Goal surpassed $132 million raised
Nanoscopic research Huge potential
For more than 90 years, Lamar University students have embraced Cardinal Pride. Cardinals build their own unique futures on Lamar’s legacy of educational opportunity. Our students, faculty and alumni pursuits combine to form a creative, living legacy that contributes to a vibrant and powerful future in Southeast Texas and beyond.
From contaminant to commodity

Orange Memorial Hospital Corp. gift continues tradition

Stealth painting banishes blemishes

Bost, Nejad and Clark honored

Professor thinks small. Very small.

Eager to start a business * Exploring possibilities

Campaign surpasses goal * Campaign wrap-up

Herman Iles Building dedicated

Leland Best’s legacy remembered

Undergraduate Advising Center fosters success

LIVING THE LEGACY, INVENTING THE FUTURE

Embracing LU opportunities

Diagnosis – determination

The Investiture of Dr. Kenneth R. Evans

Diversity Celebrated

Innovation-based Eco System

Supporting Students in Health Care

Passion for learning

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Cardinal Cadence (ISSN 017-254) is published by Lamar University Division of University Advancement, 853 Joe Gilligan Way, Beaumont, Texas 77711.
Welcome to this edition of Cadence. We celebrate the completion of Lamar University’s first comprehensive campaign with a total of gifts and pledges of $132 million. This amazing outpouring of generosity from alumni, friends, faculty and staff, foundations and businesses, to name but a few, will have transformational implications for LU.

While Lamar University has benefited from the support received through this campaign, it is also cultivating the next generation of community service leaders among our student population. As you read the many profiles of the diverse community of exceptional students we are highlighting in this issue, we do draw your attention to the groundbreaking research of Tracy Benson and John Gao. Tracy’s work in capturing petro chemical emissions has potentially significant implications both financially and environmentally. John’s innovative research on nanocomposites holds promise in a wide array of applications including the maritime industry and information technology. Forward-thinking research will find traction on its way to becoming the processes and products of tomorrow in the New Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship that will soon be under construction on our campus. Lastly, Lamar’s new Undergraduate Advising Center provides us the ability to enhance our student support.

We hope you enjoy this issue of Cadence. As always, we are interested in your feedback. Thank you for your interest and support of Lamar University. We are committed to “Living the Legacy and Inventing the Future.”

Kenneth Evans, President

Lamar University’s first-ever comprehensive campaign has surpassed its goal by raising more than $132 million. In June, members of the campaign cabinet and Spindletop Society, donors of $1 million or more, joined in a celebration of the successful campaign. Of the total raised, $72 million is for academic support, $40 million for scholarships, and $20 million for athletics.

Seven years ago, with a desire to ensure a superior university experience for generations to come, a group of alumni and friends formed a campaign cabinet and joined with President Emeritus James M. Simmons, the LU Foundation and a talented advancement staff led by Vice President for Advancement Camille Mouton to launch Lamar’s first-ever comprehensive campaign.

That launch took place in March 2006 with an original goal of raising $50 million. At the end of the silent phase of the campaign in May 2008, the goal was raised to $100 million. In January 2012, the campaign cabinet raised the goal once again to $125 million in response to the enthusiastic amid donors on the future of Lamar University. The campaign has seen incredible success despite an uncertain economy, Mouton said.

“When the campaign began, it would have been hard for anyone to imagine the response. We flew past the original goal and surpassed the final goal by a significant amount,” Mouton said.

The journey has been the result of pride in the university near and far. Remarkably, 70 percent of Lamar employees—easily the highest percentage of participation at any university—made their own philanthropic investment in the future of Lamar. That pride extended to alumni, friends, as well as corporations and foundations throughout Texas. Nearly half, 46 percent, of gifts in the campaign came from beyond Southeast Texas. During the campaign, 34,193 gifts were made.

The success at Lamar is even more remarkable given the extremely small staff that made it happen, said Kathy Costello, who gave valuable counsel as a consultant to the campaign. “This limited staff, and a remarkable group of volunteers on the foundation board and campaign cabinet, has done something I have never seen accomplished by so few, yet done so well,” she said.

“Today, as a result of the campaign, the lives of Lamar’s students are being transformed through enhanced campus life, new study and research opportunities, energized and engaged faculty, and state-of-the-art facilities, laboratories and equipment.

Campaign surpasses goal,
$132 million raised

by Brian Sattler

Gifts from thousands of loyal Cardinals and friends contributed to a historic campaign, significant because it allowed Lamar University to take transformational strides toward a bigger, brighter future.

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“Today, as a result of the campaign, the lives of Lamar’s students are being transformed through enhanced campus life, new study and research opportunities, energized and engaged faculty, and state-of-the-art facilities, laboratories and equipment.
“Nearly half of the campaign gifts came from Lamar alumni and that’s good. But it is also very impressive that nearly a fifth came from friends of the university. Individuals who love Lamar were able to create personal legacies. Their transformational gifts will impact the lives of students for generations to come.” — JAMES M. SIMMONS, President Emeritus

“From the smallest to the largest gift, each person’s generosity has helped us build a better campus and enrich the lives of our students. “We are a far stronger university today and are positioned for even greater accomplishments because of the campaign.” — CAMILLE MOUTON, Vice President for Advancement

“The outstanding success of Lamar’s inaugural campaign is a testament to strong leadership and the dedication of alumni and friends. “That legacy is an incredible foundation to build on as we look to the future of our great university.” — REN EVANS, President

“One of the enduring successes of the campaign is the $36 million in gifts that will be realized in the future. These deferred gifts, the result of decisions today, will continue to make a difference at Lamar for decades to come.” — MIKE ALDREDGE ’65, Campaign Co-Chair, Bellaire, Texas

“I have been both surprised and grateful for the treasured outpouring of financial support for Lamar from across the nation. This response from beyond the region shows the respect the university holds among alumni and friends who have not forgotten their alma mater.” — ELVIS MASON ’59, Honorary Campaign Chair, Dallas, Texas

Hallmarks of Success

Today, Lamar has six named departments—the JoAnne Gay Dehnman Department of Nursing, the Phillips M. Dryer Department of Electrical Engineering, the Don F. Smith Department of Chemical Engineering, and the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music.

More than $40 million has been raised in scholarship endowments, including support for the highly successful Mirebeau Presidential Scholars program, the Valens Scholarship in Engineering, the Legends of Southeast Texas Scholarships, the Larry and Cynthia Norwood Chemical Engineering Scholarship, the Gena and Albert E. Reusd Scholarship, the Jerry Rudd Memorial Scholarship, the Orange Memorial Hospital Corporation Scholarship, the Garrett Scholars, and the Drayton Lloyd/Texas State University System Foundation Scholarship.

246 new privately funded scholarship endowments, ranging from $15,000 to $2.5 million, were established during the campaign, bringing the total number of privately funded scholarships to 601.

Gifts totaling $72 million have been committed to faculty and academic support, including the establishment of many faculty enhancement/initiation funds, the Rice Construction Management program, the David J. Beck Fellowships, the Steinhagen Global Fellows, the Ben Rogers Chair in Business, and the Thompson Family Tennis Center.

The campaign has helped Lamar renovate existing facilities, like the Herman Iles Building, the Texas Scholarships, the Larry Lawson Research Fund in Electrical Engineering, the Don and Mary Ann Lyle Endowment in Geosciences Innovation Fund, the Larry Lawson Research Fund in Electrical Engineering, the Don and Mary Ann Lyle Endowment in Engineering, and the Bart and Martye Simmons Endowment in Business.

Contributions totaling $20 million to athletics enabled the return of football and benefitted Lamar’s athletics programs through improvements in facilities, including the Vernon Glass Field of Champions, Provost Umphrey Stadium, the Dan F. and Sandra A. Smith Press Box, the Morgan Suites, W.S. “Bud” Leonard Field, the Education First Federal Credit Union scoreboard, the Beaumont Bone and Joint Sports Medicine Facility, the John Payton Academic Success Center, the Emma and H.D. “Teo” Strait Baseball Training Center and the Thompson Family Tennis Center.

The campaign has helped Lamar renovate existing facilities, like the Texas Scholarships, the Larry Lawson Research Fund in Electrical Engineering, the Don and Mary Ann Lyle Endowment in Engineering, and the Bart and Martye Simmons Endowment in Business.

“The tremendous success of Lamar University’s first-ever comprehensive campaign illustrates the broad base of support of its alumni and friends as well as the participation of corporates and foundations. Lamar has experienced a period of growth and development and through this campaign is positioned for even greater accomplishment. This campaign has provided an opportunity for many donors to create a personal legacy that will help Lamar invent its future. These are exciting times for Lamar University and Southeast Texas.” — ENNIA MCCALL, Chancellor, The Texas State University System
Investing in the Future
THE CAMPAIGN FOR LAMAR UNIVERSITY

The Investing in the Future Campaign Cabinet, along with members of the Spindletop Society and other LU donors integral to the success of the Investing in the Future comprehensive campaign gathered for a dinner to celebrate this landmark achievement.
The Mike and Pat Aldredge Athletic Scholarship is available to a student majoring in an academic area leading to a bachelor's degree and was an outstanding Lamar University Intercollegiate athletics team. Mike ’65 and Pat (Peterson) ’61 are Lamar alumni and have been long-time supporters of the university. Mike was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus in 1999. He is a trustee and past president of the Lamar University Foundation, a past president of the Alumni Advisory Board, and is a member of the College of Engineering and the Industrial Engineering Department advisory councils and served as co-chair of the Investing in the Future Campaign cabinet. Mike and Pat Aldredge have generously given to Lamar.

A gift from the Helen Cadwell Locke & Curtis Boley Locke Charitable Trust established the Ann Locke Cobb and Charles David Locke Scholarship, in memory of their son, Vernon ’04 and Johnnie Durden ’00 endowed the Blakey Locke Charitable Trust endowed the Blakey Locke Scholarship for aspiring mechanical engineering students. Freddy earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering, then went to work for Mobil Oil Refinery and retired after 33 years. Julian graduated with a bachelor of arts in English and a master’s degree in education. She taught school for 21 years and served as an assistant principal for nine years. Freddy and Julie have two children—Scott, who graduated from Lamar with a degree in finance in 2000, and Leslie, who graduated with honors in fine arts from the University of Texas at Austin but also attended summer school at Lamar.

William Fitzgerald established the Meredith Kathryn Berghoff Fitzgerald Scholarship in Education in memory of her wife, Mary of 64 years. Meredith was a retired teacher from South Park school district and a charter faculty member of Regina Howell and C.W. Bingman elementary schools. She spent the last 14 years of her career as a Dean at Lamar University where she helped develop the undergraduate curriculum degree program. Meredith was a great influence in the lives of her students. In young and college age.

Family and friends established the Mallotick Memorial Scholarship in memory of Alvin Mallotick, with Patricia Patterson Mallotick and her son, Jacob Tucker. Ayasa was a wonderful and loving mother who was dedicated to her family. She touched the hearts of everyone she met. Jacob Tucker was a gentle baby boy with the sweetest grin and was loved and adored by his family. Both are survived by a multitude of family and friends that will forever love and cherish them. In that light that his scholarship was created to make a positive impact on others forever in their memory.

The Dolores Jones Memorial Scholarship in Nursing was endowed with a donation from Mrs. Dolores Jones Bolden, who had earned a bachelor of science in nursing from Texas A&M in 1976, a master of science degree in nursing administration at University of South Carolina in 1988, and a doctor of nursing science degree at Lamar University. During those years, she also joined the Lamar staff in Continuing Education and served as adjunct faculty for the Department of Communication. Janice’s 36 years of high-level executive leadership was recognized in 2019 with the highest overall grade-point average. A similar award was given to Ron as the ranking executive of chemical engineering student at Lamar. Ron was a student secretary in the Civil engineering department while attending Lamar and was a distinguished graduate in 1970.

The Ron and Mary Robins Award for Academic Excellence in Chemical Engineering is awarded annually to the senior-level chemical engineering student who has the highest overall grade-point average. A similar award was given to Ron as the ranking executive of chemical engineering student at Lamar. Ron was a student secretary in the Civil engineering department while attending Lamar and was a distinguished graduate in 1970.

The Lamar University Foundation Board of Trustees established the William Fitzgerald Memorial Scholarship in Family & Consumer Sciences through a provision in his will. William was a teacher in Lamar’s student-teacher program and earned his master of science degree in food science and nutrition from Texas A&M and earned a professional supervisor certificate in 1977. She received numerous volunteer accolades, including being a participating teacher in a Lamar student teacher program and serving as a trustee for the Lamar University Foundation of Advancement, Janice’s 36 years of high-level executive leadership was recognized in 2019 with the highest overall grade-point average. A similar award was given to Ron as the ranking executive of chemical engineering student at Lamar. Ron was a student secretary in the Civil engineering department while attending Lamar and was a distinguished graduate in 1970.
More time to help other people,” Reynolds said. “Once I got here, though, I fell in love with Lamar, she has received the Wilfred Long, Sr. Scholarship. After her first year, however, she knew at that moment that she wanted to own her own business someday. Reynolds’ biggest inspiration, though, has been her family. Her mother is an accountant, and the frequently took Reynolds to work with her when Reynolds was younger to teach her the basics. “My mom is successful, optimistic, loving, determined and driven,” Reynolds said. “She has a good cause, and she embodies what I’ve always wanted to be.”

Reynolds has also been encouraged by the legacy of her grandparents. After her grandmother completed college, she and Reynolds’ grandfather started their own business and eventually became very successful. “I am blessed to have grown up in a family in which everyone went to college and got jobs, but they also took time to spend with each other and love each other,” Reynolds said. The biggest lesson that Reynolds has learned from her family and applied to her experiences at Lamar is to never give up. “I am grateful to have grown up in a family in which everyone went to college and got jobs, but they also took time to spend with each other and love each other,” Reynolds said.

Chemistry, chemical engineering major explores possibilities

Four chemistry and chemical engineering majors Zach Holt, chemistry is a passion that led to his choice of attending Lamar University. “Ever since I can remember, I have always liked chemistry.” Holt said. “If you can understand chemistry, you can understand anything in the world because everything is chemistry. When I discovered that Lamar had a great engineering school and was ranked nation-ally as a top school, I knew that was the right choice for me.”

Cementing the Baytown native’s decision to attend Lamar, Holt received the McMaster Hon-ors Scholarship and the Don M. Lyle Regents’ Scholarship in Engineering.

“Receiving these scholarships definitely solidified my choice to attend Lamar,” Holt said. “The risks of college, such as the time commitments, were balanced by the funding I received.”

“While the process of applying was challenging, it was worth it,” Holt said. “The opportunities I’ve received at Lamar are amazing and have helped me to develop both academically and professionally.” Holt received the McMaster Hon-ors Scholarship and the Don M. Lyle Regents’ Scholarship in Engineering.

“With the rising cost of school, I couldn’t turn down such an excellent offer.” Holt said. “The more classes I take, the more I understand what each career entails.” Holt said. “My majors translate into a job, whereas chemistry offers a variety of fields. There are so many possibilities with a chemistry or chemical engineering major.”

Holt said that along his journey cer-tain professors have had a profound impact on helping him determine his professional options. “My chemistry profes-sor, Dr. José Andino, had a lot of insightful knowledge that he shared with me,” Holt said. “He has a passion for his students and his work. He has been a great role model for me. I feel like I have a friend as well.”

As the NABA president, Reynolds at-tended the 34th Annual Southwest Region Student Conference in Houston. October. Reynolds’ favorite part of the confer-ence was helping her fellow members prepare for interviews, and she was thrilled when they received calls back for job offers. “I just felt so much joy knowing the people I had helped had received calls back,” Reynolds said. “It is truly better to give than to receive.”

Reynolds feels that her experiences with accounting organizations have helped her to cultivate a sense of professionalism and become more fully involved with Lamar’s account-ing program. Reynolds, who loves crunching numbers, says her favorite class is Accounting 2301 with Clare Burns, an instructor and direc-tor of the master of science in accounting. Her favorite part of the accounting program, though, is not the numbers but the faculty. “I love the accounting faculty. They have a lot of real-world experience, and it really shines through in the classroom,” Reynolds said.

Reynolds is also interested in entrepre-neurship and is taking advantage of the many entrepreneurship courses Lamar offers. She said her interest in accounting and entrepreneurship began when she was six years old and opened a frozen Kool-Aid stand in her front yard. She knew at that moment that she wanted to own her own business someday. Her interest grew, and in the summer of her ninth-grade year, Reynolds discovered a potential small business opportunity she wanted to pursue. Reynolds found a wholesale producer of Shutter Shades, a type of sunglasses popular-ized by Keanu West, which were not available in the Golden Triangle. Reynolds created a business plan and presented it to her mother, who became her investor. She then ordered the sunglasses and marketed them, selling them to her peers. “I went from the beginning stage of getting an investor to ordering the product, marketing it, selling it, and having the profit to use how I wanted,” Reynolds said. “The whole experience was great, and I knew then that I was very interested in entrepreneurship.”

Reynolds, who is working on her bach-elor’s degree, would like to pursue a master of business administration and continue to account-suing to support her dream of starting a business. While Reynolds is not entirely sure what type of business she wants to start yet, she does have one definite goal: to own a sports team. This dream was bolstered when she met Texas State University System Regent Charles Amato at a reception for a Lamar presidential finalist, which she attended with Lamar Ambassadors. “He has ownership interest in the San Antonio Spurs, so it was just amazing that, at 19, I got to meet someone who has accomplished one of my dreams,” Reynolds said.

“Reynolds’ biggest inspiration, though, has been her family. Her mother is an accountant, and the frequently took Reynolds to work with her when Reynolds was younger to teach her the basics. “My mom is successful, optimistic, loving, determined and driven,” Reynolds said. “She has a good cause, and she embodies what I’ve always wanted to be.”

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“Get involved, set goals and persevere until you achieve your goals,” Reynolds said. “Once you achieve your goal, set another, and never give up on achieving your dreams.” —MP
T he legacy of lifelong Beaumont public school educator Leland Best will be remembered in perpetuity thanks to the creation of the Leland Best Innovation Fund in Education in Lamar University’s College of Education and Human Development. The endowed fund was established with a $1 million commitment from the Nancy and Randy Best Foundation in memory of Randy’s mother, Leland Best, who served in Beaumont schools for more than 50 years.

As an English teacher at Beaumont High School, Leland Best shaped the lives of countless community leaders in Beaumont. Through her counsel and teaching, she also helped shape the future of Beaumont by instilling in many of her students a passion to volunteer and serve their community.

“Looking back on all the wonderful teachers I had in the Beaumont Independent School District, I look at her as being absolutely outstanding,” said former student Joe Bob Kinnel Jr. “There was an air about her that commanded respect. Of course her knowledge of the subject matter was excellent and she taught us a great deal. She was so dignified and presented such a wonderful presence. I thought the world of her. She was a great lady.”

“Mrs. Best was a gifted teacher and her students were always challenged to reach their full potential,” said family friend Jerry Reese ’66. “Her students all had very positive comments and felt they were much better prepared for their future after completing her course. I regret not having had a class from Mrs. Best, but I know her and her positive influence on Randy and her students is reflected in their daily lives.”

President Emeritus James Simmons, who taught with Leland Best at Beaumont High School before beginning his career at Lamar University calls her “a much beloved and respected colleague.”

“I remember Mrs. Best well, both as a teacher and as a role model,” said Linda Bullard. “She was an outstanding educator. She inspired her students to do their best. I also remember her from First Methodist Church. I am so glad that Randy has honored her. I wish we had more educators like her teaching today.”

The innovation fund may be used by the College of Education and Human Development to support teaching, research, service and professional development activities of faculty, as well as funding for new programs or for enhancement of existing programs. The fund may also be used for undergraduate and graduate student scholarships or to assist with other student activities.

“I am most grateful to Nancy and Randy Best for their generosity,” said Hollis Lowery-Moore, dean of the College of Education and Human Development. “Funds such as this meet a critical need in the college as they allow us to support the research and teaching activities that add excellence to our terrific educational offerings.

“These funds also allow the college to provide active and collaborative engagement opportunities between faculty and students to enrich educational experience of our educational experience of our educators," Lowery-Moore said. "This is truly a wonderful gift that will enable us to shape the future of the college in profound ways.”

To honor her devotion to her community, to the arts and to her church, the Leland Best Council for the Arts of First United Methodist Church of Beaumont was established in 1985 following her death. Lamar faculty members and student performance groups have participated in the council for many years in joint productions of concerts and events.

Randy Best discovered his passion for entrepreneurship at Lamar, establishing and building seven businesses prior to his graduation in 1967 with the Bachelor of Science degree in government. His formal education at Lamar and his familial influences served him well in the public sector as the founder of numerous business enterprises. His entrepreneurial prowess led to a new paradigm in higher education delivery that he forged at Lamar University resulting in the vastly successful Academic Partnerships program.

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A n entrepreneur’s entrepreneur, Randy Best ’67 began his business career while a student at Lamar University where he started seven businesses and at one point had 42 other LU students in his employ. Among his ventures were publishing companies and Collegiate Diamond, an endeavor selling engagement rings at a time when “about 28 percent of all college students got engaged or married each year.”

At 25, Best sold the company for around $10 million and has gone on to found or acquire more than 100 privately or publicly held companies in a broad range of fields including healthcare, defense and aerospace, publishing, agriculture, food, oil and gas, real estate and education.

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

Best’s own challenges with dyslexia made him passionate about reading and its critical impact on a student’s education and life. He founded a national initiative that annually helps more than three million children, mostly inner-city, learn to read.

In 2005, Best turned to higher education and founded a company to help state universities increase access for underserved high-need populations. Lamar University was the first to partner with Best delivering two graduate education programs, growing enrollment from 226 to more than 4,100. He also founded an international higher education company focused on bringing a high-quality, very low-cost college education to students in the developing countries of Latin America. Today, Academic Partnerships delivers online programs in 50 states and 37 foreign countries.

Educator’s legacy remembered

Leland Best Innovation Fund in Education inspires

Randy Best
“The family is very grateful and appreciative that Lamar would want to name a building for Herman,” Mary Ann Iles, his daughter-in-law, said. “Our family always has supported Lamar University because it is such a great asset to the community and to Southeast Texas.”

By 1938, it was obvious that further expansion of Lamar College would impose an unsolvable financial burden on the South Park school district, where the college was originally housed. Given a choice of finding a wider financial base for the college or curtailing what appeared to be a bright future, college and community leaders turned to the idea of an enlarged junior college district. The South Park Civic League met to discuss the possibility. John Gray, then dean of men at Lamar College, and Herman Iles, president of the civic league and second vice president of the Young Men’s Business League, spoke in favor of the proposed expansion. Iles, who was also one of seven candidates for membership on the board of trustees, said the proposed college could “be built on a site already owned near its present location,” according to a newspaper clipping from the Herman Iles papers, a special collection of the Lamar University archives. The South Park board purchased a 58-acre tract in 1938, three blocks to the west of Lamar’s current campus. This tract was unattractive, having been used as a tank farm for oil storage by the Texaco Co., but the company was willing to sell it for $18,000. Iles was involved in garnering support for the passage of a $2 million Lamar bond issue in 1940, a difficult undertaking because it required raising taxes at a time when the country was emerging from the Great Depression. That same year, voters approved the creation of a Lamar Union Junior College District and the election of trustees to govern the college. By the spring of 1942, sufficient buildings had been completed for classes to be held for the first time on the new campus. As a member of the board of trustees, Iles was influential in hiring John Gray as the first president of the new Lamar College. In 1945, Lamar College “graduated 68 in the first class of the greatest institution dedicating the new $1 million plant to ‘youths of tomorrow’ who will perpetuate the democratic principles for which our forefathers gave their lives,” said Judge J.M. Comb, president of the board of trustees and commencement speaker, “according to a clipping from the collection.

“Tigers were many people working for Lamar who were on salary, but Herman did so much for Lamar while working as an executive for Magnolia Petroleum Co., the forerunner to ExxonMobil,” said Mary Ann Iles. “Herman and Delma Lee had a close and lasting friendship with Mary and John Gray. The friendship between our families remains even today.”

Interestingly, according to Mary Ann Iles’ recollection, although Herman had a background in accounting, he was initially employed at Magnolia because of his prowess on the basketball court rather than his business acumen. In those days, companies had basketball leagues that were obviously very competitive. He also led charitable organizations such as the YMCA, Chamber of Commerce and the Jefferson County North County Relief organization where he established the first food relief program in the county.

Early in the legislative session of 1947, a bill to make Lamar a state-supported senior college was introduced in the Texas House by Rep. Jack Brooks, a former Lamar student. Iles, then in his second term as a trustee, was elected to head the board. Although the bill initially passed, funding was unavailable. The planners returned to the Legislature the following session, and on June 14, 1949, the bill was signed creating Lamar State College of Technology. Herman Iles, one of the primary architects of that vision, died Dec. 27, 1954, after a lengthy illness. Herman and Delma Iles had three sons: Herman, Reginald, Larry Gene and Clint Blanchard.

“The Iles family commitment to Lamar University and the Beaumont community has continued through Iles’ son Reggie and his wife Mary Ann. Throughout his professional dental career, the younger Iles has followed his father’s example of community service by giving his time and talents to the efforts of many boards and committees throughout Southeast Texas. Mary Ann has for many years demonstrated her devotion to and love for music both as a student and teacher. The couple’s allegiance to their church is well documented and exceptional. While Reggie has served in nearly every leadership capacity in the church, Mary Ann served for decades as organist and has been honored with the title Organist Emeritus at Calder Baptist Church.

Distributions from the Iles Family Faculty Enhancement Fund will be used to strengthen the university’s ability to recruit and retain the most able faculty and build excellence in its nationally recognized curricula. Recruiting nationally recognized faculty will allow Lamar to recruit and retain the very best and brightest students. The fund will support the program, teaching, research and professional development activities of the university faculty.

To honor his legacy, Lamar University officials formally dedicated the Herman Iles Building at the John Gray Center complex. The naming ceremony honored the many contributions by Iles in the early days of Lamar University as his, and others, championed the effort to expand Lamar College, as South Park Junior College had become known, to a larger, junior college district. Their collective vision eventually included moving Lamar from its junior college status to a four-year college—a feat that had never before been accomplished in Texas history. The ceremony also formally recognized a $1 million gift by the Iles family to renovate the Dr. Richard E. Price Auditorium inside the Herman Iles Building and establish the Iles Family Faculty Enhancement Fund.

“Our family has always supported Lamar University because it is such a great asset to the community and to Southeast Texas.”

by Larry Acker
by Brian Sattler

S tudents from Orange County, Texas, who are pursuing nursing, pre-
medical or pre-dental studies at Lamar University will benefit from a new endowment thanks to the generosity of the Orange Memorial Hospital Corp. In February 2013, the board of directors voted to dissolve the non-profit corporation and gift $2.5 million of its assets to the LU Foundation to continue its scholarship program that had helped hundreds of students from Orange County pursue degrees and ultimately provide a better level of care for Orange County residents. An additional $1 million gift to LSC-Orange will benefit the college’s associate’s program in nursing.

The scholarships at Lamar will be available to current residents of Orange County, Texas, or former residents who graduated from an Orange County public or private high school.

“We are grateful to Jim Graves and his fellow board members of the Orange Memorial Hospital Corp. for entrusting Lamar University with this extraordinary gift as a way to continue its tradition of supporting the education of Orange County citizens who are pursuing careers in the health sciences,” said Joe Nordgren, director of Lamar’s Pre-professional Advisory Committee for the health professions. “With more than a thousand students from Orange County enrolled at Lamar, including 114 nursing majors, 15 pre-med majors and seven pre-dental majors, there are ample opportunities for this generous scholarship to impact the lives of our students and by extension the citizens of Orange County,” Nordgren said.

“Students from Orange County admitted into our nursing program will benefit from this excellent scholarship,” said Eileen Curl, chair of the JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing. “Our bachelor’s and master’s programs continue to be ranked highly, including our online Master of Science in Nursing that was ranked second in the nation by U.S. News and World Report. Support from donors like this makes a profound difference in our ability to provide the best possible education for our students. These students, in turn, deliver excellent health care to the people of Southeast Texas.”

Formed in the mid-’50s, the non-profit Orange Memorial Hospital Corp. was created after the Orange County Commissioner’s Court passed a bond issue and built the Orange Memorial Hospital. “They approached industry and several of the prominent families in the county and asked for their help to raise funds to furnish the hospital and to form a non-profit corporation to operate it,” said Jim Graves, president of the corporation.

“A nine-member board was formed. “They started operating the hospital as a non-profit, completely break even, and did that very successfully for many years,” Graves said. “In the mid-’80s, there was a revolution in the hospital industry, and the Commissioner’s Court started getting approached by different for-profit groups, or ‘non-profit’ groups that would compensate the county for the use of the hospital,” Graves said.

Eventually, the Commissioner’s Court leased the hospital to a group called Hospital Equities Inc.; however, the financial strain of indigent care and lack of the strong financial base provided by the community and industry led the Commissioner’s Court to lease the hospital to Baptist Hospital Orange, Graves said. “We spent several million dollars on scholarships putting people through school, and it was a very successful program,” Graves said. During nearly three decades, the corporation has helped more than 250 students with scholarships, more than 110 of whom graduated, including several M.D.s, two with dual Ph.D.-M.D. degrees, six M.S.R.N.s and one Ph.D. biologist.

The corporation’s investments suffered in 2008, and continuing losses in assisting Orange County’s non-profit ambulance service forced a substantial cut back in scholarships. “Time, too, was taking its toll. “We wound up at that point only having about five or six life members, and so we decided that we really needed to do something more permanent,” Graves said.

“We also found that the institution we were funding more than anyone else was Lamar University,” Graves said. “That’s where most were going to pre-med.

“Because of our close affiliation with Lamar University, we decided to continue the scholarships by asking Lamar to do it. It would continue what our original charter had required us to do and that is to benefit Orange County in the health field,” Graves said. “It was the best way we could think of to continue the goals and the program that we had and benefit the people from Orange County.”

The scholarships at each of the seven private and public high schools in Orange County for students starting out in pre-medicine. These generous scholarships paid full tuition, books and more, wherever the students chose to attend college.

“Our idea was that if you educate them, chances are you are going to get some to come back to Orange and sure enough, they did,” Graves said.

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50th anniversary marks success of Honors Program students

At Lamar University it celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2013, it also celebrated the 50th anniversary of its Honors Program. The program launched in the fall 1963 semester with 20 students from a variety of academic disciplines who took core classes together and enjoyed challenging each other intellectually. Today, the program is home to more than 300 of Lamar’s brightest, most intellectually curious undergraduate students.

A Homecoming reception on campus in October for Honors Program alumni drew former Honors students from across the country, spanning the decades from recent graduates to members of that founding class from 1963.

“When you talk about honors programs, you really talk about an opportunity for students to engage in conversation that stretches you, that takes you beyond the limits of whatever might be the defined domain that you operate in and gets you to a sense of the broader scope of what it means to be a scholar, what it means to be a student of any material and what it means to be a citizen in a broader sense,” LU President Kenneth Evans said during the reception. “This is an exciting time for the program as it transitions into an Honors College. We have a huge commitment to making the model of the undergraduate experience a very rich one,” Evans said.

A national search began in the fall of 2013 for a dean of Lamar’s new Honors College.

Walter Magee
47 chemistry
(original 1963 class)
Refined from chemical industry
Ann Arbor, Mich.

I think the program prepared us well. The philosophy class was very challenging for me because I was a technical person, but I think that class had a bigger impact on me than any other class. I’ve never taken because I just never would have taken it if it wouldn’t have been for the Honors Program, and it really changed me. Whenever we had a test, we would all assemble. It was those study sessions more than anything else that I think were memories to me.

Wesley Smith
11 chemistry
Medical student at University of North Texas

This program provided me with a home away from home. It was a nice place to have friends and camaraderie outside of class, then take it even into class. It was a little community that moved everywhere with you. We had all our classes together, lived in the dorms together, hung out together, but we didn’t get sick of each other. Now we’re all over the country in graduate school. It’s a nice network post-graduation with people in all different fields, all different areas of expertise, that I think is going to be really cool in a couple of years.

T.J. Geiger
05 English and history
Assistant professor of English and modern languages, Lamar University

It gave me a way to experience a lot of opportunities that I might not otherwise have. I got to go to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Washington Center’s programs around the Democratic National Convention. I had an opportunity to see politics in action and reflect on that and connect civic education with my learning as a humanist as an English major and a history major. I had opportunities to talk with students doing amazing things across the disciplines that I wouldn’t have had the chance to do later in my career because you begin to specialize and take just English classes and just history classes, but because of the Honors Program, I got to talk with engineers and math folks and scientists, and to understand the connections across disciplines in ways that I might not otherwise have had.

Danny Choud
02 communication
Assistant professor of government at New Mexico State University

I benefited in a number of ways from being in the Honors Program, mostly being able to have really close relationships with people like Dr. [Donna] Bedwell and Dr. [Kevin] Dodson. I was able to get direct advisement from them that helped me figure out what I wanted to do with my life. I knew I wanted to travel. I knew I wanted to see the world. I kind of figured I wanted to go into this academic thing at some point. I actually went to a conference in Washington, D.C., on media and politics, and I got to meet all sorts of people like Sam Donaldson, Clarence Page, Ted Koppel. It was a really wonderful experience, and I would have never gotten to do something like that if it wasn’t in the Honors Program.

Daniel Grooms
02 chemical engineering
Senior process engineer, Invista in Orange

When I got into the Honors Program, we were really starting to bring in a lot more of the Honors classes, which was great. Being part of the Student Advisory Council was a lot of fun, getting to develop leadership and work with the administration on the program and activities we were going to offer. Just getting to know the professors more than in the regular classes and getting to know the work that they did and the interests that they had was really valuable.

Jenny Achilles
03 communication
Stay-at-home mom, part-time editing and project management for test preparation materials

I really enjoyed the Honors Program. It gave me a larger group of people that I felt like I belonged to that had similar interests. The Honors curriculum challenged me and gave me another level of my college experience rather than just coasting through. I met a lot of really nice people and got to go to conferences and do community service that I wouldn’t have done on my own.”
It was wonderful experience. Those were the years I made. Besides my roommates, they were the most important people. It’s wonderful to be in a classroom where people bring education to a level, as many different disciplines, and they’re all really bright too. We would have very lively discussions.

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I didn’t think I would have achieved as much if I hadn’t been involved in the Honors Program. Dr. Kevin Dodson inspired me to get involved in Rotaract, which is part of Rotary International. I did service work not only locally but internationally in Belize and applied for the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship, which took me to Glasgow, Scotland, to study international marketing and complete my master’s. It was a wonderful experience. And I probably wouldn’t have even thought about it if I hadn’t been involved with the Honors Program and involved with so many students and faculty members who motivated you and encouraged you to reach beyond what you thought you could achieve, not only encouraged you but chal- lenged you to achieve more and go further.

I have the best job at Lamar University. I actually really believe that. I think there’s no better job. Every day when I come to work, I’m coming to work with Honors students, the brightest, the most engaged, the most intellectually curious and challenging students on campus. And it’s a joy to work with them. It’s been a real privilege for me to work with the Honors Program for 20 years now.

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inspire pride in the university
recipients must also display
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who have made notable
teria that identify graduates
by LU alumni based on cri-
recipients from nominations
Committee selects the annual
guished Alumni Awards
Advisory Board's Distin-
the Lamar University Alumni
honor—the most prestigious
2014 Distinguished Alumni of
engineering institute are the
member of the Architectural
executive and a founding
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Cardinal CadenCe
April 2014
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valuable resource to continue
in medicine and has provided an
foundation i needed to succeed
this is true. Lamar gave me the
My decision to come to Lamar is
what got me into medical school.
And, after serving on the Admis-
sions Committee at Baylor College
of Medicine, I'm convinced that
this is true. Lamar gave me the
foundation I needed to succeed
in medicine and has provided an
invaluable resource to continue
my education—in many fields—
through the years. If I had it do
all over again, I would choose
Lamar University in a heartbeat.”

Brent W. Bost
• co-founder and vice president of Southeast Texas ORGYN Associates, PA., M.D. ’91, Baylor College of Medicine; specialty training, obstetrics
and gynecology, Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas
• named one of the Best Doctors in America by his colleagues, Bost has
published papers in obstetrics, gynecologic surgery, health care financing
and Social Security reform
• author of two books, The Hurried Woman and The Hurried Woman Syndrome; founder and president of Pathfinder Management Systems, a
company that offers management and personal financial planning
• medical staff member at Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital; board
member, CoefTrack Corp. and Beaumont Community Players; assis-
tant clinical professor of Ob/Gyn, University of Texas Medical Branch in
Galveston
• past president, LU Alumni Advisory Board; served on executive
committee; Lamar University Foundation, member, College of Business
Advisory Board; adjunct instructor, College of Business.
• licenses and certifications including Certified Public Accountant (CPA);
Professional Engineer (PE); Certified Financial Planner (CFP); Certified Financial Specialist (CFS); Certified Retirement Planning
(CRSP); Certified Life Underwriter (CLU); Chartered Financial
Consultant (ChFC); Certified Medical Practice Executive (CMPE); Fellow,
American College of Medical Practice Executives (FACMPE); Certified Specialist in Management Consulting (CSMC)

Sina Nejad
B.S. civil engineering, 1980; B.S. chemistry, 1980
• founded and president of Sigma Engineers Inc.
• first engineer from Southeast Texas appointed to the Texas Board
of Professional Engineers, one of only 22 engineers in Texas approved
to engage in the practice of architecture by the state board of architecture
• charter member, Structural Engineering Institute; founding
member, Architectural Engineering Institute; member, numerous
Texas and national professional societies, including the Texas Board
of Professional Engineers; past president, Sabine Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers; named Engineer of the Year by the
Sabine Chapter, 2008
• chairman, Planning and Zoning Commission and Building Code
Board of Adjustment & Appeals, city of Beaumont
• advisory board member, Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital; member
and past president, Symphony of Southeast Texas; past president
and member, Anahat House; member and former board member, Beaumont Chamber of Commerce; Small Business Person of the Year,
2004, Beaumont chamber
• member, Lamar University Civil Engineering Advisory Council;
board of directors, Lamar University Foundation; host, A Dinner &
12 Strangers and A Dinner & Conversation for Lamar University
engineering students, sharing insight and career advice with future
engineers, board member; Friends of the Arts, member, Minnie
Society
• designer, replica “gusher” oil derrick, Spindletop-Gladys City
Boomtown Museum

Lamar University has a special place
in my heart,” said Nejad. “When I
graduated with my engineering degree,
I started work immediately and had
absolutely no deficiency in perform-
ing my work as a young engineer. I
know all my duties and designs as I
had learned them at Lamar, a tribute to
the great training I received from the
engineering professors. Men like Prof. Luther Beale and Dr. Morgan molded
us into forward-thinking and practical
engineers. Those of us who graduated
from Lamar were well ahead of young
graduates from other schools.”

Rena Clark
B.S. mechanical engineering, 1984
• On campus—math and engineering tutor, president and vice presi-
dent, Lamar chapter, National Society of Black Engineers; College
of Engineering co-op—Texaco Chemical, Union 76
• MBA, 1990, Harvard Business School
• former director and chief operating officer, MBA program, Harvard
Business School
• 1995, chief executive officer, private-equity portfolio company; led
a large diversified commercial printing company’s successful turnaround,
from 1999-2001, led a division of a large international corporation
in the specialty chemicals sector and created a profitable stand-alone
operating company
• 2003, vice president of philanthropy and community affairs, The
Kraft Group, owners of a group of industrial companies and the Na-
tional Football League’s New England Patriots
• currently—partner concentrated on deal sourcing, transaction execu-
tion, portfolio company performance and fundraising, GeoNiC360
Capital Partners, a private equity firm focused on investing in compa-
nies engaged in the industrial sector
• has served as trustee or overseer for a number of non-profit organiza-
tions in and around Boston, including the Boston Symphony Orches-
tra, Museum of Science and the New England Aquarium, overseer
for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston and a trustee at the Chestnut
Hill School and Lasell College, chair, board of GenNex360 Charitable
Foundation

I am eternally grateful for my time at Lamar and to all of the folks
there who played a role in shaping an
incredible educational experi-
ence. From Dr. Richard Price, who
I have known since I was nine
years old and who recruited me
at Lamar and whose classroom
I had the honor of experiencing,
to Dr. Otto Brown, Dean Fred Young,
Eugene Martinez and others. As a
result of all of their influences, I left
Lamar with not only the confidence instilled in me by my parents that I
could BE anything I could imagine
but a profound sense that I was
prepared for anything.”
Campus memories

We hope you enjoy these images from the past. Maybe they’ll spark some memories of your own good times at LU. We would love to publish some of your photos in the next issue of Cadence. Please send hard copies, which we will return after scanning, to Cadence, P.O. Box 10011, Beaumont, TX 77710 or send high-resolution, electronic images to cynthia.hicks@lamar.edu.
Alumni, friends, well-wishers and dignitaries gathered Nov. 7 to witness the investiture of Lamar University’s President Kenneth Evans.

President Emeritus James Simmons presents President Kenneth Evans with the presidential medallion.

President Kenneth Evans presents a portion of his address in American Sign Language, interpreted on his left by American Sign Language major A.J. Webb, a senior from Duncanville.

President Emeritus James Simmons, President Kenneth Evans and Rep. Joe Deshotel ’74.

First lady Nancy Evans pauses before the ceremony with Big Red and Lu.

Student Ambassadors, from left, Jessica Pospisil, a nursing major from Manvel; Elisabeth Maxwell, biology, Beaumont; Patty Stephens, biology, Port Neches; Yanni Thomas, nursing, Deer Park; Jeremy Allen, management information systems, Beaumont; and Kristeen Reynolds, accounting, Port Arthur.

Regent William F. Scott ’70 congratulates President Kenneth Evans after presenting him with the LU ceremonial mace.

Regent David Montagne ’74 helps President Evans don his new red robe.

To the right: Barbara Hernandez, professor of health and kinesiology, carries the Lamar University mace to the stage. The use of a mace in academic ceremonies dates to the fourteenth century, tracing its roots to both the medieval battle mace and the royal scepter.

Below: TSUS Chairman Donna N. Williams carries the presidential medallion to the stage during the procession.

KVLU 91.3’s Byron Balentine ‘79 speaks with Alumni Director Linda LeBlanc ‘75 during live coverage of the investiture ceremony.

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From left, President Emeritus James Simmons and President Kenneth Evans with Texas State University System Chancellor Brian McAll before the ceremony.

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Scott Dopp directs the Lamar University Wind Ensemble and Choir as they performed special music for the investiture ceremony.

After robing in the Red Room, dignitaries gather before getting into position for the procession: from left, Alumni Advisory Board President James Darlin ’75, W.I. Lamar Foundation President Jim Darby ’80, President Emeritus James Simmons, President Kenneth Evans and Rep. Joe Deshotel ’74.

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In the coming months a new building will rise on the northeast corner of Rolfe Christopher Drive and Jim Gilligan Way to house the Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship at Lamar University (CICE).

A catalyst for bringing ideas to the marketplace through innovation and commercialization, the Center will bring together resources to boost economic development throughout the region. Built with disaster recovery funds from Hurricane Ike, the CICE will be an investment in economic development. The $9 million Center will build on Lamar’s recognized expertise in engineering and science and the burgeoning entrepreneurial spirit in the region. It will play a key role in inventing the future at Lamar and Southeast Texas.

The mission of the Center is to “Leverage the technology, expertise, and infrastructure of Lamar University’s research centers and business resources to establish new innovation-based businesses and create synergies with established industries” said Center Director Paul Latiolais.

The new 27,000-square-foot building provides a place to carry out the mission and will become an incubator across the region for technology startups, industry and university collaboration centers and several wet labs to encourage product development and business launches.

The Center provides several functions including an interface between industry and the university, an environment for bringing ideas to the marketplace, a place for student and faculty interaction, and a home for Innovation Centers and Centers of Excellence.

One strategy uniquely advantageous to the region is to allow larger out-of-region companies to test-run operations through the Center as a precursor to locating major initiatives in Southeast Texas. This “soft landing” strategy creates an attractive incentive for companies to invest in the expanding market of the region and leverages the assets of Lamar to make companies feel welcome. In time, the Center will set up Innovation Hubs to help create industry clusters in energy, advanced materials, electronics and information technology.

Concurrently, the Center will help address the labor needs of businesses and industry in the region through outreach to the surrounding community that will provide skills assessment, testing and counseling, and workforce training to equip individuals for jobs. These programs help empower individuals, and thereby the communities they live in, toward recovery from the lasting impacts of hurricanes on the region.

A unique aspect of the Center is a dedicated student idea center where students from all disciplines can gather to work together on new ideas.
John Zhanhu Guo thinks small. Very small.

Nanoscopic in fact.

by Beth Gallaspy

Lamar University is playing an important role in promoting our local and regional economies by cultivating an innovation-based ecosystem. This plays a vital role in the economic diversification and strengthening in Southeast Texas.” —PAUL LATIOLAIS

ventures. The space becomes a “living lab” to experiment in bringing new ideas to market in an encouraging environment. The ideas, and learning by doing in a fast-paced setting, will help students better understand the new economy of rapid innovation and market adoption.

It takes more than great science or engineering to bring a product to market, Latiolais said. It takes business acumen, marketing know-how, intellectual property strategies, and access to capital—essential elements of commercialization and entrepreneurship. The Center will create, through collaborative research and education between science, engineering and business, a unique culture of innovation to bring technology to market, Latiolais said.

The creation of the CICE is an entrepreneurial endeavor in itself and illustrative of the perseverance entrepreneurship requires. It was 2004 when economic development consultants pointed to Lamar University as a catalyst for future economic growth. That report called for an expansion of LU’s capabilities for research and commercialization of new technologies. Among the recommendations in the 2004 study was a call for the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce to create a committee, Advancing New Technologies at Lamar, to explore ways the university could accelerate economic development. The committee formulated the idea of an innovation and commercialization center at Lamar University.

Hurricanes Rita and Ike significantly impacted progress, but ultimately it was recovery dollars from Hurricane Ike that spurred the development of a center dedicated to industry development and economic enhancement.

“We live in a rapidly changing world in which businesses we know today will be obsolete in the not too distant future,” wrote Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce President Jim Rich in The Beaumont Business Journal. “New ones are being created and many young people find entrepreneurship as their pathway to a career.”

Rich continued: “I am confident that the future of economic development is the capacity to attract talented people to our university and for the university to nurture entrepreneurship … We see the results everywhere such initiatives have been tried and strong regional partnerships are sustained.”

The new building will include four wet labs for energy technology and materials development, an electronics and instrumentation lab, a student incubation center, a training and computer center, network of conference rooms, welcome area and offices.

The university plans to break ground on the building this summer with completion anticipated for summer 2015.

LU wins coveted EDA-University Center Award.

Lamar University has received a five-year Investment Award valued at $1 million from the federal Economic Development Administration’s University Center Economic Development Program.
a carbon matrix embedded with nanoparticles of iron. A polymer is applied to the conductive carbon at high temperature to create the magnetic carbon nanocomposites. One innovative aspect of Guo's method involves the use of a solid polymer, rather than a gaseous precursor, to produce carbon. This allows the process to take place at lower temperatures, conserving energy. The inclusion of iron nanoparticles in the carbon matrix also is significant. Iron makes the material strong, conductive and ready to have a magnetic field applied. The carbon keeps it lightweight and resistant to corrosion in harsh environments such as exposure to aids.

"We are at the first stage to optimize the production condition," Guo said. "We use a high-temperature furnace to compare the temperature effects on the product. What temperature should we use to obtain a better product? The National Science Foundation funding gives us the foundation to study further in this direction."

At this stage in the research, Guo and his students are working to perfect the "thin film structure." Inside his lab in the Charles and Eleanor Garrett Engineering Center on campus, Guo demonstrated some of the results so far. One sample produced in the lab is about the size and shape of a quarter and the weight of a tiny scrap of paper. That small piece of magnetic carbon nanocomposite displayed strong magnetic force as it jumped from Guo's fingertips to a nearby bar magnet.

The next stage for the project will be producing a fiber structure more like a cable. Guo described the desired end result as being able to produce single fibers on the submicron scale of electromagnetic materials encased in protective carbon.

"This can be used for biomedical applications and information systems like a computer," Guo said. "The technology also shows promise for maritime and aerospace applications. For example, the nanomaterial could be used to fabricate components in a ship or aircraft. Testing the conductivity of the material could then aid in detecting any defects or damages to those components." Depending on the desired uses, different types of nanoparticles could be incorporated to produce nanocomposite materials with more or less conductivity. The GMR project is just one of Guo's many ongoing investigations into the development of new nanocomposites for a variety of applications. In 2011, he received another NSF EAGER grant for a project to develop novel carbon nanocomposite nanoadsorbents to remove heavy metals from polluted waters. "We can treat the polluted water by removing the heavy metal very quickly and more efficiently," he said. "Nanostructure materials have a high specific surface area. You can see that the surface area is large. So this material can adsorb more heavy metals than other adsorbents at the same weight. Meanwhile, we can recycle this material – adsorbents and the heavy metals – very easily by applying a magnet."

This line of research already has potential for use in applications such as environmental cleanup; however, Guo hopes to gain funding for similar research leading to different applications. The carbon fabric that serves as the filter in these nanomaterials can be treated with different polymers to yield different results, Guo said. "They can selectively adsorb or react with different heavy metal ions. This means we will have a continuous water filtration system. The water will pass through the filter and be purified."

Guo said he has had some interest from industry in nanocomposites he has created to clean polluted water, including the potential to use similar technology to remove mercury from the stack gases. Perhaps that line of research will come later. "We have to focus on one technique and become more expert. Then we will consider alternatives," he said. "I want more students to get involved in the research. My focus is on training students, not making money."

Currently, Guo has 12 students in his lab who are seeking Ph.D.s in chemical engineering. He also has several master's and undergraduate students working as research assistants. To attract additional students who bring diverse perspectives to Lamar, Guo has nurtured international collaborations since joining the faculty in 2008. In December, he returned from a trip to China that included leading seminars and meeting with colleagues at Beijing Forestry University and at Harbin Institute of Technology, the home institutions of two current LU exchange students working in Guo's lab. A native of China who earned bachelor's and master's degrees in chemical engineering at Chinese universities, Guo completed his Ph.D. at Louisiana State University.

"We're trying to build collaborations all over with the top universities and the top programs," he said. "That's very important to attract the top graduate students."

Once those students arrive, they have the opportunity to assist in finding new ways to create materials that could transform several industries in the future.
The art of organizing and running a group like that is trying to marry an individual’s skills with the needs of the project.”

Transforming a contaminant into a commodity

By Beth Gallaspy

or anyone who has spent much time in Southeast Texas, plumes rising from refinery flues on the horizon are a familiar sight. Research under way in the lab of Tracy Benson, associate professor of chemical engineering at the University of Texas at El Paso, could one day turn those potential pollutants into additional profit streams for industry in the future.

Benson, his research assistants “dechorotate” the surface of the powders with specific metal to promote specific chemical reactions. The powders, or support, used in the process is titanium dioxide, which is frequently used in the pigment industry, making it readily available and relatively inexpensive. The best metals to promote the desired activity, however, depend on the support and the by-products of the transformation.

“We’ve identified the right family of catalysts, but we’re trying to narrow the search down to a line of catalysts along those catalytic lines. Back gas gases can contain other waste products such as hydrogen sulfide, which could react with certain catalysts in the same way,” Benson said.

“My lab does a lot of hands-on experience setting up experiments, running reactions, analyzing data and turning the data into results and drawing conclusions from those results,” he said. “I think that’s something that some may not have ever seen a refinery worker do, but it’s an area that’s very applicable to a number of cases. The work of organizing and running a group like that is something that I think is rewarding for individuals who have the desire to do that kind of work.”

Even students who do not have the opportunity to work in Benson’s lab are able to obtain training in the research. Benson said he tries to bring lessons from the laboratory into the classroom. “They are not just learning to do the experiment, they are learning to do the thinking, and doing it in a way that makes sense for them. That is very important.”

In Benson’s ongoing research projects has focused on the development of catalyzed powder to promote the conversion of carbon dioxide and steam into carbon monoxide and hydrogen, which is also known as synthetic gas or syngas. Useable, profitable products such as diesel fuel or alcohol, or ethylene, are derived from syngas. Benson said “they are always interested in how we can take waste streams and make them into something.”

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The process combines energy-intensive steps with carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, and steam and requires a catalyst for that part of the process. The catalyst is titanium dioxide, which is frequently used in the pigment industry, making it readily available and relatively inexpensive.

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Innovations in health care through engineering

by Brian Sattler

PLANNED GIFT

Larry Lawson, a Lamar alumnus, has given a deferred gift to his alma mater, that will be used to support the engineering faculty in the College of Engineering and the Department of Electrical Engineering.

The $1 million gift is part of Lawson’s estate plan and will support research projects related to biomedical signal processing and telemedicine.

“Through this gift, we will be able to support continuing research into areas exciting to students,” Lawson said.

“Devices are becoming cheaper and more effective through better engineering, and that trend will continue,” Myler said.

“Through this gift, we will be able to support continuing research into areas exciting to students,” Myler said.
Lawson was so active on the music scene that he decided to devote all his time to his bands and their success. That led to a career in music, including The Clique—which opened for most of the top bands of the era and was honored in 2008 with induction into the Museum of the Gulf Coast’s Music Hall of Fame. The Clique sold more than 5 million records.

Lawson began his health care career with Johnson & Johnson, excelling at every sales, sales management and marketing level with J&J and other companies. In 1980, he founded Mesco Inc., an international sales and marketing firm specializing in sales for American and European medical manufacturers, developing markets throughout Latin America, Europe and Mid-East countries. In 1983, he founded LifeMed Technologies Inc., building the business to more than $7 million annually in less than six years. Changing his focus to cardiac arrhythmia monitoring services in 2000, Lawson founded Diagnostic Monitoring Associates.

an engineering problem to find some specific pattern, signals and extract those patterns.”

One of his undergraduate researchers, Bryan Deagle, was awarded first place in the IEEE Region 5 Student Paper Competition for his paper, “An Overview of Ocular Artifact Removal in Electroencephalograms.” Deagle graduated in May 2013 with degrees in mathematics and electrical engineering and is now employed by National Instruments in Austin. Tcheslavski also supervised William Ware, a 2012 graduate and Pumphrey Award winner. Ware was an IEEE Eastern Area Student Paper Competition winner with his paper, “A Primer for Digital Signal Processing Techniques in Brain Computer Interface Applications,” and is now a doctoral student in electrical engineering at Purdue.

In the graduate program, Tcheslavski is supervising Logan Porter, who is studying for his doctorate, in a project that is investigating the use of optical sensors to estimate blood pressure. Previous research has shown an estimation of blood pressure using Electrocardiography (ECG) and Photoplethysmogram (PPG) sensors, and Porter believes that it may be possible to use two optical sensors instead of an ECG, therefore making a device that is less cumbersome.

Optical illusion murals hide utility eyesores

The lonely desert mountains of the Book Cliffs in Utah are one of the true wilderness places left in America. Bison, bighorn sheep and mountain lions inhabit the gorgeously spare landscape. This land is far from any cell phone coverage or residential neighborhood, but not from the presence of man—not when fossil fuels are needed.
When Pioneer Natural Resources installed a compressor station with five sheds, miscellaneous piping and a tank battery on state trust land near the Book Cliffs, they hired a company founded by an LU alumnus to paint the buildings in a newly invented, creative style that makes them fade into the natural scenery. This form of “stealth painting” was the brainchild of John Edward “J.C.” Corrent ’72.

Corrent, who lives outside Salt Lake City, loves the Rocky Mountains and spending time outdoors in nature. However, he’s also realistic about the country’s need for energy, having worked in the oil and gas industry for 28 years before retiring to open his own consulting business. One day when he was on a job in Colorado, he noticed a new energy facility close to a residential area.

“This once sleepy little community of ranchettes was now turned into roads, storage tanks and basically an oil boom,” he said. “Though the Bureau of Land Management does have some rules that are called ‘Visual Resource Management’ (VRM) regulations, they aren’t very artistic. You can paint it green, tan, brown or some shade of these basic colors. The problem is that if you paint a storage tank or building a solid color—I don’t care what color—it’s still going to stand out like a sore thumb. Nothing in nature has real scenery. This form of ‘stealth painting’ is a style that makes them fade into the natural background.

In 10 days in 2007, Corrent, Davis and one additional helper transformed 31,000 square feet of surface area on the Pioneer Natural Resources station. With each new project, this technology becomes a more integral component of property security and eco-preservation.

Although the before vs. after appearance is remarkable, not everyone is sold on the concept. Corrent calls his company Structural Illusion. In 2010 in the Rocky Mountains, he and environmentalists have taken him to task as well.

“‘I’ve had people with environmental groups take issue with me because they say this concept takes away one of their arguments for not putting in the equipment in the first place,’” Corrent said. “‘The reality is that development of these resources is going to continue. Being able to improve or reduce the visual impact of facilities is going to be a major consideration in coming years. Energy companies are moving into areas that are environmentally sensitive and have scenic qualities. If you can blend this equipment into those backgrounds, it’s going to go a long way to allowing us to develop areas we wouldn’t be able to get into otherwise.’”

Corrent is currently negotiating a job in Colorado that would stealth paint 21 storage tanks that are within view of the town’s high school. At this time, he has no competitors. “We are the only people who have proposed this idea,” he said. “You have to have the right artist to do the work, and they are not easy to come by.”

Corrent views his business as a service to property security and robotic technology. “As the offshore market was coming out, it was all new,” he remembered. “I was becoming available. All this equipment you see on TV with James Cameron and National Geographic was becoming available. All this was just coming out. It was all new,” he remembered. He traded the peripatetic lifestyle for a steady career with Questar Pipeline Co. in Utah, working for 20 years as an engineer and project manager. He accepted an early retirement offer and opened his own consulting business, Broome Consulting, named after his grandfather’s hometown in Italy.

Corrent met his wife of 36 years, Pam (Taylor), in the Lamar library. Their son, Colin, has a doctorate in biochemistry and works in oncology research in Seattle, Wash. Their daughter, Megan, works for a consulting firm in Salt Lake City and is expecting the Corrents’ first grandchild this spring.

For leisure, Corrent loves fishing and skiing. “I never spent much time indoors,” he said. “I enjoy the Rocky Mountains. I’ve had offers to move to Houston or elsewhere, but I’m not going to leave the Rockies ever.”

You have to have the right artist to do the work, and they are not easy to come by.”
With more than 14,000 students enrolled, Lamar University is committed to preparing students to thrive in a culturally diverse and global society. It is one of the most ethnically and economically diverse universities in the country, according to U.S. News and World Report.

Vernice Monroe, LU liaison for multicultural enhancement, said the concept of diversity encompasses the presence and participation of individuals who differ by race, ethnicity, color, national origin, age, gender, religion, disability status, socio-economic status, and other cultural affiliations.

“The terms diversity and multicultural are used interchangeably, both implying efforts to remove barriers which prevent cultural inclusion,” said Monroe. “In order to move to a culturally inclusive campus, there is the need to examine the challenges experienced by those who represent diverse populations. For many years, Lamar has been acknowledged, nationally, as a diverse school.”

The most recent recognition was bestowed in July 2013 at the “Every Student Can! Developmental Education Course Redesign Summit in Austin. Lamar was recognized for excellence in the field of minority education innovation by the P-20 Initiatives for African American Education.

“I think recognitions like this present Lamar in a very positive light to those outside the campus,” said Oney Fitzpatrick, associate provost for student retention. “For those who may be looking at an institution of higher education to further their studies and want to be a part of a diverse community, Lamar certainly fits the bill.”

According to the Lamar University Office of Institutional Research and Reporting, in the last four years, black ethnicity has increased by 5.5 percent, the Hispanic population by 35.6 percent and Asian enrollment by 2.3 percent.

In fall 2013, the most recent data available, 51 percent of the students enrolled were white, 26 percent African American, 12 percent Hispanic, three percent Asian and eight percent other, which includes American Indian, Alaska Native, multiracial and unknown.

“These numbers certainly confirm facts we are very proud of at Lamar University,” said Kevin Smith, senior associate provost. “We are a very diverse campus and our far-reaching distance learning programs reflect that diversity as well.”

Last year, Lamar was ranked No. 1 in the nation for graduating Hispanic master’s degree students in education for the second consecutive year by Diverse Issues in Higher Education, the leading national education magazine devoted to issues concerning minorities in higher education.

The magazine also ranked Lamar among the Top 10 universities nationwide in six additional categories, including fifth for total minority graduate students in education, fifth for the most African-American master’s graduates in physical sciences and sixth in the nation for the most Asian-American master’s graduates in communication disorders. The annual rankings also recognized Lamar as the seventh-highest institution for graduating the most African-American master’s degree students in education, ninth for Hispanic master’s graduates in all disciplines and ninth nationwide for Native American graduate students in education.

In spring 2013, Lamar awarded 142 bachelor’s degrees and 139 master’s degrees to African-American students. LU is one of the top universities in Texas for the percentage of degrees conferred to African-Americans.

“Students told me that they were thankful for the kind of diversity we have on campus,” Fitzpatrick said. “This makes the learning environment and educational experience better for all involved as each of us share a bit of our world.”

Lamar offers various programs to increase retention rates and cultural diversity. One such program is the African-American Male Program (AAMP) that provides professional networking, mentoring, goal setting and leadership skills to male African Americans enrolled at Lamar University.

“This mentoring program is intended to expose students to other more mature men who could impart wisdom and be life coaches,” said Lamar alumna Yessenia Darden, who has been an active mentor in the program. “Over the years, it has evolved to include men who have achieved success in various fields and who have demonstrated the discipline to excel. These men are also able to mentor after graduation.”

In her position as liaison for multicultural enhancement for Lamar University, Monroe is proud to affirm the university’s progress toward adherence to one of its most important core values, a commitment to diversity in ideas, people, and access. —IA

he’s a freshman, a first-generation college student and this is her first time away from home. To her, the university is a big, intimidating place. She’s overwhelmed trying to navigate the system to find the right classes, the best choice of major and where to get information on academic resources and extra-curricular activities. She needs help. She needs a friendly face. She needs somebody who cares about her successful academic future and has the know-how to help her achieve it. Luckily for her and all the freshmen and sophomore students at Lamar University, there’s the new Undergraduate Advising Center.

Not alone

For Destiny Jackson, a freshman from Houston majoring in psychology, it was a relief to talk with an advisor who took the time to help with more than just scheduling help. “I was getting personal attention,” she said of her advisor, Jamaica Powell. “It’s a caring relationship.”

Powell updates Jackson regularly with important information regarding her degree plan and suggestions for other activities including membership in the Psychology Association of Lamar Students. “She keeps me in the loop,” Jackson said.

Jackson’s goal is to become a high school counselor. “I told her I would strive one day to be like her with my students,” Jackson said about Powell.

The advisor knows how daunting a university can seem to young students and is there to help. “We really want to set them up for success,” Powell said. “We really care about their future.”

Some students get homesick, so steering them toward campus organizations and activities is important. “I want them to feel like this is their second home,” she said.

The university has an official mentoring program, and Powell encourages students to take advantage of all the resources Lamar has to offer. But she wants them to know that they can seek guidance from her as well. “I’m their mentor too,” she said. “My door is always open.”

Her message to students: “You’re not alone.”

Enhancing students’ success

The Undergraduate Advising Center opened in January in the Parker Building under the direction of Daniel Barlett. There are 25 full-time advisors who specialize in specific majors, and they know and understand the degree plans of the departments with which they work. Freshman and sophomore students can make an appointment or just walk in to get individualized attention.

Helping students register for classes is a big component of the advising center, Barlett confirmed, but tracking and following up with students is also a large part of the job. Advisors
It’s enhancing students’ success. We facilitate getting students involved in other activities for a total university experience. It’s giving them a good connection with Lamar.

Keep an eye on students’ progress and get them to other resources they might need. “It’s enhancing the level of involvement,” he said. “It’s enhancing students’ success. We facilitate getting students involved in other activities for a total university experience. It’s giving them a good connection with Lamar.”

Lamar has a lot of first-generation college students, Battefield noted. “This is a big transition,” he said. “They still need help making that transition. Advisers help students learn how to navigate.”

Relationship building

Jordan Walker, a freshman from Beaumont majoring in pre-nursing, transferred to Lamar.

“Her advising saved me time and money,” she said. “I had no idea how to do any of that.”

Short also told Walker about taking a placement exam for college algebra that, if she scored well enough, would let her skip taking a college-readiness math course. She took the exam and passed. “I had no idea,” Walker said. “Her advising saved me time and money.”

“It’s all about relationship building,” Short believes. “We’re striving to make relationships with those resources that will help them be successful.”

“The strategy is working, according to Josie Leblanc, a freshman from Lake Charles.

“She keeps me encouraged, and I really appreciate it,” Leblanc said. “She’s not like any adviser I’ve ever had.”

“She’s not like any adviser I’ve ever had.”

Additionally, Doiron plans to get involved next semester in research into Brain Computer Interface with the electrical engineering department.

“It would be a great opportunity to get serious about this research,” she said. “It has many real-world applications. And since it is at its beginning stages, it would be awesome to have the chance to make groundbreaking discoveries in that area of research.”

Doiron dedicates a lot of her time to volunteering for nonprofit organizations such as the Humane Society of Southeast Texas and Stable Spirit, a provider of equine-assisted therapy in Rose City.

She began volunteering with those organizations through TALH, where she also did volunteer work at an elementary school to teach English as a Second Language (ESL).

“Looking back, I wouldn’t have changed anything,” she said. “TALH is not only about college classes; it is about getting involved and learning to successfully interact with people that are different than you in so many ways.”

Doiron met people from all over the world with contrasting beliefs and views.

“TALH’s slogan was right; it truly developed my heart and mind,” she said.

Doiron graduated from TALH in May 2016. “Hopefully, it will take me three years to get my college degree,” she said.

She said the best advice she ever received was, “Enjoy life. Enjoy what you do. Life should be fun. This encompasses your job, your hobbies, your studies, how you spend your free-time and who you spend it with. But also do what you feel is important.”

Her dream job would be to work for the space program, with either NASA or Boeing. She would love to travel into space. Doiron said she is interested in learning more about opportunities at Lamar to participate in research and experiments related to space, including possibly flying in a reduced-gravity aircraft.

But for now, Doiron seems to be following her friend’s advice and enjoying her life at Lamar. “My plans for the future are up for grabs,” she said. “I’m going anywhere life takes me.”—JA
When Charity Ogbeide enrolled at Lamar University, he knew that college was a second chance and an opportunity for him to reinvent himself.

“In high school, I wasn’t involved in any of the organizations,” Ogbeide said. “I always told people the only thing I was ever part of was winning class clown my senior year. So coming to college, I wanted to take advantage of everything.”

Elected as Lamar University Student Government Association president for 2013-2014, the Missouri City native decided to seize every opportunity he found to be involved. He is a member of LUTV, a member of Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity, has been on the executive board for the African Student Association, a member of the Professional Communication Association and has been Homecoming King.

“Being part of ASA definitely helped me stay connected to my African heritage,” Ogbeide said. “I had the privilege to participate in an internship at Agape Development Ministries, the mission of which was to bring transformation to Houston’s Third Ward through economic, emotional and spiritual empowerment. “We worked with underprivileged teenagers, teaching them profession- alism and how to become closer to God.”

Harnessing his love for serving, Ogbeide was recently accepted to be a Child Ambassa- dor for World Vision, a Christian humanitar- ian organization designed to tackle the issue of poverty and injustice. “Currently, I sponsor a child in Ethiopia, and now I have the op- portunity to go into training to help people sponsor more children,” he said.

Ogbeide wants to utilize this passion and employ it at SGA president. “Our plan is to get the students involved,” he said. “I hope to create more events that bring students together that normally wouldn’t get to know one another, uniting the campus as a whole.”

Serving as elected secretary/treasurer last year proved to be a stepping stone for Og- beide, who believes his experiences and mo- tives make him a good fit for president. “Being SGA president, you learn a lot about yourself, others, leadership, success, failure and life,” he said. “I want people to know that SGA doors are always open for everyone. I want us to grow together as Cardinals.”

Ogbeide almost missed the extraordinary opportunities Lamar has to offer.

“Originally, the day of Lamar orientation I planned on going to another college orientation, but at the last second I decided to see what Lamar had to offer,” he said. “Now, I think that must have been God. I came to Lamar and fall in love with the campus and the vast array of student organizations. Chos- ing Lamar has been one decision that I have never regretted.”

With the financial assistance of the Charles and Susan Gordon and Julia Gordon Gray Memorial Scholarship, Ogbeide feels as if his decision to attend Lamar has been blessed. Through his participation in organizations such as Release, Baptist Student Minis- try, and being a Young Life leader, Ogbeide said that he has grown not only mentally but also spiritually.

Attending Lamar has provided Ogbeide invaluable experiences and helped him flourish as an individual. “In high school, I only thought about going to college where I had helped me learn about the university by being involved; my academics are good and I’ve made great friends,” said the biology/ pre-med major.

Going to college was not always an obvious choice for Stephens. Born in Prague, Czech Republic, she moved to beach cleanups. She especially enjoys being involved with organizations that give back to the community, including the Rogers “Gift of Life” Program, the Hu- man Rights Club, and the Lamar Ambassadors. Stephens said she is excited for the challenge of being involved with Lamar’s Torch Leadership Banquet.

Small classes and the chance to develop strong relationships with professors first attracted Party Stephens to Lamar Uni- versity. Since enrolling, she has taken advantage of multiple opportunities that reinforced her choice.

“It’s the best decision I’ve made. I’ve established myself at the university by being involved; my academics are good; and I’ve made great friends,” said the biology/ pre-med major.

Pre-med major, Stephens dedicated to leadership, learning

major, she found even more ways to get involved on campus.

She joined the Lamar chapter of the American Medical Students Association and started her second year as the organization’s presi- dent this fall. Stephens and a few of her fellow members have even attended national AMSA confer- ences for the past two years. “I absolutely love it,” Stephens said. “We’re making it grow, and all the members are so dedicated. I’ve learned what it means to be a leader.”

Both Stephens and the organization were honored this spring at Lamar’s 2013 Toast to Leadership Banquet. Stephens won the Ann Shaw Leader- ship Award, which recognizes a student who makes significant contributions to Lamar, fosters teamwork and excellent leader- ship, and exhibits exemplary personal ethics and integrity. The Lamar AMSA chapter was named the university’s most- improved student organization. Through AMSA, she has participated in campus organizations, such as Lamar Ambassadors, Stephens has enjoyed volunteer work in Southeast Texas in a variety of ways, from events for the Julie Rogers “Gift of Life” Program to beach cleanups. She especially loved volunteering in the nursery at Baptist Hospital for two years, but her schedule no longer permits it. Along with classes and campus involvements, Stephens now balances a part-time job at a psychology’s office as well. Pre- viously, she worked on campus as a supplemental instructor for STARS (Student Advising and Retention Services), working with chemistry and anatomy and philosophy classes, and then as a student director in the Office of Civic Engagement. She also served as a peer advisor working with incom- ing students and their parents.

Now well on her way to achieving her goal of becoming a doctor, Stephens acknowled- ges that her transition a few years ago to a new school in a new country was a little tricky.

“Most people say when they go abroad, it’s a culture shock. For me, it was moving to Texas,” she said. “It wasn’t until I started col- lege where I began standing on my own two feet that I started to feel comfortable calling this place my home. Lamar University did that for me.”

An international upbringing has its advantages, though. Stephens speaks five languages—Czech, Dutch, Papuan (a language of Aruba and other nearby islands), Spanish and English, which she did not start learning until age 12.

“I think learning all those other languages when you’re younger helps when you’re older with absorbing new information and knowl- edge,” she said.

Stephens continues to remain open to the new information and new opportunities she finds at Lamar. Last summer, she participated in a study abroad program in Belize offered through the biology department. She also uses the Shell Umpire Regional Sports Complex regularly. Through AMSA, she has participated in indoor intramural soccer and climbing the rock wall frequently.

“Try anything new. You won’t know how you can improve so fast as at a long as you keep doing it. That’s really true with anything.”

She still has a few semesters before graduation, but Stephens already reached one important milestone during her tenure at Lamar. While the other two of Stephens’ three sisters (two were born U.S. citizens) also attend Lamar students. Although they have differ- ent majors and are involved in different activities on campus, it is nice to run into each other on campus sometimes, she said. For all of them, the experience at Lamar has been good.

“Lamar has opened my eyes to every- thing, especially to volunteering and being involved,” she said. “It’s built my character and personality. I’ve become a leader at Lamar and will take that with me wherever I go.”

—BG
Nursing major pursues passion, helping others

“Even though I didn’t know a lot, she felt comfortable with me being there, like everything was going to be okay. I want to pass that on to my patients,” Pospisil said. “It’s such a good feeling knowing that you made a small difference.

“The patients are your focus. When I’m in clinicals or volunteering and I walk next to the nurses, they know all of the patients’ stories and want to carry on conversations with them,” she said. “You really get to know not just the patients but their families as well. It’s just amazing.”

Pospisil’s experiences at clinicals, during which nursing students get hands-on experience in nursing, are at a high level and will always be her favorite part of the Lamar nursing program. She also enjoys using Lamar’s state-of-the-art sim lab, which are set up as functioning hospital rooms and feature lifelike mannequins that can talk and display vital signs. Her favorite class is pharmacology and the professors in the JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing make learning truly enjoyable: “It seems like all the teachers and instructors here are really there to help you,” she said. Although she likes all of the Lamar instructors, Pospisil’s favorite instructor is Gina Hale.

“Mrs. Hale is very energetic when she teaches,” Pospisil said. “She’s like a little cheerleader cheering you on, and I love that because I want to have that same passion.”

Pospisil has received several scholarships from Lamar, including the Mary Frances Dimschow Sherman Endowed Nursing Scholarship and the Tom F and Ann D. Jones Honors Scholarship. Outside of school, Pospisil enjoys reading, gardening, running, and climbing the rock wall at the recreational center. She has also participated in many volunteer activities while attending Lamar, such as working with the Adopt-A-Reach Program and the AIDS Alliance Network. She volunteers regularly at Baptist Hospital in Beaumont and teaches Valencia Bible School as well. For Pospisil, it all comes down to her constant willingness to learn.

“As a nurse, you are responsible for continuing to learn,” Pospisil said. “You will never stop learning in the nursing field. There will always be new research, and that’s amazing.”

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Past Presidents’ Lunch

Past presidents of the Alumni Advisory Board gather for lunch to assess progress and look to the future.

Back row: Jaka Tertencel ’76, Gene Feigelson ’65, Bert Rogers ’56, Mike Albright ’55, Clayton Lake ’55, Bud Leonard ’50, ‘56, President Ken Evans, Jimmy Booker ’55, Dan Hall, Mike Yarbo, Brent Daverth ’89, Charlie C. Stratl ’74, Gilbert Adams ’61, Frank Cowart ’65, ‘73, Paula (Tsao) O’Neal ’79, Lois (Hicks) Rischof ’56, Ellen (Wheeler) Rienstra ’62, ’80, Frank Mussina ’71
Jazz Night
A fall house of Mid-County, Port Arthur and Beaumont area alumni enjoy good music and good food during the Alumni Jazz Night at Pan’s in Nederland.

1. Sue Gudzi Griffith '31, Becky Fussell '82, Rebecca Faller '76 - Site Saxophone - 30th Street Studios in Galveston.
2. Mike Honey '84, Tomatomic '76, Robin '71, Becca Johnson '72 - Alto Saxophone - 30th Street Studios in Galveston.
3. Mike Honey '84, Pat Porras '68, Tim Cauthen '92 - Tenor Saxophone - 30th Street Studios in Galveston.
4. Sue Gudzi Griffith '31, Becky Fussell '82, Rebecca Faller '76 - Trumpet - 30th Street Studios in Galveston.
5. Mike Honey '84, Pat Porras '68, Tim Cauthen '92 - Trombone - 30th Street Studios in Galveston.
6. Mike Honey '84, Pat Porras '68, Tim Cauthen '92 - Baritone Saxophone - 30th Street Studios in Galveston.

Photos Clifton
Class Notes

Kappa Alpha awarded her the 2013 Silver Star degree from the University of Houston. Alpha ment, ’90, B.S. criminal justice, earned a law DeMonica Gladney lives in Beaumont.

Rebecca Woodland is a legal aid and owner of the Law Offices of Lisa (Davis) Baker.

Laurie (Salles) Hayes is a legal aid and owner of the Law Offices of Lisa (Davis) Baker.

Mary Roberts ’91, A.S. law enforcement, is assistant principal in the Spring Branch school district, where she lives in Houston, is principal of South Park Middle School in the Beaumont school district, where she lives.

Mike Kunst is a consulting manager for Emtec. He lives in Dallas.

Candis Zimmerman ’92, B.A. AAS. applied arts and sciences, earned a master’s degree from the University of Houston. She lives in San Antonio.

Michelle (LeBlanc) Menard ’94, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, earned a master’s degree from the University of Texas at Austin. She lives in Friendswood.

James Ware is a certified registered nurse anesthetist. He and his wife, Debbie, live in Houston.

Angela (Farmer) Khalil ’03, B.B.A. management, is a store manager for Good’s Financial in Lumberton.

Mike Ralph is a certified public accountant at Lott Ventures at Enron Grove. She and her husband, John Ralph Sr., have identical twins now.

Jennifer Alline ’00, B.S. communication sciences, is an associate director of MHS administration for Texas A&M University. She lives in Houston.

James Battin, ’75, B.M. music education, is a consultant to the Port Neches school district, where he lives with his wife, Susan.

Brian Savoy ’97, B.B.A. accounting, is vice chancellor as well. He and his wife, Sabrina, live in Houston.

Stacy (Hernandez) Menard ’95, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, earned a master’s degree from the University of Houston. She lives in Beaumont.

He is principal of South Park Middle School in the Beaumont school district, where he lives.

Brian Baker and Assoc. and Diamond L Ranch.

James Rodney ’04, B.A.S. electronics and robotics, A.A.S. industrial electronics and ballroom dance classes for the Wellness Center, as well as private ballroom lessons. She lives in Beaumont.

Dr. Howard Lomax ’91, B.S. psychology, is a biologist for Harris Health in Houston, where he lives with his wife, Brooke.

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Class of 1963 Reunion

Reminiscences from the early ‘60s and the many changes that have taken place since then dominated the conversations of alumni who attended the Class of 1963 reunion this past November.

1. Margie (Mearlon) Hill ’63, Martha (Richards) Washington ’60, Sandra Mearlon Geter ’80
2. Allen Bradley ’63, Marie Bradley, Bill Manthei ’63, Rena (D’Orazio) Manthei ’65
3. Lindley King ’63, Linda King
4. Velma (Dailey) Martin ’63, Sally (McDonald) House ’59, ’67
5. Laurie (House) Ritchel ’85, Brenda Van Dyke, Dick Cantella ’63
6. Don Warren ’63, Judith Johnston
7. Marcel H. Elissalde ’63
8. Tom Cunningham ’63, Sue Burrows
9. Linda Kimbrough, Mack Kimbrough ’63, Margaret (Shipp) Harries ’63, Anna Emmas (Victor) Joubert ’63
10. Margo Johnson, Bob Morgan ’63
11. Linda (Schmucker) Elissalde ’63, Jerry Ebanks
12. Blake McKaskle ’63, Connie McKaskle
13. Class of 1963
15. Emma (Victor) Joubert ’63
16. Rachel Trackey, Sammie (Hodnett) Philips ’63, Cody Plane ’63, B.S. history, earned a master’s degree in education administration and special education. He is dean of students in the Tomball school district, where he lives with his wife, Stana (Neal) Plane ’63, M.Ed. counseling and development. Their daughter, McKenzie, is a Lamar student.

Mark Silliman ’66, M.B.A. public administration, completed a law degree from the University of Houston Law Center and is in private practice in Houston. He lives in Memorial.

Samara (Schulte) Thompson Van Sickle ’66, B.A.A. management information systems, M.B.A. business administration, is seeks letters for a Houston advertising firm. She lives with her husband, Randy Van Sickle ’66, B.A.A. management information systems. He works for JAMS, Inc. as a support technician.

Rachel (Hendershot) Tucker ’66, B.A. family and consumer sciences-interior design, is a director for Farnsworth Marketing Group Inc. in Houston, where she lives with her husband, Lewis.

Linda (Boudinot) White ’67, B.A. education, M.Ed. special education, teaches in the Tomball school district. She and her husband, John White ’65, B.S. nursing, have two children. Thomas works for a heart catheterization lab in Conroe.

Sara (Threlkeld) Anderson ’68, B.S. communica- tion, is a marketing director for Medialit, she lives in Austin.

Prasad Prabhakaran ’68, M.E. industrial engi- neering, is a solutions architect for Motorola. He lives in the Houston area.

Tony (Logel) Russell ’68, B.B.A. accounting, is a certified public accountant and finance director for the city of San Antonio, where she lives.

Saketh Kotaru ’69, B.S. electrical engineering and management, is a senior electrical engineer for IBM Global in Eatontown, N.J. He lives in Basking Ridge, N.J.

Middle Ground ’68, B.S. general studies, earned a master’s degree in library science from the University of South Texas. She is a librarian at the University of Texas at Austin.

Shane (Lecky) Evans ’69, B.G.S. general studies, teaches social studies in the Beaumont school dis- trict. She lives in Port Arthur with her husband, Mark.

LeAnn (Hargis) Reddick ’69, B.A. mechanical engineering, is an engineering manager for Marquette Petroleum. She lives in Legudence with her husband, Kevin.

Beth (Schroer) Luminec ’69, B.G.S. general studies, is a manager for Federal Express in Beaumont. She and her husband, Nick ’82, B.A. mathematics, B.B. physics, live in Beaumont.

Kari Michalik ’70, M.E. electric engineering, is a project manager for Holland Park. He lives in Jacksonville.

Brian Midkine ’70, M.A. psychology, is a profession- ional counselor and part-time faculty. He lives in San Marcos.

Troy Howes ’71, B.B.A. accounting, is an agent for Morgan Insurance in Lufkin. He lives in Lufkin.

Diane (Lewis) Davis ’04, B.G.S. general studies, teaches social studies in the Beaumont school dis- trict. She lives in Port Arthur with her husband, Marvin.

Leatha (Hughes) Hallmark ’04, B.S. mechanical engineering, is an engineering superintendent for Marathon Petroleum. She lives in League City with her husband, Kevin.

Beth (Shipp) Harries ’63, M.B.A. public administra- tion, completed a law degree from the University of Houston Law Center and is in private practice in Houston. He lives in Memorial.

Summer (Swertner) Thompson Van Sickle ’66, B.A.A. management information systems, M.B.A. business administration, is seeks letters for a Houston advertising firm. She lives with her husband, Randy Van Sickle ’66, B.A.A. management information systems. He works for JAMS, Inc. as a support technician.

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Saketh Kotaru ’69, B.S. electrical engineering and management, is a senior electrical engineer for IBM Global in Eatontown, N.J. He lives in Basking Ridge, N.J.

Mollie Goodell ’06, B.G.S. general studies, earned a master’s degree in library science from the University of North Texas. She is a librarian at the University of North Texas. She is a librarian at the University of North Texas.
Homecoming Tailgate

Many alumni got a head start on celebrating homecoming at the Progama Alumni Tailgate Party last fall before finding their seats in the stadium to watch the Cards take on Central Arkansas.


Students from each academic college enjoyed the opportunity to engage with LU alumni professionals in their chosen fields during Dinner & Conversation Feb. 4. 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.


By Brandi Vandiver

Dinner & Conversation

Students from each academic college enjoyed the opportunity to engage with LU alumni professionals in their chosen fields during Dinner & Conversation Feb. 4. 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.


By Brandi Vandiver
**ALUMNI**

**Luis (Cervantes) Perez** ’84, A.A. general studies, died Oct. 21, 2013.

**Bela Wyte** ’85, A.A. general studies, died June 5, 2013.

**Miguel Angel Chavez** ’87, A.A. general studies, died July 25, 2013.

**Flord Moral** ’89, A.A. general studies, died June 20, 2013.


**Jeffrey Pinkston** ’90, A.A. general studies, died Aug. 26, 2013.

**Daniel Antonio Menjivar** ’90, A.A. general studies, died Sept. 11, 2013.

**Edward Romano** ’90, B.S. mechanical engineering, died Aug. 18, 2013.

**Nancy (Heneghan) Roy** ’91, B.A. English, died May 14, 2013.


**Jean (Jones) Lewis** ’91, B.S. business economics, died May 6, 2013.

**Darren (Romero) Smith** ’91, B.S. speech, died June 6, 2013.

**Angela (Diaz) Sisler** ’92, B.S. general studies, died Aug. 22, 2013.

**Joyce (Antrim) Allen** ’93, B.S. elementary education, died Sept. 11, 2013.

**John (Larsen) Jones** ’93, B.S. management, died Nov. 11, 2013.

**Kenneth Thompson** ’93, B.S. physical education, died Aug. 28, 2013.

**Hornburg Bourque** ’93, B.S. chemical engineering, died Feb. 20, 2013.

**Lambert Connors** ’93, B.S. art management, died Oct. 7, 2013.

**Whalen (Chernis) Verdi** ’93, B.S. English, died Aug. 11, 2013.

**Darla (Quinones) Gilbert** ’94, B.A. art management, died Oct. 21, 2013.

**Kevin (Gholston) Low** ’95, B.S. economics, died June 6, 2013.

**Thomas Vaughn** ’95, B.S. sales and distribution, died Aug. 20, 2013.

**Bill (Williams) Wells** ’95, B.S. art management, died June 6, 2013.

**Patrick (McBride) Blakely** ’95, B.S. computer science, died Jan. 31, 2013.

**Robin (Emmes) Morgan** ’96, B.A. art management, died June 6, 2013.


**David (Shepherd) Clark** ’97, B.S. sociology, died May 18, 2013.

**Karen (Christensen) White** ’97, B.S. elementary education, died Sept. 20, 2013.

**Belle (Wylie) SilverXis** ’98, B.A. science, died Jan. 24, 2013.


**Joyce (Lewis) Albritton** ’98, B.A. sociology, died June 20, 2013.


**Ivan (Min) Kim** ’99, M.S. secondary education, died June 12, 2013.


**Suzanne (Long) Huber** ’72, B.A. English, died July 28, 2013.

**Suzanne (Ostrowski) Caple** ’77, B.S. medical technology, died May 4, 2013.


**Thomas Lowrance** ’73, B.B.A. accounting, died June 1, 2013.


**George (Campbell) Albritton** ’70, B.S. economics, died May 24, 2013.

**Bianca (Kirkland) Davis** ’73, B.A. psychology, died June 9, 2013.

**William Mann** ’70, B.B.A. management, died Apr. 20, 2013.

**Junior (Green) Martin** ’70, A.A. general studies, died Mar. 1, 2013.

**Megan (Taylor) Garrett**’77, A.A. general studies, died Sept. 9, 2013.

**Lucy (Pederson) Vought** ’71, B.M. elementary education, died May 20, 2013.

**Martin (Chacona) Rivero** ’71, B.S. business economics, died May 22, 2013.


**Tina (Lujan) Baca** ’72, B.A. art management, died Dec. 20, 2013.


**John (Hoffman) Alexander** ’73, B.S. elementary education, died May 3, 2013.

**Robert (Johnson) Thomas** ’74, B.S. elementary education, died Sep. 17, 2013.

**Michael (Eastman) Swain** ’76, B.A. history, died May 18, 2013.


**John (Smith) Hanks** ’74, B.S. music, died Nov. 11, 2013.

**Bill (Cashion) Arnold** ’73, B.S. physical education, died Aug. 8, 2013.

**Marilyn (Huber) Wilson** ‘73, B.S. elementary education, died Sept. 20, 2013.


**Catalina (Santos) Melendez** ’76, B.S. art management, died June 6, 2013.

**Ernesto (Carrillo) Lazo** ’76, B.S. art management, died May 26, 2013.

**Jose (Hernandez) Martinez** ’75, B.S. elementary education, died May 12, 2013.

**Eric (Kaufman) Piazza** ’73, B.S. fine arts, died Apr. 20, 2013.

**Michael (Reynolds) Simmons** ’71, B.S. elementary education, died May 24, 2013.

**B. A. Weston** ’70, B.S. computer science, died June 9, 2013.

**Karen (O’Hare) Farrior** ’70, A.A. art management, died Apr. 22, 2013.

**Frank (Gollob) Hare** ’69, B.S. business, died Aug. 18, 2013.

**Janie (Gibson) Jones** ’75, B.S. health and physical education, died June 20, 2013.

**T. W. Davidson** ’64, B.S. underground engineering, died June 21, 2013.

**Bob (Beckhaus) Davis** ’65, B.S. computer science, died Jan. 31, 2013.


**Barbara (Mitchell) Sikes** ’73, B.A. psychology, died Oct. 4, 2013.

**Jack (Heywood) Vickers** ’70, B.S. physical education, died June 23, 2013.

**Catherine (Hwang) Kim** ’71, B.S. elementary education, died Sept. 2, 2013.

**Mona (Duffy) McNamara** ’70, B.S. elementary education, died Aug. 17, 2013.

**Bob (Kemp) Little** ’70, B.S. elementary education, died Sept. 11, 2013.
LAMAR UNIVERSITY
President’s Circle

Donors often choose to support the strategic priorities that are most meaningful to them, and, as a result, they make a significant commitment to the success of Lamar and its students. In order to honor and recognize these individuals, the university’s 15th president, Kenneth R. Evans, has established the Lamar University President’s Circle.

Regardless of where individuals choose to dedicate their President’s Circle gifts, their support provides crucial resources that are a vital part of what is being achieved at Lamar every day. There are limitless opportunities available to make a difference.

Donors are touching lives with gifts that support academics, scholarships, research, internships and more. Members of the President’s Circle are taking the lead among Lamar’s most influential supporters with their generous commitment.

The President’s Circle establishes a valuable network of supporters who will be greatly valued by the president of Lamar University. In gratitude for President’s Circle members’ commitments, they will be afforded privileges, which include communications, preferred seating at some university events, invitations to special 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 membership 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. Gifts received beginning June 1, 2013, may be included towards any membership level.

- **Spindletop** $1,000,000
- **Diamond** $250,000
- **Ruby** $100,000
- **Platinum** $50,000
- **Gold** $25,000
- **Silver** $12,500
- **Silver (Young Alumni)** $6,250*

*Alumni within 10 years of their graduation date may become members by pledging $1250/year for five years.

To become a member of the President’s Circle or to receive more information, please contact us at (409) 880-8422 or development@lamar.edu.