RETENTION & RECRUITMENT: Due to a tuition increase and more rigorous admission requirements, Spring 2012 enrollment slipped slightly compared to last Spring. Headcount enrollment (13,772) fell less than one percent and credit hour production (138,225) fell slightly more than a percent one percent. Open House, the university’s spring recruiting event, attracted more than 1,500 prospects and their families to campus. Strategic Enrollment Management staff are working feverishly to attract new students, and other staff members are busily addressing retention. Lamar is excited about the new Undergraduate Advisement Center and "I Will" admission standards, both of which will affect fall students. New Mirabeau Scholars were named recently and will join earlier cohorts. Also, new David J. Beck Fellows, Elizabeth Maxwell and Chelsea Barnard, have been announced. Ms. Maxwell will spend this summer studying manta rays off the coast of Mozambique, while Ms. Barnard will retrace Chaucer’s pilgrimage to Canterbury.

UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT: Recently, Lamar honored four graduates as Alumni of Distinction. Jim Gilligan, '69, Lamar head baseball coach and Steve Moore, '78, CEO of the Country Music Association were named Distinguished Alumni; Don Pumphrey, '88, community volunteer and Customer Service Manager for Entergy Texas, was named Distinguished Alumnus for Community Service; and Michele Smith, '88, Shareholder with MehaffyWeber was named Distinguished Young Alumna. Lamar has started converting the website to a new Content Management System. Once completed, the entire website will be managed locally by staff in each campus department. The migration will also allow staff members to make instant updates. The move to the system will also provide redundant backups for online materials and allow for a continued online presence even during disaster or equipment failure. Lamar’s relationship with Academic Partnerships (AP) had expanded to include Integrated Marketing. Lamar representatives and AP staff are working to ensure the best promotion of the Lamar brand and that all Lamar’s assets are leveraged in print, video and social media.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENTS: Anthony Daspit, senior mathematics major, was the 3rd Prize winner at the Conference of Texas Statisticians Poster Presentation for “The Generalized Pareto Distribution and Threshold Analysis of Normalized Hurricane Damage in the Gulf Coast Region. Daspit was the only undergraduate to win. His research project was directed by faculty mentor, Dr. Kumer Das, associate professor of mathematics, and was partially funded by Exxon-Mobil. History graduate student James Burns presented a poster on the history of German paleontology and its influence on American paleontology at the 22nd International Senckenberg Conference in Frankfurt. Burns, from Fred, TX will enter the history doctoral program at the University of Oklahoma in the fall. Classmate Cassandre Durso, from Beaumont, presented research from her thesis, “Of Seeds and Sorrow: The Life of the Italian Immigrant in Texas and Louisiana, 1880-1925,” at the Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society National Conference in Orlando. She will enter the history doctoral program at Brown University in the fall. A Lamar MBA student team is one of 25 worldwide to be selected to compete for prize money in the “2012 Business & Society Competition.” Teams from the U.S., France, Australia, Canada, Spain, Venezuela and Finland will participate. Nick Lanning, senior physics major and a participant in Lamar's NSF-
funded STAIRSTEP program, received one of the five 2012 American Physical Society Awards for Best Poster Presentation. His research, “Electron Diffraction by Graphite,” was directed by mentor and associate professor of Physics, Dr. Cristian Bahrim. The STAIRSTEP project is directed by University Professor of Computer Science, Dr. Peggy Doerschuk. Mr. Qingliang He, Ph.D. student in Chemical Engineering, received awards for a 1st place in the competition at the 2012 International Polyolefins Conference for his poster, “Morphology and Phase Controlled Magnetic PP-g-MA Nanocomposites.” Dr. John Guo, assistant professor of Chemical Engineering, serves as Mr. He’s major professor. Michael Zarzosa, a December 2011 Biology graduate and the 2010 David J. Beck Fellow, has been accepted into veterinary medicine schools at Cornell, Texas A&M, Kansas State, and LSU. He will attend Cornell this fall after also being accepted into the university’s Veterinary Investigator Program, a competitive summer research program. Pi Sigma Alpha, the political science honor society, has funded a project which focuses on educating at-risk elementary students from neighborhoods near Lamar about the dangers of breaking the law, opportunities afforded by a college degree, and the workings of the U.S. legal system. “The Pipeline Project” was developed by Ms. Sarah Gubala, instructor of Political Science and faculty advisor to LU’s Zeta Lambda Chapter and Mr. Garrett Brawley, political science major and president of the Pre-Law Society and the Zeta Lambda Chapter. Dr. Kaye Shelton, associate professor in Educational Leadership, received Recognition of Merit in the Phi Delta Kappa International Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award competition. Her dissertation, “A Quality Scorecard for the Administration of Online Education Programs: A Delphi Study,” investigates quality indicators of distance learning programs.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS: Brooks-Shivers Renovation: In April, a review of short-listed Architects/Engineer Firms (A/E) will begin and advertisement for Construction Management at Risk was issued. Softball: A project planning form has been submitted to TSUS for design of the Softball Complex, though funding has not yet been identified. Utilization of Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity: Lamar has begun to use the services of our contracted IDIQ Architects/Engineers as follows:

• PDG Architects, Inc. is scoping the construction of seventeen offices and several bathrooms in the Gray Library according to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. They are also designing the safety handrails for the Montagne Center’s upper area.
• VLK Architects, Inc. is designing the University Undergraduate Advisement Center.
• Johnston, LLC is continuing the Maes Building renovation of offices, hall and restrooms.

Utilization of Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) for Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing: Lamar is awaiting completion of the contract between the System and three selected firms: Dabhi Engineering, Smith Seckman Reid, Inc., and WSP Flack & Kurtz. Facilities Management: With the decision not to outsource, building improvements may be necessary.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: To provide greater access, Lamar’s customer service support desk was moved to the Gray Library. An upgrade to our email system was completed in April. Phases I and II of the Oracle database upgrade were completed. A technology review was conducted in March as a component of the campus master planning process. Future initiatives include a migration of externally delivered courses to the Blackboard Learning Management System, enhanced student and faculty support of Blackboard, phase III of the Oracle database upgrade and enhancements to the IT web presence using the new content management system.