

CARDINAL

CADENCE

THE MAGAZINE OF LAMAR UNIVERSITY

VOL. 45, NO. 2 | SUMMER 2017



| FROM THE **PRESIDENT** |



President Evans hosts new ambassadors at their Welcome Party May 1.

Independent spirit means many things to people, but at Lamar University the term demonstrates how people think and feel as they grow, learn and mature into what we assist them in discovering about themselves and their environment. This sense of independence can be found in all of our students as they attend classes, make new

friends, have first-time experiences, discover fresh insights and more. This last issue in the A Texas State of Mind series focuses on Independent Spirit in our students, staff, faculty and alumni.

In this Cadence, we feature our new football coach, who is well into practices and getting ready to start his first season at LU. Mike Schultz came to us from Texas State University, and we are excited to support him and all of our student-athletes this fall. Another staff member profiled in this issue is Wendy Greenidge, assistant professor in clinical mental health counseling, whose independent spirit can be found in her instructional design and delivery. LU's Department of Theatre and Dance took this same spirit and passion for what they do and formed an exchange with Tianjin University of Technology in China. Additionally, our student profile focuses on sophomore pre-med biology major Omar Hamza's independent outlook and his involvement on campus.

Entrepreneurs often display an independent spirit when forming their businesses and that is exactly what many of our alumni have done, with a few featured here. Tyler Blount and David Pool took their friendship and shared interest in brewing beer to create a company, while Fred Vernon, only 28-years-old, already runs his own FedEx freight fleet business and is seeking ways to help future LU students. Other alumni exhibit this spirit through their giving and support in communities. Steve Moore founded The Shalom Foundation which operates a growing surgery center in Guatemala City to provide surgeries to children and teenagers. Angela Blanchard also is reaching out in her Houston community and internationally through her work as president and CEO of BakerRipley. Her work in underserved communities is highlighted in this issue with her innovative approach concentrating on what makes an area thrive.

A program my wife, Nancy, recently developed is Women and Philanthropy, which you can read more about in this Cadence. It is an exciting new initiative where the university is reaching out to the women of the greater Southeast Texas community through innovative speakers and programs. We also bring to your attention information about activities in our individual colleges, our upcoming Homecoming, alumni and friend events and Cardinal Adventures.

With an independent spirit,

Kenneth R. Evans, President



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Kristen Chessher, writes an equation developed by PJ Couch, assistant professor of mathematics.

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Lamar University encourages, facilitates and harnesses independent thought through inspiring our students to think critically and embrace the independence their degree affords them. As they embark on their future, this independent spirit will live on though their accomplishments and the lives they touch.

Lamar University is A Texas State of Mind.



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INDEPENDENT SPIRIT *BREWS* SUCCESS

by Kara Timberlake

What started as a love for brewing beer became a business for Tyler Blount '07 and David Pool '07.

The two lifelong friends and classmates opened the Neches Brewing Company in the heart of downtown Port Neches Sept. 11. Named after the river that was an important backdrop as they grew up, the brewery claims its place as Southeast Texas's first brewpub.

For Blount, his first experience with craft beer happened at Lamar University. "I think the first time I had craft beer was probably at LU at Kampus Korner," he said. "Once you have craft beer, whether it's

Saint Arnold's or Shiner Bock or another brand, it opens your eyes to a whole new style of beer, better beer."

His craft beer tasting inspired him and a friend to buy a home brewing kit.

"We brewed in my parents' kitchen, and that batch of beer came out really awful," he said. "We drank it all. We were just so proud. All in all, it takes like four weeks to make beer, so when it was finally ready, no matter what it tasted like, we were going to drink it."

Blount and Pool, who have known each other since they were kids, reconnected through brewing. "Dave and I went to school together and were actually in Cub Scouts together," Blount said. "We met back up through home brewing. Around 2009, I was an insurance agent in Beaumont. When I got off work on the weekends, I brewed beer. Around the same time, Dave and some of our other buddies were also brewing beer in Beaumont."

After the men realized their shared interest, they decided to collaborate.

"I remember taking one of my first successful batches, a pumpkin spiced beer, over to a Halloween party with one of our mutual friends that was brewing with Dave," Blount said. "Dave told me that we should get together and brew, so that's what we did almost every weekend. It was just fun making beer and sharing it with our friends."

For years, they joked about the idea of starting a brewery; however, after creating the Big Floyd Stout, a seasonal beer that Blount calls "the kitchen sink of stouts," jests about starting a brewery turned into serious ruminations.

Around this time, Blount began rethinking his professional goals. "I remember being at work one day, thinking about my future, and I was like do I really want to sit behind this computer all day and write quotes and sell insurance," he said. "I wanted a job where I would be excited about getting up and going to work in the morning."



David Pool, left, and Tyler Blount.



In search of this dream job, Blount thought about his passions. “Brewing beer was fun,” he said. “We’ve always joked about starting a brewery one day, but that became the epiphany that upped our seriousness on brewing beer, taking it to the next level.”

Partnering together, the two men found their niche. “Dave is the business man,” Blount said. “I formulated the recipes and brewed the beer. Early on, I was doing this by myself, and there was no way I could have done it. With Dave’s 10 plus years with the feed store and his knowledge of running a business, it just made sense to combine forces.”

“I wanted a job where I would be excited about getting up and going to work in the morning.”

—Tyler Blount

Pool’s business acumen emerged early. As a teenager, he began a lawn mowing business as well as a skateboarding store, and he has had a host of other business experiences as well, including helping run his parents’ Mid County Farm and Feed store.

While attending LU, Pool became discouraged with the job market and decided to drop out. “I was running a business, and I quit school because all my friends who had graduated a year before with something similar or the same thing weren’t able to find jobs without moving. I knew I didn’t want to go anywhere,” he said. He soon chose to return to school to complete his degree. “It really helped me develop my plan for where I wanted to go in life,” he said. “I wanted to be in business, but I wanted to do my own thing.”

Pool said most people don’t pursue their business dreams because they’re scared of failure. “The only way to succeed is to fail first,” he said. “I’ve done it five or six times. Now I’m a part of this, and we’re successful. You’ve just got to do it. You control your own destiny. If you care, you succeed. You’ll work harder than you’ve ever worked in your life.”

The first step was creating a business plan and ensuring that a brewery would be feasible, Blount said. “Anytime you start a new business, you don’t know how it’s going to be,” he said. “It’s a huge risk. It’s a pretty strenuous application process to get a brewery started. We had to submit all kinds of paperwork to the government and to the state.

“They tell you that in three to five years you should be turning a profit in a business,

and we’re already profitable. We’ve cut our debt almost in half,” Blount said.

Both Blount and Pool earned business degrees from Lamar University in 2007, which they said served as a foundational tool. “We learned how to write business plans, which helped, and LU offers some really good resources,” Blount said. “I think the entrepreneur class is probably the best course as far as the marketing side goes because it inspires someone to go out and do something on their own.”

That independent spirit carried Blount through to 2014, a pivotal year as he welcomed the birth of his daughter and began constructing the brewery with Pool.

“As soon as she was born, that’s when we started doing this,” Blount said. “It took us two years to actually build

this out. Dave and I pretty much touched every square inch of this place.”

Using the space as inspiration, the business partners renovated a building located in Port Neches’ historical downtown. “We gutted this place and exposed rafters and added insulation, ductwork, air conditioning, added a bathroom, and all new plumbing,” he said. “We built a metal building in the back that houses the brewery, so it was a lot of planning and execution. It was weird because we didn’t have any blueprints to follow. Over time, we would do a little project here, a little project there. All of a sudden, we walk in one day, and it’s done.”

Already, the entrepreneurs’ hard work is paying off. “We’ve actually outgrew this spot, which is a good problem to have,”

Blount said. “There are future plans of us maybe opening another brewery one day, but that will take several years with a whole new business plan. We’re still baby-stepping it, taking it very slow to get to 2.0.”

The community from the start welcomed the brewery. “We did a crowd-funding campaign and raised almost \$40,000,” Blount said. “We got noticed because our crowd-funding went so well. I think that just shows you that people in the area were ready for something like this, which was reassuring for us.”

Although the company is still young, they’re finding ways to give back to the community. The Neches Brewing Company has held benefits for children and families in need.

The co-owners emphasize that the brewery is family friendly, with Blount adding

that his daughter often comes in and uses chalk on the floor. “There hasn’t been a bar in this town for ages,” Pool said. “We wanted to have a different perception of what a bar could be.”

Pool is teaching a home brewing course at the brewery and hopes to build upon it in the future. “The home brew class is a way to get people interested in the culture,” he said. “The more people understand what goes into a beer, the more people will appreciate it. It’s an educational effort I hope to do bi-monthly and build on it.”

Some recipes take years to perfect. Their determined attitude, which Blount applies to his brewing experiments, also reflects how the

co-owners feel about the challenges of business.

“Creating something new is always fun,” Blount said. “You keep tweaking it until it works.”



TRANSFORMATION *in progress*

Campus renewal continues on the heels of construction of the new Wayne A. Reaud Administration Building and Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship. State-of-the-art student and instructional spaces provide ample reason for alumni to return to campus during Homecoming Nov. 4 to see how much the campus has improved.

- ▶ A complete rebuild of the Setzer Student Center has begun and is expected to be completed in spring of 2018. As a result of the first true renovation since the building's construction in 1953, the architectural plans include entirely reconfigured spaces filled with natural light for meeting, gathering, catering and working.
- ▶ Construction has just begun on the new Science and Technology Building, which will be 78,400 square feet. Completion is expected in fall 2018. Once finished, the building will host multiple groups and classes across disciplines.
- ▶ The entrance and lobby remodel of Mary and John Gray Library will accommodate the addition of a ground-level Starbucks.
- ▶ Recent improvements to the University Theatre enable a new audio-visual system.
- ▶ A major gift from Susan Conn McCurry allowed LU fans to view highlights of court action on a new state-of-the-art scoreboard array, hanging high above Billy and Pat Tubbs Court in the Montagne Center.
- ▶ New infrastructure in the Chemical Engineering Unit Operations Lab improves the instruction space for teaching multiple industry processes.

| ATHLETICS NEWS |



LU Cross Country Wins Southland Title

Lamar University men's cross country continued its unprecedented run at the 2016 Southland Conference Championships. The Cardinals scored 43 points to claim its fourth-straight title in 11 seasons at the Pecan Acres Park in Nacogdoches, Texas.

The men's victory notched the third time in program history that LU has won at least four championships in a row and improved the overall count to 15 Southland Conference titles.

Behind Freddie Gasbarri's second-place finish, LU claimed four runners in the Top 10. Gasbarri recorded his 8,000-meter career-best mark on a 24:20.1 time and only trailed the individual champion by less than nine seconds.

It was the fifth time in the last 11 seasons that the Cardinals took the team championship without the individual champion.

"This was a great team effort. We didn't rely on a 'Big Gun' up front, but the pack running was our strength, and it really came together

for us when it mattered most," said 2016 SLC Men's Cross Country Coach of the Year Tony Houchin.

LU runners who placed in the Top 10 also landed on the All-Southland Conference team. Gasbarri was joined on the All-SLC squad by teammates Tobias Riker (4th), Stu Ferguson (8th) and Sean Chalmers (10th).



Langley scores honors in football

Senior corner Brendan Langley received an invite to play in the 2016 Reese's Senior Bowl. Langley receives the honor following a season that saw him earn first-team All-Southland Conference honors as a defensive back and punt returner. It also comes during a year that saw all 32 NFL teams make at least one stop in Beaumont during the 2016 season.

A versatile athlete, Langley shaped all three phases of the game for the Cardinals during his two years on campus. Starting his career as a receiver, Langley shifted to the defensive side of the ball midway through the 2015 season. He wasted no time impacting games from the secondary, recording 21 tackles, 11 pass breakups and picking off a pass.

Langley was more than just a threat in secondary as a senior. He also became one of the nation's top punt returners. He put his big-play ability on display against Incarnate Word University this past season where he returned six punts for 206 yards and two touchdowns, averaging 34.3 yards per return. He shattered the previous single-game mark for punt return yards in a game by nearly 100 yards (118 set by Rondy Colbert in 1973) and was only 35 yards shy of making the school's career Top-10 list for punt return yards in that game alone. Langley became the first Cardinal to return two punts for scores in the same game.

Multiple All-Americans

Langley brought national recognition to Beaumont by being named to three All-America squads. He wrapped up his senior season on the America Football Coaches Association, Stats FCS and College Sports Madness All-America squads.

Langley was the lynchpin in the league's top pass defense and was in the nation's Top 10 in interceptions per game. His six picks on the year tied for second in the country. Twice in the season he was named as the SLC Player of the Week, both as a defensive back and special teams player. Against Southeastern Louisiana, he picked off three passes—tying a school record—and versus Incarnate Word he returned two punts for scores.

The Reese's Senior Bowl invitee went on to register an interception in four consecutive games. Langley was also among the league leaders in pass deflections.

IDENTIFYING TALENT & NURTURING INDEPENDENCE

by James Dixon



Dec. 22, 2016, marked the beginning of a new era for the Lamar University football program. Three days prior to Christmas, LU President Kenneth R. Evans and Director of Athletics Jason Henderson announced the hiring of Mike Schultz as the Cardinals new head football coach, the program's ninth head coach since becoming a four-year institution and just the second since the program's rebirth prior to the 2010 campaign.

Schultz comes to Beaumont looking to install his high-octane style into a Cardinals team that struggled to move the ball in 2016. The Cardinals hope to capitalize on that experience.

"When we talk about building a football program," Schultz said, "you have to understand the area—the Golden Triangle, Houston, Southwest Louisiana and East Texas. We sit in the heart of one of the best recruiting areas in the country."

A Houston native, Schultz spent 16 seasons as an offensive coordinator. The architect of some of the nation's high-powered offenses, Schultz most recently spent five seasons under Dennis Franchione at Texas State. He also helped jump start a Texas Christian program that began in the Western Athletic Conference when he arrived and has since become a national power in the Big 12. The Horned Frogs suffered a 1-11 mark in 1997 that turned into a 7-5 record and berth in the Sun Bowl. He and the Frogs would go on to play in nine more bowl games in the final 10 seasons he was there.

When Gary Patterson was named TCU head coach, Schultz stayed on staff as offensive coordinator, and the two built a program that was ranked in the AP and Coaches Top 25 polls in 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2008. In 2005, the Frogs were ranked ninth in the country as the Mountain West and Houston Bowl Champions. He was the mastermind of a dominant offense that lasted for more than a decade.

Schultz's offense set single-season records for points scored (420) and touchdowns (54) in 2008, the same year he ranked in the nation's Top 40 in scoring, total and rushing offense. They also led the nation in time of possession.

Schultz has also been credited with helping develop some of the nation's top talent. He was key in the maturation process of TCU all-time leading rusher LaDainian Tomlinson, who racked up 5,263 rushing yards in his career, but it was when Schultz showed up that he excelled. In 1999, Tomlinson ran for 1,850 yards and topped that his senior season with 2,158—each led the NCAA. Including Tomlinson's two seasons with more than 1,000 yards, Schultz tutored five 1,000-yard rushers with the Frogs, who only had four in the 100-year history of the program.

Tomlinson was a Heisman Trophy finalist and the Doak Walker Award winner before being picked fifth overall in the 2001 National Football League draft. He would go on to garner NFL Most Valuable Player honors following the 2006 season.

Schultz also helped groom Andy Dalton into an NFL quarterback. In 2007, Dalton was listed as a freshman All-American after he set the then single-season school records for pass completions (222) and attempts (371) all while notching second in yards (2,459) and fourth in completion percentage (59.8).

"We sit in the heart of probably one of the best recruiting areas in the country."

—Coach Mike Schultz

While at Texas State, Schultz was known for developing a fast, up-tempo spread attack that was highly efficient. The 2014 season was his best, with his quarterbacks ranking 10th in the country in completion percentage (65.4) all while his running backs ranked 18th in rushing offense (238.5). The team was 24th in the nation in total offense (464.4) and 25th in turnover margin (0.58). His offense ranked 111th the season before.

While the offensive coordinator at Texas State, he worked with D.J. Hall, a two-time All-American on the offensive line. He notched 31 all-conference performers that span two conferences and an independent status, and at TCU he worked with 44 all-conference selections, also spanning three leagues. In all, he's been a key to 80 all-conference athletes.

During his time on the sidelines, Schultz has coached on both sides of the ball. He began his coaching career at his alma mater and Southland Conference rival Sam Houston State in 1979. He served as recruiting coordinator and coached

linebackers in one season and flipped to quarterbacks and receivers the next year. He also was a recruiting coordinator and coached receivers and tight ends at UTEP and Kansas State before joining Fred Akers' staff at Texas in 1985. Following that year, Schultz was an assistant and defensive coordinator at Westwood High School in Round Rock for four years before joining Franchione's staff at Texas State in 1990—his first stint at TSU.

At UNM, he helped the Lobos to a WAC Mountain Division Championship and invitation to the Insight.com Bowl, the program's first bowl berth since 1961. Schultz has been a part of 11 bowl appearances during his career.

After his tenure with the Horned Frogs, he spent time as the offensive coordinator at Big 10 program Illinois and Middle Tennessee State. During his stay at Illinois, he coached a rushing attack that again ranked at the top of the nation's leaderboards (18th) while MTSU was invited to play in the GoDaddy.com bowl, only the school's fifth bowl appearance at the time.

Throughout his career, Schultz has worked with quarterbacks, running backs, receivers, tight ends, secondary and linebackers. He recognizes talent and supports the goal of the student and the athlete. "In terms of building this program, the first thing we have to do as coaches is to target young men who are true student-athletes—those young men that are just as successful in the classroom as they are on the field," Schultz said.

The Cardinals will kick off the 2017 campaign Saturday, Sept. 2 at North Texas. LU returns home the following week to open its home schedule against UT Permian Basin. The game against UTPB will be one of just five home games for 2017.



IN GUATEMALA, *an independent spirit* HEALS

by Caitlin Duerler

For the past six years, Steve Moore '78, B.S. communication, has been operating a growing surgery center in Guatemala City, Guatemala, with the support of the charity he founded, The Shalom Foundation. The Steve Moore Surgical Center provides a variety of surgeries to children and teenagers with the help of volunteer surgeons and nurses from the United States. Each year, more teams of surgeons volunteer and the center serves more patients.

"Last year, we operated on 1,086 children in all disciplines of complicated surgeries, and I believe we are on track to increase that number this year," Moore said. "The strategy is not to grow like a business, but to grow in influence and service to the children."

During his studies at LU, Moore never imagined that he would one day have a full-fledged, operating center in a foreign country. Rather, he was focused on playing trumpet in the marching and jazz bands as well as planning music events on campus for students.

"Lamar University is a very special place to me," he said. "My time there studying for my degree and getting involved helped launched my entire life and career. I got involved with student activities on campus and we organized concerts. Then I decided I wanted to get into the concert business and shifted over to mass communications to learn more about marketing and advertising."

After graduation, Moore went on to work in Houston and around Texas producing and booking bands such as ZZ Top and Stevie Ray Vaughan. His reputation in the concert business led to an opportunity to move to Nashville in 1986 to open the Starville Amphitheater, which he eventually left in 1993 to open his own concert promotion business. Along with changing jobs, Moore said he started going back to church with his wife at the People's Church in Franklin, Tenn., which eventually led him to Guatemala.

"Before I went on the mission trip, I wasn't really interested in doing volunteer work, and I didn't understand why people would do that and send their kids on missions," he said. "I had a really naïve understanding of what being called to service means. One day, I was sitting there and somebody said, 'we really need some men to help with constructing this school down in Guatemala,' and I think God just touched me on the shoulder and said 'hey, it's time for you to go.' I honestly didn't have a plan, I just went."

Moore went on his first mission trip to Guatemala City in 1991, and the



"I think people need to belong to the category of making things happen no matter what their calling."

—Steve Moore

moment he landed, he knew immediately he wanted to do more than just build a school for the children there.

"My heart just broke for the kids facing hardship, so it made me want to spend the rest of my life doing what I can to help to bring a better life to them in different ways," he said. "People ask me how did I pick Guatemala, and I say, 'I had I no choice in the matter, God picked it for me.'"

Since 1992, The Shalom Foundation, has garnered support from country music stars such as Kenny Chesney and Jennifer Nettles. Funds are used to

help send surgical teams to operate on children in need as well as to improve infrastructure, such as building clean water systems, new homes and schools for those living in extreme poverty in Guatemala City.

"The Nashville music community has always been a generous community over the years," Moore said. "Lots of big artists with famous names have big hearts and give in different ways — it has been humbling to have them support our mission and trust us with the resources they donate. Their generosity is impactful in a lot of ways."

In addition to helping local children access the surgeries they need, the Shalom Foundation has recently turned their attention to addressing malnutrition through the sale of a peanut-based enriched meal supplement called Mani+.

"Guatemala has the highest rates of chronic malnutrition in Central America at 56 percent," Moore said. "It costs the Guatemalan government anywhere between \$300-500 million dollars a year in lost economic impact because people can't work as a result

of malnutrition. In effect, this causes physical and mental deficiencies. We just want to act as a repository for information and statistics."

The organization not only helps residents in Guatemala City and performs surgeries, but serves as a resource for other similar surgery centers in South and Central America. With the support of the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, the surgery center is working to collect data for research.

"We are starting a comprehensive research and data initiative with Vanderbilt to store data on patients, of which there is not a lot available," Moore said. "The doctors on the board of the Shalom Foundation have told us that there is not a lot of data regarding third-world healthcare."

Moore's impulse to give to the children of Guatemala sparks a similar response in those who witness it. The Guatemalan



people have been more welcoming to the volunteers who are there to help, and the foundation receives more and more surgical team requests from volunteers across the United States.

"The people of Guatemala are starting to recognize that the Americans who are volunteering in Guatemala are there to offer help for their children and in turn are starting to offer help with our mission," Moore said. "Anytime you throw a rock in a pond, it is going to have a rippling effect—that's what



happens when people step out of their comfort zone to serve and influence others to serve and choose similar paths to helping others. I think that is a reason people are called to serve by witnessing what other people are doing and wanting to do something yourself."

While the former Country Music Association board president, chairman and CEO has spent decades rubbing shoulders with big names in rock and country music and achieved great success in his business ventures, he said that a full life is not just about receiving gifts like success and health but giving back to others.



**THE SHALOM
FOUNDATION**
GIVE HEALING, GIVE HOPE

"I tell my kids there are three types of people in the world: people who watch things happen, people who make things happen and people standing around wondering what happened," Moore said. "I think people need to belong to the category of making things happen no matter what their calling. By example and witness, people are drawn to people who are doing things and in turn want to come on board and make their own contribution for whoever is on the receiving end of it. That is what we are hoping to continue to do with the foundation and the surgery center."

Gay Dishman School of Nursing. This effort allows students the opportunity to volunteer and help those in need while gaining experience working as a team at such a remarkable facility as the Steve Moore Surgical Center.



LU students in Guatemala

The Shalom Foundation organizes volunteer medical teams to travel to the Steve Moore Surgical Center in Guatemala City to perform different types of operations from cleft palate corrections to hearing tests. This past spring break, LU graduate and undergraduate students from the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences toured the center with Jo Mayo Endowed Professor Vinaya Manchaiah, associate professor of audiology. Students witnessed both the opportunity to serve others as well as the amount of organization and teamwork displayed in this alternative healthcare model.

"The efforts and passion shown by the volunteers at the foundation was inspiring. The positive attitude and drive of the team motivates me to tackle similar endeavors in the future," said Katie Miller, an audiology doctoral student from Lumberton.

Manchaiah said many of the twelve students who studied abroad in Guatemala were interested in volunteering, and one student is even making plans to return and work at the center.

"The students were impressed by the Steve Moore Surgery Center model in terms of how professional the facility was and the significant impact it has made in Guatemala City," he said.

Spring break 2017 may have been the first time that LU has served in Guatemala, but it is not the last. Lamar University and the Shalom Foundation hope to continue their partnership with both the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences and JoAnne

| COLLEGE SNAPSHOT: FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION |



LU researchers seek solutions to hearing loss
A team of faculty, graduate and undergraduate researchers from LU has made significant progress toward developing digital technologies as an aid for hearing loss thanks to the funding from the Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship.

The project, *Virtual Reality: Management of Adults with Hearing Loss*, is an initiative of the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences to conduct research as an initial step toward creating a virtual reality product that can teach communication strategies to those with hearing loss. The project is one of eight recently funded by a grant from the Gill Foundation of Texas to the CICE.

Support for hearing loss sufferers is important because, if left untreated, the ailment can lead to depression, anxiety, paranoia, memory loss, dementia, brain atrophy and other conditions that affect quality of life. Of the more than 37 million affected, most cannot afford or access hearing aids.

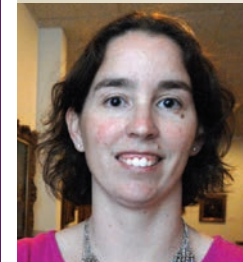
Heading the project are faculty members **Bellon-Harn**; **Vinaya Manchaiah**, director of audiology, **Jo Mayo Endowed Professor** and associate professor of audiology; **Ashley Dockens**, assistant professor; and **Stefan Andrei**, associate professor and chair of the Department of Computer Science. LU students of all levels took part in the data collection, website analysis and data interpretation.



Brahms play *My Music My Love* touches audiences

This past fall the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music hosted a staged reading of *My Music, My Love*, a one-act play written by **Ellen Walker Rienstra** in collaboration with **Eduard Schmieder**. The play explores the lives and music of Johannes Brahms and his great love, Clara Schumann, along with the Romantic Era in which they lived. Alone and ill in the twilight of his life, Brahms ruminates on his long life and the changes in his world and in music. As he

reminisces, a violinist and a pianist play melodies from his works and those of various composers. **David Hooker**, an instructor at Lamar Institute of Technology, read the part of Brahms. Eduard Schmieder, distinguished professor of violin at Temple University, performed violin selections as Brahms' contemporary and friend, violinist Joseph Joachim. **Keith Cockrell**, longtime director of theatre at Lamar State College-Port Arthur, directed the staged reading.



Fischer presents *Raiders of the Lost Art* Distinguished Faculty Lecture

LU honored **Julia Fischer**, assistant professor of art history, as the 2016 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer. She presented the lecture, *Raiders of the Lost Art: The Monuments Men and Their Legacy*, sponsored by ExxonMobil, in the University Theatre. The Lamar University Faculty Senate hosted the free public lecture, featuring Fischer, a member of the faculty since 2013.

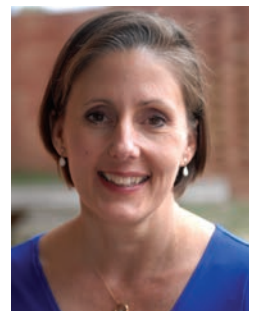
Fischer's lecture used movies such as *The Monuments Men* and *Woman in Gold* as a jumping off point to explore in-depth the struggle to reclaim art stolen by the Nazis before and during World War II. A total of 345 men and women from

14 nations served in the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Section during World War II, saving cultural treasures from destruction of war and theft by Adolf Hitler and the Nazis. Fischer also discussed how the legacy of the Monuments Men was lived out after the invasion of Iraq in 2003, when the Baghdad Museum was looted.

Harn honored as inaugural Shaver Professor

Monica Harn, chair of Speech and Hearing Sciences, has been named the inaugural recipient of the Diane H. Shaver Professorship in Speech and Hearing Sciences. The Shaver Professorship is the result of a generous contribution from Diane and Don Shaver. Distinguished faculty professorships recognize faculty performance and leadership in research, creative activity and teaching.

Annual contributions will support the Shaver Professor, who will hold the distinction, title and accompanying financial support for the five-year appointment to the professorship. The Shaver Professor will receive an annual stipend and additional research project awards. Which also may be used for appropriate equipment, professional activities, travel, student assistance and related support needs.



► **LU Opera Theatre shines**
The Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music presented *An Evening with Puccini and the Verismo*, featuring selections from *Madame Butterfly*, *Le Villi*, *Edgar*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Suor Angelica*, *La Bohème* and more. *Verismo* is a post-Romantic style and tradition in Italian opera. The LU Opera Theatre is directed by **Serdar Ilban**, assistant professor of voice.

► **Students perform Tony Award winner**
Department of Theatre and Dance performed the Tony Award-winning comedy *Boeing Boeing*, by Marc Camoletti, translated and adapted by Beverly Cross, in the University Theatre. **Brian LeTraunik**, assistant professor of theatre, directed the 1960s French farce.

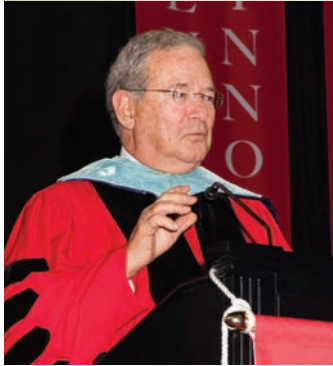
Hernandez publishes historiography
The American Journal of Health Studies published **Professor Barbara Hernandez's** historiography article, *Inside view of Carville: Oral histories of patients and staff from the last United States leprosarium*, in the journal's December 2016 issue. Hernandez, a faculty member in the Health and Kinesiology Department, focused her research on archival materials to extend dissemination of previously untapped works on this important event in U.S. history, making them available to researchers worldwide. The purpose of Hernandez's research was to transcribe into written format, publish and verify archived oral histories of patients and staff and conduct recorded oral histories of former and current patients and staff.

Official college crest unveiled
The faculty and staff of the College of Education and Human Development created and voted on a new college crest that incorporates imagery reflecting the connection of each department to the college goals to innovate, inspire and impact learners and the profession. Every aspect of this crest was designed to show that each department contributes to the College of Education and Human Development's mission statement. Faculty and staff of the college build relationships and healthy life choices in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, provide world-class instruction globally in the Department of Educational Leadership, promote healthy living styles in Health and Kinesiology Department, develop partnerships through mentoring to assist diverse populations in the Department of Counseling and Special Populations and mold the minds of future educators in the Teacher Education Department.



Doctoral students study in the UK
13 Doctoral Students in Educational Leadership studying along with their instructor, **Dr. Teresa Simpson**, traveled to the United Kingdom to study Intercultural Responsiveness with faculty from Hult University, College of Executive Leadership in Education, Ashridge College. Ashridge College is ranked in the top 20 of the world for Global Executive Leadership training. The students participated in a lecture series with Global Leaders and also attended daylong session that

included an intimate look at the educational structure from a faculty prospective at Oxford University, College of Education. Through this study abroad opportunity, our scholars learned firsthand from our international partners current global educational leadership trends such as innovative curricular and experiential learning opportunities that foster global communication. Students traveled to site visits to both a public campus as well as a private technologically advance campus. They were able to observe the school setting, hear from student leaders, and learn how faculty train and develop organizations on the school structure system in the UK.



Simmons addresses college commencement
James Simmons served as president of the university for 14 years, 1999-2013, leading the school into a new era of dynamic growth before returning to the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music as faculty. During his tenure as president, Simmons earned numerous awards in education, leadership, community service and music, including the Chief Executive Leadership Award from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, Newsmaker of the Decade from the Press Club of Southeast Texas, and induction into the Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame. Under his leadership, LU launched its first comprehensive campaign, "Investing in the Future," which raised over \$132 million for LU by his retirement. Currently, Simmons serves as the president of the Beaumont School District Board of Managers.

Mylroie named Emerging Leader
Robika Mylroie, distance clinical professor, and **Rachael Whitaker**, assistant professor of counseling and special populations, presented their work on childhood obesity at the Association of Assessment and Research in Counseling conference last September. Along with **Elizabeth Marston** from Turning Point Behavioral Health, Mylroie also presented at the Association for Creativity in Counseling conference that same month, sharing research on using yoga, meditation and mindfulness with substance abuse patients who experienced trauma. She and fellow distance clinical professor **Ruth Moore** presented on creative activities to use when counseling families at the same conference and the association named Mylroie the ACC Emerging Leader for 2016-2017.

► **New Master of Public Health program**
The new master's degree in public health aims to reduce the health disparities in Texas and nationally by preparing skilled professionals to implement effective community-based interventions. The fully online program will enhance the career pathways for current and aspiring health professionals.

► **Wallet gets gold**
KFDM-TV and MCT Credit Union honored **Kimberly Wallet**, associate professor of family studies, with the Golden Apple Award, a singular distinction since it is typically given to a public school teacher. The award singles out an educator who has "gone above and beyond" in the classroom.

► **Center for Digital Learning Chosen for Development**
The success of online programs has led to a new Center for Digital Learning that provides necessary management and administrative skills to implement and maintain an effective digital learning environment. Participants will conduct studies leading to published research and collaborate with technology companies.



PRESCRIPTION:

A spirit of independence

by Mandy Arceneaux

Originally from the Caribbean Island of St. Lucia, Wendy Greenidge, assistant professor in clinical mental health counseling, knew at a very young age that she wanted to make a difference. "I distinctly remember the lack of mental health services while growing up on the island," Greenidge said. She has turned those memories into the driving force behind her personal and professional life.

Greenidge's independent spirit—and recognition of the same in others—guides her in discovering unique opportunities to creatively tailor a classroom or counseling session to the needs of her students. She is able to decipher what would benefit her students the most while infusing her personality, as well as her cultural interests, into her work. "I want my students to have the skills they need to work with clients from different cultures and recognize that multicultural competence is not a destination; it's a journey," she said.

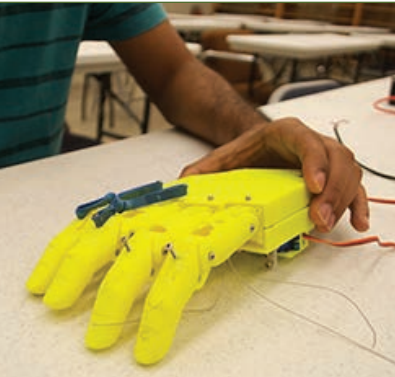
As countries become increasingly diverse, it's important that future clinical mental counselors are equipped with the tools, strategies and skills they need to work with a multicultural population. Greenidge's research, published in both domestic and international journals, emphasizes the need to account for cultural variables when treating clients. For instance, while working with immigrants from the Caribbean, she introduces students and clinicians to aspects of the culture that can be incorporated into treatment, such as music or poetry for those who may feel uncomfortable expressing themselves verbally. Then, clinicians shift from a sense of mastery to accountability, which "involves self-reflection of intentional and unintentional patterns of discrimination and engaging in appropriate actions

to remedy these," Greenidge said. "Continuous reflection at the individual, institutional and community levels is crucial to ensure we provide more culturally relevant services to clients."

There is a strong stigma towards mental health and mental illness that may deter various cultural groups from seeking professional help. These behaviors propelled Greenidge onto her current career path as a counselor and educator, whose profession often participates in community events in order to engage and help others be more comfortable in seeking professional help. Incorporating aspects of a client's culture into treatment helps it to seem less foreign and increases the likelihood that those who need it will seek it.

One of Greenidge's greatest sources of pride is the work she is able to do within different communities and recognizing the positive and lasting impact that it has. A chief complaint of hers, however, is that individuals who participate in research studies often do not benefit directly from the results. To address this, Greenidge shares the results of her studies with these communities and consults around modeling these best practices internationally. For instance, she recently accompanied 18 graduate students to St. Lucia, helping them complete their residency by applying the multicultural knowledge they had learned and expanding their repertoire to include West Indian culture. Greenidge also has provided suicide prevention workshops in various island communities throughout her career.

Utilizing her own independent spirit and passion for teaching, Greenidge inspires the same enthusiasm in others to change the status quo of how mental illness is seen and treated.



Robotic hand first step toward rehabilitation system

With a grant from LU's Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship, the Department of Industrial Engineering has made progress in a long-term project to create a brain-computer interface-based rehabilitation system for victims of neurological diseases to help regain mobility.

Collaborators **Weihang Zhu**, associate professor, and **Yueqing Li**, assistant professor, both of industrial engineering, started the project using a prosthetic hand created with 3D printing. "It's an open-source design but required a lot of work," said Zhu, who has a background in robotics. With an expertise in brain-computer interface, Li helped program the prosthetic hand to execute commands from the user. "Our ultimate goal is for the limb to have precise and accurate movements and functions," said Zhu.

The next steps in the project include the incorporation of technology to interpret muscle signals that operate the hand. After which, the team intends to use a helmet capable of collecting and deciphering brain signals to move individual parts of the hand. "Being hit with a stroke is very common, and the victims all need to have rehabilitation to help them recover their motor functions. The movement of the hand is extremely critical. This also is helpful for other conditions, like Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). There are millions of people who can be helped by this, and it all starts with just one hand," said Zhu.

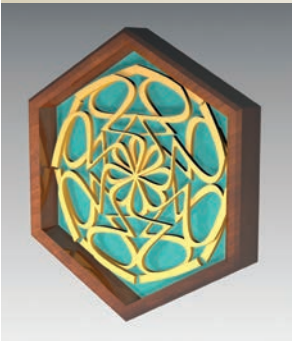


Nikoloutsos explores nanomedicine and beyond with Beck Fellowship

Senior electrical engineering and physics dual degree student with a double major in mathematics, **Nic Nikoloutsos**, traveled to Taipei, Taiwan, last summer to work with **Che-Ming Jack Hu** on experimental procedures in nanomedicine at Academia Sinica as one of two 2016 David J. Beck Fellows.

"I was slated to work all summer on projects related to encapsulating short interfering RNA using test particles as part of the lab's research on hollow nanoparticles, which are being studied as a preferred vehicle for medicines because they offer targeted relief to ailments while mimicking the body's own functions. I ended up only working on that for three weeks out of 11," he laughed. "The rest of my time in Taiwan I was lucky to work on something special, although unrelated to nanoparticles. This project was successful and will likely result in a publication later. I can't talk about it yet, but it's definitely exciting."

"If I could, I would absolutely do my fellowship all over again," he said. "It further solidified my love for research and the field of bioengineering. I am now sure that I want to do this kind of work for the rest of my life. I would even take a job abroad one day; there are certain projects and labs, certain experts who you can only find in new places. I encourage all students and professionals who can feasibly do so to partake in something abroad. The global exchange of information and the cultural education you receive from it is second to none."



Kinetic sculpture fosters collaboration between art and engineering

A \$25,000 gift from **Maryann and Don Lyle** will support an innovative design project for a kinetic sculpture to be installed in the Cherry Engineering Building. Student teams from the College of Fine Arts and Communication and the College of Engineering will collaborate on this exciting and unique project.

The idea originated with Don Lyle in answer to **Dean Srinivas Palanki's** desire to enhance the lobby entrance of the building. Student collaborators received a \$500 scholarship for their work after several draft proposals were presented. "Collaboration between academic disciplines provides learning experiences that are unique and valuable," said **Derina Holtzhausen**, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication.

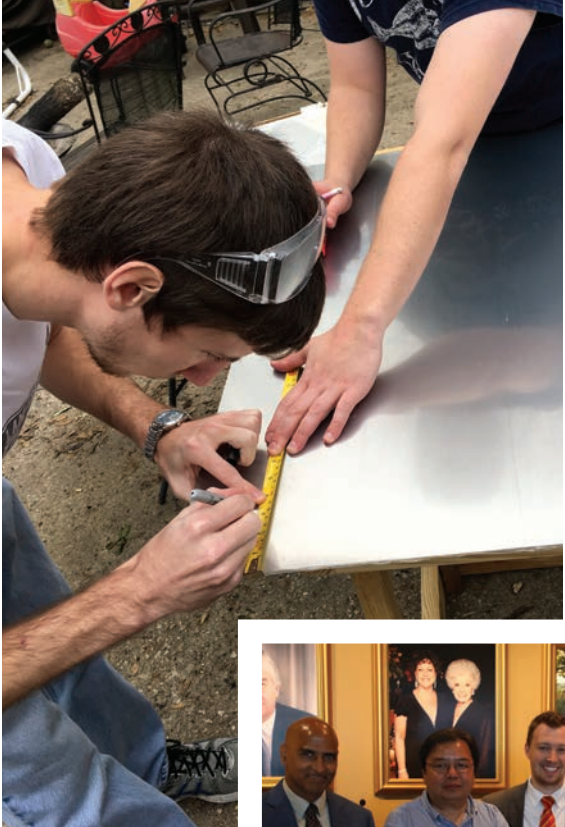
Palanki agrees, "This project will benefit both the colleges and the students. Displaying student-made projects shows prospective students they will have opportunities to do cool things while they are students at LU."

Under the tutelage of **Hassan Zargarzadeh**, assistant professor of electrical engineering, and **Kurt Dyrhaug**, professor of sculpture, the winning proposal is set to establish a two-story, wall-mounted design that will change depending on the point-of-view of the viewer. Completion is expected this fall. "What we're building today is uplifting to the soul in some sense," Palanki said. "Engineering is not all practical, but also speaks to the finer things in life."

► **Quijano discusses canal future**
Distinguished alumnus and CEO of the Panama Canal Authority, **Jorge Quijano '73, '74** visited the Center for Advances in Port Management to speak on "Development and Operation of the Newly Expanded Panama Canal Vision of its Future."

► **Lieberman teaches seminar**
World-renowned engineer **Norman Lieberman** visited campus for a 3-day seminar hosted by the College of Engineering Industrial Partnership. His course featured real-life examples in distillation, heat transfer and rotating equipment.

► **Brake honored**
The Texas Society of Professional Engineers awarded **Nicholas Brake**, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering, for Engineering Education Excellence at a recent banquet. Brake frequently participates in STEM-related outreach.



ENGINEERING
for the **FINAL FRONTIER**

by Ryan Litchfield

Each year, the Texas Space Grant Consortium teams with NASA to challenge engineering students from top universities across the state to compete and further space education, research and development. Lamar University mechanical engineers are no stranger to the competition. As part of their senior design capstone course, a group of five students tackled the issue of washing and sanitizing clothing for long-duration space missions.

"I knew this was going to be a challenge, but it was a project our group was passionate about," said team member Chris Stelse. "Currently, astronauts do not clean their clothing. Instead, NASA sends about 1000 pounds of clothing to be used one or two times before being discarded. If we can reliably sanitize clothing and increase the period they can be worn, then the weight of clothing can be greatly reduced.

Currently, it costs NASA around \$5,000 per pound to send something into space, so weight is crucial."

Aptly named the Lamar Launderers, the group spent weeks planning how to approach the problem. With parameters in power, weight and reduction of bacteria to follow, the group mulled the idea of using one-half gallon of water, a tablespoon of detergent and less than 300W in a vessel to clean and sanitize. Research convinced the group to scrap the idea of using water and detergent because both added too much weight and the machine because it would use too much power. Instead, the group did something no other group had thought of; they used the power of ultraviolet light.

"After deciding that we were going to do something completely different, we really had to engineer the entire project from the ground up and considered

every minute detail. Ultraviolet light can kill bacteria, but we had to run tests to determine which type of light and how many we would need to reach our goals as well as how long the sanitation process would take and how much energy would be used. We also had to design our machine to be lightweight and energy efficient to cut down on any extra costs," said Stelse.

After several weeks of preparing the design, the team presented in front of a panel of individuals from the TSGC and NASA. "We were very nervous about presenting our ideas in the first round of competition. We had no idea what other teams had come up with or how we would be judged on our project, but we placed second among all other projects in the competition, and that gave us a lot of confidence going into the building phase of the competition next semester," said Stelse.

Liu designs success strategies

Jiangjiang (Jane) Liu, professor of computer science, was selected for the 2017 Texas State University Systems Chancellor's Faculty Fellowship Program. Liu has been keenly involved in course and program development aimed to support LU's strategic plan. Liu's fellowship proposal, titled "First Year Success", centers upon creative strategies for improving freshman retention rates and, by extension, LU's four-year graduation rates.

Instructor named Jonas Scholar

J.T. Seaman, a registered nurse and instructor in the JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing, has been named a Jonas Nurse Leader Scholar by the Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. He is one of only 12 nationally named to the 2016-18 cohort. "This is strong recognition for not only Mr. Seaman, but also for the Dishman School of Nursing faculty here at LU" said Cynthia Stinson, chair of the nursing school. "We pride ourselves on having some of the finest faculty in the nation."

Students present research

Matt Hoch, professor of biology, and his team of ten undergraduate research students from the past year authored four poster presentations about their research on Lake Sabine Estuary and Salt Bayou Watershed Estuary at the Gulf Estuarine Research Society Nov. 2-5 in Pensacola, Fla. Students included biology majors **Chelsea McDonald**, **Jordan Goldstein**, **Kelli Creel**, **David Bassa**, **Hostin May**, **Linda Pham**, **Datron Brown**, **Tran B. Nguyen** and **Taylor Marshall** Civil and Environmental Engineering major **Travis McCawley**.

CJ program recognized

AffordableColleges.com, has ranked LU's online master's program in criminal justice program 19th nationally for its affordability and quality.



Nursing master's ranks seventh

Lamar University's online master of science in nursing administration degree was ranked No. 7 out of the nation's Top 30 most affordable programs for an online master of science in nursing leadership, nursing management or nursing administration by bestmastersdegrees.com. "This is a program of study that LU can be proud of. We're reaching students all over the world with outstanding, dedicated faculty," said **Cindy Stinson**, chair and associate professor of the School of Nursing.

LU's MSN in nursing administration outranked programs from schools accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, a nationally recognized accrediting agency approved by the U.S. Secretary of Education, and ranked by publications like Forbes magazine, *The Princeton Review*, or *U.S. News and World Report*.

"We work continually to ensure that our programs provide outstanding education and preparation for graduates to succeed in the nursing field. We've been able to keep it affordable and accessible so that even nurses with busy careers can earn a degree online," Stinson said.

The university's MSN in nursing administration, accredited by ACEN (Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing), focuses on patient outcomes and evidence-based care models. The degree is offered online to allow current nurses to develop their education while maintaining their work roles.

Dishman Department of Nursing steps up to school status

The JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing recently changed its title to JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing to better reflect the additions and development of educational opportunities over time that have elevated it to school status.

"The change in status from department to school is a significant one," said **James Marquart**, provost and vice president for academic affairs. "It is a reflection of excellence, hard work and growth. It also is aspirational—a step toward an even stronger future.

"We are proud of the accomplishments of our nursing faculty and their support staff," Marquart said. "It also is a testament to the success of our alumni who are filling vital roles in health care in our region, the state and beyond."

When LU began a nursing program in the 1970s, it offered only a two-year degree in nursing. Now, the school offers much more: a bachelor's in nursing, a master's in nursing administration, a master's in nursing education, and bachelor's and master's programs specially designed for career-oriented registered nurses (RN to BSN and RN to MSN). The school hopes to add a Doctor of Nursing in Leadership and Management as well.

At a time when the U.S. is experiencing a widening shortage of nurses, LU's nursing program accommodates numerous nontraditional students with its online programs and helps them become qualified to enter the workforce. Between face-to-face and online programs, the school teaches nearly 800 students and maintains a high retention rate of above 70 percent as well as one of the highest pass rates on the National Council Licensure Examination—well above the national average support needs.



▶ **LU hosts conference**
The College of Arts and Sciences hosted the 2016 Association of Computing Educators in Texas Conference Oct. 28-29. The event showcased student research, and **Interim Dean Joe Nordgren's** keynote on artificial intelligence and the television series *Westworld* addressed the conference theme, *Teaching the Millennial Generation*.

▶ **Scheer named fellow**
The East Texas Historical Association inducted **Mary Scheer**, chair of the Department of History and director of the Center for History and Culture of Southeast Texas and the Upper Gulf Coast, as a new fellow, the highest honor given by the association for scholarship and service, Oct. 14.

▶ **George Drew visits**
The Department of English and Modern Languages presented visiting author and poet **George Drew** Nov. 15 in the Executive Event Room of the Wayne A. Reaud Administration Building. Drew is the author of seven collections, most recently, *Pastoral Habits: New & Selected Poems* (2016).



by Morgan Collier

It isn't easy moving halfway around the world to a brand-new place, being a foreigner with others seeing you as an outcast. Sophomore pre-med biology major Omar Hamza learned from an early age that some people might label him, but through hard work and determination, he would overcome the limitations others placed on him, a testament to his own independent spirit.

Hamza's family moved from Syria to the U.S. when his father was 17. "My parents suffered tremendously when making the travel," Hamza said.

As he grew up, people would tease him. He said some of his fellow students in high school would think it was funny to make terrorist jokes to him, but the older he got, the harder he worked. "I learned to brush them off since I know that anything they said didn't represent me," Hamza said. "That's why I decided to graduate at the top of my class and excel in the sports and organizations I joined."

Hamza graduated from Port Neches-Groves High School as valedictorian in 2016 and was honored to be named a Mirabeau Scholar. "I feel pretty accomplished when I look back to see how far I've come," he said. "But in reality, there is still a long way to go. The difference is that I have great people surrounding me at LU who will not hesitate to stand up for me."

During his freshman year at LU, Hamza aced his honors courses along with his higher-level biology classes, was a cheerleader for the LU cheer team, held a job at Full Effects Gymnastics in Port Arthur and made time for a work out regimen everyday.

"Having all of these experiences is making me into a very diverse person who can fit into many different shoes," he said. "You see people who live a monotonous and redundant life everyday, and they are content with that, but I, personally, want to experience as much as possible."

According to Hamza, all of these different opportunities have taught him a lot. "I have gained so much knowledge and experience from everybody I have worked with," he said. "I believe that it makes me a better person, and it allows me to put myself in others' shoes to empathize with a lot of people."

Time management and prioritization play a huge role in his busy schedule, he says. "You can do so many different things that you never thought you could do all at once when you manage your time wisely," Hamza said.

With no cheerleading background prior to the 2016-2017 school year,



Hamza never thought he would have become a cheerleader. "Through the tryouts, the training and the performances, I have met so many new people," he said. "It, honestly, makes life great to have these types of opportunities."

As a coach for a gymnastics studio, Hamza says he has found great satisfaction and passion for helping people. "If I can help

somebody, I want to give my all to help that person out," he said. "Nothing compares to being able to help someone achieve their goals."

According

to Hamza, he tries to see every day as a brand-new day to make himself a better person. "You can't develop as an individual if you haven't seen other stories from across the spectrum," he said. "That is how you gain the most wisdom and knowledge."

Hamza said he strives to make himself a type of role model that he once looked to when he was younger by being open to experiences beyond his comfort level. "Throughout my life, I have developed this pool of knowledge and wisdom that you can't place a monetary value on," he said. "It's something you can't buy or learn from watching a YouTube video; it is something you have to put yourself into."

As a piece of advice to people who have gone through, or are going through, what he experienced growing up, Hamza said to persevere and pay no attention to negativity. "Treat everyone with kindness, especially those who refuse to give it to you," he said. "Then excel at whatever you do to become an example in a powerful way."

Q&A

Angela Blanchard

by Grayson Meek



As president and CEO of BakerRipley, Alumna Angela Blanchard's pioneering spirit transforms forgotten or overlooked neighborhoods into inclusive, dynamic communities. Blanchard '84 approaches underserved communities not by focusing on what's not working but by building on the strengths and aspirations of a community. According to Blanchard, we can learn what gives life to a community when we focus not on the struggles but on what makes it thrive.

Q: Describe your background.

A: I grew up in Beaumont, the oldest of eight kids in a Catholic Cajun family. Most of my childhood, we lived in South Park near Railroad Avenue. After graduating from LU, I moved to Houston for a job.

Q: What are some fond memories from your time at LU?

A: I enjoyed being in Delta Sigma Pi business fraternity because of the friendships I made. Being at LU was a change from being at a large university because there was the opportunity to know the professors and for the professors to know students. I knew about career opportunities because of professors who were respected by industry leaders and they connected students to people who were hiring.

Q: What led you to focus on local communities in your career?

A: For all of my working career, I have a passion for work that helps people find their way to opportunities—opportunities for education, for employment, for connection. It has always seemed possible to make things work better for everyone if we were willing to look at how we allocate resources and access to opportunity.

Q: How did Houston become your home?

A: I came to Houston for a job in one of the “big eight” accounting firms in 1984. Everyone comes to Houston for a work opportunity. But we all stay because it's a city with room for you to realize your hopes and dreams. Houston is a high-functioning city, a welcoming place and with pragmatic orientation toward challenges. If you live in Houston, you learn quickly that ‘getting stuff done’ is highly valued here. We love good ideas, but only if you plan to do the work to see ideas materialized. I am in love with the ethnic and cultural diversity of the city and feel fortunate to have been here as the city becomes the most diverse city in the United States. I can visit the world without leaving the city.

Q: Tell us how you became involved with Neighborhood Centers—now BakerRipley.

A: When I was working at a public accounting firm, I was invited to be on the board of Neighborhood Centers, and, after serving on the board for a couple of years, I was recruited for a staff position as finance director. My decision to accept was driven by what I saw as a great potential for the agency to grow and have a much greater impact. I wanted to see us financially stable and secure so that we could grow the city.

Q: What are some challenges diverse communities face?

A: Diversity is an enormous strength in a globalized economy—where our economic future and security is connected to the rest of the world. We are stronger when we have insight into how people who are not like us think, work, love and solve problems. The biggest challenge communities face is believing the worst about people we don't know. Our preconceived ideas work against doing what comes naturally: welcoming our neighbors, learning about them and from them. At times, I remind people: these are our people, the people of the United States. We don't have some better group elsewhere more worthy of our interest and investment. We can only be a strong country if we are willing to believe in and invest in all of our people.

Q: What are the building blocks you've learned in working with diverse types of groups?

A: We are all connected in our common humanity, and we all have the same hungers: to earn, learn, belong. When we focus on what we have in common and our shared desire for these same hopes, it becomes clear that we're all in this together. Our shared aspirations should be the start of any conversation. Then we can discuss how we go about achieving these, and while we may differ about how we do it, we can find compromises on how we proceed if we agree on why we must work together. I never demonize any group of people. I am not at all interested in blame because blame is a backwards-looking exercise. There are times when we must shoulder the responsibility of problems we didn't create and be willing to step up for challenges we may never solve. But that's leadership, and it's important.

Q: Talk a little about the idea of appreciative inquiry. How do you identify community leaders?

A: Appreciative inquiry is a methodology for examining situations and systems from the standpoint of what works, what gives life and energy to them. Appreciative inquiry isn't about positive thinking about difficult situations—it's about examining what the system—or community—is like when it's at its best as a means of discovering what we want to move toward. We say change begins with the first new question. And the new question is about what's working, what's strong, who's shaping and nurturing constructive and creative action. I believe the leaders we need are already in the communities and neighborhoods we want to support. We find them by asking questions about who people trust with their concerns. Who would you talk to about a worry about your child? Who helped you learn about the community? Who was willing to show you how to use the transit system? Who looks after the older people and the children in the community? So, it's finding out who is already nurturing and caring for the community and the individuals living in it.

Q: Have you had a misstep that you learned from and what did you learn?

A: Missteps I've learned from—that's a whole book. I don't think a day goes by when I don't see something I could have done differently. I think the way I work now is to constantly examine what's working and how I can move closer to that each moment of each day. I have never made a mistake so big that an honest expression of regret and earnest effort to fix it didn't get things back on track.

Q: Is there a successful effort you took to heart?

A: Gardening has been an oasis for me—a place of peace and renewal, but, it's also taught me a lot about leading an organization. To be successful in a garden, you have to know what to grow. Once that decision is made, you tend by watering what you want and weeding what you don't. I think it's difficult for leaders to acknowledge what's not working and to have the strength to pull the plug and plant something new.

Q: What attributes do you find essential in those with whom you work?

A: I truly enjoy working with courageous people. I like leaders who are willing to put it all on the line for a cause. I find people who hold back, play it safe and hang on to all their resources are just not that rewarding to work with. I also place a high value on integrity. It's hard to get anything done without a foundation of trust. The trust foundation is built one honest exchange at a time. And finally, I treasure the curious folks. People who are insatiable when it comes to learning and who respond to new situations with curiosity and interest make terrific partners.



BakerRipley opening day

“ We are all connected in our common humanity, and we all have the same hungers: to earn, learn, belong. ”

—Angela Blanchard



Angela in Lebanon



Angela meeting former President Barack Obama at the White House

Q: *What makes your community transformation model work successfully?*

A: When you base your efforts on what gives energy and life to situations or systems, you generate enthusiasm, interest and excitement about what's possible. So, instead of studying problems and examining failures, we are constantly shining a light on where we're getting things right. In addition, we are building our plans and programs around people's most deeply held aspirations, so we aren't investing time or energy in what we want for people; we are investing in what they are working hardest to achieve. So the people we are helping are sustaining the effort.

Q: *As an example, how has a community you've worked in exhibited an independent spirit?*

A: In East Aldine, our inquiries revealed a story about a cohesive community with a clear identity—a community that had been intentionally excluded as Houston annexed more well-off surrounding areas and was left to fend for itself for all municipal services. We heard again and again the stories of neighbors working together, small businesses lending to each other, volunteers providing essential services and successful residents who returned to “give back.”

In the face of uncertainty, people were making it up as they went along, which we found to be an incredible strength. We thought the best thing we could do is enable that improvisation and entrepreneurial energy. We built on their desire to take their small businesses to the next level, designing programs that provide the training and resource connections needed to grow family-owned businesses. Community members spoke about the dwellings, products and services they've been able to create, invent and fabricate on their own. Hearing of this existing strength, Chevron and FabLab Foundation have stepped up to build a fabrication laboratory (FAB Lab) as a part of a new economic opportunity center, a three-building, eight-acre site we're building right now.

Q: *Describe Appreciative Community Building.*

A: For more than 10 years, BakerRipley has used Appreciative Community Building to remain closely connected with our neighbors and inform our holistic community development approach. It's a rigorous application of appreciative inquiry principles, which are rooted in lifting up and leveraging strengths as a force for positive change. Through extensive one-on-one interviews and community meetings, we conduct a relentless search for the strengths and aspirations that exist within a community. We believe the leaders we need are already in the community, so part of the search identifies the individuals others turn to when they need guidance or help. By identifying what's working, and who is already committed to helping the community, strengths and assets form the foundation for plans and investments.

A narrative about how people are broken is not going to help us because you can't build on broken. People aren't the problem, they're the solution. That's powerful and needed more than ever. Appreciative Community Building doesn't ignore struggle, injustice or inequality. By marrying appreciative inquiry to asset-base community development, we can study and document what's working in every community and use these strengths to drive investment.

Learn more about Angela and her work at BakerRipley at angelablanchard.com



Nancy Evans



Rebecca Reynolds '83, Kristeen Reynolds '16, '17, Regina Rogers '14

over the next decade,
women will control
more than

60%
of consumer wealth

Claire Behar



Toni Mulvaney



Angela Bransford and Bev Hay '67

Women & Philanthropy

Focusing on community

by Grayson Meek

If you enjoy learning about dynamic women in Southeast Texas and the work they're doing, one of Lamar University's newest organizations, Women and Philanthropy, is one you should check out. It focuses on our community and the women in it and is structured to be social as well as educational. The first speaker at the kickoff luncheon last fall, described women's involvement in philanthropy and the need to know how to manage their family's finances. Women and Philanthropy's second speaker in the spring, Angela Blanchard, gave members and guests a whole new way to look at ways to build community within our community.

With American women controlling a little more than half of all the personal wealth in the country and studies indicating more than forty percent of all women are primary breadwinners in their homes, First Lady of Lamar University, Nancy Evans, saw a need to form an organization such as Women and Philanthropy. “This innovative program is structured to bring the women in our community together to learn more from each other and examine topics of particular interest to women,” she said.

Evans also intends for Women and Philanthropy to provide practical advice for the present as well as the future. “More women handle the discretionary spending in families than ever before,” she said. With a large number of women choosing where to allocate spending, particularly in areas such as health, education and charitable organizations, she believes Women and Philanthropy will assist members with skills necessary to make meaningful financial decisions.

Two luncheons are to be held each year, allowing members to hear noted guest speakers as well as briefly learning from the “Minute for Finance” feature during each event. Future speakers include an entrepreneur and nutritionist, Southeast Texas nature conservationists, and discussions of art and legal issues specific to local women and children. By hosting these programs

and luncheons on campus in the fall and spring, as well as various exclusive member events throughout the year, Evans' goal is to inspire alumni and friends, young and old, to engage with the surrounding community. She hopes that members will learn about new ways of investing proactively in their futures and more about how to manage their finances effectively.

To find out more about the upcoming luncheon and speaker on Sept. 28 as well as registration and membership information for Women and Philanthropy, go to lamar.edu/women.

NO TRANSLATION NEEDED

by Morgan Collier

Stepping out of comfort zones is not always the easiest thing to do. The faculty and students of the Department of Theatre and Dance are taking their independent spirit across borders by extending

a relationship with Tainan University of Technology in Taiwan.

Golden Wright, department chair and associate professor, along with several students, are working together with the faculty and students at TUT in order to grow in their abilities and experience new styles of dance. In spring 2016, students and faculty from TUT visited the U.S.

"We came up with a plan for them to be here during the week of our spring dance concert," Wright said. "They brought in four faculty members and, with our faculty, we taught combined classes for both our students and the Taiwanese students during their residency here in the U.S." Those classes included a range of different styles of dance, such as jazz, modern, partnering and a Chinese fans class.

"While they were here, I set up a piece of choreography for them, and they brought two pieces themselves that they then performed in our spring concert, 'Dance Unleashed,'" Wright said.

During their time in the states, the group also performed a concert, "Journey of the Mind," where they showcased their culture through dance. At the end of the program, the director asked if the LU Department of Dance and Theatre would like to visit Taiwan.

Wright and six students flew to Taiwan this spring for 16 days to take classes and explore the cities where they performed, Tainan and Kaohsiung. "I taught seven to eight classes," Wright said, "and a former student with a master of arts in dance also taught."

While there, Wright and six LU students performed a different type of piece that employed black light and fluorescent paint. He and one TUT faculty member performed the second piece titled, "The Next Chapter."

"'The Next Chapter' is based on my and my wife's story," Wright said. "I sent a video ahead of time, and the TUT faculty member rehearsed it with one of her students while I rehearsed it with one of my students here, then we had two days to rehearse before it was in front of a live audience."

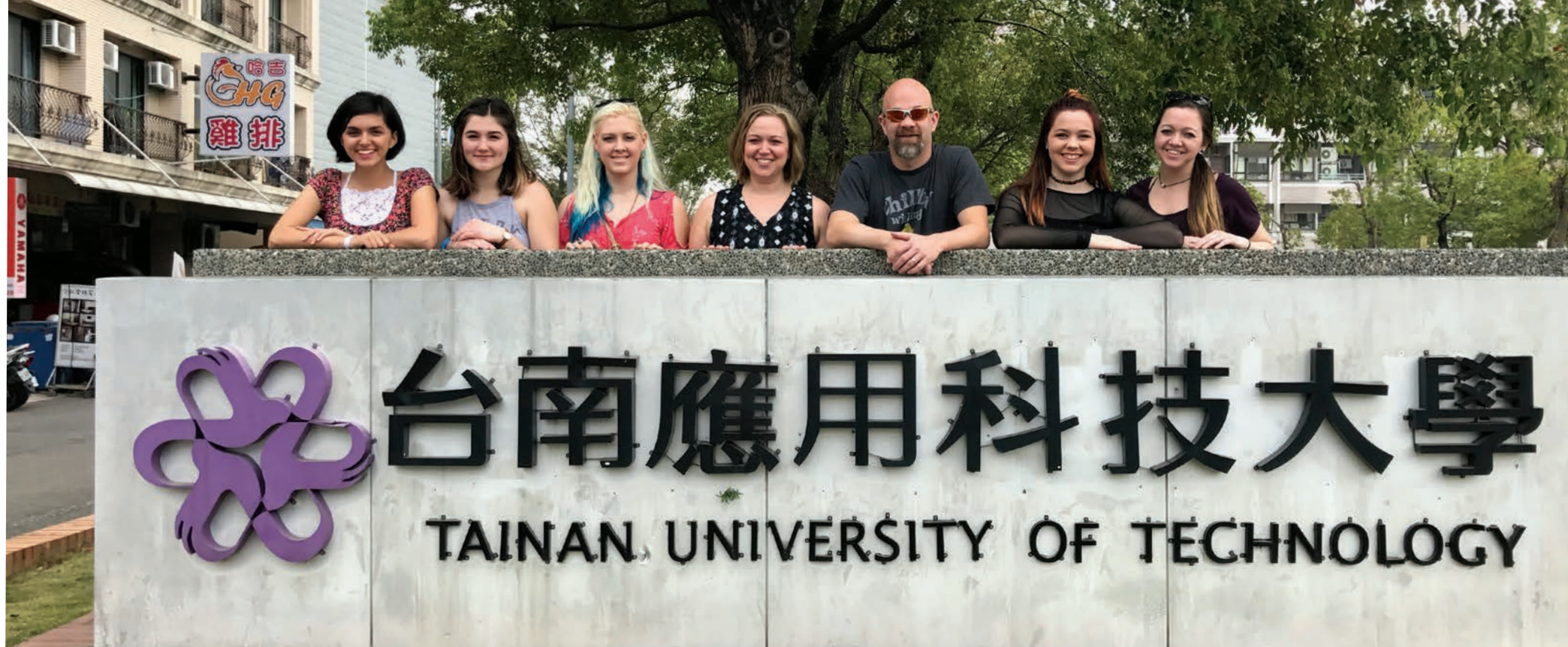
Through the study abroad trip, the LU team had the opportunity to meet the president of TUT along with many others. "This was one of the best

experiences I have had in my life, and for most of the students, it was their first time out of the country, so it was quite the experience," Wright said. "I am beyond thankful for the exceptional relationship we have with Tainan University of Technology."

The most common language spoken in Taiwan is Mandarin, with a unique alphabet. "When you displace a few Americans in a culture they aren't familiar with, it's crazy to see how dance becomes a universal language," Wright said.

Katelyn Kirk, a theatre and dance major from Beaumont, said, "Taiwan is like nothing I have ever experienced before. While visiting, I expanded my knowledge of dance, learned about the culture and created unforgettable memories with my fellow classmates and newly acquired, lifelong friends. I am already looking forward to my next study abroad trip."

According to Wright, the goal for the future is to further grow LU's partnership with Tainan University of Technology and alternate travel to the country every other year. "The first time is always the toughest, but it seems like it gets easier each time," he said. "We want to continue this rotation to form a lasting friendship between the two universities."



PHOTOS BY SANDY OUYANG



"When you displace a few Americans in a culture they aren't familiar with, it's crazy to see how dance becomes a universal language."

—Golden Wright

INDEPENDENT SPIRIT: *driving the dream*

*PA native, Cardinal son
trucks toward social progress*

by Casey Ford

In his 1991 best-seller, *Life's Little Instruction Book*, H. Jackson Brown Jr. writes, "Let perseverance be your engine and hope your fuel." Alumnus Fred Vernon '13, exemplifies that adage already at only 28 years of age. In the year that he completed his dual MSA-MBA in the College of Business, Vernon's innate spirit of independence led to running his first business—a FedEx freight fleet that made \$370,000 in its first year—and working as a business analyst for PricewaterhouseCoopers. He soon left PwC, abandoning accountancy and embracing entrepreneurship completely as his company, KLV Ventures, grew quickly and exponentially to include a much larger FedEx fleet and ten flatbed 18-wheelers. In its second year, the company nearly doubled its earnings to \$670K, and last year, KLV Ventures earned \$2.2 million. At its inception, his FedEx business was the smallest in Southeast Texas; currently, it is the second largest and responsible for 25 percent of the freight in the region. On the face of it, Vernon seems to have tapped into that magical equation that sends certain entrepreneurs soaring to the top—a formula that includes wide networks of influence, flawless timing, serendipity—but the truth is that as a young entrepreneur he has harnessed the lessons of real experience, including some really big mistakes, and the wisdom of his parents, teachers and advisors into his own unique brand of creativity, tenacity, civic-mindedness and success.

He'll tell you that prior to his studies at LU, he never imagined himself as an entrepreneur. Crediting his parents, Fred Sr. and Deanna, with his dogged work ethic, Vernon planned to become an accountant and was on track to becoming quite a successful one, earning a prestigious internship with PricewaterhouseCoopers. During his time as a Cardinal, he benefited from the wisdom of university administrators, faculty, alumni and friends. Vernon especially credits President Jimmy Simmons, Todd Hoffman '88, Bart Simmons '78, '79, and former business faculty member Ann Watkins with key advice that has formed his entrepreneurial vision. They gave him access to a world he would not have otherwise been able to touch

and helped groom him for business success by teaching him things he couldn't learn in the classroom, like the importance of keeping his shoes shined and how to make lasting impressions through conversation.

With those invaluable tools from his mentors and completion of his master's degrees, Vernon was assured a place at PwC, where he had the potential to become a well-connected, high-earning analyst. But after only a few months, he started getting restless, and the words of a friend began echoing in his mind—some advice to "get a bread route, a Doritos or FedEx route, anything. Don't let PwC be your sole source of income." Soon Vernon met Paul Book of Vidor, Texas, who sold him his first two cargo trucks and FedEx routes, and his entrepreneurial endeavors began in earnest. He spent several weeks taking two-hour lunches to interview employees and assemble the various pieces of his project. In the end, Vernon left PwC after only nine months, and he recalled a moment when an executive member of the firm expressed serious disappointment in his decision to leave the firm and further stated that his attempts at entrepreneurship would end in failure. Such was his vision, though, and the strength of his desire to make his own way, that those words didn't hold Vernon back.

Fueled by the success of his growing FedEx business, he decided to expand into hauling bigger cargo. He acquired two trucks from Charles McDaniel of Amigo Truck LLC to haul jet fuel. Less than six months after kicking off, Vernon experienced his first major failure, and it felt like a big one because so many eyes were on him. He says, "I felt bad. For about 30 minutes. Then I got to work on my next project." A few weeks later, he got another jet fuel contract.

That job lasted 90 days before he was fired. One of his drivers stole some fuel. Another quit and abandoned his freight at a Houston Whataburger. The fuel was due in Rio Grande City the next morning, so Vernon had to call the owner and explain. The owner said he'd handle it, but that Fred didn't need to show up for the job again. "I was down for about 24 hours that time," he says. "But again, I shook it off and started planning next



moves.” He took some time to evaluate what had gone wrong. He identified specific problems that fell into five categories: compliance, staffing, recruitment, maintenance and margins.

In September 2014, a little more than a year after leaving PwC, Vernon connected with Ryder in one meeting that solved most of those problems. He was able to find a driver staffing agency that solved his employment challenges. He hired an experienced dispatcher and was ready to go again, now with five new trucks in his fleet, thanks to JB Hunt, who helped to sponsor a mass orientation for new drivers and staff. No longer working from his own living room, Vernon was back on the road, literally and figuratively.

Now a multi-million-dollar business owner, Vernon is working on a community project in the area that would include a grant to add ten trucks to his fleet and many local jobs. Being able to invest in his community like this, he says, means that failure is not an option. He says that in the midst of those times when he felt like a failure, he rebounded, because his mission is not about making millions—it is about making a better world. His personal faith in God and the expectations of his family and colleagues also keep him motivated.

Vernon wants to use his success to benefit his Southeast Texas neighbors and his hometown, Port Arthur. He hopes to create a scholarship program that would offer five LU and LSC-PA students \$1,000 and a laptop as they begin their college educations. He recently met with new inductees of Phi Theta Kappa at Lamar State College-Port Arthur and also with students at an area middle school, and for both audiences, his message was the same. “I want to inspire people who want to become entrepreneurs—not business owners per se, but entrepreneurs—

people who want to go out and be creative, change the game, make an impact on the world.”

As he said to the younger students, “I just transport because that’s where God happened to put me. I could have been selling brownies, but social progress would still have been the mission.” He is working to understand how he can partner with local leaders to influence ordinances and legislation that improve community health locally. Vernon hopes to open a tuition-free CDL school for flatbed drivers where students will acquire hands-on training and high-level skills as well as life skills

about how to manage their personal and financial situations. He sees that latter kind of education as the key to avoiding the mistakes of history.

Vernon asks that the administrators, faculty and alumni of Lamar University continue personally reaching out to students. He said, “I still have coffee with President Simmons. He invested a little time in me, and it made every possible

difference in my life. Whatever a student may look like or seem to be, there are big dreams hidden in all of us, and it takes the right person to uncover them. If a student with a big dream misses that one important handshake or conversation, the gem may lie undiscovered. You can be the instrument that draws it to the surface.”

To student-entrepreneurs everywhere, Fred Vernon’s story illustrates that you mustn’t allow mistakes—your own or someone else’s—to immobilize you. If that happens, then you are bound to repeat those mistakes. Dare to try something different—something no one’s ever done before, to step out on the edge of the dream, discover your potential for leaning into the unknown and trusting your wings to carry you.

“ Whatever a student may look like or seem to be, there are big dreams hidden in all of us, and it takes the right person to uncover them. ”

—Fred Vernon



Fred Vernon, 2nd from right, with the KLV FedEx team in 2016.



Alumnus joins Hall of Fame
The College of Business inducted **Gene Arnold ‘61, ‘80**, into its Hall of Fame during a ceremony Sept. 26 in the Lamar University Events Center. Arnold earned both his bachelor’s degree in accounting and his M.B.A. from Lamar University. In 1991, after an extensive career as a certified public accountant focusing on business valuation, mergers and acquisitions, and financial management, Arnold became director of the Small Business Development Center on campus. Now, Arnold serves on the board of the new Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship.

Arnold and his wife established the Gene and Elizabeth Arnold Innovation Fund in Business and the Gene and Elizabeth Arnold Innovation Fund in Audiology as well as supporting the CICE.

Online MBA program enrollment jumps
MBA program enrollment has grown significantly. In fall 2015, the online MBA was launched, allowing more students to complete their studies at LU whether or not they are close to campus. In spring 2015, prior to the introduction of the online program, 165 students were enrolled. Spring 2017 showed a 54 percent increase of 254 students.
LU’s MBA program has added concentrations in construction project management, criminal justice management and plans to add concentrations in marketing and port management in future semesters.



World’s youngest venture capitalist inspires entrepreneurial spirit
Alex Banayan, business author, venture capitalist and professional speaker shared entrepreneurship wisdom with students, faculty and staff Oct. 26 as part of the Michael G. Weinert Entrepreneurship Lecture Series. An associate at venture capital firm Alsop Louie Partners by age 19, Banayan was reported by Fortune Magazine to be the world’s youngest venture capitalist, seen on Forbes’ “30 Under 30” list and noted by Business Insider as one of the “Most Powerful People in Finance.” Banayan

has traveled the globe presenting to corporate leadership teams such as Apple, Nike, IBM, Dell, MTV and Harvard as a keynote speaker.

Banayan has contributed to publications such as The Washington Post, The Huffington Post and Entrepreneur and has been featured in major media including BusinessWeek, Forbes, Fortune, Bloomberg TV, Fox News and CBS News. During his visit, Banayan spoke to students about his highly anticipated business book called The Third Door, in which he interviews Bill Gates, Lady Gaga and many other powerful business people and discloses their secrets to making it in business. The Michael G. Weinert Entrepreneurship Lecture Series is funded through an endowment established in 2011 by **Michael Weinert ‘07, ‘09**, a decorated military officer with more than three decades of service in the U.S. Army and U.S. Coast Guard. Weinert, the recipient of two graduate degrees from LU, created the endowment to bring successful, high-profile entrepreneurs to the university.

The College of Business Reaffirmed for International Accreditation
An accreditation team from the International Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business visited the College of Business Nov. 6-8. AACSB-International is the premier global accrediting body for business schools that offer undergraduate, master’s and doctoral degrees in business and accounting. Accredited institutions are re-evaluated every five years. During this time, a team of AACSB professionals determines if the college is complying with AACSB’s current standards of distinction. In February, the association officially reaffirmed accreditation for the College of Business.

The college is one of less than five percent of the world’s business programs that receive this hallmark of excellence in business education. Today, there are 780 business schools in 53 countries and territories that maintain AACSB Accreditation. For the most recent information visit, aacsb.edu/accreditation/accredited-members/global-listing.

“Lamar University offers our students a well-rounded core of arts and sciences and a superior business curriculum in a College of Business that is committed to being an integral part of the business community,” said **Henry Venta**, dean of the college. “Our primary goal is to ensure that all of our programs continue to serve the needs of evolving and dynamic business marketplaces in Southeast Texas and around the world.

“Additionally, we offer an impressive network of accomplished business alumni, whose involvement in the college provides our students with speakers, internships, career opportunities and valuable ongoing support throughout their professional lives,” Venta said.



► **Warren addresses marketing strategy**
Jennifer Warren ‘96, chief marketing officer at Sprinkles Cupcakes, spoke to students Nov. 9 as part of the ExxonMobil Executive in Residence Program. Warren developed marketing solutions for brands such as Samsung, Wal-Mart, Southwest Airlines, Dial, Zales and TJ Maxx.

► **Air Liquide CEO analyzes business challenges**
Chad Briggs ‘97, vice president of sales and technology at Air Liquide Global Engineering and Construction Solutions, lectured Oct. 5 as part of the ExxonMobil Executive in Residence Program. Briggs has worked for Air Liquide since 1997 and was appointed vice president in July 2016.

► **MBA program launches speaker series**
Last fall, the MBA program, Office of Alumni Affairs, and Center for Career and Professional Development partnered with the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce to offer the quarterly Secrets to Success speaker series to students, alumni and community members.

PORT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
PREPARES NEXT GENERATION

AAPA, LU sign agreement

On the heels of entering into a Memorandum of Understanding in June to provide mutually-beneficial educational and professional development opportunities to help students and port professionals, the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) and Lamar University signed a program agreement Oct. 26 that reflects their shared commitment in preparing port industry professionals and leaders for future opportunities and challenges.

Headquartered in Alexandria, Va., AAPA represents more than 140 public port authorities in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Latin America and the United States. The agreement enables port professionals certified in AAPA's Professional Port Manager (PPM®) program to earn up to six credit hours in the university's fully online, graduate degree programs in port management. The partnership also aims to increase the opportunity for students to pursue a career in port or related maritime industry management, implemented through LU's new Center for Advances in Port Advancement.

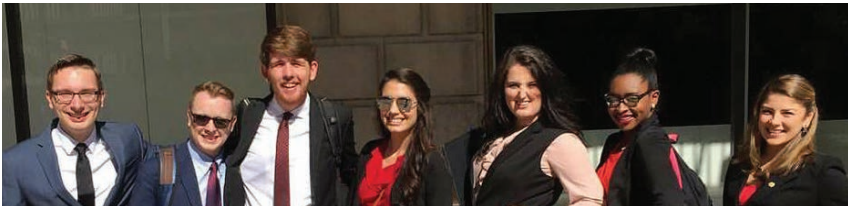
"The Center," said AAPA President and CEO Kurt Nagle, "will advance our industry's long-standing goal of having academic venues to gain both the theoretical and practical knowledge that will well prepare the next generation of port managers."

"This initiative responds to a need for graduate programs that prepares the next generation of leadership with the practical skills necessary in the dynamic port environment," said President Kenneth Evans. "We are very pleased to have an executive director who brings such a breadth of knowledge and skills in the highly challenging domains of the port and maritime industries."

LU hosts TEX-21 meeting

Lamar University hosted approximately 50 governmental and business leaders in a regional meeting of Transportation Excellence for the 21st Century (TEX-21) Oct. 13-14 on campus. The group, whose motto is "Better Mobility Through Better Policy," also toured ports in Beaumont, Port Arthur and the Sabine-Neches Navigation District. Erik Stromberg, executive director of LU's Center for Advances in Port Management, gave a report on the center, focusing on the critical public policy topics of waterside and landside access to ports and marine terminals.

Also discussed was the anticipated impact of the Panama Canal expansion on Texas Ports. The expansion has already added more than \$80 million in new business since its June 26, 2016 opening, according to Jorge Quijano '73, '74, CEO of the Panama Canal Authority and LU alumnus.



LU Moot Court excels at invitational

Three moot court teams from LU competed Oct. 21 and 22 in the University of North Texas School of Law's Invitational Moot Court Tournament, receiving numerous individual and team awards. Craig Tahaney, instructor of political science, coached the teams.

Senior Danelle Sanders, a first-time competitive moot court participant and recipient of the prestigious Leon Jaworski Scholarship to Baylor School of Law, was ranked top speaker out of 124 students, the first ever granted to a new student participant. Siara Dodds, junior, secured 13th place on the speakers list and also was recognized with an award. In addition to individual honors, two LU teams, one comprised of Sanders and Dodds and the other of junior Ryan Sherer and senior Levi Morris, advanced to the tournament elimination rounds, ranking 17th and 31st out of 62, respectively.

Das earns Fulbright award

The J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board selected Kumer Das, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and associate professor of statistics, for a prestigious Fulbright International Education Administrator Seminar award to France and Germany. Awardees attended a two-week seminar to learn about the French and German educational systems as well as network with other U.S. and international educators. Grantees enhance their ability to serve and encourage international students and prospective study-abroad students.

LU, Siam Technology College collaborate

In a ceremony Sept. 14, President Ken Evans and Pornphisud Mongkhonvanit, president of Bangkok, Thailand-based Siam Technology College, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to further collaboration for shared academic programs with the intention of offering dual degree programs in digital learning and leading, business and other academic subjects.

LU's Master of Education in Digital Learning and Leading is designed to prepare education practitioners from different educational jurisdictions and from all levels to lead digital learning programs, integrate digital resources, and design, develop and research effective digital learning environments. The program leads to a "dual degree" award, a U.S. degree from LU and Thai degree from Siam Technology College.



The one-year First-Time-in-College retention rate climbed almost 5.5 points, to 64 percent, over the previous year. Freshmen interest groups and enhanced student support services were important factors in the improvement. LU's six-year graduation rate also improved over last year and reached the second-highest mark in the last eight years. The university has launched a new student retention organizational structure for next spring informed by better data and commanding better retention programming.

Enrollment tops 15,000

This fall, Lamar University exceeded the 15,000 enrollment mark for the first time in its 93-year history. Although overall enrollment was relatively flat compared to last year, all instruction headcount, which includes out-of-state and online, inched to 15,022. The jump is a .4 percent increase over last fall's enrollment of 14,966. Enrollment in the College of Arts and Sciences increased by three percent, led by nursing, up 7.8 percent. The Colleges of Education and Human Development, up 2.1 percent, Fine Arts and Communication, up 2 percent and Business, up .4 percent, also experienced headcount growth. Engineering declined almost 10 percent as a result of more rigorous graduate admission requirements.

New Center for History and Culture unveiled

Nov. 9 was the inaugural program of the newly established Center for History and Culture of Southeast Texas and the Upper Gulf Coast at Lamar University.

The center is an interdisciplinary, multi-cultural organization for preserving, promoting and transmitting the knowledge of the region, including the role of the petroleum industry in the region, the state, the nation and the world, said Director Mary Scheer, professor and chair of the Department of History.

The center's inaugural event was a reception, lecture and book signing featuring co-authors of The Long Shadow: The Lutchter-Stark Lumber Dynasty, Ellen Rienstra and retired Professor Jo Ann Stiles.



Mason gift boosts STEM education

Campus and community leaders gathered on campus Nov. 11 to celebrate a new initiative to improve Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education in Texas and beyond. Thanks to a transformational gift from alumni Chuck '72 and Becky Mason '71 of Beaumont, the largest ever to the College of Education and Human Development, the Becky and Chuck Mason Distinguished Faculty Fellowships in Science Education is now established to address the critical shortage of quality science educators in education.

This gift will dramatically impact the field by developing curriculum focused on inquiry-based

learning, field-based experience and research activity designed to draw science students into the education field, according to Dean Robert Spina. Finding ways to attract more students with an aptitude for science and to encourage these students to declare majors in education to teach biology, chemistry, mathematics or other science fields is another major goal of the initiative.

LU feted for study abroad growth

Nearly three times as many Lamar University students are studying abroad now compared to 2014, growing from 60 to more than 217 students.

At its 2016 Summit in Washington, D.C., IIE's Generation Study Abroad initiative recognized Lamar University and 11 other U.S. higher education institutions that have already exceeded their goals to boost study abroad participation. LU is among the first higher education institutions to meet or exceed their goals of the more than 700 institutions committed to the initiative. It did so by offering a greater variety of courses for all classifications of students from freshmen to doctoral candidates, as well as a wider availability of sessions throughout the year to accommodate students' busy schedules. The office also worked to lower costs and raise accessibility for all students.

► **LU recognizes undergrad research**
Lamar University's Office of Undergraduate Research recognized 38 students and 31 faculty mentors behind 33 proposals that received funding for the 2016-2017 academic year during a Grant Recipient Award Reception held last fall. The students then presented their research plans to attendees.

► **TALH student honored**
The LU Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities student Trevor Wieland of McKinney has been selected as a National Hispanic Scholar. The College Board's National Hispanic Recognition Program recognizes approximately 5,000 of the highest-scoring students from a nationwide total of 250,000 high school Hispanic/Latino juniors who took the PSAT/NMSQT.

► **Itzhak Perlman performs**
Itzhak Perlman, internationally celebrated concert violinist, soloist, teacher and conductor, spoke to an attentive standing-room-only audience of music students in the Rothwell Recital Hall Oct. 6. Later that evening, Perlman talked as well as performed in front of a public audience of more than 1,000 as the 12th Judge Joe J. Fisher Distinguished Lecturer.

► **Two awarded Gilman scholarships**
Linda Pham, a mathematics major from Bridge City, and Kay-Alana Turner, a business management and Spanish major from Lumberton, have been awarded the prestigious Gilman Scholarship. They are two of more than 850 students selected last fall to receive the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

LU ANNOUNCES
2017 BECK FELLOWS



Lamar University selected two students as 2017 David J. Beck Fellows as well as two finalists as 2017 Presidential Summer Fellows, all announced at a reception in the University Event Center Nov. 22.

DAVID J. BECK FELLOWS

Dillon Nicholson
Groves, senior double major, sociology and French
Study in France at Paris-Sorbonne University

David J. Beck Fellow Natalie Sfeir

Beaumont, sophomore speech and hearing sciences major
Research in Liverpool, England

PRESIDENTIAL SUMMER FELLOWS

Rebekah Gonzales
Beaumont, sophomore dance major
Research in Montreal, Quebec

John Ellis

Bridge City, computer information systems major
Research in Allentown, Penn.

The David J. Beck Fellowship covers all school expenses such as tuition, fees, books and on-campus room and board for one year and includes up to \$10,000 to pursue a summer project. The Presidential Summer Fellowship grants up to \$10,000 for summer research projects to the top two finalists in the application for the Beck Fellowship.



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

SEND US YOUR NEWS:

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

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or call (409) 880-8921

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lamar.edu/alumni



50s

Thomas “Tom” Bell '58, B.S. chemical engineering, retired from 4u Beverages Inc. as vice president of manufacturing jobs. During his time at LU, he was awarded the 1958 L.R. Pietzsch Award his senior year and won the first local AICHE Chapter Scholarship. Bell is the father of Thaura, Thurston, Thatcher, Thad, Thadria, Thea, Thann and **Tom** '67, B.S. industrial engineering. He and his wife, Thelma “Timmie”, live in Clarkdale, Ariz.

60s

Dr. John Erwin '60, B.S. biology, '64, M.D., is a retired physician and senior partner for the Family Diagnostic Medical Center. He served 20 years as a board member for the Hillsboro School District, 12 of those years as the board president. He also served as the mayor of Hillsboro for four years. He and his wife of 52 years, Martha, live in Hillsboro.

Rodney LeBoeuf '60, B.A. English, earned master's and doctoral degree in education and retired as superintendent of Charleston County Schools. He and his wife of 57 years, **Nelda (LeFloor)** '58, B.S. music, live in Texarkana.

The Metro Lions Club presented **John Sigona** '61, B.S. graphic design, with the Lion of the Year award. He lives in Groves.

The Texas Legislative Conference named **Pike Powers Jr.** '62, B.A. government, Texan of the Year for 2017. Powers is a distinguished alumnus of LU. He and his wife,

Pam '68, B.S. elementary education, live in Austin.

George Hirasaki '63, B.S. chemical engineering, earned his Ph.D. in chemical engineering in 1967. He received the Anthony F. Lucas gold medal from the Society of Petroleum Engineers in October 2016. He is an A.J. Hartsook Emeritus research professor at Rice University. He and his wife, Darlene, live in Bellaire.

Gregory Reyna '66, B.B.A. marketing, earned his M.B.A. in 1977 and is retired from Forum Oilfield Technologies and Oilwell Division U.S. Steel Corp. He has moved from Chicago to Los Angeles, then to Seattle. He now lives in Houston with his wife of 48 years, Linda.

Dr. Paul Nelson '68, B.B.A. general business, earned his dental surgery degree in 1978 and, later, a master's degree. He is director of the dental department for Terrell State Hospital. He and his wife, **Ruth (Bass)** '77, B.S. secondary education, live in Sachse.

Glen Edgerly '69, B.B.A. marketing, retired as vice president global sales of Emerson Process Management and president of Results Consulting LLC. He lives in Wimberley.

Barbara (Cooper) Croxton '69, B.S. elementary education, and **Terry (Swann) Turpin** '77, B.A. history, are retired teachers and are volunteers for the World of Wonders hands-on Discovery Children's Museum in Longview, which opened in August of 2016. **Lynsey Lack** '11, M.Ed. educational technology leadership, is program and education director for the museum, a volunteer-led effort to inspire a life-long learning

experience by giving children an opportunity to create and explore in a hands-on educational environment. Terry and her husband **Michael Turpin** '79, B.S. music, live in Longview, as do Barbara and her husband, **Dick Croxton** '71, B.S. mechanical engineering. Lynsey lives in Hallsville.

70s

Sam Danna Jr. '70, B.S. business, is a partner for Danna Management LLC in Spring. He and his wife, Teresa, live in Little Silver, N.J.

Brian Owen '70, B.S. electrical engineering, is a retired engineer. He and his wife Kathleen Ananda live in Austin.

Mark Bearden '71, B.S. chemical engineering, earned a master degree in engineering in 1980. He retired from Dow Chemical Co. as a research leader. He and his wife, **Jeri (Ashley)** '71, B.A. sociology, live in Kennewick, Wash.

Roger Cantu '74, B.S. industrial engineering, is a retired project engineer for Petrocon. He lives in Houston.

Dr. James “Mike” Fulton '74, B.S. biology, earned his dental degree, in 1981. He retired from his own practice of J.M. Fulton D.D.S. He and his wife, Cindy, live in Montgomery.

Deborah (Christie) Gier '74, B.A. accounting, '82, M.Ed. secondary education, lives with her husband, **William** '85, A.A.S. fire protection technology, in Beaumont. He retired from ExxonMobil and they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in July.



John Nilsson '74, B.S. mathematics, earned master's degrees in 1983 and 1989. He is a senior scientist for Computer Sciences Corp. He lives in Galveston.

Woodrow Bishop '75, A.A.S. business data processing, is senior programmer analyst for GM Financial in Arlington. He and his wife, Sheila, live in Rockwall.

Donnie Marze '75, B.B.A. management, is owner of Marze Insurance. He and his wife, Sandra, live in Orange.

Glen Morgan '75, B.B.A. general business-law, and **Teri (Tammen)** '85, B.S. communication disorders, founders of Teri & Glen Morgan Golden Triangle Cancer Center, held a ribbon cutting ceremony with the Greater Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce to celebrate the opening of the new cancer treatment center. They live in Beaumont.

Mary Ellen (Jackson) Sims '75, B.S. secondary education, retired in 2006 as the assistant dean of students after 30 years of service to Sam Houston State University. She and her husband, Jim, live in Huntsville.

Ernest Jacobs Jr. '76, B.S. computer science, retired from Dow Chemical Co. as senior information systems project manager. He and his wife, **Lois (LaDay)** '78, A.S. nursing, live in Port Arthur.

Terry Whiddon '76, B.B.A. accounting, is vice president and administrative shareholder for Funchess, Mills, White & Co. He and his wife, Linda, live in Lumberton.

Charles “Charlie” Jehlen '77, B.A. history, '87, M.A. history, is

principal of Nederland Central Middle School. Jehlen and NCMS honored first responders at their 16th Annual Fist Responders Day Breakfast this past September. Charlie and his wife, Sheri, live in Groves.

Byron Hildebrand '79, B.A. mathematics, '79, B.S. health and physical education, is state secretary for the Association of Texas Professional Educators. He and his wife, Kim Gutzwiller, live in San Antonio.

Joyce (Trahan) James '79, B.A. sociology, received a honorary doctorate of humane letters degree from University of Saint Joseph. She is president and chief executive officer of Joyce James Consulting. She and her husband, John, live in Round Rock.

Raymond “Ray” Taylor '79, B.B.A. management, earned a master's degree in management and public administration in 1982. He is retired from the U.S. Department of Justice as a special agent for the Drug Enforcement Administration. He and his wife, **Anna (Officer)** '76, B.S. criminal justice, live in Humble.

80s

Thomas Fain '80, B.S. music, earned a master's degree in music in 1985 and a doctorate in education in 2008. Fain is associate director of bands for Lake Dallas Middle School and lives in Plano.

Karen Nichols '80, B.S. theatre, '83 M.S. speech, earned a master's degree in library science in 1988. She is an associate professor of library services for Lamar University. She lives in Nederland.



Deborah (Davis) Sargent '81, B.S. sociology, is a clinical chemistry specialist II for Diazyme Laboratories. She lives in Poway, Calif.

Dr. Connie (Meeks) McDaniel '81, B.S. biology, earned her M.D. in 1986 and has recently been named vice president and chief medical officer for Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield. She lives in Little Rock, Ark.

Ducks Unlimited awarded **Jeff Branick** '81, with the 2017 Wetland Conservation Achievement Award in the local/private citizen category. Branick is a Jefferson County judge who advocates to restore and conserve the largest coastal marsh in Texas to benefit fish and wildlife populations and people. His wife, **Sherri (Booker)** '81, B.F.A. graphic design, live in Port Neches.

William “Bill” Rigsby '82, B.S. industrial engineering, is a licensed general contractor for RBE Construction/All Things Maintenance. He and his wife, **Lisa (Menefee)** '83, B.B.A. accounting, live in Winter Park, Fla.

Sarah (Moore) Adams '84, B.S. music theory and composition, earned a mater's degree in music in 1994. She is an elementary music teacher for Aurora public schools. She and her husband, Kevin, live in Aurora, Colo.

Linda (Franks) Fuller '85, A.S. education, is a retired paraprofessional for Kirbyville school district. She and her husband, William, live in Aubrey.

Marilyn (Sanders) Holt '85, A.A.S. dental hygiene, '95, B.S. health education, is a clinical instructor for PIMA Medical Institute. She lives in Dayton.

Class of 1966
50th Reunion—Members of the Class of 1966 gathered on campus for their 50th reunion.

1. George Jacobs '66 and Sharon Jacobs
2. Craig '66 and Judy Fecel

LU Golden Circle Luncheon—LU Alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago gathered in the Lamar University Event Center for a special luncheon honoring their place in LU's history.

3. VJ Harper '64, Walter Tucker '78, Dixie Dowden Tucker '61, Roy Pratt '61, Betty Pratt, Martha Newsome, George Newsome '66, Elizabeth Strickland '13, Charlesene Hudson Smith '57 and Sylvia Dean Hughes '60

Secret to Stress
Free Productivity—Last October, LU and the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce hosted The Secret to Stress Free Productivity presented by Craig Escamilla '06, '09, LU Instructor of Management.

4. Amy Babineaux Tarver '99, Executive Director of Leadership Beaumont, Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce and Rebekah Maxwell '11, Reaud Honors College Coordinator and Southeast Texas Young Professionals Organization Chair

Julie (Carson) Heimendinger '86, B.B.A. marketing, is a benefit counselor for Benefit Communications. She and her husband, Gregg, live in Franklin.

Doneane (Beckcom) Reese '86, B.M. music education, '09, M.Ed. administration, is chief executive officer of Bold Radio. She and her husband, Charles “Randy”, live in Port Arthur.

Rhonda “Dee Dee” Harrison '87, B.S. music instrumental, earned her M.A. in music in 1992. She teaches music at Comfort Elementary School and lives in Comfort.



LU All Greek 60th Anniversary Reunion—Greek-affiliated graduates of LU gathered to celebrate 60 years of Greek Life at Lamar University.

1. C.L. Ross '83, Annette Beard '84, Veronica Adams Matthews '85, Jocelyn West '73, Sandra Hill, Nekiva Scott Joseph '01, '09, Natasha Harrison '96 and LU Associate Vice President of Student Engagement and Dean of Students, Dr. Terry Mena

LU Homecoming Cardinal Fan Fest—Last October, the Alumni Spirit Station offered free spirit items at Cardinal Fan Fest after the LU Homecoming Parade.

3. LU Ambassador Katie Loftin with Hope Pestridge

LU Alumni Homecoming Tailgate—Alumni gathered at the Montagne Center for a tailgate party before the homecoming football game last October.

4. Lalauni Thomas '13, Felicia McAdams '09, '11, Fred Williams '11, Cindy Valdivia '07, '10 and Trevor Powell '08, '11

LU Alumni Community Service—Alumni visited the Humane Society of Southeast Texas last November for a morning of community service.

5. Rebekah Maxwell '11, Diana Riley, Volunteer Coordinator of the Humane Society, Cindy Horn Lindeman '88, '03, Renee Theobald Cole '88, Patti Windhorn Calhoun '88; LU Ambassador Kim Tsan; Charles Cole '96, Kimberly Watts Simon '09, Bernadette Walker Cascio '75, Chasity Estes '16 and LU Ambassador Cassie Jenkins



Chuck Royston Presentation—Chuck Royston '61, retired NASA engineer, visited campus for a presentation and book signing for his novel, *The Black Chip*, last November.

2. Chuck Royston '61 signs a copy of his book *The Black Chip* for Lamar University students and alumni.

Patti (Windhorn) Calhoun '88, M.Ed. elementary education, is a retired elementary school teacher from Port Artur school district. She and her husband, Patrick, live in Beaumont.

Roger Cowles '88, B.A. English, retired in December as managing editor for Port Arthur News. He and his wife, Celines, live in Groves.

Melissa (Chesser) Gallien '88, B.S. sociology, '93, M.Ed. counseling and development, retired as director of admissions and academic partnerships for Lamar University Academic Affairs in 2016. She and her husband, Gary, live in Beaumont.

Chris Segler '88, A.S. law enforcement, '88, B.S. criminal justice, is a lieutenant with the City of Port Arthur Police Department. He and his wife, Debra 'Debbie', live in Groves.

Bec Wilson '88, B.S. computer science, is director of Sapient Global Markets. He lives in Sugar Land.

PETRONAS Chemical Group Berhad in Malaysia promoted **Sazali Hamzah** '89, B.S. chemical engineering, to managing director and chief executive officer in 2014. He lives in Kuala Lumpur.

Orange County Sheriff's Deputy **Jimmy LeBoeuf** '89, A.S. law enforcement, '90, B.S. criminal justice, and Bridge City Chief of Police **Paul Davis** '84, A.S. law enforcement, were honored at Bridge City National Night Out, an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live.

90s

Charles Sassine Jr. '90, B.S. biology, is a science and resources manager for the U.S. Department of the Interior. He lives in Corpus Christi.

Michael Hammond '91, B.B.A. finance, is the senior vice president and alternative credit administration officer for Comerica Bank in Houston. Michael and his wife, Becky, live in Katy.

Adina (Ward) Josey '92, B.S. home economics-interior design, married Blaine Josey Nov. 19, 2016. Adina was promoted to senior

planner/floodplain administrator for the City of Beaumont. They live in Beaumont.

Mary Magdalene Roberts '91, A.S. law enforcement, '92, B.S. criminal justice, is a dispatcher for Houston Transtar-Safe Clear Management. She lives in Houston.

Ying Ding '92, M.S. computer science, is a senior information technology manager for The Federal Reserve Bank. Ying has published two IBM press books in technology along with numerous technical articles in trade journals. He is a speaker at large international technology conferences. Ying has held senior positions with IBM, Bank of America and Lowe's. He lives in Allen.

Dorothy (Chesson) Way '92, B.S. biology, is a medical technologist for Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas. She lives in Orange.

Troy Domingue '93, B.B.A. accounting, is a certified public accountant and partner for Wathen, DeShong & Juncker. He lives in Lumberton.

Monte Barrow '93, B.S. kinesiology, is the athletic director and head football coach for the Nederland High School Bulldogs. He lives in Nederland with his wife **Amber (Reeves)** '98, B.S. family consumer sciences, food and nutrition.

Bridget (Blanchard) Fuselier '94, B.S. political science, earned her law degree in 1998. She is a professor of law for Baylor Law School. She and her husband, Paul, live in Waco.

Jeffrey Greenway '94, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, retired from law enforcement as a constable for Jefferson County. He and his wife, Susan, live in Port Neches.

Michael Day '94, A.A.S. respiratory therapy, earned a B.S. in respiratory therapy, and is a registered respiratory therapist-adult critical care specialist and asthma educator. He works for Trihealth Good Samaritan Hospital and lives in Brookville, Ill.

Kimberly (Colt) Carpenter '95 B.S. industrial engineering, is an industrial engineer for Alliance Compressors in Natchitoches, La, where she and her husband, Ricky, live.

Richard "Rick" Gibson Jr. '95, B.S. mathematics, is owner of Acorn Educational Services. Gibson's daughter, Mary Kathryn, set a new world record as a 10-year-old girl in the 3000-meter race at a USA Track and Field meet in New York Jan 5, 2017. She and her brother Travis are qualified for the junior Olympic cross country national in San Antonio. Rick, his wife, KayLynn, and their five children Daniel, Travis, Mary Kathryn, Peter and Joseph run for their son and brother, Jonas, who passed away Jan. 16, 2014, at age 16, of an antibiotic resistant infection. Daniel and Jonas played violin in the Houston Youth Symphony, and now Travis and Mary Kathryn do the same. The family lives in Nederland.

Artha "Art" Simpson '95, B.S. kinesiology, '16, Ed.D. educational leadership, was awarded the "Grow Your Own" scholarship from the Texas State University System. Simpson is the director for recreational sports for the Lamar University Division of Student Engagement. He and his wife, **Teresa** '10, M.Ed. supervision, '14, Ed.D. educational leadership, live in Beaumont.

Eric Sullivan '96, B.F.A. graphic design, owns e.Sullivan Advertising & Design. He and his wife, Echo, live in Port Neches.

Kimberly "Kim" (Cole) Cox '98, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '07, M.Ed. school administration, is principal of Mauriceville Middle School. She and her husband, **Lockwood 'Woody'** '89, B.S. secondary education, '06, M.S. biology, live in Buna. Woody is a high school science teacher for Little Cypress-Mauriceville school district.

Maria (Cevallos) Gomez '98, B.S. communication, is pursuing a master's degree in educational leadership for the linguistically diverse learner at University of St. Thomas in Houston. She is a bilingual elementary teacher for Pearland school district. She and her husband, **Pablo** '98, B.F.A. graphic design, live in Pearland. Pablo earned an associate's degree in multimedia, video and animation in 2002 and works at HCA Gulf Coast Division as a webmaster and photographer.

Jeremy Jenkins '99, B.S. criminal justice, is a service manager for G&K Services. He lives in Cypress.

00s

Cleve Glenn '00, B.B.A. accounting, earned his law degree in 2007. He is a certified public accountant, as well as vice president and general counsel at McClinton Energy Group LLC. He and his wife, Adele, live in Dallas.

Samantha Skinner '00, B.S.W. social work, is a child protective services foster care supervisor for Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. She lives in Lufkin.

Tammy (Smith) Robles '01, B.S. criminal justice, is a recruitment specialist for the Federal Bureau of Prisons. She and her husband, Mark, live in Odenton, Md.

Marco Villasana '02, B.B.A. general business, was recognized as one of Southeast Texas' 40 Business Professionals Under 40 for 2016. He is a marketing channel manager for AT&T and lives in Beaumont with his wife, **Sarah (Stephenson)** '04, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '13, M.Ed. school counseling, and four year old son, Tristan. Sarah is a teacher at Vidor Middle School.

Daniel Grooms '02, B.S. chemical engineering, earned a doctorate in chemical engineering in 2006 and is a senior process engineer for AkzoNobel. He and his wife, Linda had a baby boy, Ryan William Oct. 11, 2016. They live in Pasadena.

Julie (Giblin) Gauthier '02, M.Ed. school administration, is the principal of Ridgewood Elementary School in Port Neches. She previously served as a council member for the city of Port Neches and now serves as the 2017-2018 state secretary for the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association. She and her husband, Blake, live in Port Neches.

Willie Broussard '03, B.S. family and consumer science-hospitality administration, earned an M.B.A. in human resource management in 2007. He is a human resources manager for Holiday Inn in Beaumont, where he lives.

Rachel (Haskett) Cordova '03, B.S. communication, '08, M.Ed. counseling and development, is a counselor for Hardin-Jefferson High School. She and her husband, Justin, live in Beaumont.



Alumni Past Presidents' Lunch | Dec. 6

Former presidents of the Lamar University Alumni Association and Alumni Advisory Board gathered for a luncheon with President Ken Evans and a tour of the new Wayne A. Reaud Building.

Denise (Carlin) Leblanc '03, B.B.A. finance, is chief financial officer for Spindletop Center. She lives in Groves.

Harish Vadada '03, M.E. electrical engineering, earned an M.B.A. in 2015 and is senior product manager for GE Digital. He and his wife, Prabhitha, live in Pleasanton, Calif.

Melissa (Huynh) Conrad '04, B.S. industrial engineering, is a web and software developer. She earned an A.S. in multimedia design in 2012 and a B.A. in media arts-web design in 2013. Conrad is a member of the Institute of Industrial Engineers and Society of Women Engineers and supports Amnesty International and Campus Animal Rescue Education. She and her husband, Nathaniel, live in Mountain View, Calif.

Christopher Garza '04, B.S. political science, '08, M.B.A. experiential entrepreneurship, is director of Olefins Procurement for Flint Hills Resources. He and his wife, Lana, live in Beaumont.

Roxanne Trahan '04, B.G.S. general studies, is a store manager for Sherwin-Williams. She lives in Lake Charles, La.

Becky (Vickery) Wilson '04, B.S. criminal justice, '05, M.S. applied criminology, retired from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice as a senior internal auditor and a certified fraud examiner. In August, Becky married Capt. William Wilson, and they live in Universal City.

Angela (Blood) McGuire '04, B.B.A. accounting, is Nederland terminal accounting manager for Sunoco Logistics. She and her husband, Roger, live in Nederland with their two daughters.

Theodore Herman '05, B.B.A. management information systems, is a senior systems engineer for Spring Branch school district. He lives in Houston.

Shannon Holmes '05, M.Ed. educational administration, '11, Ed.D. educational leadership, is superintendent of Hardin-Jefferson

school district. He and his wife, **Melissa** '95, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, live in Sour Lake. Melissa is the co-owner of the Gourmet Cupboard.

Amanda (Harris) Langham '05, B.S. communication disorders, earned a doctorate in audiology in 2010. She owns and is an audiologist for Central Texas Hearing Center. She and her husband, Ross, live in Austin.

Stephanie (East) Gordon '06, B.F.A. studio art, married Andrew Gordon June 25, 2016. They live in Denver, Colo.

Dyenitha Roy '06, B.A. French, is an accounting technician for Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Huntsville. She lives in Conroe.

Trenton Wallace '06, B.A. history, is a high school teacher and coach for Hull-Daisetta school district. He is the head boys basketball coach, as well as varsity football coach and assistant track coach. He and his wife, Sherri, live in Daisetta.

Matt Ellis '07, B.S. kinesiology, and his wife, **Celina (Flores)** '07, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, welcomed their second child, Luke Anthony, Feb. 28, 2017. The family lives in Port Neches.

Jessica "Jessi" (Ramirez) Milam '07, M.S. criminal justice, '11, M.Ed. counseling and development, is the principal of Utopia High School. She and her husband, John, live in Knippa.

Julie (Mooneyham) Guidry '07, B.S. communication, is a teacher at Dick Dowling Elementary School and recently won rookie of the year. She and her husband, Cole, live in Groves.

David Jones '08, B.S. family and consumer science-food and nutrition, is a certified mental health case manager for Volunteers of America. He and his wife, Danielle, live in Saratoga Springs, Utah.

Scott Hawk '08, B.S. kinesiology, and his wife, **Amber (Baxter)** -06, adopted three children in 2014

(Shae, Braylen and Ilan) and four more in 2016 (Jay, Dane, Breanna and Angel) adding to their two biological children, making a family of nine. They now have a granddaughter, Kaydence. Amber earned a B.A. in Spanish in 2008. Scott and Amber are owners of Sub Zero Ice Cream and Yogurt in Beaumont, where the family lives.

Paisley (Welch) Ware '08, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '16, M.Ed. school counseling, is counselor for Van Buren Elementary in Port Neches. She and her husband, **James** '94, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, live in Port Neches. James is a reporter for KFDM Channel 6.

Pinkee (Patel) Harley '09, B.B.A. finance, '10, M.B.A. healthcare administration, is manager of patient business services for UT Physicians Community Health and Wellness Center in Beaumont. She and her husband, **Devin** '10, B.S. industrial engineering, '11, M.B.A. financial management, live in Nederland. They welcomed their son, Jai, in May.

Tracey (Castillo) Hernandez '09, B.S. communication disorders-deaf education, '14, Au.D., is an audiologist for Texas ENT Specialists at Katy Memorial. On March 11, 2017, Tracey married Jose. They live in Katy.

Jacqueline (Vargas) Childs '09, B.S. psychology, '09, B.S. biology, earned her B.S. degree in nursing in 2014 and is a registered nurse for Baylor College of Medicine. She lives in Pearland with her husband, **Garry** '09, B.B.A. general business and entrepreneurship.

Christi Grudier '10, B.S. communication, earned a master's degree in higher education administration in 2013. She is a regional admissions counselor for Lamar University. She lives in Arlington.

Samuel Kosgei '10, B.S. health education, won his second Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C. He lives in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Jeff Moreau '10, B.S. electrical engineering, is a senior electrical service specialist for Siemens U.S.A. He lives in Tomball.

Merideth Abbott '11, A.A.S. nursing, '13, B.S. nursing, is a registered nurse and lives in Nederland.

Bethany Aiena '11, B.S. psychology, earned a doctorate in clinical

psychology in 2017. Aiena has accepted a post-doctoral fellowship in primary care mental health for Veterans Affairs in New Orleans.

Evangeline Burkart '11, B.S. civil engineering, is a civil/structural engineer for Richard Design Services Inc. She and her wife, Chelsea, live in Beaumont.

Dr. Christine (Felix) Herndon '11, B.S. chemistry, married Brent this past November. She earned her doctorate of dental surgery in 2015. They live in Houston.

Samantha Myers '11, B.S.W. social work, earned a master's degree in social work in 2015. She is a social worker for Texas Children's Health Plan and lives in Houston.

Albert "A.J." Saldana Jr. '11, B.S. psychology, '13, M.B.A. healthcare administration, married **Helen (Lopez)** '10, B.S. communication disorders, July 2, 2016. A.J. is the executive director of Windsor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. They live in New Braunfels.

Ryan Taylor '11, M.B.A. healthcare administration, is executive director for Haven of Globe in Globe, Ariz., where he and his wife, Andrea, live.

Marquis Horn '11, B.S. graphic design, is a graphic designer for e.Sullivan Advertising & Design. She lives in Nederland.

Jake Cosio '12, B.A. chemistry, married **Caroline (Gray)** '16, B.A. French, Jan. 7, 2017. They live in Winnie.

Cheryl (Swaney) George '12, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a senior buyer and planner for Allergan. She and her husband, **Clifton** '09, M.Ed. administration, live in Lorena.

Hillary (Gray) Howerton '12, B.M. music, married Joseph "Cole" who is currently pursuing a music degree at LU. They live in Baytown.

Eric Ray '12, B.G.S. general studies, '14, M.A. English, is an AP English teacher for A Plus Charter Schools Inc. He and his wife, Erin, live in Cross Roads.

Luis Sanchez '12, B.S. criminal justice, was honored for bravery for pulling two men from a fiery crash. He is a police officer for the Port Arthur Police Department and lives in Beaumont.

Rebecca (Iredale) Shuler '12, M.Ed. administration, is a teacher for Southwest school district. She and her husband, Terrell, live in Devine.

EVENTS *at* LU

SEPTEMBER

12 Academic Lecture Series Presents Nyle DiMarco, *Living Out Loud*
7:00 p.m. | Lamar University Theatre
lamar.edu/cofac

15 Alumni Classic Movie Night Featuring Friday Night Lights
6 p.m. reception, 7:30 p.m. movie
Jefferson Theatre
345 Fannin, Beaumont, TX
lamar.edu/alumni

25 Working in the Oil Patch: From Spindletop to the Present lecture by **Dr. Bobby Weaver**
5–7 p.m.
Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum
lamar.edu/historyandculture

OCTOBER

14 Alumni Community Service at Nutrition and Services for Seniors
8:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.
4590 Concord Rd., Beaumont, TX
lamar.edu/communityservice

23 Deep Water, The Story of Beaumont and its Port lecture by **David Falloure**
5–7 p.m.
Wayne A. Reaud Event Center
lamar.edu/historyandculture

NOVEMBER

04 Lamar University Homecoming
A full day of family fun, for more information on the day's events visit
lamar.edu/homecoming

09 Alumni Painting at the Pub
6–8 p.m.
Clifton Steamboat Museum, O'Hearn's Pub
8727 Fannett Rd., Beaumont, TX
lamar.edu/alumni

16 Singing the Dream: Cajun and Prison Music of Southeast Texas and Louisiana presentation by **Kevin Fontenot and Caroline Gnagy**
5–7 p.m.
Wayne A. Reaud Event Center
lamar.edu/historyandculture



**SATURDAY
NOV. 4**

HOMEcoming PARADE
Lamar University Campus • 2 PM
Bands • Floats • Family Fun
Community entries welcome!

BIG RED'S RIDE
Spindletop Gladys City Museum • 11 AM-1PM
Classic & Antique Car Show

CARDINAL FAN FEST
Plummer Lawn • 3-5:30 PM
Live Music • Free Craft Beer • Food Trucks

ART EXTRAVAGANZA
Dishman Art Museum • 3-4:30 PM
Family Art Activities • Live Music

ALUMNI PRE-GAME PARTY
Montagne Center Concourse • 4-5:30 PM
Pre-registration required.

**LAMAR UNIVERSITY
VS. CENTRAL ARKANSAS**
Provost Umphrey Stadium
Kick-off 6 PM

LAMAR.EDU/HOMEcoming

Tiffany (Mason) Aguilar '12, B.G.S. general studies, is a teacher at Goose Creek Memorial High School. She and her husband, Nathan, live in Baytown.

Garret Duhon '13, B.S. civil engineering, is an engineer II for AECOM. He and his fiancé, **Candice (Montgomery)** '13, B.S. industrial engineering, '14, M.B.A. leadership, live in Houston. Candice is a budget and reporting analyst at Freepport LNG and serves on LU's Industrial Engineering Advisory Council.

Danna Guillory-Moten '13, M.Ed. school counseling, teaches in Galena Park school district. She and her husband, Myron, live in Humble.

Andrew Strange '13, B.A. sociology, earned a master degree in January 2017. He is an advisor for Lamar University Undergraduate Advising Center. He lives in Beaumont.

Kristi (Lasseigne) Premeaux '13, B.B.A. finance, is director of finance for the South East Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. She and her husband, Jeremy, live in Nederland.

Mauro Hernandez '13, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a pump improvement engineer for Flowserve Corp. He lives in Liberty.

Casey Eubanks '13, M.Ed. educational technology leadership, is the 188th operations group senior intelligence officer for the Arkansas Air National Guard. He and his wife, Jennifer, live in Sallisaw, Okla.

Gwendolyn (Gwen) Mumford '13, B.F.A. studio art, '16, B.S. graphic design, is a junior graphic designer for AIG in Houston, where she also lives.

Karen Brown '13, M.Ed. administration, is an instructional math coach for Conroe school district. She lives in Conroe.

Miriam (Wyatt) Morgan '14, B.A. political science, '16, M.P.A. public administration, is executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Jefferson County Inc. She lives in Beaumont.

Andrew Westbrook '14, B.B.A. marketing, married **Kristal (DeVillier)** '14, B.G.S. general studies. They have one son, Garrett, and live in Port Neches. Andrew is the manager of Market Basket in Port Neches.

Shelby Davidson '15, Ed.D. educational leadership, received the Chance Memorial Dissertation of the Year award from the National

Rural Association, along with the Outstanding Doctoral Student Award. Davidson is principal of Van Middle School in Van and pastor of New Beginning Baptist Church in Edom. She lives in Van.

Jennifer Edwards '15, M.Ed. school counseling, is a counselor for Creekside Intermediate School. She lives in Friendswood.

Michael Ekers '15, M.Ed. administration, is a teacher and assistant athletic director for Chesterfield County Public Schools. He lives in Midlothian, Va.

Danielle Ellis '15, B.S. psychology, has begun medical school at the University of Texas School of Medicine at San Antonio. She lives in San Antonio.

Courtney (Mitchell) Evans '15, B.S. criminal justice, married Rondell Jan. 8, 2017. They live in Pearland.

Curtis Kaloi '15, B.S. criminal justice, is a police officer for Red Oak school district. He and his wife, Elizabeth, live in Milford.

Rustina (Marx) Sams '15, B.S. family and consumer science-family studies, is a career and technical education teacher for Bob Hope School. She and her husband, Andrew, live in Groves.

Stormi Sinette '15, B.G.S. general studies, is an administrator for Coca-Cola Refreshments. She lives in Port Arthur.

Nathanael Smith '15, B.S. industrial technology, is a quality manager for Schlumberger. He lives in Friendswood.

Ryan Holt '15, B.S. industrial technology, is a production engineer for TechnipFMC. Ryan has received eight company awards for his performance as a production engineer. From implementing 5S and other LEAN process initiatives, to designing tools to assist in the more efficient performance of particular operations in the heavy assembly of subsea trees, Ryan has made a positive impact on TechnipFMC operations and proudly represents Lamar University as an alumnus. He and his wife, Courtney, live in Mont Belvieu.

Varun Allam '16, M.E. industrial engineering, is a business intelligence software trainee for Quadrant Resources. He lives in Bellevue, Wash.

Angela (Downs) Chesnutt '16, B.B.A. human resource management, is a human resources coordinator for I-Corp Inc. She lives in Beaumont.



Whether you are planning the trip of a lifetime, a return to a favorite vacation spot, or simply looking for your next adventure, the Lamar University Cardinal Adventures Travel Program is a great place to start your journey.

Cruise the Panama Canal
January 4-15

Wonders of Peru, featuring an Amazon River Cruise and Machu Picchu
June 10-21

England's Castles, Cottages & Countryside
July 5-15

Canadian Rockies
August 16-24

Amalfi Coast
Sept 11-19

Visit lamar.ahitravel.com for more information.

Red & White

Macatee addresses President's Circle

CBS Sports broadcaster Bill Macatee '78 spoke about celebrating victories during the President's Circle dinner Oct. 14 in the University Reception Center. The annual event recognizes members of this society who have made a strategic commitment to the success of LU and its students.



Academic Lecture Series shines

Capt. Richard Phillips, of the MV Maersk Alabama during its 2009 hijacking by Somali pirates, shared his experiences as the Lamar University Academic Lecturer, hosted by the College of Arts and Sciences Nov. 7 in the University Theater.



Drumline excels

LU's Drumline and Percussion Ensemble took second place at the annual Percussive Arts Society's International Competition Nov. 9-12 in Indianapolis. Music major Armando Gaucin of El Paso won first place in the marching tenor solo competition.

Breaking ground

LU Green Squad and Beta Alpha Psi accounting honor society volunteers, along with groups from St. James United Methodist Church and Jack and Jill of America, broke ground Oct. 8, to build the South Park Community Garden, an initiative of LU and the Greater South Park Neighborhoods Partnership to provide access to gardening space, training and nutritious food for local residents and students.



New flavors

International students hosted the 5th Annual International Cultural Festival Nov. 19 in the Montagne Center. Attendees enjoyed international dance, dress, music and foods as the capstone to International Education Week with students representing India, Pakistan, Nepal, China, Mexico, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Angola.

Outstanding chapter

The Society of Physics Students national branch bestowed the 2016 Outstanding Chapter Award on LU's Sigma Pi Sigma chapter, the group's second time to receive the honor, which resulted from chapter research and hosting a physics conference with the leadership of former chapter president Keeley Townley-Smith, current president John Pickren, vice president Suzanne Wheeler and treasurer Jamie Stafford.



Sattler honored

Brian Sattler, director of public relations at LU since 1998 and pictured center with President Ken Evans and Regina Rogers, earned the university's 2016 Julie & Ben Rogers Community Service Award Dec. 6 for his work with the Greater South Park Neighborhoods Partnership; promoting the Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship to create jobs and opportunities for Southeast Texans; and long-term service to the Press Club of Southeast Texas, the Orange County Veterans Memorial Committee, Air Force with the Civil Air Patrol and reserve, and hurricane recovery efforts with the Orange First Church of the Nazarene men's ministries.



Ornaments encourage survivors

Led by Antoinette Mays, sponsor of LU's chapter of the domestic violence and suicide support group Bruised But Not Broken, students, faculty and staff acknowledged holiday season challenges for victims of crime Dec. 6 by hanging ornaments on the Tree of Angels at the Jefferson County Courthouse. Mays is pictured with Sigma Sigma Rho sorority members Gyngyn Detorres, right, a junior nursing major from Nederland, and Saddiqa Akhtar, a junior mechanical engineering major from Port Arthur.



Puppy love

Students focused on finals took a break to de-stress and recharge Dec. 7-8 with therapy dogs as part of the Paws 4 Love Therapy Animals Group.





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Giving for the long haul

Buzz and Cathy Long support LU with scholarship, bequest

by Brian Sattler



"We've both been so fortunate in life and career that we decided we needed to pass it on, to pay it forward," said Wilfred "Buzz" Long Jr.

of the scholarship he and his wife, Cathy, have created at Lamar University. They continue to build the scholarship and added provisions for an additional gift as a part of their estate plan through their IRA account.

A 1970 graduate of LU with a BBA in marketing, Buzz served a tour of duty as a Navy air traffic controller before joining Pfizer in 1976. "My success as a businessman I owe to what I learned at Lamar University," Buzz said. His 33-year career with Pfizer included 27 years in sales and six as a retiree ambassador, representing the company at conventions in the U.S. and Canada. "Any time I had a convention in San Francisco, San Diego, Toronto, New York or Boston, Cathy said 'You're not going without me!'"

Cathy, a graduate of the University of Louisiana at Monroe, also is a veteran, having served in the Army. Today, she is semi-retired

after a long career as an insurance adjuster with Crawford & Co. She continues to work part time on nationwide toxic tort claims for one major petrochemical company.

"I wanted to honor my father for his service and dedication to LU," Buzz said. "I told Cathy, 'Let's give students an opportunity. Let's endow a scholarship in the school of business.' My father held an accounting degree from Lamar."

The couple created the Wilfred H. Long Jr. and Catherine Long Regent Scholarship in Business, honoring Wilfred H. Long Sr., in the Lamar University Foundation.

They have used Pfizer's corporate matching gift program to extend their giving to LU. "I felt we were getting a lot more doing it with the corporation contributing also," he said. "Each year we try to send more, and it has grown exponentially through the years to the point it's is now considered a Regent's Scholarship."

"My dad was very, very active at Lamar University," Buzz said. "At the time of his death, he was president elect of the alumni association, on the homecoming committee and several others. But he never got the chance to enjoy presidency of the alumni association."

"My whole family graduated from LU," Buzz said of his mother, father, three sisters and himself. "It was a family thing."

The couple added additional support for the scholarship through their estate plan. "We struggled a bit to get ourselves through school," Cathy said of how she and Buzz both worked several jobs during college. "To me, it's really important to see that somebody else doesn't have to struggle to get through if we can make it a little better for them."

Their giving spirit extends beyond LU with the Tri-City Corvette Club where they helped establish the Tri-City Corvette Club Scholarship at LU.

They are longtime members of the Cardinal Club and active supporters of all LU athletic programs. Buzz serves on the club's board, was its president in 2005 and they are season ticket holders in several sports. The couple's Corvette is often spotted in the LU Homecoming parade, most recently with Cathy at the wheel providing rides for Representative Dade Phelan and Dean Srinivas Palanki. Through their generous support of LU, they are members of the Lamar University Legacy Society and President's Circle, and Cathy is a member of the Lamar University Women in Philanthropy.

"It's a good feeling to go to bed at night knowing that we've given someone an opportunity for an education they otherwise would not have had," Buzz said.

To learn more about making a difference in the lives of LU students like Buzz and Cathy Long have, please contact Lamar University Advancement.
(409) 880-8422 • development@lamar.edu • legacy.lamar.edu