them achieve their future academic goals.

"It is not just a visit or a tour. Student make connections, conduct research and turn that research into potential publications or areas of future study," Chang said.

Nicole Kyles-Burton, psychology and sociology senior, says that the scholarship is allowing her to expand her McNair research from regional aspects to global comparisons.

"Before receiving the Gilman, I was limited to researching at regional colleges," she said. "Now that I am participating in LU's study abroad program, I will compare a school in the U.S. to one in Taiwan. I'll live on campus with the students and be immersed in a new society. I am excited to explore the campus life of other cultures."

Besides the potential for students to expand the scope

Partnerships bring international students to LU

"Things are happening by the minute. It is really exciting for international study now that things are growing so quickly," said Jeff Palis, director of the Office of Study Abroad, "not only in terms of the quantity of our programs going abroad but also in terms of the quality partnerships that Lamar University is going to be enjoying with universities and programs overseas."

LU study abroad is growing in more ways than expanding current programs and developing new ones for nontraditional majors and students. Rather than just implementing programs that send students around the globe, Palis is looking into developing partnerships that bring international students to the LU campus.

"I think President Evans' challenge to me with these exchange partnerships is to make it so it is not one-way traffic," he said. "We do benefit from our students going abroad—you bet—but we also benefit from having international students on this campus."

Partnerships allow students from LU to work alongside international peers at their home university when students from abroad come to Beaumont to further research. The first such partnership for Lamar University is funded by the 100,000 Strong in the Americas grant that supports students from LU and the University of Veracruz in Xalapa, Mexico, as they work together both in the states and south of the border to conduct joint research.

"The grant has a very specific criteria," said Rick Carter, professor of health and kinesiology and faculty supervisor. "We are going to Mexico for a hands-on, educational program designed around collecting data. While they may have some experience with the process, not all of them will have the experience, and we are going to help teach them."

This summer, nine LU students and 11 University of Veracruz students will spend four weeks collecting data on health habits, including distributing questionnaires and interviewing people in the community on topics ranging from nutrition and exercise to sleep levels and daily activity at home and work.

"Most of the students we are taking down there from LU could not have afforded to do this," Carter said. "This is a real opportunity for these students. Most

have never traveled out of the Southeast Texas area."

For many students who never imagined participating in such a comprehensive study, this experience will expand their horizons as well as personal development.

"Having the chance to represent Lamar University on international soil really does change one's perspective and motivates students to look outside frontiers and think globally," said Jorge Herrera, Port Arthur junior. "I'm extremely proud of being able to do research outside the country and absolutely thrilled for the opportunities this will open to me in the future."

Alongside research, students will engage in cross-cultural activities. The first two weeks in Mexico, LU students will live with local families in Xalapa, participate in cultural events and study the language. While completing research for their study during the last two weeks, the Veracruz students will visit LU, experience July 4 fireworks and attend an Astros' game. At the end of the summer program, both groups of students will present at the Summit of the Americas, discussing their research findings.

"We have set up a summit where everyone is going to get together. We will invite people from LU administration and the community to listen to what the students have learned and what their experiences have been. Then we'll begin planning where we go from here," Carter said.

At the moment, Palis is actively engaging with universities from around the world to develop more partnerships, including an upcoming program focusing on engineering at the Seoul National University of Science and Technology in Korea, a connection made through an LU faculty member.

"I think all these initiatives are the right thing to do," said Carter. "They certainly are for the university and they certainly are for the benefit of our students."

Palis said, "You are building these bridges of understanding, and I think that is key to our region, to be interconnected in these deeply personal ways by spending time in each others' countries, studying at each others' universities, or working alongside each other on projects."



SAMANTHA MOODY

by Kara Timberlake and Caitlin Duerler

Communication disorders major takes research to China

From Italy to Israel, Smithville native Samantha Moody is no stranger to visiting new and exciting places.

"I have always loved traveling," Moody said. "In the course of my life, I have traveled internationally multiple times. I love learning about the people, the culture and the stories."



Samantha Moody, right

While searching for a study abroad program to enhance her scholarship in the field of communication disorders, Moody knew she wanted to go on a trip that was completely different from anything she had ever experienced.

After applying and gaining acceptance into the School for International Training, Moody applied for the Benjamin A. Gilman

International Scholarship, which is open to U.S. citizen undergraduate students who are receiving Federal Pell Grant funding to participate in study and intern abroad programs worldwide. She said it was an intense process to apply for the scholarship and any mistake on her application could have disqualified her; however, her prior research experience and support from LU faculty and staff helped garner the full \$8,000, the top amount awarded to a Gilman recipient.

"It was highly competitive and academically rigorous," Moody said. "This past year, I completed the McNair Scholar's program along with a research project involving iPads and nonverbal children, which gave me a solid foundation on how to conduct research and ignited my passion for it."

Moody said she is thankful for the support she received along the way. "Dr. Palis has been so helpful throughout the process. Daniella Medley helped me with the Gilman application, and Dr. Monica Harn, who is my McNair mentor, also helped me with the application and was a huge positive influence."

Office of Study Abroad director Jeff Palis said that Moody exemplifies what study abroad offers. "Trips like Samantha's create a depth of world understanding resulting in cultural awareness," Palis said. "The experience helped

her understand the challenges of communication to be better able to relate to her patients in the future."

Her time abroad was spent not only learning a new language and immersing herself in a new culture, but also working with top Chinese speech pathologists and making a significant contribution to her field's research. In the Yunnan Province of China, Moody explored the complex and varied challenges facing China's ethnic minority groups for three months during the 2015 spring semester. "There is a huge demand for speech-language pathologists in China," Moody said.

"The Yunnan Province is home to 45 out of 55 ethnic minorities that are only found in that one province of China. Because each city has their own language it becomes much more difficult to provide services to help with language skills," she said.

While in China, Moody lived alongside local students at Yunnan Nationalities University, and her class took weekly trips to the surrounding areas. "We would visit significant historical landmarks and talk with guest lecturers about specialty topics," she said.

Moody not only lived in dorms, but also lived with two different families during her time in China, a unique aspect of her study abroad program.

"We had an urban homestay for three weeks and a rural home-

stay just shy of a week," she said. "In the rural homestay, we had one day of class and learned about the community, and the rest of the time we just followed our families, helping work the farm and clean around the home. We were treated as family members."

The first part of the trip exposed Moody to many cultural and historical aspects of China. During the last four weeks of the trip, Moody used her stipend to complete her research. At the end of her stay, she presented and submitted a 25-page research paper about her project, an analysis on stroke treatment and rehabilitation in China with an emphasis on speech pathology.

"I worked very closely with a physician, Dr. Wen and his graduate assistant Daisy," she said. "They helped me contact and interview 11 different medical doctors from four different hospitals, which resulted in a pretty in-depth analysis of the different teams—made up of the doctor, nurses, physical therapists and acupuncturists—involved in patient rehabilitation."

Moody plans on continuing her postgraduate studies at LU to obtain her master's degree.

"In the future, I hope to be researching traumatic brain injuries or further the research that I developed in China," Moody said. "Eventually I will go out and treat patients as a speech language pathologist."



Roden develops software for smart insole

For inventor Timothy Roden, associate professor of computer science, transforming an idea into a reality is revolutionizing both the medical and athletic fields.

During a two-year period, Roden worked to develop his idea with MedHab, a privately held company focused on developing athletic and medical devices to offer customized physical rehabilitation and sport-enhancing protocols for patients.

"I had never seen or been involved in anything like this before," Roden said. "When I was approached to be a part of this innovative project, my curiosity was peaked."

Roden is first author on the paper, "Development of a Smart Insole Tracking System for Physical Therapy and Athletics," which was presented during the 7th International Conference on Pervasive Technologies Related to Assistive Environments May 27-30, 2014, in Greece.

"After President and CEO of MedHab Johnny Ross Jr. had extensive knee surgery, he noticed some of the rehabilitation techniques used in physical therapy were inefficient," Roden said. "These observations resulted in an idea about creating technology that would enable a patient to attend physical therapy less, yet he or she would progress faster, and the physician would obtain more accurate evaluations."

Originally, Ross came up with the idea to create a digital sensor-enabled smart shoe insert with the hope that this invention would enhance physical therapy; however, the design has found applications in both healthcare and athletic training. In 2011, a patent application for the smart insole, known as the StepRite® system, was approved.

"The wireless smart insole tracking system technology allows healthcare

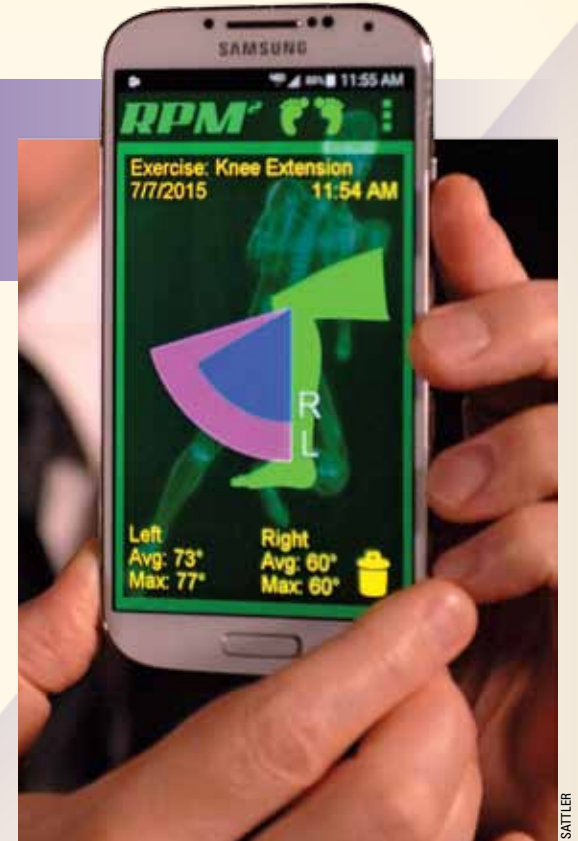
professionals to remotely monitor patients undergoing physical rehabilitation," Roden said. "However, the system also serves as a diagnostic tool where the physical therapist can customize therapy for each patient's individual need and evaluate abnormalities in gait and range of motion before surgery."

While a department chair at Angelo State University, Roden served as the primary software developer on the smart insole tracking system.

"When developing software for the system, we came across challenges in creating the smartphone applications to interface to the foot-bed device," he said. "There were no similar applications with which we could compare. The system was original."

The medical device offers a secured user interface and wireless communication by utilizing smart phones, Roden said. "I helped write software that collects data while patients are exercising, and it is then uploaded to a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act secured server," he said. "From there, the raw data is translated into charts. This technology allows patients to perform the rehabilitation exercises in their home and can allow their healthcare providers to wirelessly modify rehabilitation protocols."

While designing the mobile phone application, Roden said the goal was to create a simple, user-friendly system. "The system provides both audible and onscreen prompts to the user when performing exercises," he said. "The physician selects the patient's exercise regimen which is then downloaded to the smartphone. After the exercise is completed, the data is recorded and transmitted to the server for analysis. Physicians see a different dashboard than patients, who see a



simplified view of the data."

After realizing the computer-enhanced insole had applications in the athletic market, RPM², or Remote Performance Measurement/Monitoring, was born.

"Utilizing the same insole hardware, RPM² was developed to augment athletic performance," Roden said. "The device provides measurements of the lower extremities and offers feedback on an athlete's gait, range of motion, force and power. This allows athletes to prevent injuries and muscle strains that inhibit performance and rehabilitation."

Roden said the product is evolving and has received attention. "Using today's standards in gait analysis, the device has undergone testing at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi," he said. "Also, RPM² has established a partnership with Michael Johnson, Olympic champion, and his athletic training organization, Michael Johnson Performance Inc. His team tested the device and believes it will transform how athletes train."

Roden said helping to develop the smart insole tracking system has been one of the most interesting and rewarding projects he has embarked on. "These products have the potential to transform both the medical and athletic fields," he said. —BKS

Student docs featured on “LUTV on Fox”

The June 6 edition of “LUTV on Fox” featured three student-produced documentaries on a range of topics created as part of the new production class taught by Assistant Professor Shenid Bhayroo. LUTV on Fox is a multi-award winning television program airing on KBTX-Fox 4 and produced by the students, alumni, staff and faculty of the Department of Communication.

“Our students worked diligently to research, shoot, produce and edit their work over several weeks. I can say with confidence, we have very committed and skilled future journalists,” Bhayroo said.

The 7-minute documentaries cover a range of topics. *A Soldier’s Story*, by junior Brooke Kirchhoffer, tells the very personal story of a Beaumont Marine, injured while serving in Afghanistan. *A Taste of Michoacan*, a story by seniors Juan Rodriguez and Wesley Williams, features three immigrant restaurant owners in Port Arthur who discuss the cuisine from the Mexican state of Michoacan. The third documentary, *Dirt Track Racing*, produced by seniors Kevin McGee and Caleb McFarland, tells the story of the Wyble’s—a family that has been racing modified cars for three generations.

May 2015 graduate Jamerica Malbrough of Houston said, “This experience has taught me a consistent work ethic. Prioritizing time, creating relationships off camera and shooting with editing in mind has matured my sense of storytelling.”

Washington Post: LU engineers top earners

A recent Washington Post blog article recognized the return on investment realized by LU’s engineering graduates when it placed them in the Top 10.

In examining the relationship between college expenditures and future earnings, LU landed in the second spot among the Top 10 engineering programs in the nation, just behind Rice University, and ahead of nationally ranked schools like UC-Berkeley and Vanderbilt.

“This ranking is a tribute to Lamar University graduates, showing that they took the work ethic they cultivated during their schooling and applied it effectively to the workplace,” said Victor Zaloom, interim dean of the College of Engineering.

The matrix used Payscale.com numbers from its 2014-15 College Salary Report, which is based on self-reported earnings for graduates from more than 1,000 schools. The analysis is based on mid-career earnings, and showed an average salary of \$137,700 for LU engineering graduates.

“Prospective students look to see how prosperous graduates are, and, when they see data portraying how successful our graduates are at getting jobs and progressing in their fields, this becomes an extremely attractive quality,” said Zaloom. “This article reinforces something we have understood in the engineering department: Lamar University possesses tremendous opportunities for students.”



Records set in enrollment, credit hours

Spring 2015 enrollment figures show an increase from last spring of 4.58 percent in headcount and 2.03 percent in credit hours with a total enrollment of 14,052 students.

“These numbers are all-time records for the university,” said Kevin Smith, senior associate provost. “Most of this growth was at the master’s level and in online programs,” he said.

Growth was especially noteworthy in computer science, up 95 students or 170 percent; social work and criminal justice, up 67 students or 10 percent; counseling/special populations, up 206 students or 17 percent; and all of the engineering fields grew 380 students or 23 percent. “Growth was most dramatic across the engineering departments, primarily in the master’s programs, which grew 42.6 percent,” Smith said.

Online programs earn top spots

Nursing programs ranked 3rd in nation

College Choice ranked Lamar University third in the 2015 Rankings of the Best Online Masters of Nursing Programs and 26th in the 2015 Ranking of the Best Online Bachelor of Science in Nursing Programs.

The rankings are based on a variety of factors including faculty, technology and student support, accreditation, cost, and the national and regional reputations of each school.

“These rankings reflect highly of the work and effort put into the courses as well as the faculty willingness to integrate technology into classroom experiences. LU provides high-quality education that leaves students prepared to excel in the workforce,” said Brenda Nichols, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Overall, The university’s online master’s program in nursing ranked higher than several universities, including the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, West Texas A&M University and the University of South Carolina, while LU’s online bachelor’s program in nursing ranked above Ohio University, Jacksonville University and Western Illinois University.

Online nursing master’s degree ranks No. 8 of Top 20

Lamar University’s Online M.S. in Nursing Administration Degree Program ranked among the best in the article titled “The 20 Best Online Master in Nursing Administration Degree Programs” by TheBestSchools.org. The site selected LU’s program based on several weighted factors, including academic excellence, course offerings, faculty strengths and reputation, including reputation for online degree programs.

The JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing offers two online Master of Science in Nursing degree programs and one dual degree track in nursing and business. The MSN options are in nursing administration and nursing education.

Affordable online graduate programs rank No. 3 nationally

In the 2015 Rankings of the 50 Most Affordable Online Graduate Schools for Master’s Degrees by College Choice, an independent online publication, Lamar University’s online



master’s degree programs rank No. 3.

At \$8,865, LU was only \$211 short of being the least expensive.

The organization evaluated all regionally accredited online schools with at least five online master’s programs and ranked them according to total cost to complete a master’s degree online, including both tuition and fees. The rankings are based on a variety of factors including faculty, technology and student support, accreditation, cost, and the national and regional reputations of each school.

Online computer science program earns Top 10 spot

Lamar University was named a top college—ranking 9 out of 52—for online computer science programs by ComputerScienceOnline.org, a resource for online learning in computer science and related fields, found at computerscienceonline.org/degree-programs.

The organization recently analyzed data from hundreds of colleges offering computer science programs online and published a new list of the *Best Online Computer Science Degree Programs 2014-2015*. On the list are schools that excel in online learning in one of 12 central computer science and tech-related disciplines based on tuition cost, student-faculty ratio, six-year graduation rate, percentage receiving financial aid, academic/career counseling, ABET accreditation and the number of degree programs in computer-related fields.

“Lamar University put its first courses online in the mid-90s, but they were not nearly as complete, user friendly, or sophisticated as those we offer today,” said Stephen Doblin, provost and vice president. “It was clear to us then that offering quality programs online was important for institutional vibrancy and

growth, and would place Lamar University in the forefront of the inevitable national movement to increase access to higher education through online delivery of knowledge.”

U.S. News & World Report ranks online programs among “best”

Lamar University online programs have been recognized among the best in the nation by the 2015 *U.S. News & World Report Best Online Programs* rankings. LU ranked in the Top 25 percent of schools nationwide for the Best Online Bachelor’s Programs and Best Online Graduate Education Program.

More than 1,200 distance education degree bachelor’s programs have been cataloged in the usnews.com searchable directory, and all programs more than one year old with at least 10 students enrolled were ranked. The four criteria used to rank the online bachelor’s programs included student services and technology, faculty credentials and training, peer reputation and student engagement.

For the 2015 edition of the *Best Online Graduate Education Programs* rankings, *U.S. News* ranked schools based on five general categories: student engagement, student services and technology, faculty credentials and training, admissions selectivity and peer reputation.

“These national rankings are a testament to the quality of curriculum, staff and the delivery of our online course offerings,” said Paula Nichols, executive director of the Office of Online Programs. “More students are choosing online course options out of convenience, and it is our goal to provide the same quality educational experience to our online students that we provide in the classroom.”

More information about LU’s online programs can be found at luonline.lamar.edu.

In international competition, LU Drumline takes second



For the second consecutive year, Lamar University’s Drumline finished second in the “Drumline Battle” at the Percussive Arts Society’s International Competition. Forty-five students represented LU in Indianapolis, Ind., and performed music composed by Travis Fife, director of marching percussion and an instructor in the Mary Morgan

Moore Department of Music.

“Having the experience of going to this convention is truly an honor and a valuable opportunity for those students to grow and develop,” said Fife. “We are looking forward to competing again this November in several categories.” View LU’s Drumline in action at bit.ly/drum-LU.

FacultyNotes

Harn earns Rogers Community Service Award

Lamar University selected Monica Harn, associate professor and department chair of speech and hearing sciences, as recipient of the 2014 Julie & Ben Rogers Community Service Award. She received the honor Dec. 3 in the University Reception Center of the Mary and John Gray Library.

"I was so pleased to be recognized by the Rogers family," Harn said. "People like the Rogers instill a value of service in the community and act as excellent role models. This award is a nice example of the emphasis that this university as well as the community places on service."

A faculty member since 2001, Harn said her position meshes three of her passions: teaching, serving and researching. "Anything that interferes with a person's ability to be involved in their community interferes with their quality of life," she said. "Part of our job in this department is to provide people a means to communicate or ways to compensate for disabilities so they can become active contributors in a social cultural context. In this profession, you can make a profound difference where you can really change lives."

Nursing faculty commended

Four nursing faculty members in the JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing were recognized this spring for their innovative teaching. The Texas Organization of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Education identifies faculty who are innovative teachers and who excel in research.

Nursing instructors Maresha Moore, Cynthia Pipkins, Deborah Camak and Jennifer Thedford received the Faculty Development Innovation in Teaching Award based on their proposal, "Simulation Approach to Teaching the Nursing Process," which outlines two simulations the team developed. The simulations introduce first-semester nursing students to the nursing process and the clinical decision-making approach nurses use to deliver effective patient care.

"This award is the only one of its kind given among all the schools of nursing in

Texas," said Cindy Stinson, interim chair of the nursing department. "We are very proud of our outstanding faculty."

Lian published in research journal Nature

Assistant professor of biology Ian Lian is part of an international research team that recently had a study published in the February issue of *Nature*, widely accepted as the leading research journal in the world. The results of the five-year research project suggest promising advances in treating patients who suffer from certain types of cancer and various inflammatory bowel diseases.

"This research study will put Lamar University on the map with regard to participation in the top tier of international research," Lian said.

All injuries, even the smallest cut and scratch, trigger an inflammatory response that is part of the body's natural healing mechanism. This inflammatory response is generally understood; however, some aspects of that process remain a mystery to researchers.

Lian's research team has discovered new links between the inflammatory response and regeneration. This research sought to discover pathways to stimulate regenerative signals for natural healing mechanisms without the use of commonly prescribed destructive drugs that tend to damage cells and tissue. As a result of this research, it may be possible to develop a new class of drugs with these properties that could be more effective for patients who suffer from Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, irritable bowel disorder and colorectal cancer.

Profs Kenyon and Sen close gaps with new book

The two-year journey of George Kenyon and Kabir C. "KC" Sen recently culminated in a new work designed to fill a significant gap in business knowledge. Their new book, *The Perception of Quality: Mapping Product and Service Quality to Consumer Perceptions*, was published by Springer-Verlag of London in December 2014 and is available as an ebook, as individual chapters or in hardback.

"Most of the available literature talks

about the technical side of managing quality," said Kenyon, associate professor of operations and supply chain management and William and Katherine Fouts Faculty Scholar in Business. "Relatively little has been written about the linkage between customer perceptions and the dimensions that we use to measure quality. This book attempts to bridge that gap by examining the concept of quality from a new point of view."

Counselor Educator Advocacy Award honors Flamez

Distance Clinical Professor Brandé Flamez received the 2015 Counselor Educator Advocacy Award from the American Counseling Association during the

ACA Conference and Expo March 12-15 in Orlando, Fla.

Each year, the American Counseling Association recognizes the achievements of counseling professionals who have distinguished careers and demonstrated service to others. Flamez is a licensed professional counselor and clinical professor in the Counseling and Special Populations Department. She also is the CEO and founder of the non-profit Serving and Learning Together World Inc., which provides volunteer services to developing countries.

Dyrhaug exhibits work in Tokyo

Kurt Dyrhaug, professor of art, participated as an invited artist in the third International Crosscurrent Exchange Show in Tokyo, Japan, March 20-28. Dyrhaug, a

sculptor, was one of 15 artists selected from the United States to show their work at the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum. Suguru Hiraide, associate professor at Midwestern State University, and Yasunari Nakagomi, director of the Association of International Artists Exchange in Tokyo, co-curated the exhibition.

Nursing team receives grant

Co-investigators Eileen Deges, Iva Hall and Cindy Stinson from the JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing received grant funding of \$149,996 from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The Expanding Competency and Excellence in Labs and Simulation project for the Nursing Innovation Grant Program focuses on building lab and simulation resources for BSN students. An additional 64 hours of mid-level and high fidelity simulation experiences will be added to the present 38 simulation hours. The EXCELS project will renovate and redesign four patient bed areas in the department of nursing learning center to be equipped as high fidelity simulation areas. The Nursing Innovation Grant Program was established by the 77th Texas Legislature to help relieve the state's nursing shortage.

Alasta to advise Australians

The Australian government has invited Sanaz Alasti, assistant professor of criminal justice in the Department of Sociology, Social Work & Criminal Justice and a world-renowned expert on the death penalty, to advise them in legal cases regarding Middle Eastern and North African legal and court proceedings. The invitation comes from the senior country of origin researcher in the Refugee, Humanitarian and International Policy Division of the Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

**Das selected as University Scholar**

Kumer Das, associate professor of mathematics and director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, received the University

Scholar Award April 8 in an award ceremony at the University Reception Center.

Das has earned a reputation as one of LU's leading researchers during his 10-year tenure. He has published 17 peer-refereed articles, a book chapter and nine proceedings papers in the past five years. Das has secured approximately \$2.5 million in research and other forms of external support, received several prestigious professional awards and has

guided dozens of students to successful starts as researchers and scholars.

The award is the most prestigious research honor bestowed upon a faculty member and recognizes an individual for outstanding contributions to scholarship, research, grant writing and/or creative activity. The University Scholar Award is a career/lifetime achievement, recognizing the recipient's body of work.

Mayer named as University Professor

Lamar University honored Brad Mayer as



the 2015 University Professor at a ceremony in the University Reception Center April 8. Mayer is a professor of management and marketing. The title University Professor is awarded for life and is the most

prestigious faculty award that LU's academic community confers.

"The award is the pinnacle of academic achievement at our university and is recognized by all as an emblem of highest merit," said Stephen Doblin, provost and vice president for academic affairs. "Recipients are selected by their colleagues and are chosen for their academic stature and achievements, honed in the demanding and competitive culture of higher education."

In addition, Mayer became the fourth Ann Die-Hasselmo Scholar, made possible by the creation of the Lamar University Faculty Excellence Endowment by Ann Die Hasselmo '66.

Mayer has been at Lamar University for more than two decades and has served as associate dean, director of the M.B.A. program and department chair.

"Dr. Mayer taught every graduating student from the College of Business; every baccalaureate and every M.B.A. student," said Enrique "Henry" Venta, dean of the College of Business. "He is one of LU's most visible, productive and admired faculty members. He is appreciated by his students, praised by his colleagues, consulted by local business leaders and respected by his scholarly peers."

Palanki selected to head College of Engineering



President Kenneth Evans has named Srinivas Palanki as Lamar University's next dean of the College of Engineering. Palanki took the reins July 1 and succeeds

Victor Zaloom, who has been serving as interim dean since August 2013, and longtime dean Jack Hopper who served 1999-2013.

Palanki, who holds a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Michigan, was chair of the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, where he has been on faculty since 2007. He previously was professor in the Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering at Florida State University, 2003-2006, and associate director of its Center for Intelligent Systems, Control and Robotics, 2004-2006.

As department chair, Palanki increased research funding with grants from the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the chemical industry. He hired new faculty, managed the department's move into a new state-of-the-art facility, developed new doctoral programs and tripled student enrollment.

Additionally, teaching technologies received his attention with the use of Web-enabled instruction and other nontraditional learning techniques as well as the integration of complex simulations into engineering education.

Palanki has a strong record of proposals funded with nearly 50 to his credit totaling more than \$3.9 million. His personal research interests include energy applications of process systems engineering, and the application of nanotechnology to cancer biology.

Palanki and his family are well traveled, having visited 34 countries around the world.

LectureCircuit

Mark Bowles featured lecturer for Entrepreneurial Studies Lecture Series



Mark Bowles, a Silicon Valley venture capitalist, is founder and co-inventor of the technology behind ecoATM, a company acquired in 2013 by Outerwall for \$350 million. He is the holder of nine patents with 30 patents pending.

"An Entrepreneur's Journey from Innovation to Commercialization" was Bowles' topic of discussion for the Entrepreneurial Lecture Series Feb. 5 in Landes Auditorium. The lecture series, sponsored in part by ExxonMobil and hosted by the Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies, features successful entrepreneurs who share their experiences with students in the College of Business and the community.

Bowles was born and raised in Beaumont, attended Lamar University for three years before graduating from Texas A&M University with a bachelor's degree in industrial distribution. He also earned a master's degree in technology management from Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif. "Mark has seen his company grow from startup to a world leader. His insight and passion for education is an inspiration for LU students,"

said Paul Latiolais, director of the Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship and the IES.

With more than 25 years of experience in wireless, semiconductor and retail industries, Bowles has been involved in the formation and funding of six venture-backed startups, raising 18 rounds of venture capital and debt financing totaling \$250 million. Broadcom acquired another Bowles-founded company, BlueSteel Networks, in 2000 for \$110 million.

Sigma Xi hosts world-renowned cancer researcher

The Lamar University chapter of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, hosted Robert Clarke, professor and dean of research in the Department of Oncology of Georgetown University Medical Center, for a lecture Feb. 23 in the University Reception Center. Clarke discussed the question, "What can we learn about breast cancer by combining mathematics and computer science in a systems biology approach to research?"

Clarke, a world-renowned expert on breast cancer, studies how hormones and growth factors affect breast cancer. He and his collaborators have recently described how a signaling network contributes directly to the hormonal regulation of breast cancer cell proliferation and cell death.

ExxonMobil sponsors an evening with Thomas Franklin Freeman

ExxonMobil teamed with Lamar University to bring Thomas Freeman to campus Feb. 17 in the University Theatre for "Living

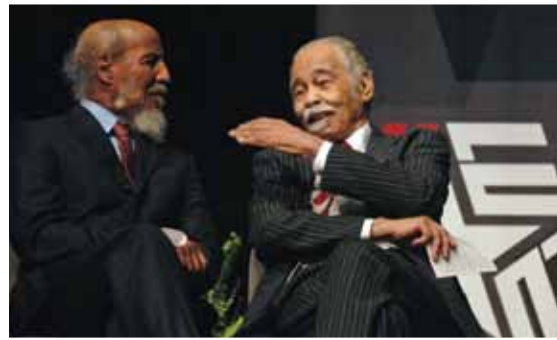
Legends - An Evening with Dr. Thomas Franklin Freeman" in celebration of Black History Month. ExxonMobil's Black Employee Success Team sponsored the presentation.

A Texas Southern University professor of philosophy since 1949 and a distinguished professor emeritus, Freeman has taught and influenced generation after generation of college students, many rising to the top in fields of law, education and government. For Freeman, educating young people is as much a calling as one that led him into the ministry. He also has been a church pastor in Houston for 60 years.

A former professor of psychology and philosophy at TSU, Freeman taught at Morehouse College, Virginia Union University, Houston Community College and Rice University. In 1947, while a visiting professor at Morehouse, he taught one of the nation's and the world's greatest orators and most inspiring leaders, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

A college graduate by age

18 and a Virginia Union University professor in his 20s, Freeman was among the black intellectuals hired in 1949 to teach at what was then Texas State University



for Negroes. That year, he staged a debate in his logic class drawing from his own undergraduate experiences. Freeman is perhaps best known for founding and coaching TSU's highly acclaimed debate team, which has won hundreds of awards, traveled the globe and, during the period when Freeman and King became re-acquainted, helped desegregate college forensics.

LU hosts actor, environmentalist Ed Begley Jr.

Lamar University hosted American actor and environmentalist Ed Begley Jr. for the Academic Lecture Series May 5 in the University Theatre. Inspired by the works of his Academy Award-winning father, Begley has appeared in hundreds of films, television shows and stage performances. He is best known

for his role as Dr. Victor Ehrlich on the television series *St. Elsewhere*, for which he received six consecutive Emmy Award nominations, and his recent reality shows about green living called *Living With Ed* on HGTV and *Planet Green* with his wife Rachelle Carson-Begley.



Marquart named provost, vice president for academic affairs



After an exhaustive national search, President Kenneth Evans has named James Marquart as Lamar University's next provost and vice president for academic affairs.

He assumed his duties July 1 and succeeds Steve Doblin,

who is retiring after serving in the position for 13 years.

Marquart, who holds a Ph.D. in sociology from Texas A&M University, has served as vice provost of academic affairs at the University of Texas-Dallas since 2012. He previously served as associate provost, dean of the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences, and department chair and professor of the criminology program at UTD.

A native of Illinois, Marquart earned a bachelor's degree in Law Enforcement Administration from Western Illinois University in 1976. He graduated with his Ph.D. in 1983.

As one of the nation's leading experts on prison systems, Marquart's extensive academic record includes more than \$2 million in funded research activity, presentations, more than 60 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters, and seven books. He received the 2005 Bruce Smith Senior Award from the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences and the Leverhulme Visiting Professorship, Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London, in 1998. He has received two outstanding book awards. An Appeal to Justice: Litigated Reform of Texas Prisons (University of Texas Press, 1989) won the ACJS Outstanding Book Award in 1991, and *The Rope, the Chair, and the Needle: Capital Punishment in Texas, 1923-1990* (University of Texas Press, 1994) won the American Library Association's Outstanding Book Award for 1995.



Computer science students earn first place

Four computer science students won prizes in a student research competition hosted by the Association for Computer Educators in Texas at its 50th Annual Conference in San Antonio Oct. 17-18. Juniors Timothy Holcombe of Lumberton and Alexander Strong of Beaumont earned first-place honors for their presentation, "Programming is a SNAP! Increasing Knowledge and Interest in Computing," that describes research that Holcombe, Strong and sophomore Hannah Leleux of Bridge City are performing as participants in Lamar University's Students Advancing through Involvement Student Talent Expansion Project program under the direction of STAIRSTEP faculty mentor Peggy Doerschuk.

Senior Cheri Lewis of Sour Lake won third place with her poster on "An SAT-based model checking technique for safety assertions applicable to modern automotive industry," covering research she performed as a McNair and National Science Foundation ASCENT scholar under the direction of faculty mentor Stefan Andrei.

LU team scores Quiz Bowl victory

Team Lamar emerged as the state winner from among 20 Texas teams participating in the TACSM Student Quiz Bowl Feb. 26 in Austin. LU's team of four health and kinesiology students participated in the annual Jeopardy-style competition hosted by the Texas chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine, the leading organization in the world in sports medicine. Rick Carter, professor of health and kinesiology, was the team's advisor.

"This is the second year we have participated in the Quiz Bowl competition, and these students showed they were the best in Texas," Carter said.

The team participants are all exercise science/fitness management majors: Catherine Wu of Lubbock; Kollin Kahler, Waco; George Urebe, Houston and Hannah Boyett, Jasper. Kahler and Wu participated on the 2014 Quiz Bowl team.



Spina named dean of education and human development



Robert Spina will lead the College of Education and Human Development as dean, having assumed that duty July 1. Spina, who has more than 25 years of combined teaching, research

and service, succeeded Bill Holmes, who has been serving as interim dean since August 2014, and Hollis Lowery-Moore, who served as dean from 2004 to 2014.

Spina, who holds a Ph.D. in health, physical and recreation education from the University of Pittsburgh, was associate dean of undergraduate education and college assessment at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va. He has served more than 10 years as a department chair and two years as an associate dean, gaining expertise in strategic planning and budgeting as well as knowledge of academic programming, learning assessment, enrollment management, institutional studies, grants administration, accreditation, general education and distance learning.

An active researcher, he has been investigator or principal investigator under several grants from the NIH in the areas of exercise and aging.

Spina and his wife, Elizabeth, who is a registered dietitian, have a daughter, Andrea.

Students receive breakthrough award

At the 2015 Texas Nursing Students Association convention in Austin, a team of 13 students received the Breakthrough to Nursing Award. The award was established to encourage recruitment to and retention of students in nursing programs. Seventeen teams entered the competition, and the winning LU team was led by seniors Shelby Harmon, president from Orange; Michal Gloriosso, vice-president from Port Neches; Morgan Stackhouse, treasurer from Port Neches; and Hazel Macon, secretary from Nederland. Award-winning activities included a community awareness program, recruitment and education using hands-on activities at area middle schools, and a mentorship program via e-mail. Faculty advisors are assistant professor Mary Walker and instructor Kelli White.

Holtzhausen named dean of fine arts and communication

The College of Fine Arts and Communication welcomes Derina Holtzhausen as its new dean. Holtzhausen, who has more than 27 years of teaching, research and service, began her tenure

July 1 and succeeds Russ Schultz, who served as dean from 2000 to 2015.

Holtzhausen holds a Ph.D. in communication science from the University of Johannesburg, an M.A. in Afrikaans literature from University of South Africa and B.A. degrees in Afrikaans-Dutch literature and in psychology and German, both from the University of Pretoria. She was director of the School of Media and Strategic Communication at Oklahoma State University, where she also served as professor.

With a quarter century of experience as a journalist and strategic communications executive in the complex South African environment, Holtzhausen is a strong proponent of the roles communication, media and the arts play in society to promote social justice



and discussions on diversity and equality. Under her leadership, enrollment in the school grew 25 percent on its Stillwater and Tulsa campuses. Student diversity in the school increased under her watch from 15.4 percent in 2008 to 25.6 percent in fall 2014, and faculty diversity in gender and ethnicity grew by 50 percent.

She received a 2012 PRIDE Book Award from the National Communication Association for outstanding contribution to public relations theory for her book *Public Relations as Activism: Postmodern Approaches to Theory and Practice*.

Students receive NIST fellowships

The National Institute of Standards and Technology selected Nicolas Nikoloutsos, an electrical engineering senior from Vidor, and Keeley Townley-Smith, a senior from Lumberton pursuing a double major in physics and electrical engineering, as recipients of Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships. Both students will work at the Gaithersburg, Md., campus in the physical measurement laboratory during the 11-week program. The two will gain hands-on research experience working with cutting-edge technology in one of the world's leading research organizations.

Online MBA concentrations begin this fall

Several concentrations within the MBA program will be offered 100 percent online this fall for the first time. They include education management, criminal justice management, enterprise resource planning, healthcare administration and organizational management. The online MBA program is designed to be completed in 12-14 months for a student with a business background and 14-18 months for non-business majors.

The online courses will mirror the MBA on campus courses and meet assignment milestones as well as follow the attendance expectations for the instructors. The same faculty members who teach the courses on campus will teach the online courses. More information is available by contacting the MBA office at lamar.edu/mba.



COURTESY PORT OF BEAUMONT

New master's program focuses on port management

The Department of Industrial Engineering and the College of Business have teamed with waterfront industry professionals to offer courses in port management that lead to the Master of Engineering Management or certifications specializing in port management.

World-class faculty and industry professionals teach the program's interactive courses in traditional, online and hybrid formats. This opportunity provides a flexible, tech-savvy alternative education pathway for working professionals to strengthen their leadership, managerial and technical skills to become future port industry leaders. A balanced, waterfront industry-based curriculum allows graduates of the Port Management Program at LU to develop and fine-tune the much-needed bridge between engineering, business, transportation, logistics, design, operations management and cost efficiency. Four courses for a total of 12 credit hours cover management, capital projects, port logistics modeling, and financial and managerial accounting. More information is available from Brian Craig, chair of the Industrial Engineering Department, (409) 880-8804, brian.craig@lamar.edu.



LU Vocal area students after a workshop with internationally renowned opera singer Victoria Livengood

Students win numerous awards at National Association of Teachers of Singing

Voice students from the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music earned numerous awards at the annual Greater Houston Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing classical auditions March 28 at the University of Houston. Winners were first place: Dorian McCall of Fresno; Tabitha Jordan, Vidor; and Tayler Thibodeaux, Groves; second place: DeVante Shay, Beaumont; Shawn Simonson, Carthage; and Emalee Torbert, Orange; and third place: Eric Gonzales, Fort Bend; Keenen Kelley, Peoria, Ill.; and Christopher Martin, Beaumont.

Bellard assumes new role

Norman Bellard has been appointed to the new role of assistant to the president for community relations and athletics program liaison. He will oversee the Lamar University Community Outreach program, supporting university efforts in the identification of community needs and alignment of potential resources, and assisting as a liaison in high school and community college relations. He also will support the growth and programming of the Cardinal Club and provide athletic program marketing support.

"The university displays an excellence that extends to the vibrancy of the community, city, county and the Golden Triangle," Bellard said. "Its contribution to the quality of life, coupled with the millions of dollars the university contributes to the economy, truly makes LU an important and engaged partner with Southeast Texas."





Copeland named alumni affairs director

Shannon Copeland '02, '03, '07, has been named director of alumni affairs. The Nederland native was most recently director of advancement services, a position she has held since 2011, and she will retain supervisory responsibility for that department.

"Lamar University has been my second home since I entered here as a freshman in 1998," Copeland said. "I see this role as an opportunity to connect alumni with each other and with our current students. Our alumni are the ambassadors of the university, helping us recruit new students and helping our university continue to grow."

Copeland previously served as coordinator of advancement information systems from 2008 to 2011 and employee relations coordinator and career counselor from 2007 to 2008. She also has served as the College Panhellenic Advisor since 2009.

"We are extraordinarily fortunate to have someone with her background, energy and creativity leading this important area of Lamar University," said Juan Zabala, vice president for university advancement.

Kiel appointed Dishman Art Museum director

Dennis Kiel joined the LU administrative staff as the new director of the Dishman Art Museum Feb. 16.

"Dennis Kiel brings a wealth of experience, imagination and vision to the Dishman," said Russ Schultz, former dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication. "With this appointment, it is our hope that the Dishman will become a greater component of the cultural opportunity of this area—not only of the campus, but the greater community as well."

A respected curator, Kiel comes to Lamar University from Charlotte, N.C., where he served as interim executive director and chief curator at The Light Factory Contemporary Museum of Photography and Film. Before joining The Light Factory, Kiel was the associate curator of prints, drawings and photographs at the Cincinnati Art Museum for 24 years.

Manchaiah named endowed professor



Vinaya Manchaiah has been designated the Jo Mayo Endowed Professor in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, a prestigious honor named after Annie Jo Mayo, a

former member of the LU Foundation board of trustees. Manchaiah, an associate professor of audiology, is an international scholar with an impressive research and publication record. Manchaiah holds a Ph.D. in disability research from Linköping University in Sweden, an Executive MBA from Swansea University in Wales, a Doctor of Audiology from Nova Southeastern University and an M.S. in audiology from the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom.

"Dr. Manchaiah's role as the Jo Mayo Endowed Professor will establish a national and international reputation of excellence for the program of audiology at Lamar University," said Monica Harn, chair of the

Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences. "He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the department because of his active research projects in audiology as well as research collaborations with disciplines such as engineering and computer science."

Annie Jo Mayo, who died in 1993, established the bequest to fund a faculty position and, in so doing, benefit LU students as well as children with communication disorders.

STEM expertise draws Brazil students

As a result of an invitation to partner with the Institute of International Education on the Brazil Scientific Mobility Program because of LU's world-class engineering programs and STEM-focused undergraduate research, the university will welcome its first cohort of seven Brazilian students in fall 2015. BSMP, an initiative funded by the Brazilian Ministry of Education, is a one-year, non-degree program for Brazilian students to study abroad in the U.S.

NSF grant will help LU recruit underrepresented groups to engineering

The National Science Foundation has awarded Lamar University researchers in industrial and mechanical engineering a \$625,300 grant to increase the number of students in engineering from underrepresented groups.

The SCOPE program, which stands for Scholarships, Career Mentoring, Outreach and Advisement, Professional Societies and Engineering Learning Community, will serve three cohorts, totaling 36 scholars, in the five-year project beginning Sept. 1, 2015. The program will help to recruit and retain industrial or mechanical engineering students, selected for participation based on financial need and academic ability.

"This program will target students from sophomore to senior years and provide the support needed to help ensure degree completion," said Weihang Zhu, associate professor of industrial engineering.

LU, Microsoft partnership to advance professional development announced

Lamar University and Microsoft Corp. are teaming up to advance technology literacy for educators worldwide by providing a pathway from professional development to post-graduate certificate programs or a graduate degree in digital learning and leading.

"We are very pleased to partner with Microsoft in this venture," said Lamar University President Kenneth Evans. "Our position as a leader in online master's-level education programs makes LU a great fit for this program."

Beginning this year, educators who complete Microsoft's Teaching with Technology professional development course (based on UNESCO ICT Frameworks) and pass the Microsoft Certified Educator exam will be eligible to receive three graduate credit hours from Lamar University. Three additional credit hours will be available with the demonstrated use of these technology skills in the classroom. LU will recognize any teacher who earns six credit hours as a Certified Digital Educator in addition the professional Microsoft Certified Educator credential awarded by Microsoft. Both of these credit-granting opportunities are available online and designed with the flexibility required by busy professional educators.

Teachers can earn an Advanced Certi-

fication in Digital Learning from Lamar University by completing an additional six credit hours of online courses. For educators who choose to further their learning, these 12 credit hours are accepted as prior coursework toward an M.Ed. in Digital Learning and Leading or other possible graduate degrees at Lamar University.

"This partnership is unique in higher education," said William Holmes, interim dean of the College of Education and Human Development. "It recognizes the rigor of Microsoft's training and presents an excellent opportunity for educators to leverage their learning and gain credentials in education," Holmes said.

Digital learning master's degree

The master's degree in Digital Learning and Leading is designed for education practitioners teaching in and leading digital learning programs; integrating digital instructional resources; and designing, developing, and researching digital learning environments. The degree is designed so students from different educational jurisdictions can customize the program for their unique needs while connecting their professional development activity to appropriate educational theory and best practice globally. More information is available at lamar.edu/digitaleducator.



"Live from the Rothwell" clarinet chamber concert

Lamar University's Clarinet Quartet and Clarinet Choir tuned up for the first of a new concert series, "Live from the Rothwell," broadcast by 91.3 KVLU Public Radio April 8 in the Rothwell Recital Hall.

"Classical music fans are one of the staple audiences of KVLU," said Byron Balentine, station manager. "We are excited for this opportunity to collaborate with the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music to bring live performances to our listeners." Live from the Rothwell returns October 27 with the Faculty Jazz Quintet. Proceeds will benefit the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music.

Reaching for the sky

Since the Oct. 7 groundbreaking, the Wayne A. Reaud Administration Building has begun to take shape as the new entrance to campus at the corner of Jim Giligan Way and Rolfe Christopher Drive thanks to a transformative gift from Wayne Reaud and Jon Huntsman Sr. The new three-story, 45,000-square-foot building will be a state-of-the-art facility for university administration offices, information technology, human resources and other administrative groups. The ground floor will be home to the Reaud Honors College.





Cards spend 'Alternative Spring Break' volunteering for Habitat for Humanity

During spring break, nine Lamar University students traveled to Hot Springs, Ark., for an "Alternative Spring Break," where they did volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity. Danelle Sanders, a sophomore from Bridge City, worked with the Office of Student Engagement to organize the trip. "It was definitely a unique experience, it's not really what you think it will be," she said. "You're like their assistant—you go behind them and hammer what they tell you to."

The students helped construct a frame for a house that would benefit a family in need. William Hill, a junior from Edna, has experience in construction, but this was the first time he had framed a house. "It was very interesting because they did everything by the book," he said. "Everything they used had to be brand new, so it was really cool seeing the right way to do it."

The students also worked in restore shops, which are similar to thrift stores except people bring in leftover building materials and the shops resell them for 100 percent profit to fund construction projects.

"It was different and unique," Chassidy Mayo, a senior from Houston, said. "They had couches and just everything you may need for your home if you were remodeling it. It was very cool inside, and it was fun to paint the walls and help out."

The students volunteered in many ways, including gardening and cleaning up the neighborhood. "It was very humbling and made me feel good to volunteer," Hill said. "The first day we trimmed hedges, made gardens, mowed lawns and power washed the sidewalks because they were preparing to build a house at the end of the street. At the end of the

day, you could see that we made a difference."

The nine Cardinals said the trip changed them a little bit, that it opened their eyes to see problems that people suffer. "This trip made me less selfish and want to give more rather than receive," Mayo said.

Kiet Le, associate director of student activities and civic engagement, traveled with the students. "It was very rewarding to get to know the students on a more personal level, because we were together 24/7 for almost a week, and also to see them all grow more as individuals—to go from strangers to friends," he said.

The students said that the hardest thing was to come together as a group, but in the end they became close. "Opening up was hard," Hill said. "At the beginning of the trip, we did not have much conversation. The hardest thing was going from a group of strangers to a tight-knit group."

The group agreed that their favorite part was serving food at the Jackson House Crisis Center. "We helped prepare the meals—cooked, fixed them and passed them out," Mayo said. "I told my Dad I would like to have us start some-

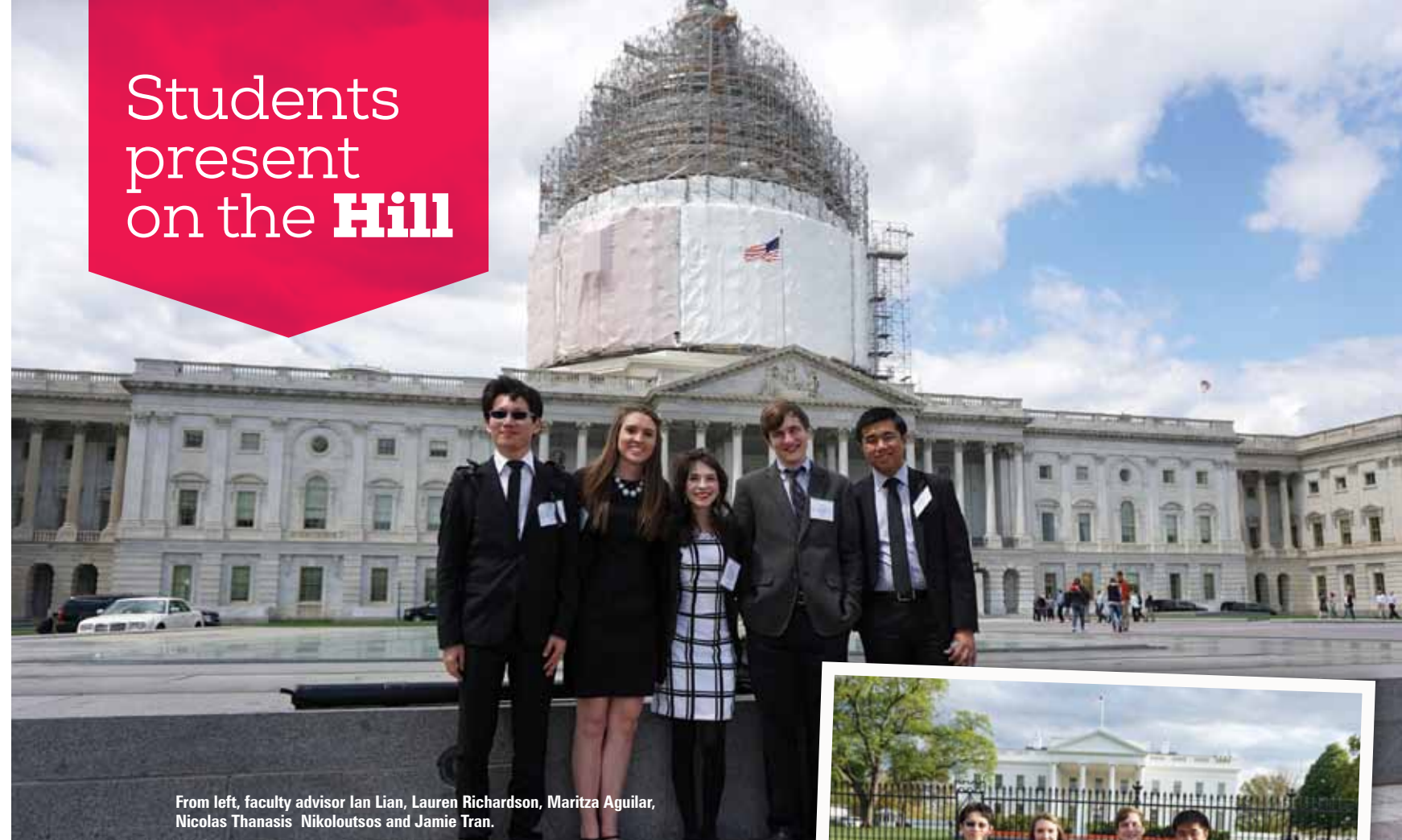
thing like that around here."

Members of the group said it was not all work. "The students and I had fun at a St. Patrick's Day Parade," Le said. "Hot Springs is known for the world's shortest St. Patrick's Day Parade, so we were able to help build a float and watch the parade."

Le said he hopes the program will continue for years to come and looks forward to the new adventures, and the students all agreed they would sign up for the Alternate Spring Break again. —KA

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Students present on the Hill



From left, faculty advisor Ian Lian, Lauren Richardson, Maritza Aguilar, Nicolas Thanasis Nikoloutsos and Jamie Tran.

A group of five students presented their cancer cell research during the 19th Annual Posters on the Hill undergraduate poster session April 22-23 in Washington, D.C.

"This is an extraordinary opportunity for the students to share their research," said Kumer Das, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research. "It is truly an honor for the students to be chosen to present their poster. This is a prestigious competition where students from all over the country submitted abstracts. More than 500 applications were received, and only 60 posters were selected to be presented on Capitol Hill."

Hosted by the Council on Undergraduate Research, the event included a poster session and reception where students visited with U.S. senators and congressional leaders.

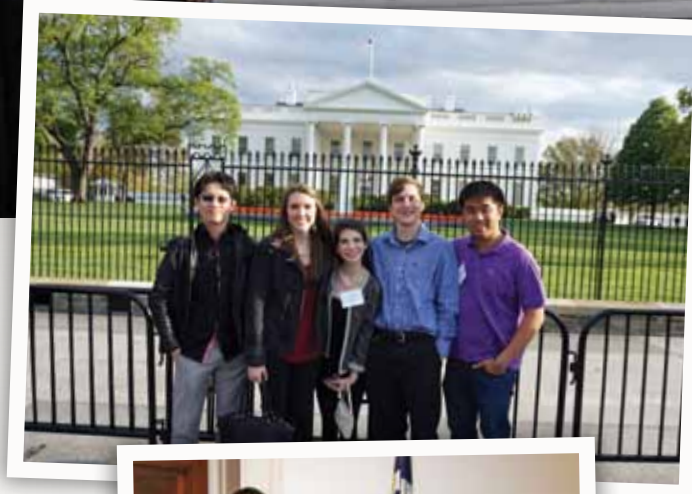
Nicolas Thanasis Nikoloutsos, Maritza Aguilar, Lauren Richardson, Jamie Tran and Gabriel Graham presented their poster, "Formation of Physiologically Realistic Cancer Cell Spheroids with Soft Substrate Microenvironments." Ian Lian, assistant professor of biology, has been the students' faculty advisor.

"It means a lot to be able to go to D.C., to meet other aspiring students, to share undergraduate research experiences, to meet with think tanks and

to get feedback from the audience," Das said. "This demonstrates that Lamar University is committed to research and shows other students that they are capable of accomplishing similar achievements."

The team also presented their research at the Undergraduate Research Exposition on campus April 20 in the Setzer Student Center ballroom. The event showcases and promotes student involvement in scholarly research campus-wide.

"Our signature event, the Research Expo, allows students to promote and share their research experience with peers and faculty while also providing them the opportunity to explore other areas of research available," said Das. The Office of Undergraduate Research provides funding to further research and to attend conferences.—MP



SILICON VALLEY EXPERIENCE INSPIRES

GILL SCHOLARS ATTEND IGNITE! ENTREPRENEURSHIP CONFERENCE

by Brian Sattler



From left, front row: Heng Ma, doctoral student, Ph.D., chemical engineering; Lauren Van Gerven, MBA student; Martin Mantz, MBA student; and Brianna Burks, MBA/MSA student **Second row:** Evan Wujcik, assistant professor of chemical engineering; Matthew Chance, MBA student; Sagar Bonthu, graduate student, computer science; Josue Bahena, graduate student, chemistry; Albert Odell, doctoral student, Ph.D. chemical engineering; Joshua Davis, MBA student; Paul Latiolais, director, Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship **Back row:** Linda and Jack Gill '58

Nine graduate students from Lamar University participated in *Ignite!*, a three-day entrepreneurship conference in Silicon Valley this spring, as 2015 Gill Scholars.

"The LU students, who are pursuing MBAs, master's or doctoral degrees in engineering or science, visited leading Silicon Valley companies and exciting tech startups," said Paul Latiolais, director of LU's Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship. "They also spent two days learning from Rice Business Plan finalists who have gained success in the marketplace and are experiencing exponential revenues."

At the conference, the LU students joined other graduate students from Rice University, University of California-Davis, and Texas Medical Center members UT Medical Branch, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston Methodist Hospital and UT MD Anderson Cancer Center. Conference hosts were the Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship, Rice University and University of California-Davis, Graduate School of Management.

Lamar University Distinguished Alumnus Jack Gill '58, Houston philanthropist, successful entrepreneur and former Silicon Valley venture capitalist, supports the scholarship program that is now in its third year.

Gaining from the experience were MBA students Brianna Burks, Matthew Chance, Joshua Davis, Martin Mantz, and Lauren Van Gerven. Also attending were master's students Sagar Bonthu, computer science, and Josue Bahena, chemistry, as well as doctoral students Albert Odell and Heng Ma, both in chemical engineering. LU faculty members Latiolais and Evan Wujcik, assistant professor of chemical engineering, accompanied the group.

"Founders and CEOs gave us a greater view of entrepreneurship, and the conference helped us make connections with other students," Bahena said. "Connections like these can be the difference in an idea reaching its full potential or not."

During the conference, the attendees were divided into three groups for tours, visiting primarily

technology, business or science-tech entrepreneurs.

Davis took an entrepreneurship strategy class with Latiolais last year where he learned of the opportunity. "When I found out about *Ignite!*, it seemed to tie everything together," Davis said. The application process required a 1,000-word essay describing the benefit each student anticipated from the experience, Davis said.

"We met high-level business executives, toured businesses and learned how they made them successful. We learned about things you encounter when starting and growing a business from start-up to sale of the company," Davis said. There was a lot of networking throughout the trip, he said.

Davis' group toured Revolution Foods (provider of more than a million freshly prepared meals every week to K-12 schools nationwide), Survey Monkey, Benchmark Capital (an early funder for several successful start-ups including Twitter, Uber, Snapchat and Instagram), Nest (creator of sensor-driven, Wi-Fi-enabled, self-learning, programmable thermostats and smoke detectors), and Strike Brewery. "Strike Brewery was started by a Rice University MBA graduate," Davis said.

What benefited him most? "Getting to talk with people I wouldn't see on a normal basis and having the opportunity to pick their brains," he said. "Getting advice and first-hand knowledge that is not the text book version, that was what was most beneficial."

Albert Odell, a Houston native studying process controls for ethyleneoxide plants at LU found the trip to be "a great opportunity to be introduced to the business side of industry."

"It was a great opportunity to look under the hood and see how the business world really works," Odell said. Both Odell and Bahena were in the group that toured the University of California's QB3 where scientists focus on molecular biology; Five Prime Therapeutics, a drug innovation company; biotech company Proteus Digital Health that is working on a "smart pill" to monitor a variety of health indicators; and private equity firm Alloy Ventures that focuses on early-stage ventures in life sciences, information technology and cleantech companies.

“It was a great opportunity to look under the hood and see how the business world really works.”

—ALBERT ODELL

About the Lamar University Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship

The Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship, or CICE, is a partnership between Lamar University's College of Business and College of Engineering and the Southeast Texas business community. The center is a conduit for industry and university interaction, including projects, on-going research, student experiential

learning, special events and training. The center promotes a strong emphasis on student development and training to prepare graduates for rewarding careers by familiarizing them with entrepreneurial real-world projects. New businesses supported by the center are technology-focused, providing products and services for existing and future industry.



From White House to Commerce, Wenah focuses on people

by Beth Gallaspy

Applying for a White House internship in graduate school set Julie Wenah '07 on the path toward her career in public service. Wenah, now counselor and policy advisor for the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration, got her start in Washington, D.C., as an intern in the office of first lady Michelle Obama.

"She is an outstanding leader. She expects excellence from herself and from those around her. That really motivates and inspires you to give the very best of yourself," Wenah said.

Wenah worked as a White House intern in early 2012 while completing her master's in public administration and her law degree from Texas Southern University in Houston, her hometown. Among her White House projects was an initiative to make it easier for military spouses to secure professional licenses when military moves required them to find a job in a new state. Later that year, after she had completed the internship and joined the first lady's advance team, she saw firsthand the results of that effort on a visit to a Florida naval base when a sailor approached her and thanked her for the office's work on the spousal licensing issue.



“There were peaks and valleys during my time at Lamar, but it made me an even more empathetic and resilient human being.”

"That was very poignant for me. You work on something in an office, but to see the change effectuated on the ground was very humbling for me," she said.

Wenah thinks of that year as a time of great personal triumph—working for the first lady—and of tragedy. The same day she landed in Florida for her first assignment as part of the advance team, her father died, just months after being diagnosed with cancer.

"I think how you handle adversity is extremely important," Wenah said, crediting her faith with helping her through hard times. "I want people to remain inspired and encouraged no matter how bleak a situation appears."

Along with her role as part of Mrs. Obama's advance team, Wenah became an associate for the President's Boards and Commissions in 2013.

"It was interesting to find candidates that fill a particular niche or have a particular skill set to advance the different goals or needs of each commission, and working through the statutory interpretation was interesting from a legal perspective," she said.

From there, Wenah moved on to the U.S. Department of Commerce in fall of 2013 as special assistant to the general counsel, preparing briefings and reports in support of the work the general counsel has in both advising the commerce secretary and supervising the department's 14 legal offices. In that role, she also helped organize trade missions and had the opportunity to travel to Nigeria on Secretary Penny Pritzker's May 2014 West Africa Trade Mission. The assignment was particularly meaningful for Wenah because her parents are both from Nigeria. They immigrated to Houston before she was born. During a key speech in Lagos, Pritzker recognized Wenah and highlighted her story and goal of building stronger ties between businesses in the U.S. and Nigeria.

"All I could think about was my father and how happy and humbled and honored he would have been. For me, going back to my parents' homeland on behalf of the United States government, on behalf of a president as significant and impactful as this one, to work on business-to-business engagement was truly an honor."

Several months after that trade mission, Wenah moved to

the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration where she co-leads the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership. The initiative aims to help U.S. communities develop strategies to ensure they remain and/or become globally competitive. So far, 12 communities nationwide have been designated as "manufacturing communities" under the program, which provides them with support from a federal liaison and federal funding opportunities. Wenah and her colleagues are working with those communities and preparing for round two. The application period for the second group of communities to benefit from the program opened earlier this year.

"I've always been a people person. Being able to have conversations with people in designated communities or potential communities and different people who have an equity and interest in making sure the U.S. is competitive globally is what I enjoy most."

Wenah's penchant for working with and helping people was apparent during her time at LU as well. She started her career at the university as a pre-pharmacy major (at her mother's urging) and a student athlete, running track. She even founded a new student organization, Pre-pharmacy Interscholastic League of Students, before changing her major to political science. She also was the chapter president and international officer of her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha, a community advisor in Cardinal Village, and active in the Student Government Association, where she served as secretary-treasurer, organized the first Women's Empowerment Conference and was elected homecoming queen.

"Lamar University was a really special place in my life in terms of the formative experiences I had as a young adult," Wenah said. "There were peaks and valleys during my time at LU, but it made me an even more empathetic and resilient human being."

She makes a point to return to campus for homecoming each year. With fewer than two years remaining in the Obama administration, Wenah is unsure of exactly what her future career holds. Prior to applying for the White House internship, she had served as a legal fellow for NASA while in graduate school. She initially thought she would finish the internship and return to NASA as an intellectual property lawyer, but she remains open to opportunities that came her way as a result of the White House experience.

"I know whatever I do I want it to be centered around people and advancing the people around me. That is so important to me. That is the reason God has me on Earth," she said. "I'm just trying to be present and do the best I can in the spaces that I'm in, but also keep my eyes open for what's ahead. I'm learning to be open."

ClassNotes

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

Send us your news:

Cardinal Cadence,
P.O. Box 10011
Beaumont, TX 77710

e-mail alumni@lamar.edu
or call (409) 880-8921.

40s

Jerry Ward '43, A.A. general studies, earned a bachelor's degree from California Institute of Technology and a master's degree from the University of California. He has written several books, the latest, *The Evolution of Wealth: An Economic History of Innovation and Capitalism, the Role of Government, and the Hazards of Democracy*. He lives in San Diego with his wife, Penny.

50s

Don Owen '57, B.S. geology, earned master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Kansas. He retired as a professor of geology after 30 years at Lamar University and lives in Beaumont.

60s

David Beck '61, B.S. government, '12, L.H.D. honorary doctorate, was appointed

to the University of Texas System Board of Regents by Gov. Greg Abbott. He was recognized as Trial Lawyer of the Year by the Texas Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He is co-founder and partner of Beck Redden in Houston, where he lives.

Paul McHenry '61, B.S. geology, retired from Shell Chemical and lives in Willis with his wife, Elaine.

Don Moseley '61, B.S. medical technology, finished first place in his age group for the Santa Fe Triathlon. He lives in New Mexico.

Guy Davis '62, B.S. physical education, was honored at Angelina College's Lufkin Pro Day for his athletic and coaching career. He was head basketball coach at Lufkin High School during the integration transition and served as head basketball coach at Angelina College. At LU, he played basketball with Billy Tubbs and now lives in Lufkin with his wife, Dorothy.

Robert Tolar '63, B.S. mathematics, earned a master's degree from the University of Texas and a doctoral degree from Texas A&M. He lives in North Hollywood, Calif., with his wife, Debra.

Phyllis (Richards) Webb '63, B.S. elementary education, earned a master's degree from the University of Houston. She is retired and lives in Tulsa, Okla., with her husband, **William** '64, B.B.A. management.

Felesa (Matthews) Baker '66, B.S. elementary education, '73, M.Ed. supervision, retired from Lamar school district in Rosenberg where she and her husband, **John** '66, B.B.A. management, live. He retired as a district manager from Southwestern Bell. They are docents for the Fort Bend County Museum Association, and John is national president of the Discovery Motorhome Association.

Malena Smither '66, B.S. commercial art, owns Smither and Associates, a staffing service, in Chapel Hill, N.C. She is a local artist and boxer dog breeder as well. She lives in Hillsborough, N.C.

Diane (Vittum) Thompson '66, certif. secretarial science, '88, B.B.A. office administration, is a real estate broker for Dynamite Properties Inc. in Wimberly where she lives with her husband, **John** '86, A.A.S. computer drafting technology. He is a CADD manager for the city of Austin.

Frederick Hager '67, B.S. biology, earned a master's degree from Texas A&M and is a medical physicist for the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center-Dallas.

He lives in McKinney with his wife, **Jaqueline (Scott)** '67, B.A. English.

James Begnaud '69, B.B.A. accounting, is a retired certified public accountant and lives in Tucker, Ga.

Larry Fulcher '69, B.S. mechanical engineering, is retired and lives in Burnet with his wife, Carol.

Dr. Jim Guest '69, B.S. biology, earned a medical degree from the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at San Antonio. He retired and lives in Carrollton with his wife, Karen.

Sandra (Hoitsma) Shiring '69, B.S. chemistry, is retired and lives in Alvin.

Gabriel Tan '69, B.S. chemical engineering, '70, M.E. engineering science, earned a master's degree in clinical psychology and a doctorate in community psychology from the University of Memphis. He is an associate professor in psychology at the National University of Singapore, where he lives.

70s

Priscilla (Hodges) Hayes '70, B.S. elementary education, retired as a teacher from the Clear Creek school district and lives in Pearland with her husband, Roland.

Jerry Leavins '72, B.S. biology, earned a dental degree from Baylor College of Medicine and lives in Lumberton with his wife, **Nita Gayle (Dement)** '72, B.A. English.

Felton Dixon '73, B.S. elementary education, '77, M.Ed. special education, lives in Port Arthur with his wife, **Darlene (Turpeau)** '81, B.S. elementary education. She teaches at Dick Dowling Elementary in the Port Arthur school district.

Jerrell Jolley '73, B.S. government, earned a master's degree in history from St. Edward's University. He retired as inspector of criminal law enforcement for the Texas Department of Public Safety. He lives in Livingston with his wife, Phyllis.

The Jefferson County Bar Association named **Mel Shelander** '73, B.B.A. general business, 2014 Pro Bono Attorney of the Year for his hours donated to the association's pro bono program since 2000. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Cathey.

Linda Waggoner '73, B.S. sociology, is director of marketing and sales for Ford Park. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Terrell Turney.

Delores Harrington '74, certif. vocational nursing, '90, A.A.S. nursing, earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from American Sentinel University. She is district director for case management for Kindred Health-

care in Houston. She and her husband, Walter, live in Pearland.

Tween Scott '74, B.B.A. marketing, is owner and operator of Tejas Communications and lives in Houston with his wife, Debbie.

Richard Wiggins '74, B.A. history, '77, M.B.A. business administration, was president of the Association of Texas Professional Educators for the 2014-15 school year. He is chair of the special education department in the Boerne school district, where he lives.

Vicki McCown '75, B.S. elementary education, teaches in the Beaumont school district, where she lives with her husband, Nathan.

Randy Ransleben '75, B.A. political science, earned a master's degree in education. He is owner of Ransleben Consulting Services and lives in Bellaire, with his wife, Kathleen.

Bill Marsh '76, B.B.A. accounting, is retired and lives in Beaumont with his wife, **Jackie** '76, B.S. medical technology.

Deborah (King) Celender '77, B.S. music-instrumental, works for Me, Myself, and I Productions. She lives in Sun Valley, Calif., with her husband, Sol.

Tom Harvey '77, B.M. music education,

earned a master's degree from McNeese State University and an doctoral degree from Texas A&M. He retired as superintendent of the La Vernia school district and is an assistant professor for Southeastern Oklahoma State University. He lives in Woodville with his wife, Rita.

Penny Prater '77, B.S. chemistry, '77 B.S. biology, earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Texas A&M and a master's degree in business administration and a law degree from Texas Tech University. She has been elected to membership in the Fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation. She works for DLA Piper and lives in Tomball.

Mike Sanders '77, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a senior global technical advisor for Halliburton. He lives in Houston.

John Hamilton '78, B.S. secondary education, earned a degree in petroleum land management from the University of Houston and is a land manager for Arena Energy in The Woodlands. He lives in Spring with his wife, Debbie.

Michael Truncale '78, B.B.A. economics, received a diploma in international arbitration from the Chartered Institute of Arbitration, and was made a fellow of the institute. He is a partner at Orgain, Bell and Tucker law firm and is a former regent



New Ambassador Welcome Dinner

Monday, May 4, 2015 | Home of President Ken and Nancy Evans

LU Student Ambassadors gathered at the home of President Ken and First Lady Nancy Evans for a welcome dinner for the 17 new Ambassadors selected for 2015-2016. President Evans also presented Ambassador honor cords to 9 graduating seniors.

Top Row: Jorge Hererra, Zach Defrancis, John Ellis, Christian Brent, Erica Edgerly, Cade Johnson, Eric Hernandez, Jason Hatton, Micah Murdock, Vaughn Ogrydziak, Matthew McAfee, Robert Ehrlich, Noah Arnold, Brian

Curran, Dalton Holly, Colton Morris, Cole Durkin **Middle Row:** Dani Sanders, Eric Yeager, Danielle Ellis, Kirby Clayton, Devyn Coleman, Oxy Benites, Kara Timberlake, Shelby Whitehead, Jeremy Allen, Kayla Clifton, Yanni Thomas, Ryan Sherer, Aaron Lavergne, Joshua Barnes, Elohor Okene, Katie Loftin, Nancy Evans, President Ken Evans **Bottom Row:** Zach Holt, Kevin Zabala, Kennedy Mitchell, Kay-Alana Turner, Lauren Schuldt, Kris Reynolds, Ayah Hamza, Vivian Caloobanan, Fernando Mejia, Margeaux Marks, Keeley Townley-Smith, and Love Osemwegie



Past Presidents' Lunch

Thursday, December 11, 2014, University Reception Center, Mary & John Gray Library, 8th floor

Past Presidents of the Alumni Advisory Board gathered for lunch to hear from Lamar University President Ken Evans and Alumni Board President Stephanie Molina about university progress and look to the future.

Back Row (Left to Right): Bo Crawford '65; Mike Aldredge '65; Doug

Matthews '74; Bud Leonard '50, '53, '76; Trent Devenzio '90; President Ken Evans; Gilbert Adams '64; Henry Strait '74; Clayton Lau '69; Gene Feigelson '65; Bert Rogers '56 **Front Row (Left to Right):** Bill Withers '76; Dan Hallmark '65; Stephanie (Dollar) Molina '00; Ellen (Walker) Rienstra '62, '80; Paula (Tate) O'Neal '69, '79; Laurie (House) Ritchel '85; Jimmy Booker '55, '56; Frank Messina '71

College of Business Alumni Reception

Houston alumni gathered in the Window Box Room at the Hyatt Regency Hotel March 12 to catch up with faculty and fellow classmates in the Houston area.

1. Steve Langston '89; Yvette (Bean) Scheiber '82, '90; Professor Cynthia Barnes 2. Amii Bean '09; Apryll (Bean) Davis '06, '12 3. Alton Heckaman '78; Mark Vise '78; Laurie (House) Ritchel '85; Jason Henderson, Director of Athletics 4. Brandon Still '06, Professor Karyn Neuhauser 5. Jason Henderson, Director of Athletics; President Ken Evans; Helen Rose; Larry Rose '65 6. Bobbilyn Lyons '97, Tiffany Benefield '98 7. Carmen (Angelle) Jordan '90, College of Business Dean Henry Venta



A Dinner and Conversation

Students from various academic disciplines enjoyed the opportunity to engage with LU alumni professionals in their chosen fields during A Dinner and Conversation Feb. 12. Hosts meet students at their table during dinner, and students get a chance to discuss real-world application of the skills they are building in and out of class.

Alumni Table Hosts

Clara Brown Cooper, Distinguished Alumna for Community Service, 2007; BS Sociology 1989; President/CEO of Souper Bowl of Caring in Houston
Debi Derrick, BS Communication 1981, Senior Communication Specialist for Entergy
Alton Heckaman, Member of the College of Business Board of Advisors, BBA Accounting 1978, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Swift Energy Co. in Houston

Dr. Scott McKenney, BS Physics 1977, Oncologist with Texas Oncology Associates in Beaumont.
Jennifer Turner Nichols, Member of the LU Planned Giving Advisory Council; BBA Accounting 2003; Partner with Orgain, Bell & Tucker, LLP in Beaumont
Dr. Anita Riddle, Master of Engineering Management 1993, Doctor of Engineering 1996; Member of the Chemical Engineering Advisory Council; College of Engineering Advisory Council and LU Foundation Board Trustee; Procurement Sourcing Manager with ExxonMobil in The Woodlands
Faculty Hosts
Gisele Moss, Chair of Accounting and Business Law
Joe Nordgren, Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences
Terri Davis, Chair of Political Science

T.C. Ho, Chair of Chemical Engineering
Stuart Wright, Chair of Sociology, Social Work & Criminal Justice
O'Brien Stanley, Chair of Communication
1. Business | Alton Heckaman '78 hosted business students.
2. Communication | Debi Derrick '81 hosted communication students.
3. Engineering | Anita Riddle '93, '96 hosted engineering students.
4. Philanthropy | Clara Brown Cooper '89 hosted students interested in non-profit work.
5. Pre-Med | Scott McKenney '77 hosted pre-med students.
6. Pre-Law | Jennifer Turner Nichols '03 hosted pre-law students.

Houston Area Alumni Reception @ El Patio

Alumni enjoyed reconnecting with former classmates and meeting new alumni at the Houston Area Alumni gathering at El Patio Restaurant on Nov. 20.

1. Richard Valley '70, President Ken Evans 2. Andy Saldana '91, Larry Eastepp '81 3. Kevin Robyler '93, Joyce (Johnson) Scott '72 4. Simon Tung '76, Jose Maldonado '01, Charlotte Jungen '97, Garret Duhon '13 5. Evette Adams '89, Gail (Preston) Hall '85 6. Brian Roberson '09, '10, Jocquelyn Henry, Juan Zabala '07 VP of Advancement, Peggy Zabala 7. Garret Duhon '13, Simon Tung '76 8. Loretta Weber, Herman Weber '64, Douglas Nilsen '68 9. Tony Sarda '08, '09, Candice Montgomery '13, '14, Shannon Copeland '02, '03, '07, Kristie Young 10. Peggy Zabala, Richard Valley '70, Evie Clifton Alumni Coordinator, Juan Zabala '07 VP of Advancement 11. Vladenka (Rose) Oliva '82, Antonio Oliva 12. Jena (Verrill) Still '06, Brandon Still '06 13. Laurie (House) Ritchel '85, Maris (Clemmons) Tarver '61 14. Gayle (Smith) Watler '62, Ken Watler '62 15. Juan Zabala '07 VP of Advancement, Simon Tung '76, Peggy Zabala 16. Gerald Bourque '74, Marilyn (Morgan) Bourque '73, '75 17. Gene Feigelson '65, President Ken Evans 18. Lyndon Rojo '88, Gerald Bourque '74 19. Juan Zabala '07 VP of University Advancement, Jason Walker '92



for the Texas State University System. He and his wife, Denise, live in Beaumont.

Terry Woodall '78, B.S. music-instrumental, '84, M.M.E. music education, teaches in the Nederland school district. He lives in Port Neches with his wife, **Connie (Bailey)** '78, B.S. elementary education. She teaches in the Port Neches Groves school district.

The U. S. Tennis Association-Texas Section named **Manuel Moreno** '79, B.S. communication, former LU tennis player, the No-Cut Starfish Coach of the Year for 2014. The No-Cut Starfish Award recognizes high school coaches nationwide who implement a no-cut policy for their tennis teams. He is head tennis coach and teacher at J. Frank Dobie High School in Houston. He lives in Galveston.

Alberto Navarro '79, B.A. English, is retired as assistant state director for the U.S. Department of Labor and lives in Pattison with his wife, Ernestine.

80s

Dan Holland '80, B.S. physics, '81, B.S. mathematics, earned master's and doctoral degrees in physics from the University of California. He is chair of the physics department at Illinois State University.

Mark Peterson '80, A.A.S. drafting technology, '87, B.S. mechanical engineering, received a bachelor's degree in industrial design from Kendal College of Art and Design. He is a senior product designer in the retail solutions mobility group for Hewlett Packard in Houston, where he lives.

Cliff Bolton '81, B.G.S. general studies, '85, A.A.S. industrial electricity, is a systems analyst for M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, where he lives.

Tom Fulton '81, B.S. civil engineering, is a senior project manager in the Florida transportation group of Dewberry. He lives in Indian Rocks Beach, Fla.

Michael Huddle '82, B.S. government, is a compliance office for Montgomery County. He lives in Conroe.

Jim Leiferman '82, B.B.A. accounting, is president of the U.S. Group for Mattamy Homes, North America's largest privately owned homebuilder. He lives in Orlando, Fla.

Joe Macchio '82, B.A. economics, is vice president of strategic partnerships for Dinova. He lives in Charlotte, N.C.

Mark Martin '82, B.S. health and physical education, '94, M.Ed. school administration, is director of operations in the Hamshire-Fannett school district. He lives in Nederland with his wife, Mary.

James Dorrell '84, B.S. electrical engineering is vice president of technology and product innovation for ADP. He lives in

Palmdale, Calif.

Lenny Matthews '84, B.S. chemical engineering, is a unit manager in gas synthesis for Sasol. He lives in Lake Charles with his wife, Danette.

Karen Cramar '86, B.S. secondary education, is a special education teacher in the Maud school district. She lives in Nash.

Dennis Egan '86, B.S. geology, is a science teacher for the Houston school district and lives in Meadows Place with his wife, Emily.

Jim Lewis '86, B.S. computer and information science, lives in Pearl City, Hawaii.

Danny Miller '86, B.S. computer and information science, is system chief information security officer for the Texas A&M University System. He lives in Kirbyville with his wife, Jayne.

Perry Thomas '86, B.S. criminal justice, earned a law degree from the University of Arkansas and is first assistant district attorney for the 33rd and 424th Judicial District Attorney's Offices. He lives in Llano.

Liz Clark '87, B.B.A. marketing, '98, M.Ed. counseling and development, is a counselor at Lake Travis High School in Austin, where she lives.

Eric Dengler '87, B.S. computer and information science, is a regional administrator for Encompass Home Health and Hospice. He lives in Fort Worth.

Kara (Audery) Broussard '88, B.B.A. office administration, is an office manager for Christus Health Minor Care in Beaumont, where she lives.

Sheryl Cannon '88, B.S. mathematical sciences, teaches in the Beaumont school district, where she lives.

Patrick Merritt '88, B.B.A. general business, earned an associate's degree in criminal justice and a master's degree in computer and information resources management from Webster University. He lives in Cibolo.

90s

Cheri Bogue '90, B.M. music education, '13, school counseling, is school counselor in the Tyler school district, where she lives with her husband, **Kevin** '90, B.S. computer science. He is coordinator of information systems for the same district.

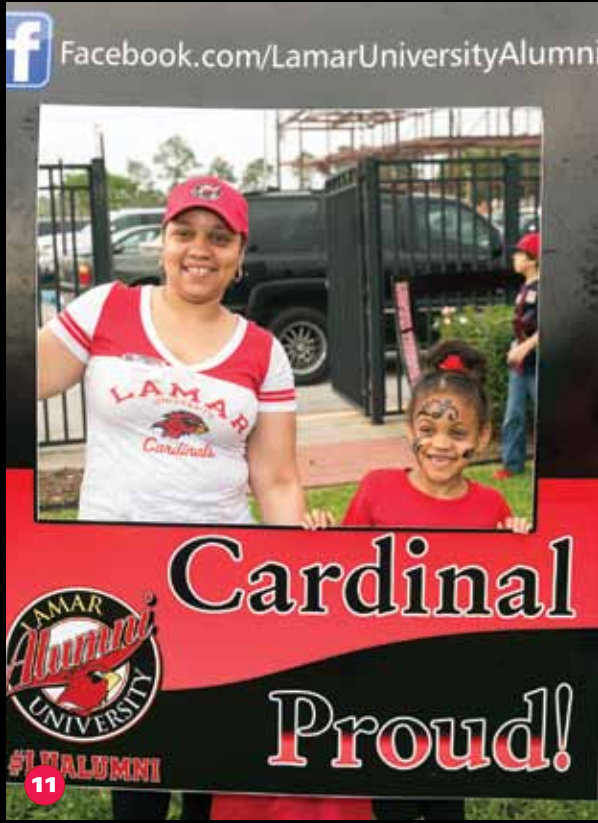
Mark Kordelski '90, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a premier field engineer for Microsoft Corporation. He lives in Lakeland, Fla.

Nor Halina Rasidi '90, B.S. computer science, earned a master's degree in IT management from Aarhus University in Malaysia. She is manager of Agrobank in Taman Zooview, Malaysia.

Alumni Baseball Tailgate

Alumni enjoyed hotdogs, links, boudin, smoothies and more at the April 24 Alumni Baseball Tailgate before watching the Cards take on Incarnate Word at Vincent-Beck Stadium.

1. Juan Zabala '07 VP of University Advancement, Vernon Durden '04 Alumni Board Past President, Ken Evans President **2.** Phyllis (McAfee) Thibodeaux '00, '06, Maxwell Thibodeaux, Peyton Thibodeaux **3.** Leslie Davis '01, Gary Guildry **4.** LU Student Ambassador Fernando Mejia, Glenda (McGill) Dupuis '90, Keith Dupuis, LU Student Ambassador Kara Timberlake **5.** CH Colvin '89, '90, '11 Alumni Board Member, Robyn Summers LU Student Assistant **6.** Alumni Board Member Brandi (Spoonemore) Wulf '97, '13, Caroline Wulf **7.** Alumni Board President Stephanie (Dollar) Molina '00, Myah Molina (left), Gabi Molina (right) **8. Bottom:** Olivia McWherter, Grant McWherter, Xavier Sanders; **Top:** Guest Bryce, Jacob McWherter, Glenn McWherter '93, Melinda McWherter **9.** Luke Melendez, Eliza Melendez, Emma Melendez, Richard Melendez '08, Diana (Dailey) Melendez '14 **10.** Randy Cephus '86, Johnnie (Criton) Durden '00 **11.** LaKeisha Battiest Carter '02, '13, Lea Andrews **12.** Zeke Hill '05, Jessica (Munson) Hill '08, Wyatt Hill, Walker Hill





Alumni Night @ the Basketball Games

Lamar University Alumni along with their friends and families gathered for a reception on Jan. 31 in the Cardinal Club Room between the women's and men's basketball games against the Abilene Christian Wildcats.

1. Linda Dollar, Alumni Advisory Board President Stephanie (Dollar) Molina '00, and Steve Dollar **2.** Easton Revia, Lance Revia, Courtney (Hale) Revia '04, Jordan LeBlanc and Logan McClendon **3.** Murphy McFadden '71, Linda (DeCuir) McFadden '72, Tina (Castaneda) Bullion '70, Ron Bullion '70, Diane (Richmond) Miller '72, Dan Miller '72 **4.** Sally (McDonald) House '59, '67 **5.** Shawna (Powell) Gaines '03, Sam Pollard, Marcus Pollard, Breanna Pollard, and Dawn (Vallery) Pollard '88 **6.** Elizabeth (Ingram) Mask '64, Jerry Mask '74, Carol (Ingram) Johnson '67, and Larry Johnson '65 **7.** Dean Sauerwein '71, Dolly Sauerwein, Margaret (Pugh) Bostic '64, '75, and Leroy Bostic **8.** future Cardinals Logan McClendon and Easton Revia **9.** LU Student Ambassador Colton Morris, Dot (Tudor) Cogswell '59, '90, and Billy Cogswell **10.** Fred Sachitano, Tony Stewart '72, Phyllis Freeman-Stewart '67, and Sheila (Louviere) Sachitano '75 **11.** Charlene (Matthews) Leonard '55, Bud Leonard '50, '53, '76 **12.** Earl Hines and LU Retiree Betsy Hines **13.** Paula (Tate) O'Neal '69, '79, and Shannon Copeland '02, '03, '07 **14.** future Cardinals Myah Molina, Gabi Molina, Sophie Buckley, and Makenna Buckley **15.** Brooke (Fairchild) Rodriguez '09 and Kenny Rodriguez '09 **16.** Ryan Dollinger '14 and Amber Dollinger

Keith Wiley '90, B.B.A. marketing, is a strategic account manager for Weatherford International. He lives in Tomball.

Chad Barrett '91, B.S. health and kinesiology, '92, M.Ed. school administration, earned a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Houston. He is principal of Liberty High School in Liberty. He and his wife, **Jana (Upton)** '92, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, live in Hardin.

Jiovanny Gomez '91, B.S. electrical engineering, is principal engineer for Richard Design Services. He lives in Groves with his wife, Tap.

Paige (Prouse) Hervey '91, B.B.A. marketing, owns The Collection in Groves and lives in Katy with her husband, Donald.

Steven Horlica '91, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, owns Deep South Trapping in Devers, where he lives.

Jackie Taylor '91, B.S. elementary education, earned a master's degree in family and child studies from Texas State University. She is a senior early childhood education specialist for ICF International. She lives in Austin with her husband, Jeff Fulwiler.

Chet Deaver '92, B.S. sociology, '10, M.Ed. administration, '14, Ed.D. educational leadership, is principal of Kountze High School, where he lives.

Samer Yacoub '92, B.S. industrial engineering, is a transportation engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation in Cleburne. He lives in Mansfield with his wife, Najwa.

Michael Graves '93, B.S. psychology, earned a master's of divinity from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He teaches in the Goose Creek school district and is pastor of Smith Point Community Church. He lives in Dayton with his wife, Patricia.

David Loyacano '93, B.S. criminal justice, earned a master's degree at the University of Houston. He is principal at New Caney High School in the New Caney school district. He was named the Texas Art Educator Principal of the Year. He lives in Porter with his wife, **Cherie (Louvier)** '94, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '09, M.Ed. teacher leadership. She is an elementary English, reading and social studies instructional specialist for the New Caney district.

Sat Mellacheruvu '93, M.E. civil engineering, is a project manager for Broward County. He lives in Pembroke Pines, Fla.

Brook (Bowlin) Hughes '95, B.S. communication disorders, '97, M.S. deaf studies/habilitation, teaches and lives in Dallas with her husband, Jeff.

Scott Laudig '95, B.S. chemical engineering, is a senior project engineer for Sasol in Houston. He lives in Pearland with his wife, Vicki.

Sharonda Scroggins '95, B.B.A. marketing, works for Kindred Healthcare. She lives in Houston.

Davilyn (Anderson) Walston '95, B.S. communication, is a law enforcement coordinator for the U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Texas. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, **The Honorable W. Kent Walston** '91, B.B.A. personnel administration, who earned his law degree from Baylor University and is the judge for the 58th Judicial District.

Keith Brock '97, B.B.A. marketing, is a branch manager for Quick Test/Heakin Research in Hurst. He lives in Irving.

Dr. Zainab Kayani '97, B.S. biology, earned his medical degree in osteopathic medicine from the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center at Fort Worth. He practices with Southeast Nephrology Associates in Beaumont, where he lives.

Stacey (Knight) McCall '97, B.S. nursing, earned a master's degree in health care administration from Loyola University. She is an instructor of nursing at Lamar University and lives in Beaumont.

Gregory Degeyter '98, B.S. communication, earned a master's degree in geoscience from Mississippi State University and a law degree from South Texas College of Law. He is an attorney for Makris Law Firm in Houston and lives in Pearland.

Adam Hall '98, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a human resources director for Norwegian Cruise Lines and lives in Beaumont.

Judith (Binagia) Taylor '98, B.S. health and kinesiology, teaches and coaches in the Port Neches Groves school district, where she lives with her husband, Darren.

Chad Gonzales '99, B.S. psychology, '06, M.Ed. counseling and development, is pastor of Chad Gonzales Ministries in Jonesboro, Ark., where he lives with his wife, Lacy.

Amy (Ellender) Moore '99, B.S. chemical engineering, '02, M.B.A. business administration, is a commercial manager of olefins products for Westlake Chemical. She lives in Houston with her husband, Michael.

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Jason Wilkerson '00, B.S. computer science, is a technical solution specialist for RBA Consulting. He lives in Minnetrista, Minn., with his wife, Anna.

Amy Derrick '01, B.B.S. marketing, earned a law degree from Southern Methodist University and is an attorney for the Dallas County District Attorney's office. She and her husband, Blake Denby, live in Dallas.

Dedric Joseph '01, M.B.A. business administration, is a global analyst for ExxonMobil. He lives in Cypress with his wife, Carlos.

Marc Saucier '01, B.B.A. finance, is loan production manager for Republic State Mortgage in Austin, where he lives.

Dr. Michael Spears '01, B.S. biology, earned a medical degree from the University of Texas Health Sciences Center. He lives in Rockwall.

Jamie Smith '02, B.B.A. management information systems, '08, M.Ed. school administration, is a Beaumont city council member and district clerk for Jefferson County. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Melanie.

Neil Tamez '02, B.B.A. marketing, is region manager of operations for Hertz Equipment Rental. He lives in Houston with his wife, Lindsay.

Stacy (Goudeau) Eaglin '03, B.G.S. general studies, teaches in the Hull-Daisetta school district. She lives in Raywood with her husband, Gerard.

Nicole (Madden) Lewis '03, B.S. chemical engineering, earned a master's degree in business from the University of Texas-Tyler and is plant manager for Athlon Solutions in Pasadena. She lives in Liberty with her husband, **Jacob** '03, B.S. psychology, '10, M.Ed. administration.

Lori (Pellerin) Mack '03, B.B.A. accounting, teaches in the Lumberton school district, where she lives with her husband, Brian.

The National Council on Family Relations selected **Janeal (Nielsen) McCauley** '03, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, '11, M.S. family and consumer sciences, as recipient of the 2014 President-for-a-Day award. She is a certified family life educator. Her state award-winning thesis *Defining Family: Perspectives of Homeless Adults in Southeast Texas* received the NCFR Outstanding Graduate Student Research Award in 2012 and was published in the 2013 edition of *Contemporary Perspectives in*

Family Research. She is a full-time doctoral student in the LSU social work program. She lives in Lake Charles.

Raina (Welty) Nichols '03, B.S. political science, teaches in the Port Neches Groves school district, where she lives.

David Paul '03, M.S. applied criminology, is an associate warden for the Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Prisons. He lives in Wynne, Ark., with his wife, Pamela.

Lindsay (Feagin) Robins '03, B.B.A. general business, is a legal services coordinator/paralegal for Mitsubishi Caterpillar Forklift America and lives in Katy with her husband, David.

Erin Duyka '04, B.G.S. general studies, earned a master's degree in special education from the University of Houston in Victoria. She is a board-certified behavior analyst and lives in Grapevine.

Patrick Gurski '04, B.S. communication, earned a law degree from South Texas College of Law. He lives in Galveston.

Terrell Petteway '04, B.G.S. general studies, is a crisis intervention specialist for Gulf Coast MHMR. He lives in Galveston.

Kevin Barbay '05, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, is director of athletics for Colorado State University. He lives in

Fort Collins, Colo., with his wife, Kacie.

Amanda (Steeves) Hebert '05, B.B.A. finance, is a teller manager for Capital One Bank and lives in Denham Springs, La., with her husband, **Joe** '03, B.B.A. finance, and daughter, Georgia. He works for Jimmy Swaggart Ministries.

Joe McGee '05, B.B.A. marketing, owns Joe McGee Insurance Agency. He lives in Richmond with his wife, Rebecca.

Bill Stark Jr. '05, M.P.A. public administration, is museum division director for the Louisiana State Museum. He lives in Baton Rouge with his wife, Katy.

Erin (Ritter) Tabor '05, B.S. psychology, '10, M.S. psychology-community, is director of student support services for Lamar University. She lives in Nederland with her husband, Aaron.

Kasey (Tanner) Vernon '05, B.S. communication disorders, earned a master's degree in speech-language pathology from the University of Houston. She is lead speech language pathologist for the College Station school district, where she lives with her husband, Andrew.

Alisa (Burneston) Bell '06, B.M. music, '08, M.M.E. music education, lives in Lumberton with her husband, Brian '05,



Distinguished Alumni Awards

David E. Bernsen '73, Sandra French Clark '76, George A. Dishman Jr. '49, and Roosevelt Petry Jr. '82, '96, were honored with the most prestigious award bestowed to graduates of Lamar University at a dinner held on February 27, 2015. The Lamar University Alumni Advisory Board's Distinguished Alumni Awards Committee selects the annual recipients from nominations by LU alumni based on criteria that identify graduates who have made notable accomplishments in their chosen professions. The recipients must also display integrity and character that inspire pride in the university and its alumni and have demonstrated recognition of the importance of Lamar University in their career, deeds and actions.

1. Sandra French Clark '76, Roosevelt Petry Jr. '82, '96, President Ken Evans, George Dishman '49, David Bernsen '73 **2.** Rebekah Maxwell '11 and Marilyn Thornton Adams **3.** J.T. Leone '60 and V.J. Wisenbaker **4.** Soheila Nejad and Sina Nejad '80, '81, '15 **5.** Director of LU Foundation Karen Nichols '83, Paula Tate O'Neal '69, '79, and Philip Lucas **6.** Don Shaver '76 and Diane Howell Shaver '76 **7.** Carissa Hill '15, Regina Rogers '14, and Kollin Kahler '15 **8.** Joe "Bub" Messina '73 and Mary Beth Messina **9.** Thuy Nguyen '04, Benton Jolivet, Christina Tran Riley '10, and Donnell Corner **10.** Shaheen Farah '79, Kerri Williams Farah '85, and Renee Barnes **11.** Don Pumphrey '88, Loyce Pumphrey, and current student Victor Eze **12.** Vernon Durden '04 and Johnnie Criton Durden '00 **13.** Carlo Busceme '74 and Laurie Pfeifer **14.** Alumni Advisory Board President Stephanie Dollar Molina '00 and Lauren Dollar Buckley '03, '08 **15.** Mitch Smith and Michele Yennie Smith '88 **16.** Sheigh Summerlin Rhodes '02 and Derek Rhodes '03 **17.** Gerald Bourque '74 and Marilyn Morgan Bourque '73, '75 **18.** Mike Jenkins '72 and Jo Beth Jenkins



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

LAMAR UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI NOMINATIONS REQUESTED

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

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

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

The deadline for nominations for the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Awards is September 30, 2015. A letter of nomination along with any additional information available regarding the nominee is also acceptable. Please send your nomination to:

Alumni@Lamar.edu
or
Distinguished Alumni Awards Committee
PO Box 10005
Beaumont, TX 77710

B.S. computer science. He is a computer programmer and manager for Capital One. They have a daughter, Evelyn.

Jennifer (Siragusa) Cohrs '06, B.B.A. accounting, '06, B.B.A. finance, was named 2014 Employee of the Year by Scallon Controls in Beaumont. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, **Adam** '06, B.S. criminal justice, '10, B.B.A. accounting. He is a network administrator for Edgar, Kiker and Cross accounting firm.

Jeania (Swiney) Craus '06, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, teaches at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School in Port Arthur, where she lives.

Ben Miller '06, B.S. electrical engineering and physics, is an electrical engineer for Motiva Enterprises. He lives in Beaumont.

Thomas Payne '06, B.S. mechanical engineering, earned a master's degree in business from the University of Houston and is a reliability engineer for Marathon Petroleum. He lives in League City with his wife, Kristi.

Kennetha Royal '06, B.S. criminal justice, earned a master's degree in counseling and is a psychotherapist at West Oaks Hospital. She lives in Houston.

Rosie (Connley) Sellers '06, B.G.S. general studies, '14, M.Ed. educational technology leadership, is a graduate certification officer for Lamar University. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Abbron.

Brian Sherman '06, B.S. communication, is a division order analyst for Apache Corp. in Houston, where he lives.

Prici (Arizmendi) Ceja '07, B.S. psychology, is a mental health clinical practitioner for Heartland Alliance, Youth and Residential Services. She lives in Chicago, Ill.

Lacey (Butler) Gardner '07, B.S. biology, is a laboratory technician for Dupont. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Lee.

Dr. Lindsey (Cauthen) Minter '07, B.S. chemistry, '07, B.A. music, is a faculty lecturer in biosciences at Rice University. She has earned a medical degree in genes and development from the University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences/ M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. She lives in League City with her husband, Andrew.

Sarah (Talakoub) Perez '07, B.S. psychology, earned a bachelor's degree in human biology from Texas Chiropractic College. She is a licensed Texas real estate agent for Circa Real Estate in Houston, where she lives with her husband, Thomas.

Arnoldo Rodriguez '07, B.B.A. general business, earned a law degree and works for Kennard, Blankenship and Robinson in San Antonio, where he lives with his wife, **Charity (Lemaire)** '05, B.B.A. general business-advertising.

Joy Cross '08, B.S. sociology, teaches in

LU Alumni Community Service Project at Habitat for Humanity ReStore

A number of Lamar University Alumni, their friends and family, and Lamar University Ambassadors volunteered to clean, sort and organize donations at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore, an event organized by the LU Alumni Office April 18.

1. Everyone who volunteered that day 2. Valerie (Lacour) Johnson '06 3. Alumni Advisory Board member Rebekah Maxwell '11, Alumni Director Shannon Copeland '02, '03, '07, and LU Student Ambassador Lauren Schuldt 4. Gregg Conway '82 5. Sandra (McKinley) Ellington '76 6. Alumni Advisory Board member Tony Landry '94 and Tammy (Novak) Landry '98 7. Mercedes Watkins '07, Tammy (Novak) Landry '98, and LU Student Ambassador Tyler Sumrall 8. Jackie Bell and Marcia (White) Berry '06 9. Assistant to the President for Community Relations Norman Bellard '79 10. Octavia Brown-Reed '90, '97, and son Travis Reed 11. Alumni Advisory Board member Matt Ruggles '09 12. Alumni Advisory Board member Karen (Jones) Thomas '77 13. Habitat for Humanity ReStore Supervisor Miriam Morgan '14 14. Angela (Simpson) Dionne '96 and son Zack Dionne



Luncheon Honoring Morris Lee

A luncheon was held at the University Reception Center on Dec. 2, 2014, to honor Morris Lee for his volunteer efforts in promoting Cardinal Pride. Odds are, if you have an Alumni decal or Cardinals decal on your vehicle or business, it is because of Morris. He enjoys spreading Cardinal Pride throughout our community. If you ever bump into him, feel free to ask for a decal. *Thank you, Morris!*



Judy McVey '66 and Morris Lee '73, '79

the Cleveland school district. She lives in Spring.

Luis Espinoza '08, B.S. electrical engineering, is a maintenance craft supervisor for Marathon Petroleum Corp. He lives in Terre Haute, Ind., with his wife, Laura.

Derek Lanius '08, B.S. industrial technology, is a field supervisor for Diversified Well Logging. He lives in Canonsburg, Penn.

Chad Nequent '08, B.B.A. accounting, is principal federal examiner for the National Credit Union Administration. He lives in Groves with his wife, Darryl.

Matthew Thomas '08, B.S. mathematics, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a captain in the Air Force. He lives in Fairborn, Ohio, with his wife, Topsy.

Steven Woodard '08, B.B.A. accounting, earned a master's degree in international affairs. He lives in Burke, Va., with his spouse, **Jiawei Guo** '09, M.B.A. business administration.

Jaime (Vance) Fischer '09, M.Ed. teacher leadership, is an academic specialist for the Irving school district. She lives in

Arlington.

Wayne Gregory '09, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is an aviation underwriter for U.S. Specialty Insurance Co. He lives in Dallas with his wife, Miriam.

Courtney King '09, B.S. communication, is marketing and press manager for Blue Man Group in Las Vegas, Nev., where she lives.

Todd Pearson '09, B.B.A. general business, '13, M.B.A. healthcare administration, is a financial analyst for the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. He lives in Addison.

Eric Simmons '09, B.S. mechanical engineering, is an assistant project manager for Gulf Copper. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, **Brittany (Johnson)** '07, B.B.A. finance.

Adan Soto '09, M.Ed. administration, teaches in the Conroe school district, where he lives with his wife, Nora.

Raemi (Fryar) Thompson '09, M.Ed. administration, is a principal in the Levelland school district, where she lives with her husband, Ross. She was named 2014-15

Administrator of the Year by the Texas Classroom Teachers Association.

Justin Walters '09, B.S. electrical engineering, is an electrical engineer for BP Exploration and Production and lives in Richmond with his wife, Jennifer.

Howell Wright '09, Ed.D. educational leadership, is superintendent for the Huntsville school district. He lives in Huntsville with his wife, **Dorothy (Love)** '89, B.S. secondary education, '00, M.Ed. school administration.

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Debra Aaron '10, M.Ed. administration, was named Teacher of the Year at Fabra Elementary School in Boerne, where she is as a math specialist and lives.

Ross Jones '10, M.B.A. business administration, is a portfolio manager for UBS Financial Services Inc. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Larae.

Brook (Driscoll) Knapp '10, B.S. communication, '12, B.S. forensic chemistry, is a

controlled substances criminalist for the Houston Forensic Science Center. She lives in Baytown, with her husband, Aron.

Vamshidhar Kurapati '10, M.E. electrical engineering, is a programmer analyst for Lead IT Corp. and lives in Peoria, Ill.

Steve Lackey '10, M.Ed. counseling and development, earned a Ph.D. in counselor education from Sam Houston State University. He counsels at Texas Counseling Center in Beaumont and lives in Port Neches.

Kara Phillips '10, B.M. music, '12, M.Ed. music education, is an assistant band director for the Vidor school district, where she lives.

Reid Thomas '10, B.M. music, is a band director in the Pineland school district. He lives in Jasper.

Andre Ward '10, B.S. communication, lives in Houston and is an enrollment services generalist for the University of Houston.

Melinda (Hernandez) Zarate '10, M.E. educational technology leadership, teaches in the Brownsville school district, where she lives

with her husband, Martin.

Tonya Hanson '11, speech-language pathology, is a speech pathologist for the Spring school district. She lives in Houston.

Ashley Hunt '11, M.Ed. administration, is an assistant principal in the Dallas school district, where she lives.

Amanda (Beatty) Salter '11, M.Ed. administration, is an assistant principal for Washington County Public Schools. She lives in Hagerstown, Md., with her husband, Shane.

Patrick Sluga '11, M.Ed. administration, teaches and coaches in the Shelbyville school district. He lives in San Augustine with his wife, **Melissa** '97, B.A. criminal justice.

Will Smylie '11, B.S. industrial technology, is project manager for Burns & McDonnell. He lives in Richland Hills, with his wife, Selina.

Lakshmi Vedela '11, M.S. chemistry, is a research and quality control chemist for Viswa Lab in Houston, where he lives with his wife, Haripriya Rathod.

Mary Beth (deSteiguer) Cuevas '12, M.Ed. administration, is an associate director of leadership camps at Abilene Christian University and lives in Abilene.

Leaha Gilbert '12, B.S. communication, is marketing representative for 2920 Spring Sleep Disorder Center. She lives in Spring.

Virginia (Walton) Roberts '12, M.Ed. school counseling, is a counselor for the Bob Hope Charter School in Port Arthur. She and her husband, John, live in Beaumont.

Patricia Startz '12, M.Ed. educational technology leadership, is technology director for the Falls City school district, where she lives.

Ted Wilkinson '12, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a regional manager for Tandy Leather. He lives in Albuquerque, N.M.

Lacy Brown '13, B.S. health education, is a sanitarian for the City of Port Arthur.

Heberto Hinojosa Jr. '13, Ed.D. educational leadership, is assistant principal of Boerne Middle School North. The Texas Association of Secondary School Principals named him 2015 Texas Assistant Principal of the

Year. He lives in Boerne.

Sandra Mancilla '13, B.S. communication, is a sales representative for KSHN Radio and lives in Dayton.

Candice Montgomery '13, B.S. industrial engineering, '14, M.B.A. business administration, is a consultant for Turner and Townsend. She lives in Houston.

Haley (Folk) Musgrove '13, B.S. graphic design, is a graphic designer for Cornerstone Media. She and her husband, Kent, live in Lumberton.

Paula Reyes '13, M.Ed. administration, is principal of Allison Elementary School in the Austin school district, where she lives.

Adrian Caceres '14, M.Ed. educational technology leadership, is an instructional technology specialist for the South Texas school district. He lives in McAllen with his wife, Nicole.

Trey Martinez '14, M.Ed. school counseling, is a counselor for the West Oso school district in Corpus Christi, where he lives.

Eric Mings '14, B.S. criminal justice, is a

security officer for Securitas in Beaumont, where he lives with his wife, Vanessa.

Md Hafizur Rahman '14, M.E. civil engineering science, is a structural engineer for Universal/Pegasus International. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Tanzila.

Cisco Retiz-Gomez '14, B.S. civil engineering, is a field engineer for 212 Resources. He lives in Atascocita with his wife, Jaime.

Brandi Stearns '14, M.Ed. administration, teaches in the Everman school district. She lives in Fort Worth.

Robert Vaughn '14, M.Ed. administration, teaches in the Copperas Cove school district, where he lives.

Guillermo Villasenor '14, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a special operations supervisor for intelligence for the Department of Homeland Security/Customs and Border Protection. He lives in Eagle Pass with his wife, Sylvia.



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Dream becomes reality

Team returns home to **new stadium**

Softball returned to Lamar University in 2013, and for the first two seasons the Cardinals played their home games at Ford Park west of Beaumont. Now, with the stadium completed, players are able to take the field for practice and conference play just steps away from

their locker room inside the LU Soccer/Softball Complex building. The first home game was played in the new facility in March before stadium seating was completed.

The stadium designed by BRW Architecture features seating for 650 fans. Future plans call for an outfield berm that will

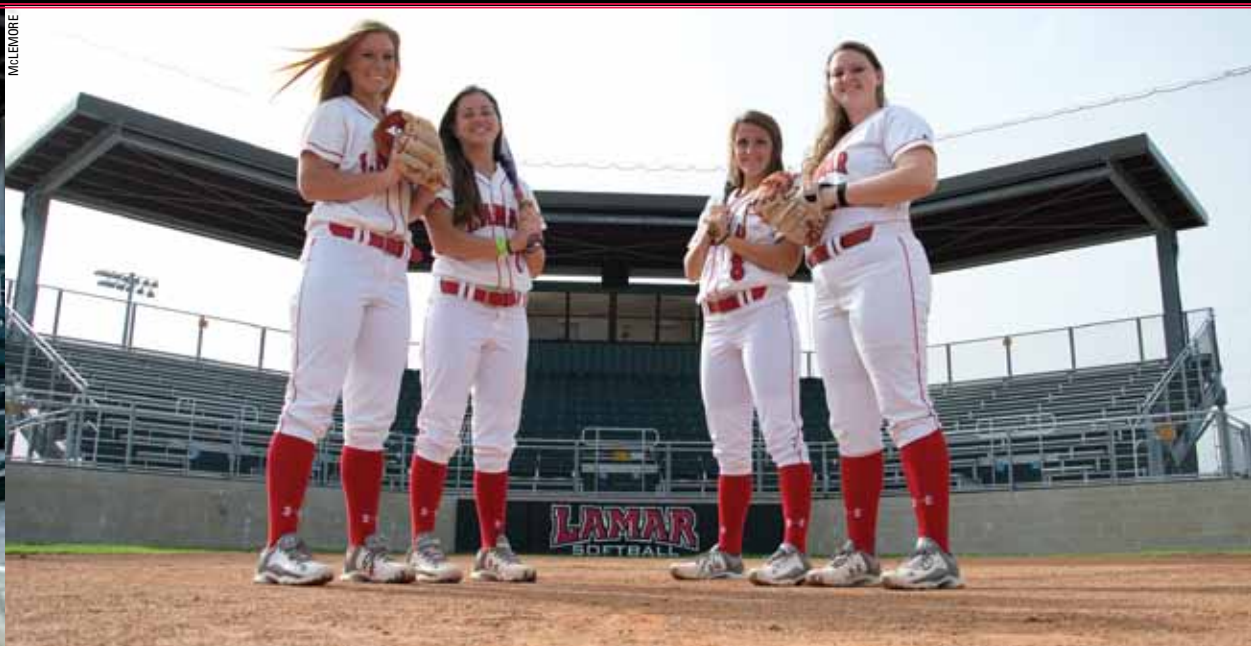
accommodate an additional 250 spectators. The natural grass facility includes field lighting, bullpens, dugouts, an enclosed hitting area, an electronic scoreboard and a press box.

The area along Rolfe Christopher Drive is becoming a new gateway into the campus. The

new softball stadium, the Wayne A. Reaud Administration Building and planned construction of the Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship will create an entirely new face to greet visitors as they approach the south entrance to campus.



McLEMORE



SATTLER