

CARDINAL CADENCE

THE MAGAZINE OF LAMAR UNIVERSITY

VOL. 50, NO. 2 | LATE SUMMER 2022



8 MAXINE JOHNSTON 18 ROLAND RODRIGUEZ 20 BECK AWARD WINNER TERRI DAVIS
24 SHIELDS OF STRENGTH 42 CARDINAL LOVE STORIES

| FROM THE **PRESIDENT** |



Just over a year ago my wife, Stacy, and I made the journey to Texas and to Lamar University. As we drove down over a two-day period, we talked a lot about this new chapter in our lives, and we welcomed it with great anticipation. We knew even then that every experience in our lives, good or bad, had prepared us for this moment—in fact, had led us right here into Cardinal Country. Since that day, we have absolutely fallen in love. My favorite part of the day is riding my scooter across campus in the mornings and evenings and seeing the vibrant life of our students as they take full advantage of every opportunity here. Stacy loves to cheer on our athletics teams, and she supports our student ambassadors, scholars and leaders in so many of their activities. This place has truly become special to us.

But I also know Lamar University is bigger than any geographical place. Our broader community extends far beyond Southeast Texas. Our community is filled with Cardinal alumni who live across the state, nation and globe and who, each day, carry on the wing the story of what is possible with an LU education. Our upcoming centennial is a great reminder of how our past and future are connected through the spirit of entrepreneurship and creative thinking. Like our founders, each of you also contributes to economic growth, educational opportunity, cultural diversity

and community wellbeing wherever you live. You make a difference, and you give back. I am incredibly grateful for everything you do both for this institution and for the students we serve.

I also want to thank each member of the Lamar University Foundation Board of Trustees for your service and long-standing dedication to advancing the mission of the university. I am absolutely committed to this vital partnership between the university and the foundation. In fact, our relationship is quite literally the “foundation” upon which Lamar University is able to grow and to adapt to change. With each new generation of students comes a new generation of alumni and donors, and it is this constant infusion of new resources that helps the university to reinvent itself, to become something more than the sum of us, and to do so for a future world that is sometimes hard to imagine.

I hope you are as inspired by this issue of *Cadence* as I am. It showcases several alumni whose stories of adaptability in the face of crippling barriers or of unforeseen opportunities can guide us as we make our way through our own professional and personal lives. Please enjoy the issue, and continue to share your Lamar University story every day, wherever you go.

With Cardinal Pride,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jaime R. Taylor".

Jaime R. Taylor, President



THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS

Brian McCall, Chancellor | Austin

Duke Austin, Chairman | Houston

Garry Crain, First Vice Chairman | San Marcos

Alan L. Tinsley, Second Vice Chairman | Madisonville

Charlie Amato | San Antonio

Sheila Faske | Rose City

Dionicio (Don) Flores | El Paso

Nicki Harle | Baird

Stephen Lee | Beaumont

William F. Scott | Nederland

Gabriel Webb, Student Regent | The Hills



The Lamar University Foundation was established in 1972 to accept and manage gifts benefiting Lamar University. The Foundation's mission is to support and enhance Lamar University through the management and stewardship of those gifts as well as providing support and assistance to the University in its fundraising endeavors.

The Foundation's Board of Trustees embrace their fiduciary responsibility with great regard and professionalism. The Board, in collaboration with university president Dr. Jaime Taylor, is deeply committed to assisting the university in accomplishing its strategic objectives.

It is in this spirit that the Foundation is pleased to partner with Lamar University on the production of this *Cardinal Cadence* issue and those produced in the future.

Don Shaver '76
Chairman of the Board
Lamar University Foundation

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Becky Mason '71, Vice Chairman of the Board
Mark Smith '79, Immediate Past Chairman
Gisela Houseman, Secretary
Joe Vernon '71, Treasurer
Sandra Clark '76, Chair, Audit Committee
Michele Smith '88, Chair, Trusteeship and Governance Committee
Terry Garth, Chair, Finance Committee
Larry Norwood '73, Chair, Investment Committee

TRUSTEES

Michael Burrow	Cathy Long
Rena Clark '84	Pat Parsons '70
Jerry Dearing -88	Ellen Rienstra '62, '80
Vernon Durden '69, '04	Michael Roebuck, Jr.
Phillip Fuller '81	Lori Ryerkerk-Griffith
Ann Hasselmo '66	Bill Scott '70
Elaine Henry '71	Mike Turner '71
Mike Jenkins '72	Joe Williams '68
Clayton Lau '69	Herman Wilson, Jr. '63

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

Juan J. Zabala, '07, Vice President of University Advancement

Cynthia Hicks '89, '93, Editor

CONTRIBUTORS

Writing

Brooke Barnett; Penny Clark; James Dixon; Shannon Copeland Figueroa '02, '03, '07; Casey Ford, '13, '15; Natalie Frels-Busby; Mackenzie Linscomb; Elizabeth Newman; Karen Nichols; Shelbe Rodriguez; Jeff Spoeri; Andrew Strange '13; Uliana Trylowsky; Lauren Wilson '15

Photography

Silas Banda; Annabelle Broussard; Daniel Bowden; Evie Clifton; Natalie Frels-Busby; Brandon Gouthier '96; Tillie Hickman '01; Ellen (Goldin) King '64; Daniel McLemore '09, '21; Morgan Miller '11, '18, Leo Weeks Photographers; Rocky Kneten Photography; Shelbe Rodriguez; Terry Savoy-Hadley '95; Brandon Thibodeaux '13; Juan '07 and Peggy Zabala

Design

Mike Rhodes

Circulation includes more than 94,000 copies distributed to alumni, faculty, staff and friends of Lamar University. If you have received more than one copy of this publication, please let us know.

Changes of address may be sent to:
University Advancement
P.O. Box 10011 | Beaumont, Texas 77710
or alumni@lamar.edu

DIVISION OF UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

Juan J. Zabala '07, Vice President

Jeff Spoeri, Associate Vice President

Shannon Copeland Figueroa '02, '03, '07,
Director of Alumni Affairs and Advancement Services
P.O. Box 10011 | Beaumont, Texas 77710
(409) 880-8419 or fax (409) 880-8409

LAMAR UNIVERSITY ALUMNI OFFICE

When visiting campus, you're invited to stop by the Alumni Office at the John Gray Center, Rudy C. Williams Building, Suite 102, 855 Jim Gilligan Way.

P.O. Box 10005 | Beaumont, Texas 77710
(409) 880-8921, or (800) 298-4839
alumni@lamar.edu | lamar.edu/alumni

LAMAR UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

Juan J. Zabala '07, CEO

Karen Nichols '83, COO

P.O. Box 11500 | Beaumont, Texas 77710
(409) 880-2117
foundation@lamar.edu | lamar.edu/foundation

Cardinal Cadence (USPS 017-254) is published by Lamar University, 211 Redbird Lane, Beaumont, Texas 77710.

CONNECT WITH US!



Share your LU experience by tagging **#WeAreLU** or **@LamarUniversity** in your photos, tweets and posts.

| IN THIS ISSUE |

- 5** The future is bright
- 6** The necessity of adaptability
- 8** Among the wildflowers
- 10** "A game" goes beyond hard work
- 16** Unexpected and improbable ties
- 18** A better world through education
- 19** Build it like Beck: Davis wins 2022 David J. Beck Teaching Excellence Award
- 20** Industry partner: Valero backs student engineers
- 24** Shields of Strength: Founded in love, driven by faith
- 26** Thank you from the Class of '22



6



8



24



26



16



18



42

Cover photo: **Shevaun Williams**
On the cover: **Cheerleader Naomi George, senior**



SAVE THE DATES
THE CARDINALS ARE COMING!
lamar.edu/alumni

Sept. 10 • Dallas
Oct. 8 • San Antonio
Nov. 11 & 12
El Paso/Las Cruces

- 11** Athletics News
- 12** Dream Makers
- 22** Cardinal Views
- 32** Class Notes
- 42** Cardinal Love Stories



THE FUTURE IS *bright*

by Andrew Strange

students camp out overnight to get tickets to watch us play against Southwestern Louisiana in a ‘rivalry game.’”

It was that enthusiasm, Brooks said, that led to the building of the Montagne Center.

“Mr. Montagne actually traveled with us when we won those two games in the tournament. He saw the energy and excitement here and the students camping out overnight to watch a game. There was just so much good energy here. So he

went to the Texas Legislature and got the money to have the Montagne Center built for Lamar University.”

Brooks said of all the people who have inspired him throughout his career, two stand out in his mind: his aunt, Janice Brooks, who taught him how to play basketball, and his high school basketball coach, Jackie Carr from Wheatley High School in Houston.

“He was more than a basketball coach, he was a life coach, which is what I admire about him,” Brooks said of Carr. “He taught me everything I ever needed to know, not just about basketball, but about life: how to be successful and how to manage people.”

Brooks completed his basketball career at LU in 1981 and graduated in 1982 with physical education and life and earth science degrees. After graduation, he worked with Lamar basketball coaches Pat Foster and Billy Tubbs, who he said also had an impact on his coaching style. He said both were tough: Tubbs physically and Foster mentally. But it was the mental aspect of the game that stuck with Brooks. “I learned from Coach Foster how to put together a roster, how to recruit, how to manage people, and a lot of the psychology of the game—getting guys to play well together and play hard together,” he said.

A native Houstonian, Brooks said one of his toughest points in life was early in

his coaching career for the University of Houston Cougars. He put a lot of pressure on himself to be successful because not only was he coaching in his hometown, but he was doing so with limited funding and support.

“I was the first African-American head coach of any sport in my hometown of Houston at 33,” Brooks said. “Shortly after I got the job, the UH faculty senate voted to do away with athletics. So here I am at 33, the first African-American head coach of any sport, and I’m trying to make ends meet. It was a struggle...and then all of a sudden, there I was—boom. I was let go in my hometown. And I was out of coaching and went to the oil and gas business. That was probably the hardest thing I went through, but it shaped me into who I am today.”

Of all that Southeast Texas has to offer, Brooks said it is the people and relationships he enjoys coming back to the most. “I have always considered this my home away from home,” Brooks said. “There are so many genuine people, and I have built so many relationships that I have maintained over the years, so I am excited to be back.”

Brooks life isn’t all basketball, he says. “I enjoy animals,” he said. “I have two German Shepherds and a horse, and I love spending time with my animals when I am not coaching basketball.”

Brooks said he wants Cardinal fans to know “the future is bright.”

“We are going to bring the spirit and energy back,” Brooks said. “We have nine new faces coming in. We will be much more exciting, a little bit bigger, more athletic, more energetic, fun to watch, and these guys all have great personalities. I think they are really going to connect with the community, and people will be excited to come and watch them. There’s a lot of hard-working people here, a lot of caring people here, and we want to represent that community. We are working hard to make this program something they can be proud of.”

Alvin “The Roadrunner” Brooks ’82 has returned to Cardinal basketball as head coach, bringing energy and personality to the program.

A former LU basketball player himself, Brooks said “The Roadrunner” nickname came from Bob West, former sportswriter for the Port Arthur News. “We played with a lot of speed,” Brooks said. “I was the point guard, so that was my nickname as a player here.”

Brooks said some of his fondest memories as a student at Lamar were of the games and the support LU basketball received from the community.

“My junior year, in 1980, we played the NCAA Tournament, the West Regional,” Brooks said. “We played [Weber State] at Ogden, Utah—they were ranked 18th in the country, and we beat them on their home court. In the second round, we played Oregon State, who were ranked fourth or fifth in the country, and we beat them. And then we came back home to a packed gym at McDonald Gym. And there was so much excitement to welcome us back. And the enthusiasm for the basketball program was crazy.

“As we were coming onto I-10, the police stopped us right as we were getting into Beaumont, and the mayor gets on the bus and rode with us to the campus.

“Another great memory was watching



The necessity of adaptability

by Andrew Strange

In a time of unprecedented change, Orlando Alvarez '87, president and CEO of BP Energy, wants to make sure Lamar University stays on the cutting edge. The incoming chair of the advisory board for the College of Business and an accounting alumnus, Alvarez said the successful business professional of 1987 looks very different from that of 2022.

"I can talk about my thirty years in the oil and gas business," Alvarez said, "but the changes coming in every industry right now have to do with technology. The way of working has changed. It's not just that people don't have to come in to work five days a week—which is different. The flexibility that some of these employers are providing their employees is one aspect. Another is you're going to be doing a lot more digitally than ever before."

Adaptability is a necessity in today's market, Alvarez said. With constantly changing technology and ways of communicating, one must learn to adapt or be isolated.

"You have two options in my mind," Alvarez said, "you can either adapt or be left behind, and by adapting, I mean ask questions. Sometimes I ask simple questions of the experts to get me on board because I have to. I have to keep up. And if I don't, then I'm going to be left behind and won't be able to compete. The importance is now, more than ever, for people not to be scared or intimidated by change, but to ask questions—there are no stupid questions in my mind. I ask them all the time."

Change is something Alvarez, named LU Distinguished Alumnus this year, learned to embrace early in his career. He said a pivotal point in his life happened five years into his career when he switched from accounting to the commercial side of the oil and gas industry.

"As soon as I got in the oil and gas business, I knew I wanted to stay in it," he said. "It was deregulating. It was changing. It was fast-paced. It was not just sitting behind a desk. And after four to five years of doing accounting in oil and gas, I moved to the commercial side of the business...that's when

‘I want to see kids flourish like my kids have.’

— Orlando Alvarez



I started trading.

“I did all kinds of commercial roles... it really opened my eyes. It was scary to make the jump from accounting, but my accounting has always helped me. Even in my role now, as a senior global executive within BP, my accounting background has helped me tremendously.”

Alvarez said his focus as incoming chair of the College of Business Board of Advisors is to be a board of action along with the consideration and incorporation of different ideas from different industries and people from different backgrounds to make sure Lamar business students go on to be successful businesspeople.

“The business students of today need to make sure they are not solely focused on the core accounting principles,” Alvarez said. “There are other things, like information technology, they need to bring in. So, we have to make sure that as a university we are keeping up. The advisory board needs to address that challenge and bring in different industries.

“That, I think, is the biggest challenge. To make sure the College of Business is getting input from all different industries so they can prepare the students beyond just academics, besides just the curriculum—to help the dean and the professors to understand what some of these corporations are looking for now beyond just academia: new working environments and new technology.”

Diversity is an important part of the business world, Alvarez said. Getting input from people from different backgrounds, orientations and places of origin can bring unique ideas to the table and leads toward success and better morale.

“You want people from different cultures with different ideas,” he said. “You want every perspective possible in

a business environment when you make business decisions.

“I love to go to Lamar and go to schools where every color, every minority—it doesn’t matter if you speak broken English or not, or you’re African-American, or another minority, or you’re LGBTQ—everyone is represented. Because at the end of the day, that allows for individuals to come into a school and feel like, ‘Hey, I’m accepted here. This is not some school that’s going to look down on me or treat me differently.’ How cool is that where you can have an environment where people can flourish and not have to watch their guard?

“In the business environment that equates to a more productive business—people are happy; they feel safe, welcome. They feel they can bring their authentic self to work, and that equates to better business production. And the same thing applies at the university. The more you bring diversity into the university, the more people are going to come in and say, ‘This works at this university, I want to go there.’”

Leadership skills are important at any level of business. Alvarez said all true leaders share three qualities he puts into practice.

“To be a successful leader, you have to be genuine and genuinely care for your people, genuinely listen and get to know them. I think that’s number one,” he said.

“I think respect for all is crucial—I treat everyone the exact same. I don’t care about title. I don’t expect anyone to give me any more or less respect than anyone else in my organization because of my title. That’s ridiculous in my mind.

“Another one is I am very organized and disciplined in my approach to work. I come overprepared for meetings, and I am very punctual. So, if there’s a pre-read for a meeting, and I don’t read it, then

I shouldn’t attend that meeting. And I expect that from my own leadership team as well.”

Alvarez said the reputation of Lamar University is what brings BP Energy and some of the largest businesses in the United States to recruit at the university.

“Enterprise Products is the largest midstream oil and gas company in the U.S. The CEO of Enterprise Products, who is Jim Teague, he told me one day when he found out I went to Lamar, ‘We like hiring kids from Lamar because we know what we’re getting—hard-working kids.’ And that stuck with me for years. That’s the reputation of the school, and I am really proud of that culture that Lamar has.”

Having emigrated from Cuba at the age of three, Alvarez witnessed the hardships his parents went through to provide for their family. “My father and mother worked two jobs and did whatever it took to put food on the table,” he said. As such, Alvarez said he has a soft spot for young people and helping them have opportunities to succeed they may not otherwise have had.

“That’s always something that’s been very special to me,” he said. “I am blessed every day in my role in my family that my kids didn’t have to go through what I went through. And so I think that’s part of it. I want to see kids flourish like my kids have.”

When it comes to his alma mater, Alvarez said, “I feel like I don’t give enough with what the university did for me. It gave me the opportunity to get a great education at a reasonable price and taught me so many things. It’s not all about money in my opinion. I could give a lot more money—I’d rather do what I am doing and help in a different kind of way...by giving my time.”



Among the Wildflowers...

Retired LU librarian curates a life of service to Big Thicket conservation, documentation

by Casey Ford

In a quiet upper floor of our library, deep in the back corners of rooms that smell like history, are Maxine Johnston's curated collections on people and places of the Big Thicket. The files are vast and contain everything from photographs of flora and fauna to letters and photographs of her and colleagues with members of Congress, to personal journal entries and stacks of awards celebrating her lifelong commitment and service to conservationist and environmental protection organizations in Texas and beyond. President Jaime Taylor recently commended Johnston's gifts to the university archives and special collections as "treasured additions" and "a meaningful testament" to the work and mission of the Mary and John Gray Library.

Born in Arkansas to a family in the sawmill business, Johnston came to Southeast Texas at 14 and was underwhelmed by the flat monotony of the coastal landscape. Her teacher Alice Cashen introduced her to the Big Thicket and the trees for which she had been longing. She discovered more than a new landscape in the East Texas trees; Johnston fell in love with its people and its folklore. While building a long and impactful career as a librarian and eventually becoming director of the Mary and John Gray Library, she also built her life around the work of forming and championing the Big Thicket Association and its mission.

Johnston completed her Master of Library Science at the University of Texas in 1958, by which time she had already been working at LU for about three years. She became associate director of the library in 1970 and director in 1980, making her the first woman to serve in an executive position at Lamar University. As director, Johnston began building an archive that documents the history, industry and folklore of the Thicket. The Big Thicket Association was established in 1964 and Johnston was its twenty-third member. In her tenure as a member, she has been singular in the volume and scope of her advocacy, publishing and archiving of the area and the work of the association. The National Parks Association calls the Big Thicket, one of the most biologically diverse areas in the world, "a convergence of ecosystems" in which biologists have identified as many as 11 distinct ecosystems making up this expansive territory that spans fourteen or so counties, millions of acres and untold years of human history.

The immensity of the place, of its history and its consequence, is reflected in Johnston's archives, which document important women's history, the intersections of the oil and forestry industries, and national conservation efforts from literal grass roots all the way to Washington, D.C. She has also played a crucial role in bringing other curated collections to Lamar University, including the Larry Gene Fisher archives, which were donated by the Lance Rosier estate due in large part to Johnston's advocacy. The Fisher archives contain around 8,000 photographs and negatives documenting Big Thicket folklore, biology and history.

Though she would prefer to gloss over the fact, Johnston's work, teaching and advocacy have rightly been widely recognized and awarded. In 1974, the Texas Library Association recognized her as the Texas Librarian of the year. She was the recipient of the NPCA's 1996 Marjory Stoneman Douglas Citizen Conservationist of the Year, and she earned accolades from the Texas Legacy Project, the *Beaumont Enterprise* Jefferson Award, the Kodak American Greenways, the Lone Star Chapter





Sierra Club and Texas Conservation Alliance. She was also the recipient of the 2018 Terry Hershey Award by Audubon's Texas Women in Conservation Program. Johnston is the first LU retiree to become a Spindletop member of the Lamar University President's Circle, which recognizes donors of contributions totaling \$1 million or more. Johnston has been a member of the Big Thicket Association since 1964, serving twice as its president (1973-75 and 1994-98). From 1988-2010, after her retirement from Lamar University, Johnston volunteered as the organization's librarian. She continues to serve on the BTA Advisory Board, and she is also a current board member of the Big Thicket National Heritage Trust.

One wonders about the source of a woman's devotion to such a wild place with a history of questionable characters, hard lives, ghosts, and bloodthirsty plants and insects; and one immediately sees them, the things worthy of such devotion, in a photograph of a slight woman standing with her friends in a field of bright green pitcher plants, wildflowers and waist-high bluestem grass against a backdrop of deep green long- and short-leaf pine. The friends in this photo, taken during a hike to celebrate the woman's 90th birthday, are also not young, and they wear a seriousness inside their affection, the wisdom of long hours spent in the contemplation and defense of nature in all its nuance and complexity. In the foreword to Howard Peacock's book, *Nature Lover's Guide to the Big Thicket*, Johnston writes, "... the Thicket communicates best with solitary wanderers, but it also speaks to companionable spirits. An important trick on the trail is to shift one's focus from the big scene to the minuscule. Take your time, folks. The Big Thicket is not a hurry-place." Not only is Johnston a librarian, a curator, an activist, but she is also, it seems here, a guru and a poet. And she is not a hurry-person. She is a vigilant raconteur whose decades of careful work—the work of listening, of shaking hands, of writing things down, of organizing and cataloguing, of looking closely—wait in the Gray Library archives for new discovery by the next great storytellers.

GILES KIBBE: A game goes beyond hard work



by James Dixon



On April 20, 2022, former LU golfer and current senior vice president and general counsel for the Houston Astros Giles Kibbe '90 made a return trip down Interstate 10 to throw out the ceremonial first pitch in the Cardinals' game against Houston Baptist. A former standout student-athlete and political science major at LU, Kibbe took what he learned during his time with the Cardinals and turned that into a position with the Beaumont law firm of Weller, Green and Touns, and eventually general counsel for Houston Astros owner Jim Crane.

"Lamar has always had a great golf program, and at the time of my senior year in high school, they were ranked seventh nationally. It was a wonderful program with a lot of great players, a great practice facility—which was actually one of the first on-campus practice facilities of its kind. It was a great place to be as a golfer." Today, Kibbe's lifelong love of the game has led to his current position as president of the Astros Golf Foundation. He oversees all operations for the Houston Open, including the \$33 million renovation of Memorial Park Golf Course.

Both Kibbe's path to LU, and his career, seemed like a perfect fit from an early

age. Not only did Kibbe grow up in the Golden Triangle, but his uncle was also a well-respected lawyer in the area.

"I knew that I wanted to be a lawyer," said Kibbe. "I grew up in Port Arthur and Beaumont, and my uncle was a prominent lawyer in the area. He was someone I always looked up to, and he was really instrumental in my life. I always wanted to go to law school but had no idea I would be in sports. When I got out of school, I went to work for a federal judge in Beaumont—Judge Joe Fisher. I clerked for him for a couple of years and then joined the Weller, Green Law Firm. While at Weller, Green I began to represent Jim Crane and some of his business ventures. He ended up bringing me in house in January 2010. When I went to work at Weller, Green, the last thing on my mind was becoming general counsel for a sports franchise, but soon after, I went to work for Jim, and we started pursuing buying a baseball team."

Kibbe's success in life, either on the golf course as an athlete or in his professional life, can be boiled down to two very important ideals: hard work and being well-rounded.

"I've always felt like you have to be well-rounded in everything you do, and it's extremely important to work hard,"

said Kibbe. "For me, it was practicing hard on the golf course and working hard in the classroom so I would be successful at whatever I was entering. You have to be dedicated to what you want to do in life, and it is going to take a lot of hard work, but you also have to be well-rounded. I think that is a big benefit in getting jobs and being successful. You focus on the core issues, but you also experience different things, meet a lot of people and learn as much as you can about what is going on around you."

Despite the accomplishments in his professional life, Kibbe still reflects upon his time wearing the Red and White as one of the best times of his life.

"I had a great time at Lamar," said Kibbe. "The golf team was a pretty close-knit group. We all lived in the apartments across the street from the driving range by Vincent-Beck Stadium. We went to class all day and then would walk across the street and hit balls until it closed. I was a political science major there and enjoyed my time in that department. I always think about my professors, like Dave Castle, who were instrumental in getting me into law school. I always look fondly on my time at LU both from the athletic and academic side."

LU welcomes O'Malley as new director of athletics

President Jaime Taylor announced June 15 the selection of Jeff O'Malley as the university's new director of athletics. O'Malley joins the Cardinal family after a highly successful 20-year tenure at Marshall University serving as the associate director of athletics/chief of staff and liaison to the university's general counsel.

Taylor said, "Jeff O'Malley is a trusted collaborator who understands it takes all facets of a university to support student-athletes. He established very positive relationships with faculty and with academic affairs at Marshall University and has an absolutely stellar reputation for ensuring student-athletes are successful in the classroom as well as on the field of play."

"I am very excited to have the opportunity to lead Lamar University Athletics. This is a program with a proud tradition of excellence, and we will do all we can to make it even better both in the classroom and in competition," O'Malley said. "I am looking forward to meeting our student-athletes, collaborating with the campus community and working with our coaches and staff to provide a first-class student-athlete experience."

O'Malley comes to Beaumont with a long-standing history of overseeing many facets of the Marshall University Athletics program, including men's basketball, men's soccer, men's golf and baseball, as well as the department's academics and compliance offices. In July 2021, he was named interim athletics director for Marshall University Athletics. During that tenure, he successfully navigated conference realignment and negotiated Marshall's move to the Sun Belt Conference, in addition to leading the department through the challenges of COVID-19 and a transition in university leadership.

In recent years, both the Marshall men's basketball program and the men's soccer program reached the NCAA tournament, the former of which snapped a three-decade NCAA tournament drought, and the latter of which won the 2020 NCAA National Championship. In 2017-18, the men's basketball program won the Conference USA championship and captured the program's first NCAA win.

Taylor said O'Malley was instrumental in cultivating a winning culture in athletics at Marshall University and has an unwavering commitment to student-athlete well-being.



"The student-athletes and coaches knew they were supported, which inspired a level of confidence and camaraderie that wins championships." During his tenure, O'Malley developed partnerships with several outside vendors in an effort to educate, protect and empower student-athletes as they navigated name, image and likeness. He also collaborated with the Student Affairs Office to appoint two mental health specialists to support student-athlete well-being.

"I am very excited not only for Jeff, but for Lamar University. He is an outstanding college administrator," said Mike Hamrick, former director of athletics at Marshall University. "We won a lot of championships, we built a lot of facilities and most importantly, we graduated a lot of student-athletes, and Mr. O'Malley was a big part of that. I have no doubt he will bring a vision to Lamar University that will enhance and take your intercollegiate athletic program to a high level."

Today's announcement follows a nationwide search that began in April with CarrSports Consulting leading the search process and a search committee comprised of administrators, faculty, staff and alumni who are an integral part of the Beaumont community. "We were honored to have LU alumni David Bernsen, Jerry Dearing, David Montagne, Glen Morgan, and Don Shaver on the search committee. This caliber of business leadership on the committee helped us to attract a candidate with Jeff's sterling credentials," Taylor said.

Back to the nest: LU heads back to SLC

Southland Conference Commissioner Chris Grant and President Jaime Taylor announced July 11 an agreement to bring the founding member school back to the Southland to compete in all 17 sports beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year.

"The Cardinals were with us when our conference was born nearly 60 years ago, and we are delighted to welcome them back," said Grant. "The Southland Conference is committed to redefining the future of FCS and the student-athlete experience."



LU originally joined the league in 1963-64 and, after a brief hiatus, rejoined the Southland in 1998-99. During that time, Cardinal fans witnessed 109 regular-season championships across LU's 17 varsity sports. It left the Southland for the Western Athletic Conference in January 2021. "We are grateful for our time in the WAC, but we are thrilled for our return to the Southland Conference fueled by the league's combination of dynamic leadership, membership stability, regional rivalries and vision for the future," said Taylor.

The university's move is seen as part of a broader trend in the changing landscape of college athletics, as schools and conferences grapple with the implications of factors such as NIL agreements, the transfer portal and the reimagining of the NCAA. Forging strong partnerships with like-minded peer institutions is fundamental to ensuring future opportunities for student-athletes to compete and prepare for success in life.

Taylor says, "Sports have the unique power to unite and energize a campus and community. Since taking office in June [2021], I've heard from LU's extended family, who asked us to reexamine our conference affiliation. Commissioner Grant's invitation to return to the Southland has come at a time of transformation at Lamar University, and we're certainly happy to be coming home." Lamar University has hired CarrSports Consulting to help guide the athletic program through this transformation.

Dream Makers

We express our deep gratitude to the alumni and friends of Lamar University who have recently established endowments or made plans to endow gifts through estate plans. These gifts encourage students to pursue a college education and support faculty in creating innovative learning environments. An endowment creates a legacy that becomes a permanent piece of LU's history. To learn more about how you can endow a gift to Lamar, we invite you to visit our website at lamar.edu/development or to start planning a gift through your estate visit lamar.edu/legacy. In this issue of *Cardinal Cadence*, we are honored to recognize these Dream Makers.

by Mackenzie Linscomb

Myrna J. and Milton J. Dunnam endowed the **David G. Taylor Sr. Memorial Scholarship in Business** in loving memory of David G. Taylor Sr. Taylor earned his Master of Business Administration from Baylor University. In 1955, he and his family moved to Beaumont, where he retired as an associate professor of marketing at Lamar University in 1988. Myrna Dunnam '67 obtained her Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing in 1967 from Lamar University, where she was taught by Taylor. She earned her Juris Doctor in 1978 from the University of Baltimore and had an active family law practice in Baytown. Myrna shared that she remembers David G. Taylor as a great professor who influenced her the most in her life. She also shared that five years after her last encounter with Taylor, he remembered her as soon she walked into his office, despite the time and miles that passed between them. He also wrote her a letter of recommendation for her application to law school. By endowing this memorial scholarship, the Dunnams hope that Taylor's name will be memorialized and that future students at Lamar University will benefit from his legacy.

Iva M. Timmerman endowed the **Anne Harmon Scholarship in Chemistry and Biology** to honor Harmon, who was an associate professor of chemistry beginning in 1959 at Lamar State College of Technology and who retired in 1996 from Lamar University. Harmon received her bachelor's degree from Monmouth College and her master's degree from Baylor University. During her time at Lamar University, she served as a sponsor for the Lamar Tech chapter of the American Chemical Society. She was also named an honorary member of the CARDS, a men's spirit organization.

The Sabine Area Restaurant Association, along with family, friends and colleagues, endowed the **Chef Charles Duit Scholarship in Nutrition and Hospitality**. Charles Duit was born and raised in Houston, where he enjoyed cooking for his family for many years. After pursuing his career as a minister of early childhood education at a local Baptist church, he decided to follow

his love of food to his second career in culinary arts. Over the past thirty-plus years, he has worked in parts of Texas and Oklahoma in five country clubs and two catering companies and taught at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi and Lamar University while also serving as the chef/director of food services at a retirement community. Along the way, Chef Duit also earned his culinary credentials as a certified executive chef and certified dietary manager and was granted membership in the honor society for the American Academy of Chefs. Chef Duit has served on four state boards, many local boards and as the president of the Texas Chefs Association and the Texas Restaurant Association. Chef Duit hopes that this scholarship will help future culinary and hospitality majors at Lamar University in their pursuit of success.

Elaine '71 and Hunter "Ticket" Henry endowed **The Henry Family Collaborative Research Endowment** to provide funding for interdisciplinary teams of students, mentored by faculty within those disciplines, engaged in research activities through Lamar's Science and Technology Center. Elaine is a graduate of French High School in Beaumont and graduated from Lamar University with a Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology. Elaine's career included time with Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital and Dow Chemical. Her career of more than 28 years at Dow included a career move to human resources where she held several leadership positions. Ticket graduated from Florida State University with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and West Virginia University with a master's degree in social work. After various career paths, he joined Dow Chemical, working in both the oil and gas field and human resources. Elaine and Ticket's gift is one of many given over the years from the Henry family, which includes six scholarships benefiting engineering, nursing and all majors.

Linda Guillory matriculated at Lamar University in the fall of 1974 after graduating from Port Neches-Groves High School. She received a two-year certification of completion in office administration in 1976 from Lamar University College of Technical Arts.

Linda loved her years at Lamar University and became a Little Sister of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. In 2002, she enrolled at Lamar State College Port Arthur, earning associate degrees in drug and alcohol counseling and general studies. During her college career, a gift of college tuition was given to her by an adopted uncle, Myron W. Blankfield, who was employed with the Texas Education Agency and whose parents owned a men's clothing business in downtown Port Arthur. Because of Myron's generosity and kindness, Linda endowed the **Linda A. Guillory and Dr. Myron W. Blankfield Scholarship in Business**. Linda hopes the recipients of this scholarship will be encouraged to start their own business as she has done over the years.

Rita and Richard '06 Ashley endowed the **David L. Cargill Scholarship in Art** on the occasion of David being honored as featured artist of Lamar's Le Grand Bal in 2020. David Cargill is a Beaumont sculptor known for figurative work in a variety of media. He studied at Rice University before transferring to Pratt Institute in New York where he earned his Master of Fine Arts in Sculpture in 1955. David has been commissioned to create several public art pieces in Beaumont and Houston, including the bronze and granite Mirabeau B. Lamar bust located in Lamar University's quadrangle, which was installed in 1965. In 2020, the Dishman Art Museum featured a solo exhibition of work from David's career entitled "Life is a Long Way." Richard Ashley received a Bachelor Fine Arts degree in Studio Art from Lamar. He had the opportunity to work side by side with David Cargill doing wood carvings. Rita and Richard have created this scholarship in honor of a man they greatly admire.

Dr. Jane C.K. Fitch '78 and Johnny E. Fitch Jr., PE, MBA, have designated the Lamar University Foundation as a beneficiary of their estate to create the **Jane and Johnny Fitch Scholarship in Nursing**. Dr. Fitch was president of the first class of nurses to receive bachelor's degrees at Lamar University in 1978. She noted the members of that first class realized they were setting the stage for the future of nursing at LU. She went on to attend nurse anesthesia school at

Baylor College of Medicine in Houston and completed medical school at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. Dr. Fitch retired in 2019 from a successful career as a physician, teacher, administrator and advocate. She credits the success of her demanding career, at least in part, to the education she received from Lamar University.

The Connie M. Pate Scholarship Fund, which was established by family and friends, along with the Babe Didrikson Zaharias Foundation, endowed the **Connie M. Pate Texas Memorial Scholarship** in memory of Connie Pate '65, '78, as a tribute to her dedication to students in furthering their education. Connie taught in the public schools of Beaumont from 1970 until her retirement in 1990. Beginning her career at MacArthur Junior High School, she continued teaching English at South Park, Forest Park and West Brook senior high schools. The Connie M. Pate Texas Memorial Scholarship stands to honor her education standards and to continue her legacy of unconditional commitment and devotion to the field of continuing education and her students.

Raymond Troy Fontenote '85 graduated from Lamar University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing and while attending Lamar was a member of Sigma Nu Fraternity. Troy is the vice president and business development officer at BOK Financial in Houston. Troy is quick to admit that the education he received at Lamar University prepared him to take advantage of his career in the financial services industry. Knowing Lamar prepared him for his successful career is what prompted Troy to name Lamar in his estate plan with gifts that will establish the **Raymond Troy Fontenote Scholarship in Business** and the **Raymond Troy Fontenote Endowment in the College of Business**. Troy encourages others whose lives are enriched by an education from Lamar to do the same.

Sally Anderson endowed the **Dr. Adrian N. Anderson Scholarship in History** in memory of her husband. Adrian "Andy" Anderson developed a devotion to biography and history very early in life.

While he received a degree in agricultural economics upon graduation from Texas Tech University, he would go on to pursue his M.A. and Ph.D. in history, also from Texas Tech. Andy joined the history faculty of Lamar State College of Technology in 1967. He taught Texas and U.S. History, the American Revolution, the History of Mexico and the Second World War for 40 years at Lamar, serving as head of the History Department for 25 of those years. Andy co-authored *Texas and Texans* with Ralph Wooster, his dear friend and colleague. *Texas History* (2016) is the most widely adopted seventh grade Texas History text for public schools.

Fred R. Vernon II '12, '13, graduated magna cum laude from Lamar with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting, a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Science in Accounting. Fred was very involved while at Lamar, serving in the Student Government Association as a junior class senator and supreme court justice. He was a Lamar University Ambassador, member of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society and Beta Alpha Psi Accounting Honor Society and received the Aaron Rose Award. After graduation, he was a business valuations specialist at PricewaterhouseCoopers and now owns his own business, KLV Ventures Inc. Fred endowed the **Deanna Vernon Scholarship in Accounting** to honor his mother, whom he describes as "an amazing woman" to whom he attributes much of his ambition and his "don't stop until it's done" attitude. Deanna homeschooled Fred and his siblings from first through fifth grades while she worked full time at a Christian school. In addition to being a teacher, she was a business owner, homemaker and an inspiration for many.

The Roland Rodriguez Endowment for the College of Business provides funding for students from underserved populations attending the College of Business to support recruiting and retention scholarships, tutors, the recruiting and retention of faculty, and student study abroad programs. Roland X. Rodriguez '74 earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting. He shared that attending Lamar

University became the cornerstone of his professional career, which has taken him from KPMG to being the founder of MFR, a successful accounting and consulting firm in Houston. Roland made this gracious gift with the intent of paying it forward to Lamar University.

King A. Campbell '70, '72, endowed the **King A. Campbell Scholarship in Business** in memory of his father, Everett A. Campbell, his mother, Mary L. Campbell, and his daughter, Kelly Ann Campbell. King earned both a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Master of Business Administration from Lamar University. During his time in graduate school, he coached the Cardinal freshman basketball team. After spending 20 years in a successful banking career as a senior commercial lender and private client manager with Bank of America, King restarted his coaching career. He served as head golf coach for both Lon Morris College and the University of Texas at Tyler. In 2007, he was named the assistant athletic director for budgeting and finance at UT-Tyler. Since then, he has been named "Coach of the Year" for the American Southwest Conference and has led his men's and women's golf teams to numerous victories over the years.

Linda A. Guillory '76 established the **James W. and Betty J. Guillory Memorial Scholarship in Nursing** in memory of her beloved parents. James and Betty married in 1952 after she graduated from Bishop Byrne High School in Port Arthur. James graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School. The young couple moved to New Orleans during the Korean Conflict, in which James was Military Police in the Army. After his service, they returned to Port Arthur, then moved to Groves, where Betty lived for 61 years. Neither James nor Betty attended college; however, they made sure to send their daughters, Gail Lynn and Linda Ann, to Lamar University. As an expression of gratitude, Linda Guillory endowed this scholarship to give back to the university that her parents gave her the privilege of attending.

Kurt and Lisa Dwyer Killion established the **Michael Westbrook Memorial Endowed Scholarship** in memory of

Michael Westbrook. Mike was a dedicated music educator, musician and friend to all in the community of southeast Texas. His passion for teaching was unsurpassed, and his exemplary career and life are a tribute to the values he acquired at Lamar University. Kurt and Lisa Killion shared that they are proud to be able to honor Mike through the gift of endowing this special scholarship in his memory.

The Dearing family established the **Tom and Mona Dearing Regents Memorial Scholarship in Industrial Engineering** and **Tom and Mona Dearing Memorial Ambassador Endowment** in memory of her cousin and cousin-in-law. Tommy Dearing '73, '78, obtained both his bachelor's and master's degrees in industrial engineering at Lamar University. Tommy and Mona met at Lamar through the Cards and Techsans campus organizations. Tommy also served on the Lamar University Industrial Engineering Advisory Council. He worked more than 15 years in the petrochemical refining industry, then became self-employed for over 20 years, supplying the same industry with leading fire-proofing technology. Kate shared that Tommy was known to attend every special event in the lives of those he loved, with a giving heart for others. Ramona (Brunet) Dearing '78 studied business administration at Lamar University. She spent 28 years teaching business computer information systems as well as several other electives at Barbers Hill and Anahuac school districts. In her retirement, she joined Delta Kappa Gamma, an international society for women educators. Ramona was known for her kind heart and ability to make others feel loved and valued.

Pamela and Mark T. Stasney endowed the **Phillip A. and Helen K. Lohec Scholarship** in memory of Pamela L. Stasney's parents. Phillip Allen Lohec '69 first attended Lamar University in 1955-56, with a break for military service in the Army, before graduating in 1969 with his B.B.A. in accounting. Phillip worked in Galveston in many roles at the city and county levels, from finance director to city manager and county auditor. Throughout his career, military service and government public service were his inspirations, and both were made

possible through his education at Lamar.

Matilda C. (Tillie) Hickman endowed the **Tillie and Bennie Hickman Scholarship in Education**. Tillie attended Lamar University, completing 75 hours of post-graduate studies in education, after completing her Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education and a master's in English at McNeese State University. She was a longtime teacher in Beaumont school district, an administrator at Odom Academy beginning in 1993 and served as principal there from 2000 until 2018. Tillie has been engaged in many community volunteer commitments and was appointed to the Beaumont Independent School District Board in 2020. Bennie graduated from McNeese State University with a degree in mechanical engineering and from Louisiana State University with a degree in civil engineering. He served as a civil engineer for over three decades and was a lifelong supporter of public education. Bennie also served on the Beaumont Independent School District Board and was a board member of the Beaumont Public Schools Foundation.

The Estate of Eileen Eunice Jaeger Leedy established the **Rick A. Leedy Memorial Scholarship for Baseball** in memory of her son, Rick A. Leedy '72. Rick received his Bachelor of Science in Sociology from Lamar University. He was a pitcher for the men's baseball team, playing from 1970 through 1972 and wearing jersey no. 23. He was also a member of the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society and graduated cum laude.

Scott and Jamie McCauley established the **Hope Elizabeth Daniels Memorial Scholarship (Honoring Nurse Lauren Rhyne)** in memory of their daughter Molly and her husband Clayton Daniels' daughter, while also honoring Nurse Lauren Rhyne. When it was time for Molly to go into labor, she shared how nervous she was about not having her obstetrician deliver her daughter, since they were out of town. Because of this concern, along with the anxiety of going into labor and knowing the chances of her baby surviving were slim, Nurse Lauren Rhyne was "an answered prayer" who gently calmed all of Molly's fears. Hope

Elizabeth Daniels entered the gates of Heaven at 4:54 am on April 28, 2017, two days before Molly's birthday. Despite the pain of having a miscarriage, Molly shared how she sees God everywhere in Hope's story. Hope is now the big sister to her brother, Henry, and her sister, McCauley. Lauren Rhyne was also the labor and delivery nurse during Henry's birth and was present in the room for McCauley's. Lauren has become a sweet friend to the Daniels family and will always remain a part of their lives.


Hope Wilson Weber endowed the **Hope Wilson Weber Scholarship**. Hope graduated from Lamar University with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering in 1979. While at LU, she was a member of Alpha Delta Pi Sorority and Alpha Phi Mu industrial engineering honor society and participated in the Cooperative Education Program. Hope retired as an executive with ExxonMobil after a 37-year career, which included local, regional and global positions in operations, supply chain and procurement. Feeling inspired by the great opportunities and success that Lamar University has given her, it is Hope's desire that this scholarship will help recipients achieve their educational goals and then one day pay it forward to other LU students.

Friends and colleagues of Donna Birdwell endowed the **Dr. Donna Birdwell Honors Scholarship** in recognition of her service to the Lamar University Honors College. Donna is recognized for her dedication to and success in the foundational growth of what is today the Reaud Honors College, formerly known as the Lamar University Honors Program. Under her directorship, the program steadily grew in the number of students involved and became institutionally respected as a means for enhancing the academic, service and social experiences of many of the university's highest-achieving students. Through Donna's unselfish acts of service and forward-seeking vision, she has positively influenced the lives of many students at Lamar University and enhanced the trajectory of their success.



Unexpected and improbable *ties*

by Lauren Wilson



When he first set his sights on travelling from his home in Mexico to attend college abroad, Lamar University wasn't yet on the radar for Dougal Mac Gregor '15. For Mac Gregor, who had aspirations in game development, studying abroad was a crucial part of his dream, but he knew he would need to wait for just the right opportunity to make his goal possible. His chance came in 2010, when his father began working in Port Arthur and he first learned of LU while searching online for nearby schools. Though LU did not yet offer coursework specifically for the young field of game development, he decided to embrace the opportunity and sent in his application.

When he received his acceptance letter, Mac Gregor was excited to share the news with his grandmother, Lupita, that he would be moving to a new city in another country to attend a school he knew she would have never heard of.

Except, against all odds, she had.

"Lamar? I attended Lamar!" Mac Gregor recalls his grandmother exclaiming with surprise and excitement. "Way, way back in the day. I was a young lady. My brother Rafa was studying engineering there, and I went to study there too at some point." Mac Gregor was stunned. She had never mentioned LU before or, for that matter, having ever lived or studied in Texas at all. He hadn't even known she had a brother named Rafa.

As it turned out, LU was more entwined in his family history than Mac Gregor could have imagined. When he arrived on campus, he wanted to know more about his family's involvement with the school and went looking for records of their time there. After a bit of digging, he found that his Great Uncle Rafael Reyes '57 was not only an engineering student, but he also played tennis on a team that made LU history. Together, Rafa's team set historic records in 1955 when they became the first team in the history of the National Athletic Intercollegiate Association (NAIA) to sweep the team title and singles and doubles awards in a single tournament and again in 1956 when Lamar became the first school in either the NAIA or the NCAA to capture the national championships in both golf and tennis in the same season. That year, in addition to the national championship win, the team also went virtually undefeated in a "super tennis season," posting 13 victories, 1 tie and 0 losses. On this legendary team, Rafa himself was a standout player, with only one defeat in 1955 and going undefeated in 1956, winning

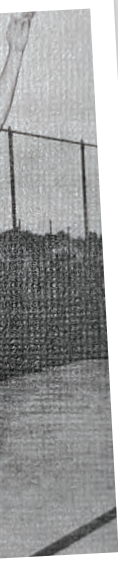
the LSC doubles crown alongside partner James Schmidt. Rafa would go on to a successful career as an industrial engineer.

Looking back on this memory, years later, Mac Gregor is still amazed by this discovery of his family's unlikely ties to his alma mater. For him, not only was the story emblematic of a special connection he shared with his grandmother, but it was also an important part of his grandparents' love story. He explains that when they began dating in Mexico, Lupita's parents disapproved of the match. Mac Gregor's grandfather was older than Lupita and was already a widowed parent to Mac Gregor's father. To prevent the two from getting married, Lupita was sent to attend college with her brother, at the same university her grandson would attend over half a century later.

Mac Gregor suspects this is why he had never heard about Lupita's or Rafa's time at LU. She spoke of the fond memories she had of being a Cardinal, but she ultimately framed the experience as a detour on her journey to marrying her husband. "There was one young lad in particular that was after me," he recalls his grandmother telling him. "He was a fine young man, but my heart had already chosen." For Mac Gregor, he says the story makes him think about the different courses a life can take, the things that might have been, and the remarkable ways that paths sometimes cross.

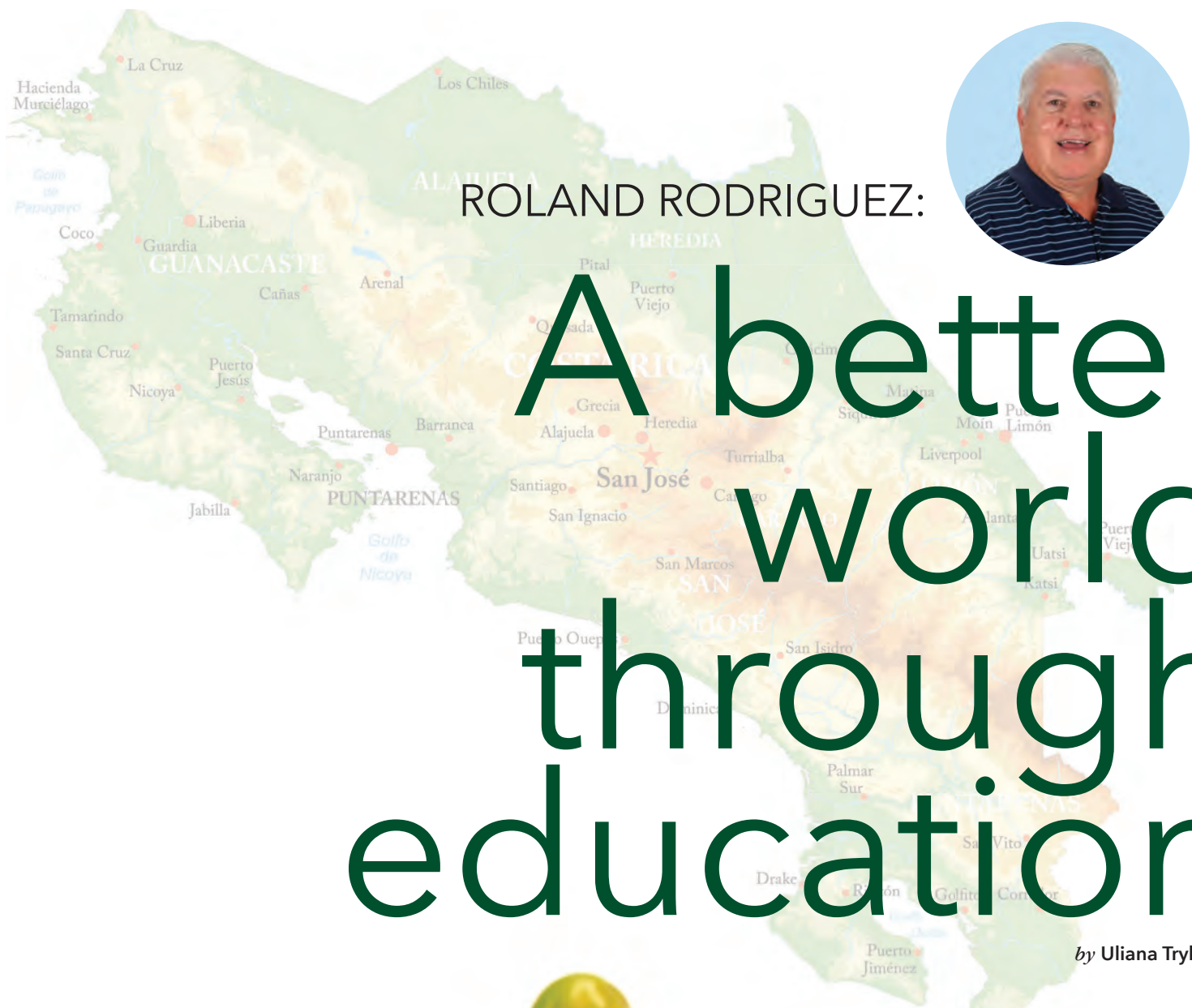
Mac Gregor's own path is one that has met surprising twists and turns. As with Lupita, Lamar University was an unexpected part of his story, but he describes his experiences at LU as marking a significant turning point in his life. Although he had often felt like an outcast before college, he fondly recounts the close connections he made with the faculty and students he met on campus. Like his great uncle, he even made his own lasting impact on the university, founding the game development student organization and working directly with then-President Kenneth Evans to successfully bring game development to LU as a degree program, making his own dream a reality for future Cardinals.

A persistent theme in the stories of Mac Gregor, Lupita and Rafa is one of breaking through barriers—to achieve, to find love, to build connections and new possibilities. For Mac Gregor, LU presented a path to his future career, but it also held a key to learning about his family's history, taking part in a special legacy and creating memories to last a lifetime. "What can I say?" he said, "it was the best time of my life."



Rafael Reyes' wife, Griselda, seated with their daughters and sons.

Rafael Reyes



ROLAND RODRIGUEZ:

A better world through education

by Uliana Trylowsky





Lamar University was the “cornerstone” in Roland Rodriguez’s ’74 development as a professional. Rodriguez’s career began when the fundamental education he received as an accounting student at LU resulted in his being recruited by KPMG out of college. Ten years later, he and two partners had founded their own firm—MFR Group—which would grow into the largest Hispanic-owned certified public accounting firm in the U.S.

“Lamar University was well respected,” according to Rodriguez, when he was a student. The “Big 8” accounting firms would all come to recruit students. In fact, for a smaller school, LU provided great opportunities for its students because of this reputation.

At the time that Rodriguez was at Lamar in the 1970s, there were very few Hispanic students. He is delighted to see how that has changed today, as LU nears the tipping point to be declared a Hispanic-serving institution. Being a successful Hispanic entrepreneur and a donor to Lamar, Rodriguez understands that he can serve as a role model for younger people, and he sees this all as part of his philosophy of paying it forward and nurturing a culture of education. Rodriguez firmly believes that education is the critical solution to creating a better world. Therefore, giving to education through philanthropic activity helps significantly to provide solutions to the many issues society faces.

Rodriguez, a 2022 LU President’s Circle inductee, embraces his position as a role model and points out that professionally he can definitely show others how to succeed. MFR Group was always a leader in the community—their corporate culture was to give back and to be involved in the community. The firm, which he sold in 2012, routinely supported local Houston nonprofits and sought to make a positive impact in the community.

Even today, this philosophy carries over to his private life as Rodriguez has created the Roland Rodriguez Endowment for the College of Business at Lamar University to support increased enrollment and retention of minority students, with an emphasis on Hispanic students. Rodriguez and his wife, Linda Gonzalez, are also the primary donors to a project in San Jose, Costa Rica, where the community has built a pre-K school for children of migrant workers who travel seasonally to pick coffee in the area. The school provides not only an education to the children, but food and clothing as well. Rodriguez said, “We try to live a life of generosity because we’ve been blessed. This means we have an obligation to pay it forward in a meaningful manner.” In 2019,

he generously hosted a College of Business study abroad group in his Costa Rican home, treating them to dinner, a great view of San Jose and an overview of the country’s economy.

Rodriguez worries about the economic inequalities and the disparities in today’s world where those with money make even more, while those without can’t get ahead. In the face of these difficulties, the advantage that makes the greatest difference, according to Rodriguez, is education. “It is the multiplier that allows you to leverage your strengths,” he said. He believes that “you need a solid education that can help you create solutions in this complex, changing world. That is the only way to adapt to the post-COVID world and survive.”

Education is the central focus of Rodriguez’s philosophy of success. He sees it as the primary tool that solves long-term problems. Looking at the Hispanic community, he believes that providing an education to a community of primarily first-generation students can have a great economic impact and can facilitate their advancement. “An educated person can make a great impact on the world. Investment in that person is investment in changing the world. The opportunities available at Lamar University provide a platform from which to impact the world. Education allows you to leverage your investment in the future.” Rodriguez also hopes that student recipients of support at Lamar University at some point in their careers “pay it forward” and help those behind them.

He has some advice for current students: “Pay attention to learning critical thinking and problem solving. These are the most important skills that will help you in your careers. The education you receive at Lamar will give you the ability to manage the complexities of a changing world. LU provides that cornerstone or baseline, which helps you make the judgment calls that you will need to make.”

Rodriguez is a firm believer in opportunity. The recent volatilities that the world has faced as a result of COVID have shown the need to be able to re-engineer and pivot to meet new demands and challenges.

In Rodriguez’s words, “One has to make many decisions in life, and you must be willing to take risks. LU equips students with that ability and in this way serves a tremendous purpose, by helping the community in many facets and creating that intellectual capital that will make a better world.” And Roland Rodriguez is proud to be a part of this tremendous movement.



Davis wins 2022 David J. Beck Teaching Excellence Award *by Casey Ford*

Terri Davis, associate professor of political science and former department chair for almost a decade, was honored this spring as the third recipient of the David J. Beck Teaching Excellence Award. Davis holds a Ph.D. in government from the University of Texas at Austin and an M.A. in interdisciplinary studies and B.S. in political science from University of Texas at Tyler. In addition to her long tenure as past department chair, Davis currently serves LU as a pre-law academic advisor and has previously served as president of the faculty senate, chair of the Arts and Sciences Council, interim associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and interim director of the honors program. She specializes in American constitutional law, judicial politics and administrative law.

It has become something of a legend in certain circles—the story of how Professor Irving O. Dawson mentored David J. Beck '61, HD '12, then Beck built his long and prestigious career in the law and went on to become one of Lamar University's most generous alumni donors, his first gift being in Dawson's name rather than his own. Many

years later, coming full-circle, Beck has established this new award—unique in the nation by its high amount and the fact that it is unconditional—to celebrate teacher excellence. Beck's visible reverence for his own teacher has culminated, through his generosity to LU over decades, into a multi-generational passion and respect that Davis perpetuates in her teaching and her mentoring of students.

She has embodied the very spirit of this award throughout her career. In addition to her rigorous courses and unflinching teaching style, Davis personally advises, mentors and offers individualized instruction to all majors and minors in political science and pre-law students throughout their undergraduate studies. She created the LU Moot Court team, which she continues to support by assisting the current coach, Craig Tahaney. Even with her emerging undergraduate researchers in POLS 1301, Davis spends countless hours in one-on-one sessions about their topics and their writing, and many of them have gone on to great success in undergraduate research at the university.

Davis has also been instrumental in helping her students earn myriad prestigious awards, scholarships and internships. "Like Mr. Beck during his

undergraduate studies, many LU students face significant financial obstacles, and I am sincerely grateful to the donors who support the university and these students as they pursue their academic and professional dreams," she said. "Opportunities such as study abroad, moot court and other national competitions, and experiential learning through internships would not be possible for many students without the generous support of the community. It is comforting to know, especially in these challenging times, that thanks to their philanthropy, the world is and will continue to be enriched by the contributions made by Lamar students and alumni."

Nominated by some of her students and former students to receive this high honor, Davis would ask them, and all our esteemed LU alumni, to remember that their financial support of the university and its students has everything to do with leaving a legacy that honors the value of higher education and the level of individual success that can be achieved only through supportive collegial relationships, especially those between great teachers and their students. "Education," she said, "is unlike any other service or good in our society because knowledge is unlimited and ever-expanding in supply. One passes along knowledge, learns exponentially more in return, and then sends it forward."

According to Davis, there can be few greater examples of the legacy of donorship than David J. Beck, whose story blends into her own and speaks so beautifully to the impact that phenomenal teachers make in creating successful students who go on to stellar careers that allow them to be such generous philanthropists. Lamar University is fortunate to be the community where this story was written by such people for this moment, honoring the moments that came before and building toward all the ones yet to be made.



INDUSTRY PARTNER:

Valero backs student engineers

by Andrew Strange



From back left, Carol Hebert, Gabriel West '22, Isabella Sandino, Coby Vidrine, Matthew Anderson and Jerome Delafosse '09, human resources director at Valero, pose with, from left, Caitlyn Barlow, Katelyn Robinette and Kristin Wescoat, a senior environmental engineer at Valero.

The Valero Scholarship in Engineering endowment continues to support Lamar University students in the College of Engineering.

Valero has provided co-op and intern positions for Lamar's students and served as a leader in organizing and developing the college's Industrial Partnership as well as supported initiatives to promote the value of the university's research to the petroleum industry. According to Carol Hebert '89, '90, refinery public affairs manager in Port Arthur, "It has always been a part of Valero's culture to make a difference in the communities where our employees live and work. Establishing the endowment was a way to recognize the remarkable contributions of Lamar University in the field of engineering."

Established in 2009, the Valero Scholarship in Engineering has awarded scholarships to 92 students at Lamar, totaling nearly \$400,000 since the scholarship's inception. The scholarship is an endowment to be awarded annually from the earnings on Valero's initial \$1 million donation and is intended to benefit talented students who may need financial support.

Student recipients often require financial assistance to complete their education, and the Valero Scholarship is providing that necessary support. Thank you letters from the scholarship recipients not only describe their gratitude but often explain the financial burdens that create obstacles to reaching

their academic goals. "Valero is proud to help deserving students obtain their engineering degrees," Hebert said.

Colton Huebel, of Bridge City, earned his B.S. in electrical engineering from LU in 2020 after receiving the Valero scholarship from 2014 to 2019. He now works as an electrical engineer for Classic Industrial Services in Phoenix, Ariz.

Huebel said the Valero scholarship helped relieve some of the financial stressors that go along with being a

"Thank you for the past two years of scholarship. I am eternally thankful for Valero, and the money invested in me. I will make sure it matters."

— Gabriel West '22

college student. "Starting off there, it was hard to pay for school," he said. "But the Valero scholarship gave me enough extra funds to where I didn't have to worry about my books and those sorts of thing. So that gave me some peace of mind."

The Valero Scholarship is open to all majors in the College of Engineering, and the skills they learn can translate to a variety of work settings including civil, construction, environmental, medical and petrochemical fields. Valero offers career opportunities for chemical, electrical, mechanical and safety engineers.

Finding a job after graduation can be a competitive process. Hebert cited a

few opportunities students may take advantage of while earning their degree at Lamar that may help them stand out to potential employers.

"Seeking intern and co-op positions is a great way to obtain real-world experience in their field of study," Hebert said. "Mentoring and coaching might also be available, so students are encouraged to establish a relationship with their scholarship donor. Career guidance and advice from an established professional is invaluable."

Huebel echoed Hebert, saying the scholarship gave him the opportunity to build relationships with donors and people from different industries. "I definitely did a lot of good networking, especially at the scholarship banquets they have every year," Huebel said. "I can remember talking to a bunch of different donors—not only the people from Valero, but pretty much everyone at the scholarship banquet—it opens up a lot of opportunities."

Huebel also stressed the importance of gaining real-world experience as a student, and he said not to be afraid to ask questions so one's mind is constantly learning to grow and evolve. Huebel said he is grateful for the opportunities the Valero scholarship afforded him and for the community support he sees for LU.

"I love Lamar, and I am really thankful there is so much support for the university and the students who go there. It really does mean a lot," he said.





From left, David Bernsen '73, Cardinal Hall of Honor 1984 and Distinguished Alumnus 2015; Jim Gilligan '69, Cardinal Hall of Honor 2016 and Distinguished Alumnus 2012; and Kevin Millar '93, Cardinal Hall of Honor 2004, pose for a photo Sat., May 7, 2022, following a ceremony to honor their three retired jersey numbers in Vincent-Beck Stadium. During the ceremony, a banner was unveiled with action shots of all three LU standouts. Bernsen, considered the first of a long line of great pitchers to come through LU, played from 1969 to 1972 and was named Southland Conference Most Outstanding Pitcher in 1971. Gilligan retired from LU as one of the sport's all-time winningest coaches. His LU career spanned more than 40 years as both a player and a coach. He was a six-time SLC Coach of the Year and retired from the sport with 1,355 all-time wins. Millar is a former All-Sun Belt Conference player, who led LU to an NCAA Central Regional appearance, went on to play 13 years in the major leagues and was a key part in the Boston Red Sox run to the 2004 World Series title.



Uliana Trylowsky Faith Singh leading the Alma Mater



LU Ambassadors, front row from left, Cade Pellerin '22, Menna Elsaka '22, Tiffany Tran '22, Viviana Denova '22, Adelin Hernandez '22 and Landon Richard '22; back row from left, Luke Nguyen '22, Ali Hamza '22, Ayo Oni '22, Trey Wilson '22, Paul Ivory, David Williams '22 and Brendon Camp '22



Panel discussion - Fred Vernon '12, '13, Carmen (Angelle) Jordan '90, Jared Boudreaux '98 and President Jaime Taylor



Penny Clark; Kaelyn Berry, Dance Team member; Maxine Johnston



Larry Norwood '73, Cynthia (Smesny) Norwood '72, Peggy Zabala and Juan Zabala '07



Milton and Myrna (Pirnack) Dunnam '67 with Diane (Keating) -62 and Larry Woodcox



Mary Alice Baker, Cathy and Buzz Long '70



Jack and Charlotte Seeley



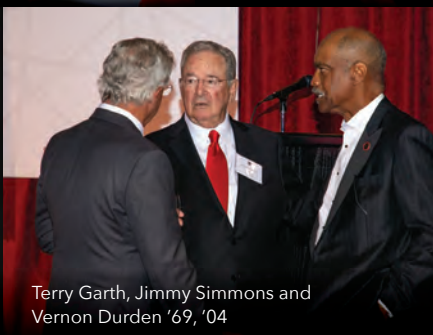
Brad Brown '81



Roy and Kim Steinhagen with Leslie and Bill Wilson



Ayo Oni '22, Nathan Rivers -04, Nina (Revie) Rivers '07 and Wafa (Hammad) '08 and Fred Vernon '12, '13



Terry Garth, Jimmy Simmons and Vernon Durden '69, '04



Mary Alice Baker and Karen Nichols '83



Tracie Craig with Molly (Vasquez) '70 and Frank Messina '71



Mike '72 and Jo Beth (Giglio) Jenkins with President Jaime Taylor



Terri and Lee Potter



Karen Nichols '83, Bobbie Wilson, Gloria (Brown) Koshkin '68



Jena (Verrill) '06 and Brandon Still '06



President Jaime Taylor and Charles Gongre '67

Now, in the championship competition for which I had prepared most of my life, sixty of the country's best skiers were striving for the title. The skier before me had jumped five feet farther than my personal best. My mind was waterlogged with worry, and the boat pulling me seemed weighed down with my doubt. On my second of three jumps, I had hung my right ski on the side of the ramp, snapping off the fin and tearing the ski boot that held my foot to the ski. Between my second and last jump, I had time to change the fin but no time to fix the boot. The judges called time for me, and I knew I must ski then or forfeit. There was really no way for me to win with a torn ski boot, but there simply was no time to repair it.

Soon I felt the boat accelerate, and I was up. The water was smooth, but the choppy waves of my emotions swirled around me, threatening to throw me off balance. My inner turmoil swelled, fed by years of almost winning, years of getting close but never quite making the mark of a champion, of living the trial but never going home with the trophy. I had moments of believing in the power of God, but I never fully trusted, never fully tested the promises of God, so I always ended up holding onto the ski rope more tightly than I held on to God. Nearly always, my fear propelled me toward failure at a greater speed than any boat could have pulled me.

Heading now for the ramp. The wake of emotion broke with enough force to suck me under. I knew I was nearing the ramp with a speed too slow and a position too narrow on the boat. I could feel a part of me watching from the dock, then turning slowly and sinking away in defeat. All I could possibly do was lose—again. Then I caught a glimpse of the words my girlfriend had painted on the handle of my tow rope, a passage from Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." I decided that this time I wouldn't let my fear finish for me. I would finish to the glory of God and let Him take me all the way to victory or defeat. This time I would live out my faith to my last ounce of strength and concentration...I am ahead of my story, though. I should go back and start at the beginning.

—From Kenny Vaughan's book *Shields of Strength: One Man's Victory Over Fear and What It Has Meant for America*

SHIELDS OF STRENGTH:

Founded in love, driven by

faith

by Brooke Barnett



Shields of Strength founder Kenny Vaughan '94 has learned that it is not what you do in business, but why you do it that makes all the difference. Reflecting back on 25 years of entrepreneurship with his company, Kenny credits his faith, the support of his family and a keen desire to have an impact on the lives of others as the driving force behind their success.

"Shields of Strength was never a plan, it was simply an effort to love people and share with them," Kenny reflects. "We didn't create our opportunities. We just did our best to seize the opportunities that presented themselves to us when they did. The most humbling thing of all is seeing the difference they have made to our military, athletes and millions of others."

Headquartered in Beaumont, Shields of Strength produces fashionable, functional and durable Christian-themed jewelry and accessories. The company's stainless steel jewelry for both men and women includes engraved scriptures and many pieces feature patriotic, fitness and athletic motifs. Their signature dog tags have been worn by more than two million athletes, military service personnel, military families, Christians and non-Christians across the globe, and the company has since expanded to offer hundreds of jewelry pieces, Christian crosses and apparel.

"The amount of rejection and disappointment we have faced over the years has been so much more than I ever expected, but we have grown to embrace it and learn from it. Any time I would consider giving up, I would hear from someone whose life was changed by our mission and the fire starts burning again," Kenny adds. "It has taught me that it is not what you do, but why you do it, that determines whether or not you persevere."

The inspiration behind Shields of Strength came from a particularly meaningful moment between Kenny, 1996 long distance water-ski jumping national champion, and his wife Tammie '96, who both attended Lamar in the early 1990s. Kenny was a competitive

athlete striving to win a national title but struggling with fear and doubt. By meditating on a scripture that Tammie suggested, Kenny was able to overcome his fears and find success by drawing on his faith.

"The greatest thing that happened to me while attending Lamar was meeting Tammie," he explains. "I had all kinds of motivation and felt like I had an unsinkable ship with no rudder on it. I had no idea what to do next. Tammie helped me get a rudder on my ship."

Kenny created an engraved dog tag-style necklace to remind him of the lessons he had learned about fear and faith, which he inevitably gave away while sharing his story and testimony. This became a trend, with Kenny giving away necklaces as quickly as he could create them. Shields of Strength was born, and the first necklaces were placed in a store in 1998. By 2001, Shields of Strength items could be found in stores across the country.

"We had no idea how God would take Shields of Strength from inscribing scriptures on dog tags and giving them away to family, friends and complete strangers, to now more than 500 different items that have shipped out all over the world," Tammie adds.

Over the past two decades, Shields of Strength jewelry has become popular with military personnel, churches, hospitals, athletes and others who find hope in the inspiring messages. More than four million Shields of Strength dog tags have been sold, and the Vaughans have given thousands of pieces to the U.S. military and ministries close to their hearts.

As it has grown, Shields of Strength has truly become a family affair. The couple's two youngest children, Grace and Kennedy, have grown up helping with the business, and their eldest child, Faith, has recently come to work for the company full time since graduating from Lamar Institute of Technology in 2020.

"Faith started working with us when she was seven years old. It's a family mission, so she has always traveled with us and worked with us. By the time she was ten years old, she was working the table at the booths and expos," Kenny adds. "Since graduating from LIT, Faith has brought new life to the mission and the office." Faith said, "I enjoy marketing through social media so I thought it would be a fun challenge to create a line of fresh apparel unlike anything we have designed before to help reach my generation."

With Faith lending her talents in both customer service and in creating new designs, Shields of Strength continues to grow their brand and share their message of love, faith and devotion.

"Whether we grow or shrink from here, I pray we give all we have until we are done. We live grateful for the opportunities we have," Kenny concludes. "The whole mission has blessed our socks off and still does daily. We are insanely humbled and grateful."





For graduating Cardinals, commencement is a time for celebration, but it is also an important moment for showing gratitude –to family, friends, mentors, and, for many LU graduates, to their scholarship donors who made this achievement possible. In spring 2022, Lamar University introduced a new opportunity for graduating scholarship recipients to share their graduation day with the donors who have helped make their dreams into a reality. These students were invited to include personal, handwritten messages and photos from the day of commencement in custom postcards to let their scholarship donors know the incredible impact their investment has made on their lives.

Donors FOR ALL THAT YOU DO FOR LAMAR UNIVERSITY

Thank You

FROM THE CLASS OF 2022



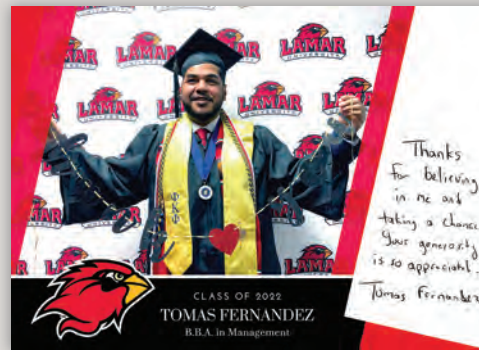
Thank you so much for your continual support through my years at Lamar. I will now graduate and start a job as an Improvement Engineer at Dow and its all thanks to you!
Thanh Nguyen



Thank you very much for supporting the next step in my future!
Go Cards!
Kinley Teeple



Thank you
for everything
I hope I make
you proud!
Kayla Griffin



Thanks
for believing
in me and
taking a chance.
Your generosity
is so appreciable.
Tomas Fernandez



THANK
YOU
LUNBB
Micaela Wilson



I'm so happy
you get to
see me on
my graduation
day. I was able
get here because
of you! Thank you
so much!
Maria De Los
Angeles Villa



Thank you so
much! It is with
your help a
blessing that
I was able to
get here and
accomplish so
much! I am
forever grateful
Krystal Le



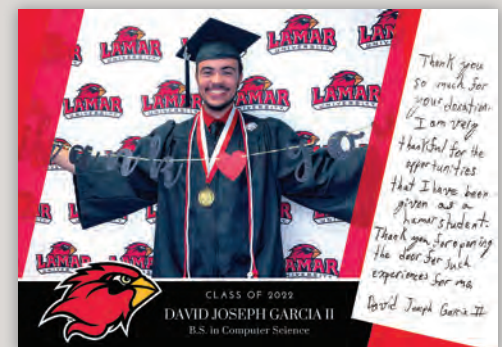
Thank you for
making this day
possible
Majesty Papillon



Thank you for
the opportunity to
complete this
milestone.
May god bless you &
Montserrat Geronimo



Thank you so
much for
helping
all my dreams
come true! <3
Bethany Edwards



Thank you
so much for
your direction.
I am really
thankful for the
opportunities
that I have been
given as a
honor's student.
Thank you for giving
the door for such
experiences for me
David Joseph Garcia II



Thanks,
Big help!!
Lee Allen Cravens



Thank you
so much
for your support
and encouragement.
Thank you for
allowing me this
opportunity to further
my education
& my career growth!
Kayla Contreras



Thank you
for your
support &
dedication.
Your donations
change lives.
Ebony Jones



THANK YOU
for all the
support. Your help
enabled me to
live on campus
and get the full
college experience.
Grace Granger



Thank you
for your help.
You have no
idea the difference
that you have made
in my life!
Thank you!
Karen Alvidres
Aleman

CAMPUS AND CAREER STUDENT SUCCESS



Finding hope through Lamar Promise

Alexis Miller is an LU sophomore majoring in broadcast journalism and always knew that she wanted to become a journalist. She discovered her passion for the field as a child watching late-night news segments and seeing each reporter's passion for telling stories.

In high school, Miller published her first book, *Life Through My Eyes*, a collection of poems that she had written throughout the years. "After publishing my book, I had so many opportunities—I've been on the radio, television, news channels, and I've traveled so much."

With her first taste of being a true journalist, the Beaumont native set her sights on attending LU with hopes of studying broadcast journalism. "I knew that I wanted to attend Lamar University because when I visited the campus for the first time in high school, it truly felt like home," she said. "I really connected with the staff, professors, students and everyone here."

In the summer of 2019, Miller's dream of becoming a Cardinal was quickly halted when she realized that she didn't have enough financial aid to cover her first semester at LU. "There were only a few weeks left before the start of the fall semester. One day my mom and I were sitting around trying to figure out how I was going to pay for college and then I received a call that changed everything."

Miller had been notified by the LU Scholarships and Financial Aid department that she was eligible for the Lamar Promise program. The Lamar University Promise ensures that sufficient grant and/or scholarship assistance will be provided to cover the full amount of fall and spring in-state tuition and fees for undergraduate Texas residents meeting certain eligibility criteria.

"When I received that call, I was excited because my mom really worried about how we were going to pay for my tuition and everything that I needed. Now, I don't have that worry because of the Lamar Promise," Miller said. "I just want to thank the donors that donate to all LU scholarships because they really impact the student's lives and we appreciate that."

Shine a Light Scholarship awarded to nursing student Maggie Larson

Regina Rogers, longtime supporter of LU, attorney and former regent, established the prestigious "Shine a Light" award in loving memory of her dear friend Georgie Volz, an exceptional, courageous and inspirational individual who died at the age of 52 following a long and painful battle with ovarian and breast cancer. The inaugural awardee, third-semester nursing student Maggie Larson, was selected by the JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing scholarship committee.

Larson's father was diagnosed with brain cancer when she was three years old. She originally set out on a business degree, but realized she was in the wrong field when her dad had his second craniotomy.

"Witnessing an entire team of physicians, nurses, therapists and staff working together in tandem to assist each patient while simultaneously radiating compassion to our family, it became apparent that this was more than a job for the people in the medical field," Larson said. "It is a calling, an honor and a lifestyle. The staff made an impact in our lives when we were going through a grueling and terrifying experience. I discovered I want to provide people with the same hope and light that the staff provided to my family."



From left: Freddie Titus, vice president of Division of Diversity, Inclusion and Community Relations; D'Von Boyd '22, mechanical engineering, Houston; Makaila Jackson, senior, exercise science, Houston; Trey Cobbin; Trevion Wilson '22, mechanical engineering, Houston

LU Alphas make history

The Epsilon Rho chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. made history Feb. 12 at the annual Texas Council of Alpha Chapters Convention. For the first time, the organization was awarded outstanding chapter of the year, and chapter president **Trey Wilson** was awarded Brother of the Year and won second-place in the Belford V. Lawson Oratorical Contest.

"I first want to commend our chapter president, Trey Wilson, for his leadership. He has done an amazing job at leading us and putting the Epsilon Rho chapter in a positive light," said D'Von Boyd, chapter member.

"This has been such a surreal moment for the organization and I'm truly proud of everything that we've accomplished in the span of just a few weeks."

The TCAC Convention also generated another big win for the group. For the second time in 17 years, the organization's LU Miss Black & Gold pageant winner Makaila Jackson, senior exercise science major, competed on the state level and brought home the crown.

LU senior wins national billboard contest

"What they see is what they'll be"—that is the slogan and life motto for members of the 100 Black Men of America. It also is the motto that catapulted LU senior graphic design major **DeShaun Bell** into first place for the national Stop the Violence billboard and social media design contest hosted by the organization last fall.

The 100 Black Men of America is a civic organization whose goal is supporting the development of social, emotional and educational needs of youth who need positive role models in the community. The contest searched for the top three middle school, high school, college and chapter participants to create the best billboard design and marketing campaign for violence prevention.

Bell's winning submission, "Put the guns down. What they see is what they'll be," focused on violence prevention and, more specifically, gun violence—a topic that she says is timely and hits home. "What they see is what they'll be." That slogan has always stuck with me because as Collegiate 100 members, we serve as mentors for high school students that are getting ready to enter into college," she said. "I added put the guns down because, while gun violence is a very touchy subject, I actually lost a friend last year—he was murdered as a result of gun violence." As first-place winner, Bell received \$1,500, and her campaign design will be featured on billboards across the nation by the end of 2022.

Department of Art and Design hosts ode to “Real Housewives”

As part of its Art History Guest Lecture Series, the Department of Art and Design hosted “The Real Housewives of Ancient Etruria,” a March 31 virtual lecture presented via Zoom by Bridget Sandhoff, associate professor of art history at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. The event offered attendees an inside look into Etruria—a civilization that flourished on the Italian peninsula prior to the Romans.

According to **Julie Fischer**, associate professor of art history, the Etruscans are a unique topic about which students seldom have the opportunity to learn. Fischer explained that the Etruscan civilization often is overlooked in favor of Greek and Roman architecture. “The Etruscans are known for their tombs. They painted the walls with bright, vivid scenes of dancing and banqueting. They also filled the tombs with terracotta sarcophagi and objects like bronze mirrors and imported Greek vases,” Fischer said.

Renowned in her field, Sandhoff is a specialist in Etruscan art. “Having virtual lectures has allowed us to invite scholars from further afield, so it has been a good opportunity to have a wide variety of topics and specialties,” Fischer said. “This talk was a perfect opportunity for attendees to learn from an expert in Etruscan art and gain knowledge about this mysterious civilization, hopefully deepening their overall understanding of art history.”



MENTORS FROM LEFT:

Victor Davila, executive director of retention and student services; Adrian Sias, residence director; Jacqueline Hernandez, local business owner; Héctor Flores, dean of students; and Tony Sanchez, vice president of human resources and talent management

LU establishes Hispanic Mentorship Program

The Lamar University Division of Student Engagement has established the LU Hispanic Mentorship program, which aims to pair Hispanic and Latino students with a mentor to serve as an additional resource outside of an academic setting.

“The idea is to be a reflection of the community and our goal with this program is to bridge the gap for our Hispanic and Latino students here at Lamar University,” said **Héctor Flores**, dean of students. “We want to provide them with a sense of direction

while they’re in college, connect them to the community and be that sounding board that motivates them to continue on their journey.”

Comprised of 25 faculty, staff, alumni and community leaders, LU Hispanic mentors provide support and guidance for current and potential Hispanic and Latino students seeking to improve their lives through education. The group also strives to bring awareness and appreciation to Lamar University culture, ethnic and societal contributions as Hispanic and Latino people.

DANCE TEAM EARNS TOP HONORS

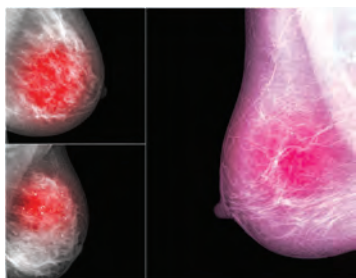
The Lamar University Dance Team recently competed and showcased their routine at the American Dance/Drill Team Collegiate Championships.

On March 26, the LU Dance Team traveled to the University of North Texas in Denton to compete in the ADTS Collegiate Championships. Competing against other Division I programs, the LU Dance Team won first place in the jazz category. LUDT Head Coach Courtney Sutton said, “We are so proud of how hard this team worked to learn and prepare this routine in only two short months!”

This marks Sutton’s first competition appearance with the LU Dance and Cheer Teams. She joined the staff at LU in January after coaching dance teams at Middle Tennessee State University and Sam Houston State University. She and her staff, including Assistant Dance Coach Dalanah Wafer and Assistant Cheer Coach Matt Allen, have been working hard to prepare the LU Spirit Program for a busy and successful fall 2022.



COMPUTER SCIENCE FACULTY RECEIVES USDA GRANT, US PATENT



In collaboration with Texas A&M AgriLife Research Center at Beaumont, **Jing Zhang**, associate professor of computer science, has received funding from the National Institute of Food and



Agriculture for a three-year research project titled "A Digital Rice Selection System that Integrates UAV

Imaging, Machine Learning, and Multi-Trait Decision-Making" Lamar University receives \$160,000 as the sub-awardee.

Zhang and his research team at LU will help with the development of machine learning algorithms for crop feature extraction from UAV images acquired at different crop stages, the integration of multi-dimensional and multi-temporal traits, and the implementation of the digital rice selection system. Zhang said, "The new teaching materials based on the research outcomes will be integrated into my Image Processing and Computer Vision courses to enrich curricula, and selected computer science students will participate in the project to obtain hands-on research experience, boost their research abilities and increase their competitiveness for future careers."

Zhang also has been awarded a patent titled "Systems and Methods for Extracting Prognostic Image Features" for work in partnership with Duke University. This patent is useful for determining lesion severity and disease prognosis for breast cancer, which is a leading cancer diagnosis among women with more than 230,000 new cases a year in the U.S. "I am very excited about this patent and believe it will benefit breast cancer patients by providing an efficient method for breast cancer subtype identification with minimal additional cost, time, or infrastructure investment," Zhang shared.

LU grant to provide healthcare access to thousands of rural residents

In a time when access to healthcare is vital, Lamar University is proud to announce that it recently received a rural health grant from the Department of Agriculture Rural Development Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program in addition to a contribution from an anonymous benefactor, for a combined total of \$260,167, to launch the Lamar University Interprofessional Rural Health Literacy and Chronic Care CONNECT

Through Distance Education and Telemedicine

Project. "Rural living in deep east Texas is filled with many challenges," said **LeAnne Chisholm**, assistant professor of the Dishman School of Nursing. "The rural-urban divide is widened by health disparities and a lack of healthcare access."

According to 2010 U.S. Census Data, rural residents of Sabine County have exceptionally high rates of cancer, heart disease, obesity and poor behavioral health practices such as smoking. The county also falls into the survey's highest categorized percentage per population of disabled individuals, the data reported. By using telemedicine/telehealth services, the project's two main aims are to 1) provide access to primary healthcare for students and medically fragile rural residents of Sabine County and 2) provide community access to medical specialty healthcare for those residents.

Chisholm added that LU will serve as a distance education hub for health promotion, disease prevention, hearing loss, hearing loss-prevention, hearing loss referrals and opioid/substance abuse information, which will be streamed to community sites in Fairmount and Pineland. According to Chisholm, this project has the potential to impact 10,000 Sabine County residents.



Longtime leader to retire

After 21 years of guiding, educating, mentoring and providing support for students, faculty and staff at LU, **Brenda Nichols**, provost and vice president of academic affairs, will retire in January 2023.

"Brenda has been a valued member of the Lamar University team for over two decades and helped lead the University through both rewarding and challenging circumstances," President Jaime Taylor said. "Throughout her career at LU she has shown great care for students, faculty and staff and has taken pride in their successes while encouraging them to overcome any obstacles they might encounter. LU and our

community have benefitted significantly from her service and no doubt will continue to collect the rewards of her efforts into the future." Nichols has held several leadership positions since joining Lamar University as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of nursing in 2001—a role she filled until October of 2015 when she was named associate provost.

Nichols will continue to fulfill her role during the summer of 2022; her official retirement date as provost and professor of nursing will be January 15, 2023. During the time of transition, she will take the lead on community college efforts focusing primarily on the 2+2 initiative and the university's response to SACSCOC.

Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum receives \$315,000

The Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum has received a grant of \$315,000 from the Mamie McFaddin Ward Heritage Foundation, managed by Hancock Whitney. The funds will support a transformational renovation project centered around preserving the museum's longevity and the collections held in each building.



Renovations began in February and museum Director Troy Gray said the generous contribution will allow the museum to add new siding and HVAC systems in each building to protect the collections. "The museum will be turning 50 years old soon, and we are incredibly grateful for the support of the Mamie McFaddin Ward Heritage Foundation and their recognition of the need for restoration," Gray said.



LU introduces new business analytics concentration

Lamar University announces its new business analytics concentration for the Bachelor of Business Administration in Management Information Systems.

Business analytics, used for data-driven or fact-based decision-making, is the process of transforming data into insight for helping managers make better decisions, according to **Kakoli Bandyopadhyay**, director of graduate studies for the School of Accounting and Information Systems.

Studies have shown that the firms guided by business analytics have higher productivity, market value, increased output and profitability. "The concentration in business analytics will prepare students with the knowledge, skills, tools and techniques of collecting, storing, documenting and analyzing large amounts of data to provide valuable insights and solve business problems," she said. Training is also provided in market-driven skills such as Tableau, SAS, Oracle-SQL, Python Programming, Advanced Excel, Primavera P6 and more.

Those seeking a concentration in business analytics are offered a variety of in-demand positions in today's lucrative job market such as systems analysts, business analysts, technology analysts, data analysts and more, which primarily will involve performing data mining, statistical analysis and other advanced analytics techniques.



Princeton Review names LU MBA, doctoral program among best in nation

With flexibility designed for working professionals and an in-state tuition cost of less than \$16,000, it's no secret why *The Princeton Review* has named LU's online MBA program among the best in the nation. The publication recently released their unranked list of Best Online MBA Programs for 2022, which evaluated programs across the nation on flexibility, affordability, access to innovative technologies, students from a diversity of career backgrounds and global opportunities. The list also is based on institutional data, including career outcomes, admissions selectivity and academic rigor.

The LU College of Education and Human Development offers one of the best online Doctor of Education programs in the nation, also according to *The Princeton Review*. The Ed.D. in educational leadership is geared to practitioners in educational leadership positions in K-12 and higher education. *The Princeton Review* cited the flexibility, affordability, access to innovative technologies, diversity of careers and global opportunities of more than 50 institutions nationwide.

ExxonMobil invests in future of LU robotics

On May 24, ExxonMobil donated \$25,000 to the LU College of Engineering to fund a partnership with Beaumont school district through LU's student organization, Robotic Cardinals. "Fueling K-12 students' interest in STEM, keeping that fire and drive alive, and supporting their pursuit of STEM in higher education is one of the core initiatives for the Lamar University College of Engineering," said **Brian Craig**, dean of the College of Engineering. "Once again, we are thankful to our friends and partners at ExxonMobil who provided us with the resources to increase our capacity to capture the attention and teach the young minds of Southeast Texas the importance of robotics and automation."

"We encourage the pursuit of math and science through a variety of programs and by making a joint effort with organizations like Lamar University, we're putting science and math fluency on the fast track," Rozena Dendy, ExxonMobil Beaumont refinery manager, said. "STEM education isn't just crucial for our future engineers and scientists but is something we believe is fundamental to any career."

The LU College of Engineering is planning to host an annual robotic competition for local and regional high school robotic teams set to begin in fall 2023.

LU names Cristian Bahrim to lead Office of Undergraduate Research

LU has appointed **Cristian Bahrim**, professor of physics, as director of the Office of Undergraduate Research. Bahrim, who has mentored more than 150 students in their research since joining the faculty in 2001, has served as interim director of the OUR since September 2019 and assumed the role of director in February for a term of three years.

The Office of Undergraduate Research's mission is to inspire undergraduate students from all majors to explore their field of study and engage in research. Throughout his term, Bahrim will continue efforts to expand research and creative activity opportunities for undergraduate students.

"Lamar University's Office of Undergraduate Research is very different, and that's one thing that everyone should know. We can make a difference in our student's lives because we provide them the best of what an academic environment can offer—quality instruction in class, opportunities where they can express themselves and discover their talents," Bahrim said. He has worked with the OUR since the department was established at Lamar University in 2014 and was the first faculty mentor recognized by the department for mentorship in 2015. He also was the first LU faculty winner of the 2019 National Mentor Award in physics and astronomy offered by the Council of Undergraduate Research in Washington, D.C.

Gregory awarded fellowship to study female veterans

"What a great way to start a Monday!" said **Christina Gregory**, associate professor of political science, when she first heard the news that she was awarded a College of Arts and Sciences Dean's 2022 Summer Research Fellowship. Her project studies the effects military service has on women veterans.

It all started when Gregory was building a dataset for a friend a few years ago and observed there were decades of studies done on the long-term benefits of service for men in America, but less than a handful of studies on women. "We know that male veterans have both experienced long-term gains from their service – higher paying jobs, higher educational attainment – as well as faced challenges after service, including reacclimating to civilian life, accessing benefits and mental health concerns. There are literally decades of studies that have studied this for male veterans," Gregory said. "What the women's veteran experience is like, however, is largely unexplored."

To hear more from Gregory, listen to her interview at lamar.edu/lumoment.



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

SEND US YOUR NEWS:

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

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

YOU & LU A lifelong relationship.

The Office of Alumni Affairs is your connection.

Update your information so we can keep you up-to-date on what's happening at the university, invite you to special events and make sure you get access to all of the perks of being a Cardinal.

50s

Ralph Merwin '54, pre-med, earned his D.O. degree from A.T. Still University and practiced medicine in Orange Co. until 1991 before retiring to Harrison, Ark., and resuming practice there for another 13 years. His retired again in 2004 and still lives in Harrison.

Jack Gill '58, B.S. chemistry, received the Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers Legacy Award at the group's 25th annual conference in November 2021. The honor celebrates the pioneering work of the world's top university-based entrepreneurship leaders. Gill, professor of the practice of entrepreneurship at Rice University's Jones Graduate School of Business, was recognized for his decades-long commitment to entrepreneurship education and passion for supporting and mentoring students.

60s

The Best Lawyers in America recognized **David J. Beck** '61, B.S. government, in its 2022 ranking of the nation's top legal talent. The guide lists outstanding attorneys throughout the U.S. Additionally, 22 attorneys in his firm Beck Redden were named 2022 Best Lawyers in America, and six were named Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch. He lives in Houston.

Sandra (Kiker) Sherman '62, B.S. elementary education, '82, M.Ed. administration, owns Diamond's Diner, founded in 2011 in China, Texas, and known for its extensive breakfast and Diamond S burger. She lives in China.

Dr. William "Jerry" Reed '65, B.S. biology, retired as head of Pediatric Ambulatory Medicine for CPSST Driscoll Children's Hospital and as professor of pediatrics in the College of Medicine at Texas A&M Health Science Center. He has been named professor emeritus and lives with his wife, Ruth, in Clarksville, Tenn.

Francie (Brownshadel) Frederick '67, B.S. biology, holds a J.D. in law and continues a long career of public service as general counsel for The University of Texas System Board of Regents. She has been with the U.T. System for over 40 years, following work as an assistant attorney general for Texas and as an assistant district attorney for Jefferson County. She lives in Austin with her husband, David, a semi-retired environmental attorney, and her mother, **Abie (Duckett) Brownshadel** '60, B.S. electrical engineering, '69, M.Ed. elementary education.

Florence (Bell) Redmond '67, B.A. history, retired from teaching and is substitute teaching. She lives in Vidor.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice awarded **William Glenn Smith** '67, B.A. government, '70, M.A. government, the 2018 and 2020 Texas Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer of the Year Award in April 2021 during a ceremony delayed by the pandemic. Smith serves as volunteer lay chaplain at the Hightower Prison Unit. He recently served on the Lamar University Alumni Advisory Board. He serves on the Restorative Justice Committee of the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in Houston. He retired as superintendent of Port Arthur school district and lives in The Woodlands with his wife, **Karen (Brownlee)** '67, B.A. French, who went on to earn a master's degree in Spanish and her doctorate in education. She retired as director of bilingual education, ESL and foreign languages for Port Arthur school district. Both are life members of the Lamar University Alumni Association and have helped establish multiple scholarships.

Inducted into the Cardinal Hall of Honor in 1975 for track, **Thomas "Doug" Boone** '68, kinesiology, '68, biology, retired as principal of Brazosport High School. He and his wife, Joan, who he met at LU, celebrated 55 years of marriage and live in Lake Jackson.

Patrick Durio '69, B.B.A. accounting, owns the CPA firm Durio & Co. in Bellaire. He is past president of the Houston CPA Society and lives in Bellaire.

Minnie Melton '69, B.S. speech and hearing sciences, authored and published a book called *Cbuckles and Hurricane Rita: A True Story*. She lives in Beaumont.

70s

Carl Adams '71, B.B.A. marketing, retired from Mobil Oil Co. as marketing manager. He and his wife, Carol, live in Carrollton.

Dennis Isaacs '71, B.S. secondary education, has 44 years in the environmental profession, including 22 years with DuPont as safety, health and environmental manager at the Beaumont Works location until his retirement in 2011. He served the Golden Triangle Business Roundtable as executive director since 2017 before retiring from the board. He lives in Beaumont.

Robert Boettger '72, B.S. electrical engineering, is retired and lives in Conroe.

Dr. Ronald Maddox '72, B.S. biology, retired in November 2020 after 44 years as a dentist and enjoys spending time

with his grandson. He lives in Spring with his wife, Carol.

Richard Cacioppo '74, B.S. mechanical engineering, '75, M.B.A. business administration, retired as a project manager and lives in Galveston.

Helen (Munden) Hays '74, B.S. elementary education, taught for 19 years at Hillcrest Elementary School in Nederland and 18 years in Chester before she retired in 2012. She lives in Chester.

Joseph LaGrange '74, B.A. history, '78, M.A. history, is retired and lives in Beaumont.

Dr. Brian Tew '74, B.S. biology, B.S. chemistry, earned both his medical degree and law degree before working extensively in emergency medicine, trauma and as a long-term care medical director. He also specialized in medical malpractice defense and general liability defense cases. He has joined the Sorrels Law medical malpractice team last year and lives in Houston.

Woodrow "Woody" Bishop '75, A.A.S. business data processing, retired as a senior programmer analyst. He lives in Royse City. He works at Canyon Creek Country Club as a first tee starter.

Gov. Greg Abbott appointed **Cynthia (Kellum) Stinson** '75, A.S. nursing, '80, B.S. nursing, to the Texas Health Services Authority Board of Directors for a term set to expire June 15, 2023. She is a registered nurse, associate professor and chair of the JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing at LU. She and her husband, **Fred** '75, B.S. computer science, who works for ExxonMobil Corp., live in Beaumont.

Henry Hebert '76, B.A. political science, owns Hebert Real Estate Appraisers in Groves, where he lives.

With 46 years in education and 38 of those in administration, **Steve Hyden** '77, M.Ed. administration, stepped in as interim superintendent of Evadale school district. He has been superintendent of Buna school district twice an executive director of Region V Education Service Center. He lives in Buna.

Tom Henry '78, B.S. chemical engineering, retired in 2020 as the refinery turnaround manager for TOTAL Energies in Port Arthur. His 41-year career in operations, maintenance and finance spanned the companies of Gulf, Chevron, FINA and Total. He remains active in the business community as president of Leadership Southeast Texas Inc. since 2006 and lives in Orange County with his wife, Becky.

George Braud '79 retired after 41 years with the aerospace software engineering industry. He worked at NASA Johnson Space Center, most recently for KBR, and, as one of the first people in the role, wrote the procedures and taught other to run

the mission control software. He lives in League City.

80s

Thomas "Tommy" Fain Jr. '80, B.M. music education, earned his master of music in 1985 and his doctorate in education in 2008. He retired in 2019 after a 38-year career in music education, 34 years as a public school band director and four years as a private brass teacher. He is now a music education consultant and adjudicator for band festivals. He lives in Plano.

Will Leonard '80, B.B.A. marketing, is president of the Jefferson County Market for First Financial Bank in Beaumont, where he and his life partner, Michelle, live.

The Aurora Golden Triangle Sertoma Club named **The Honorable Jeff Branick** '81, Jefferson County judge, as its Service to Mankind Recipient for the local chapter and the national organization Oct. 14, 2021. He and his wife, **Sherrie (Booker)** '81, B.S. art, live in Port Neches.

Larry Decuir '81, B.B.A. marketing, has been named director of strategic and change enablement for EY (Ernst & Young)'s Americas Forensic and Integrity Services. He has been with EY since 2005, and this is his fourth position while at the firm. He and his wife, Cathy, live in the Atlanta, Ga., area.

Doug Farmer '82, B.S. mechanical engineering, earned his master's degree in mechanical engineering in 1984 and is a retired research fellow with The LYCRA Co. He and his wife, Jodi, live in Greensboro.

Jay Schwartz '83, B.S. industrial technology, is a financial advisor and limited partner with Edward Jones Investments in Lufkin, where he lives.

Award-winning journalist **Clyde Hughes** '84, B.S. communication, was inducted into the African American Legacy Project's Sports Hall of Fame in Toledo Aug. 13-14, 2021. He worked at the Toledo Blade from 1989 to 2007, founded the Northwest Ohio Black Media Association and co-founded the Martin Luther King Jr. Basketball Classic. He lives in Atlantic City, N.J. and is founder of AC Joseph Media.

Richelle Brewster '85, A.A.S. mid-management, is an excise tax agent with the Internal Revenue Service. She earned bachelor's degrees in criminal justice in 1996 and in accounting in 2005 and a master's degree in accounting in 2021. She lives in Missouri City.

Daniel W. Williams '85, B.S. electrical engineering, '10, M.B.A., finance, retired from Entergy in 2018 after a 33-year career in transmission and distribution design, construction and management, mostly working in Beaumont, where



A graphic for Lamar University Homecoming 2022. It features a background image of football players in red uniforms on a field. Overlaid on the image is a large, stylized red and white text box that reads "LAMAR UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING 2022". Below this, in a black box with white text, it says "SAVE THE DATE!". At the bottom, in a large red box with white text, it says "SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1" and "SEE LAMAR.EDU/HOMECOMING FOR DETAILS".

he currently lives with his wife Beverly, and volunteering within Beaumont school district and several organizations as a mentor and tutor. He is also an active investor and a member of several investment clubs.

Darren Brown '87, B.B.A. general business-law, earned his law degree in 1991 and celebrated 30 years of service with the Provost Umphrey Law Firm. He lives in Port Neches.

Brittian Featherston '87, B.S. criminal justice, is U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas. He has 23 years with the office. He prosecuted the James Byrd Jr. case and served on the Joint Terrorism Task Force. He lives in Lumberton.

Rhonda (Dee Dee) Harrison '87, B.S. music instrumental, teaches at Gilbert J. Mircovich Elementary School in Ingleside school district. She lives in Ingleside.

Patrick (Steve) Abalos '88, B.B.A. finance, is chief financial officer for both Vortech Contracting based in Winnie and Accent Compliance. Vortech is a contractor in the oil and gas industry specializing in compressor stations and new construction. Accent is an inspection company that specializes in environmental, construction, technical services and safety inspection services. He lives in Mont Belvieu with his wife, Julie.

Lesli (Harrigan) Howland '88, B.S. communication, received a Certificate of Merit in 2021. The national award is presented to select alumnae at a Zeta Day or other special event. Members must have a minimum of seven years of significant post-collegiate service to ZTA in order to be nominated by an alumnae chapter and considered by the National Council before being selected through unanimous approval.

John McElroy '88, B.S. political science, earned his law degree in 1991 and is federal defender for the Eastern District of Texas Office of the Federal Public Defender in Tyler. He and his wife, **Sara (McDonald)** '02, B.M. music, who earned her law degree in 1991 and is an attorney for the Twelfth Court of Appeals, live in Tyler.

Stefan Schulz '88, B.B.A. accounting, is executive vice president and chief financial officer of PROS Holdings. He recently joined the board of the sales intelligence and engagement platform provider Outreach, which he will serve as chair of the audit committee. He lives in St. Paul.

Jim Fults '89, B.B.A. accounting, is finance transformation and process manager for Indorama Ventures in The Woodlands. He and his wife, Robin, have three daughters and live in Jasper.

Datuk Szazali Hamzah '89, B.S. chemical engineering, is managing director and chief executive officer of PETRONAS Chemicals Group Berhad. He has been appointed to the advisory panel of an international carbon emissions research project. C-THRU is a three-year, \$4 million-dollar international research project which aims to provide the world's most comprehensive, reliable and transparent account of current and likely future emissions from the petrochemicals sector, as well as deliver foresight on the future interventions and innovation opportunities required to minimize greenhouse gas emissions.

Tracey Perkins '89, B.B.A. finance, is a financial advisor and partner for Innovative Premier Financial Services, which creates retirement plans and investment strategies for athletes, entertainers, small business owners and investors. He lives in Houston.

Charles Snoek '89, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, retired as nutrition director of Some Other Place Dec. 1, 2021. He lives in Beaumont.

Rebecca Woodland '89, M.A. history, is manager of the Tyrrell Park Nature Center in Beaumont, where she lives.

90s

George Kennard '90, B.S. engineering, is global account director for Colt Technology Services in Little Elm, where he lives.

Bridge City **Mayor David Rutledge** '90, B.S. mechanical engineering, begins service as president of the Texas Municipal League in October. He has worked with TML since 2015 and as mayor since 2016. He lives in Bridge City.

Ashwani Aggarwal '94, M.S. engineering science, is chief risk officer for Santander Holdings USA. He has 20 years of experience with JPMorgan Chase, GE Capital and Standard & Poor's and lives in Newton Highlands, Mass.

Craig Wilson '90, B.B.A. accounting, '94, M.B.A. business administration, is vice president of finance and administration for Louisiana Offshore Oil Port in Covington, La. He and his wife, **Trudie** '83, B.S. elementary education, live in Madisonville and have three children.

Pamela Radford '91, B.S. communication, is president of Legal Media Inc., a litigation support firm founded 40 years ago with a national reputation for being one of the premiere trial presentation companies in the country. The Women We Admire Magazine named her to the Top 50 Women Leaders of Houston for 2022. She and her spouse, Stacie, live in Houston.

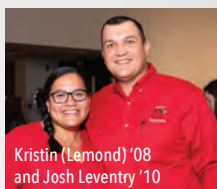


Golden Wright '21, Shannon (Copeland) Figueroa '02, '03, '07, Evie Clifton, Brandi Hamilton '21, Stephanie Chadwick and Dennis Kiel

AFTER SCHOOL SPECIAL: THE LAMAR UNIVERSITY FOURTH JURIED ALUMNI ART EXHIBITION

The Dishman Art Museum showcased original works of art by alumni in an exhibition called After School Special June 24-July 30, 2022. Lynn Castle, executive director of the Art Museum of Southeast Texas, served as juror and chose the theme of intrigue and mystery. An opening reception was held with the featured artists on Friday, June 24, at the museum.

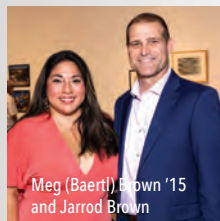
Greg Busceme '79



Kristin (Lemond) '08
and Josh Leventry '10



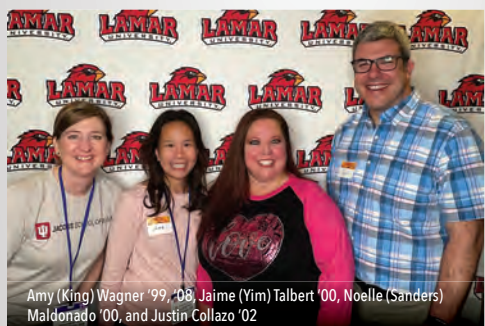
Kim Steinhagen and Lynn Castle



Meg (Baertl) Brown '15
and Jarrod Brown



Brandi Hamilton '21, Lynne Lokensgard, Stephanie Chadwick, Laurie (Loescher) Gordon '94, '11, Keith Carter '70 and Magda Villareal



Amy (King) Wagner '99, '08, Jaime (Yim) Talbert '00, Noelle (Sanders) Maldonado '00, and Justin Collazo '02

TMEA MUSIC ALUMNI RECEPTION

Music alumni and friends gathered at the Texas Music Educators Association Conference in San Antonio for an after-hours networking social Feb. 11



**THE DEPARTMENT OF DEAF
STUDIES AND DEAF EDUCATION**
sponsored a reception Feb. 9 at the Association of College Educators-Deaf and Hard of Hearing Conference in Omaha, Neb.



Rev. M.K. Graves '93, B.A. sociology, holds a master's degree of divinity in psychology and counseling. He married Maribelliz Perazza-Graves June 12, 2020, and teaches sociology, psychology and social studies at Robert E. Lee High School in Baytown, where they live.

Beth (Bryant) Richey '93, B.A. English, '09, M.A., English, is a communication business partner at the Motiva Port Arthur Manufacturing Complex in Port Arthur. She and her husband, **Devon**, '10, M.A. English, live in Beaumont.

Lynette Stalls '93, B.M. music-vocals, '97, M.M.E. music education, is coordinator of music education and professor of music education at East Texas Baptist University. She lives in Lindale.

Germaine Swenson '93, B.F.A. studio art, owns Munkebo Farm in Manor, where she lives.

Brian Williams '94, B.S. criminal justice, is chief of police of the Shallowater Police Department. He lives in Shallowater.

Anna (Lopez) Spears '95, B.S. communication disorders, '97, M.S. deaf studies/habilitation, retired from teaching and lives in Coldspring.

Deborah (Healey) Drago '96, M.B.A. business administration, is a customer service specialist with Entergy Texas. She lives in Beaumont.

Tonya (Hust) Ensinger '96, B.S.W. social work, teaches first grade at Sour Lake Elementary School in Hardin-Jefferson school district, where she and her husband, Kelly, live.

Wayne Wells '96, B.S. criminal justice, earned his master's in educational administration in 2002 and is director of correctional education at Lamar College Port Arthur. He and his wife, Yolanda, have been married 31 years and have one son, Jalen. They live in Beaumont.

Scott Hatcher '97, B.G.S. general studies, is vice president of M&D Supply in Beaumont, where he and his wife, **Erica (May)** '97, B.S. interdisciplinary services, '02, M.Ed. elementary education, who teaches at Vidor Elementary School, live.

Atmosphere Press released a novel by **Danielle Jackson** '97, B.A. political science, '03, M.A. English, under the pen name D.A. Olivier, *Her Neighbor*, in October 2021. She lives in Houston with her family and three rescue dogs.

Kimberly Cole '98, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, retired as principal of Mauriceville Middle School after 21 years in education and 10 years with the Texas Department of Transportation. She lives in Buna.

Don Coryell '98, B.S. communication, former LU basketball player, is director of athletics at Texas State University. He lives in New Braunfels.

Maria Gomez '98, B.S. communication, is an instructional coordinator for the Multilingual Department of Spring Branch school district. She lives in Pearland with her husband **Pablo** '98, B.F.A. graphic design.

The Manufacturing Institute recognized **Deepa Malhotra** '98, M.S. chemical engineering, with the STEP Ahead Award for demonstrated excellence and leadership in her manufacturing career. She is director of commercial operations for Emerson's power and water solutions business and lives in Gibsonsia, Penn.

Pearl (Richard) Nelson '99, M.Ed. educational leadership, owns Resolutions Counseling Services, which provides outpatient counseling and mental health rehabilitation for children and adults though individual, group, marital and family therapy in Louisiana and Texas. She lives in Lake Charles.

00s

Karol Allen '00, B.S. criminal justice, '08, educational technology leadership, is an instructional technologist with Beaumont school district and an adjunct instructor at Lamar Institute of Technology. She lives in Port Arthur.

Texas Outdoors Journal featured art by **Calvin Carter** '00, B.F.A. studio art, as its November 2021 cover. He married **Sammantha Boudreaux**, current LU student, Oct. 24, 2021, and they live in Vidor.

Shaun McAlpin '00, B.S. health, '03, M.Ed. educational leadership, earned his doctorate in educational leadership in 2021 and is superintendent of Orangefield school district, his alma mater. He has two children, Rylan and Ainsley, and lives in Orangefield.

Vanlam Nguyen '01, B.S. biology, '03, M.B.A. business administration, opened a new business Oct. 15, 2021, Letters to Zoe, a stationery and gifts store in Beaumont. She lives in Beaumont.

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions named **Spencer Acadia** '02, B.A. psychology, as chair of the knowledge management section.

Kervin Campbell '02, B.S. civil engineering, is the North Texas regional executive for the design firm Dunaway. He most recently led the firm's civil engineering practice and lives in Haslet with his wife **Ginear** '03, B.S. communication.

Thomas Kelly Jr. '02, chemical engineering, is a project manager for Eastman Chemical in Longview. He and his wife, Sally, live in Henderson.

Nicholas Phillips '02, B.G.S. general studies, '11, M.Ed. educational leadership, is principal of West Brook High School in Beaumont school

district. He lives in Nederland where he has served on the school board since 2010 and is board president. He has served on the Region 5 Texas Association of School Boards board of directors since 2017.

Raghu Badami '03, environmental engineering, is a licensed professional engineer in North Carolina and Maryland and is assistant director for Anne Arundel County in Annapolis, Md. He lives in Severna Park, Md.

Rashawn Webb-Locke '03, B.S. sociology, '12, M.Ed. school counseling, owns Shawn Sold It Real Estate Team, which she founded in 2019 after a career as a Beaumont school district education, counselor and 504 coordinator. Her team is the first team of color in the 70-year history of American Real Estate. She lives in Beaumont.

Austin Williams '03, B.B.A. finance, is president and owner of 5 Under Golf in Beaumont, an entertainment venue that features high-tech gaming, a restaurant and bar, live music, and corporate and social event spaces. He and his wife, **Nicole (Lajudes)** '13, B.S. communication disorders, '15, M.S. speech-language pathology, live in Beaumont with their daughter Julia, born Sept. 20, 2021.

Jes (Bres) Prince '04, B.G.S. general studies, earned her master's degree in public administration in 2017 and owns Principality Properties, a real estate brokerage focusing on commercial investments and development, in Beaumont, where she and her husband, **Jay** '19, B.S. mechanical engineering, '19, B.A. chemistry, who owns Gulf Coast Injection Inc., live.

Lori Rachal '04, B.S. dance, is an outside sales specialist at G&G Enterprises in Beaumont. She lives in Lumberton.

Joel Russell '04, B.B.A. management information systems, is technology director for Little Cypress Mauriceville school district, where he lives.

Trazarra (Chargois) Stelly '04, B.S.W. social work, earned a master's degree in criminal justice leadership and management in 2014 and is an instructor of criminal justice at Lamar Institute of Technology. She lives in Beaumont.

Thomas Fauth '05, B.S. management information systems, and his wife Karen (Cuccio) Fauth '05, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, own Allied IT Systems, which provides cybersecurity expertise from design to implementation to support. He earned his M.B.A. in 2021 and is chief information officer. Karen is the company's business manager. They live in Round Rock.

Justin Henderson '05, B.S. family and consumer sciences-family studies, '07, M.Ed. counseling and development, is a licensed professional counselor and supervisor and owns Mentality 2.0 Behavioral Health Solutions in Houston.

The firm provides behavioral health services to adults, families, children and teens with options for churches, educational entities, professional businesses and justice systems. He and his wife, **Candise** -06, live in Porter.

Melanie (Medina) Maier '05, B.B.A. general business, and her husband, Joe, welcomed their daughter Avery Justina in August 2021. They live in Singapore.

Cara (Black) Robinson '05, M.Ed. administration, teaches English at Hardin-Jefferson High School. She and her husband, **Dickie** '12, M.Ed. administration, live in Lumberton with their two children, Addison and Colton.

Kayla (Marcus) White '05, B.B.A. general business, is director of finance at Nutrition and Services for Seniors in Beaumont. She lives in Beaumont.

Christina Wilbur '05, B.A. history, '10, M.A. history, '10, M.Ed. secondary education, is an instructor of history at Lamar State College Port Arthur. She and her husband, **Jim Cammack** '83, B.B.A. general business, '90, M.B.A. business administration, who co-owns Tonalta School of Music in Port Neches, live in Beaumont.

Amy Comer '06, political science, '19, forensic chemistry, is a forensic scientist with the Jefferson County Regional Crime Lab. She lives in Lumberton.

Adam Conrad '06, B.S. theatre, '08, M.S. theatre, '20, M.Ed. school counseling, teaches at Vidor High School and was named Region 5 Secondary Teacher of the Year. He lives in Bridge City.

Paul O'Brien '06, B.S. computer science, is a senior technician for Olsson in Omaha, Neb., where he and his wife, Sarah, live.

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

Michael Williams '06, B.S. electrical engineering, is an engineer with Applied Control Engineering in Houston. He and his wife and two sons live in Humble.

Jandy Brentlinger '07, teaches at Ridgewood Elementary in Port Neches. She lives in Port Neches with her husband, **Stephen** '07, B.B.A. management, who is a police officer with the Port Neches Police Department.

Macey (Joubert) Jackson '07, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, earned her Ed.D. in educational leadership and administration in 2021 and teaches at Vidor Middle School. She lives in Vidor.

Antoinette Mays '07, B.G.S. general studies, '12, B.A.A.S. applied arts and science, '16, M.Ed. clinical mental health counseling, is a board certified Christian counselor and owns Health Tranquility Peace Counseling Services. She lives in Beaumont.



ALPHA DELTA PI CARDINALS LEAD

Alumnae and collegiate members of the Delta Beta Chapter of Alpha Delta Pi connected on college colors day at the Alpha Delta Pi Sorority Inc. Grand Convention held June 22-26, 2022, in Orlando, Fla., at the Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista-Disney Springs Area Hotel. From left: Deanna Castillo '20, Kristeen (Nichols) Davis '90, Magellan (Taylor) Brickey -09, Pam (McKee) Durall '72 and current chapter president/LU student Rayleigh Stiles. At the convention, Davis was awarded the 2022 Mary Esther Hedley Van Akin Outstanding Advisor Award and Brickey was awarded the 2022 Outstanding Alumnae Association Board Member Award. Davis serves as chapter advisor to the UTSA Chapter of Alpha Delta Pi in San Antonio, and Magellan is the current president of the Texas State Alumnae Association of Alpha Delta Pi.



The LU Black Alumni Network chose Bar2200, owned by Dorwin Samuel '07, for its June 25, Houston-area alumni mixer.

Top row: Aaron Laverne '17, Brian Roberson '09, '10, Kelsi Caicedo '15, Weslynn (Taylor) Morris '17, Terry Savoy-Hadley '17, and Bryson Wilson '17; bottom row: Jasmine Toliver '17, Taylor Haynes '17, and Aliyah Thomas '16

Members of the Lamar University Black Alumni Network gathered at the Montagne Center on Feb. 19 for a meet and greet to welcome Coach Alvin Brooks '82 back to the nest and cheer on the Cardinals as they faced Stephen F. Austin.



Aaron Laverne, president; Shannon (Copeland) Figueroa '02, '03, '07, director of alumni affairs and advancement services, and Tondelyn (Donatto) Johnson '98, athletic events coordinator

Tondelyn (Donatto) Johnson '98 and Aaron Laverne '17 present a blanket to Coach Brooks to welcome him back to campus.

CLASS NOTES

Christian (Parker) Mukes '07, B.S. health education, '11, M.Ed. teacher leadership, owns Unique Interactions Events Planning and Consulting, which provides high-quality services for weddings, anniversaries, corporate events, parties, galas, fundraising and more in Houston. With her 18 years of experience, the company earned Wedding Wire Couples' Choice awards in 2018, 2020 and 2022 and was featured on Fox26 Houston and in People Magazine. She lives in Humble.

Ashley Spicer-Runnels '07, B.S. family and consumer sciences-family studies, '13, Ed.D. educational leadership, published *Prosper: A Guide to Discovering Your Best Self*. She lives in Cibolo with her husband **Christopher** '07, B.B.A. finance.

Heidi (Henry) Strandberg '07, B.S. communication, is principal of Mauriceville Middle School. She and her husband, Adam, live in Orange.

David Thompson '07, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is president and owner of A&A Equipment, a sales, service and rental provider of industrial pressure washers and cleaning supplies in Beaumont, where he and his wife, **Caralee (McDonald)** '95, B.S. communication, who works for CHRISTUS Southeast Texas Foundation, live.

Congratulations to **Brytni Borel** '08, B.S. communication disorders, and her husband, Tony, on the birth of their son, Tatum Cole, Dec. 28, 2020.

Katie (Whitney) Celli '08, is assistant director of client relations at Industrial Safety Training Council and is executive director of the Golden Triangle Business Roundtable. She and her husband, Frank, live in Beaumont.

Meagan Smith '08, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches at Sallie Curtis Elementary School in Beaumont and earned the teacher of the year titles for her school and district before capturing the Region V Elementary Teacher of the Year honor for 2021. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Daniel.

Sharon Boothe '09, M.Ed. educational administration, is superintendent of Greenville school district after serving as deputy superintendent of teaching and learning since 2017. She lives in Greenville.

Blaine Caillier '09, B.G.S. general studies, is senior vice president of First Financial Bank in Nederland, where he lives.

Jerome Delafosse '09, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, owns Beaumont Creative Learning Center, a childcare and preschool provider, in Beaumont, where he lives.

Kendall (Ridley) King '09, family and consumer sciences, earned her master's degree in public health in 2012 and B.S. in nursing in 2020. She is a lactation consultant for The Woman's Hospital of

Texas. She and her husband, Brian, live in Missouri City.

Rebecca Martinez '09, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '17, M.Ed. school counseling, earned her master's degree in library science in 2021 and is a librarian in Nederland school district. She lives in Groves.

Meghan (Scurria) Phares '09, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, and Jeremy Phares married Sept. 6, 2021. They live in Vidor.

Eliecia (Rogers) Rodrigues '09, B.M. music, and her husband, **Christopher** '08, B.S. chemical engineering, who is a process engineer for ExxonMobil Corp. live in Baytown.

Congratulations to **Laura Terry-Brown** '09 on the birth of her second son, Barrett Walker. They live in Round Rock.

Russell VanHoose '09, M.Ed. educational administration, is a learning experience designer for the National Alliance for Insurance Education and Research in Austin. He and his spouse, Kenneth, live in New Braunfels.

10s

Laura (Whitmire) Backer '10, B.A. psychology, earned a master's degree in higher education and student affairs in 2012. She is director of admissions at Notre Dame High School in St. Louis. She and her husband, Stephen, married in 2016, had their first child in 2019 and live in Fenton, Mo.

Michaela (McCoy) Bratsch '10, B.S. chemistry, earned a Ph.D. in chemistry in 2015 and teaches chemistry and physics at Angleton High School. She and her husband, **Keegan** '11, B.S. civil engineering, who is an engineer with Hahn & Clay, live in Manvel.

Brittini (Roye) Castilaw '10, marketing, '10, Spanish, is owner and founder of Backstage Digital, a digital marketing agency in The Woodlands. Prior to founding the business in 2017, she worked for Singapore Airlines, national marketing agencies and international media companies. She and her husband, Cody '10, B.B.A. management information systems, who is system administrator for Tejas Research and Engineering, live in Montgomery.

Garland Chenier '10, B.B.A. marketing, owns Kashmere Productions Event Co. in Houston. He has worked in all aspects of the industry as a trendsetting event planner and producer, valuing detail, creativity, concept design, enthusiasm and excellence. He and his wife, **Shaila** '11, B.S. communication disorders, who is a speech therapist, live in Porter with their daughter, Kaylee.

Congratulations to **Lauren (Huebel) Dell** '10, B.G.S. general studies, and her husband Charles on the birth of their daughter, Abigail Elizabeth, Aug. 21, 2021.



Alumni and faculty hosts with President Taylor: front row: Courtney (Laughlin) Stokely '15, Dr. Linda Ray '78, Lucia (Ornelas) Babar '14, Jaime Taylor, Quade Robertson '17, Veronica (Hayes) Gromada '96, and Stephen Lee '89, Back Row: Ian Lian, associate professor of biology; Randall Terry, chair and associate professor of biology; Tracy Benson, interim chair and professor of chemical engineering; Sushil Doranga '09, assistant professor of mechanical engineering; J. Don Warren Jr. '63, professor of accounting and director of the School of Accounting and Information Systems; and Thomas Sowers, chair and associate professor of political science

A DINNER AND CONVERSATION

Successful alumni hosted tables of students majoring in matching fields of study to offer career advice and career exploration Feb. 22.



Lucia (Ornelas) Babar '14 and Tracy Benson, interim chair and professor of chemical engineering



Dr. Linda Ray '78 and Joanne Brown '81, major gifts officer, Division of University Advancement

Kalan Bonnette and Ayo Oni '22

Shannon (Copeland) Figueroa '02, '03, '07, Maissa Salibi, Natalia Doiron, Sindi Castillo, Amarie Guillory and Conner Montgomery



Ryan Shugart, Natalia Doiron, Stefany Rico and Folasade Asoro



President Taylor and Obi Emeh '22



Health professions table led by alumna Courtney (Laughlin) Stokley '15, physician assistant, and faculty host Ian Lian



Chemical engineering table led by alumna Lucia (Ornelas) Babar '14, engineer, and faculty host Tracy Benson



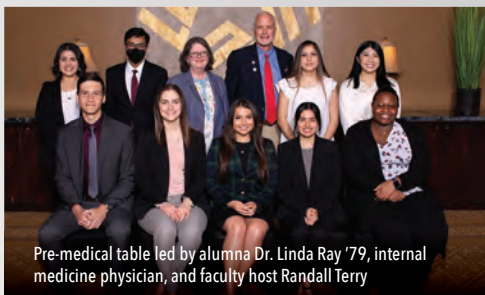
Business table led by alumnus TSUS Regent Stephen Lee '89 and faculty host J. Don Warren Jr. '63



Engineering table led by alumnus Quade Robertson '17, engineer, and faculty host Dr. Sushil Doranga '09



Pre-law table led by alumna Veronica (Hayes) Gromada '96, attorney, and faculty host Thomas Sowers



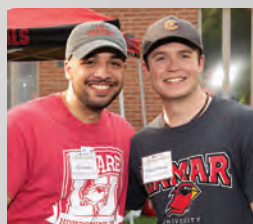
Pre-medical table led by alumna Dr. Linda Ray '79, internal medicine physician, and faculty host Randall Terry



Vavah Kamasu-Quashie, Landon Richard '22 and Chloe Raczkovi



President Taylor does a physics experiment with Stacy Taylor and David Williams '22



Ali Hamza '22 and Cade Pellerin '22

Juan '07 and Peggy Zabala with Stefany Rico

LU AMBASSADORS WELCOME DINNER AND SENIOR RECOGNITION PARTY

President and Mrs. Taylor hosted a dinner at their home to welcome new student ambassadors and to recognize graduating senior ambassadors May 2.

Julie Garcia '10, B.S. communication, is now senior communications associate with Baylor College of Medicine after working for 12 years as a journalist in Beaumont, Port Arthur, Corpus Christi, Victoria and Houston, where she lives.

Ginger (Childree) Horn '10, B.A. history, married Matt Horn Nov. 6, 2021. They live in Nederland.

The Mississippi Museum of Art chose a wire and wood modern art sculpture, titled "Welcome Home," by **Paula McClain** '10, M.Ed. administration, to exhibit during its Artist's Invitation Show Aug.-Nov. 2021. The sculpture portrays the bond of a family, strong and unbroken. She lives in Brandon, Miss., and teaches art at Brandon High School.

Jeff Moreau '10, B.S. electrical engineering, is a senior electrical engineer for ATSI in Port Neches, where he lives.

Jamie (Due) Reese '10 welcomed her son Wilson Robert Sept. 29, 2021. They live in Nederland.

Nicholas Rolling '10, B.B.A. finance, owns Rolling Motors, a car buying service in Houston, where he lives.

Mariantonieta Gutierrez Soto '10, B.S. civil engineering, is an assistant professor with Penn State's Engineering Design Program. She lives in State College, Penn.

Murrell Stewart '10, M.Ed. administration, '19, Ed.D. educational leadership, is principal of George C. Marshall Middle School in Beaumont school district, where he and his wife, **Khaliyah (Neloms)** '13, B.A.A.S., applied arts and sciences, live.

Mandy Traylor '11, M.Ed. administration, is superintendent of Veribest school district. She lives in Veribest.

Lauren (Austin) '11, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, and **Aaron Aguilard** '11, B.S. mechanical engineering, welcomed their son, Samuel Oliver, Oct. 15, 2021. They have a daughter named Abigail and live in Port Neches.

Harry Lee Allen Jr. '11, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, owns Brown Academy of Sports, which provides semi-private sessions supervised by a personal trainer, in Highlands, where he lives.

Stephany Brown '11, M.Ed. educational administration, began her career as a teacher 19 years ago and is assistant principal of Lomax Junior High School in La Porte school district. She lives in Friendswood.

Amber (Alexander) Clark '11, B.G.S. general studies, earned her master's degree in educational leadership in 2015 and her doctorate in higher education leadership in 2021. She is director of administration for Lamar Institute of Technology. She and her husband, Gregory, live in Beaumont.

Amy Clark '11, M.Ed. administration, is the at-risk coordinator at the University

High School in Waco school district, where she lives.

Christopher Collier '11, B.S. communication, earned an executive master's degree in public administration in 2012 and was a visiting professor of government at Houston Community College. He lives in Houston.

Matthew Fischer '11, B.B.A. general business, entrepreneurship, management, '14, M.B.A. business administration, owns The Matthew Fischer Real Estate Team in Beaumont, where he lives.

Christine (Felix) Herndon '11, B.S. chemistry, and Brent Herndon, welcomed their son Benjamin Thomas Aug. 6, 2021. They live in Austin.

Congratulations to **Casey King** '11, B.B.A. management, on the birth of his daughter, Dionne Elizabeth, on Aug. 26, 2021. He lives in Houston.

Morgan (Jones) Miller '11, B.B.A., and Austin '12, B.S. mechanical engineering, welcomed their twins Evelyn and Alexander July 7, 2021. They were born prematurely at 28 weeks—Evelyn at 2 lbs. 2 oz. and Alexander at 2 lbs, 9 oz. Morgan is a photographer, and she and Austin co-own Leo Weeks Photography. They live in Port Arthur.

Kemon Neal '11, B.B.A. management, is a managed solutions consultant for Fidelity Investments. He lives in Dallas.

Ashley (Shearer) Ramos '11, B.S. criminal justice, joined Ramey, Chandler, Quinn and Zito, PC as an attorney. She and her husband, Juan '14, B.B.A. management information systems, live in Beaumont. Juan is an inventory control analyst for ExxonMobil.

Sharita Gardner '12, B.S. communication, is public affairs and communications manager for the Port of Port Arthur. She lives in Beaumont.

Amber Isaacs '12, B.S. family and consumer sciences—nutrition, dietetics, hospitality, '13, M.S. family and consumer sciences, owns Bearing Fruit, where they make all-natural health and beauty products. She lives in Livingston.

Adrienne (Davis) Lott '12, M.Ed. counseling and development, is the media and communication specialist for Port Arthur school district, where she lives.

Shakib Reza '12, M.E.S. civil engineering science, is a structural engineer with IDOM. He lives in Plymouth, Minn.

Amanda Schrepel '12, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches sixth and seventh grade science at Armstrong Middle School in Plano school district, where she lives.

Lauren (Sandefer) Shockley '12, B.S. criminal justice, '17, B.S. sociology, '19, M.P.H. public health, is a staff epidemiologist-generalist with the City of Houston Health Department. She and her husband, Ryan, live in Spring.

CLASS NOTES

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Alumni and friends gathered April 23 at a special awards ceremony honoring the 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients: Orlando Alvarez '87, Myrna (Pirack) Dunnam '67, Frank Messina '71 and Julie Wenah '08.



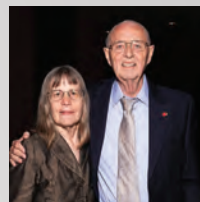
Group -- Distinguished alumni with President Taylor: Frank Messina '71, Julie Wenah '08, Jaime Taylor, Myrna Dunnam '67 and Orlando Alvarez '87



Frank Messina '71 and 2006 Distinguished Alumnus Wayne Reaud



Orlando Alvarez '87 and Ricky Blackwell '93

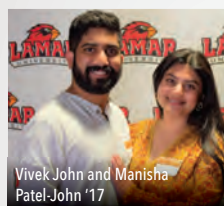


Myrna (Pirack) '67 and Milton Dunnam

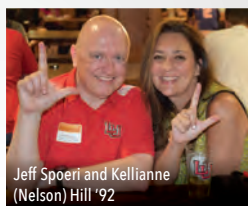
Andre Ward '10, Felicia Wenah '11, Julie Wenah '08, Karen (Jones) Thomas '77, '09, Ashley Spicer-Runnels '07, '13, and Dakota Doman '08, '11



Cleve Glenn '00 and Uliana Trylowsky



Vivek John and Manisha Patel-John '17



Jeff Spoeri and Kellianne (Nelson) Hill '92



Ryan Donina '18, Luke Nguyen '22 and Bryce Tallarita '21

HOUSTON-AREA ALUMNI and friends gathered at Saint Arnold Brewing Co. May 17 to enjoy conversation and delicious food and brews.



Unnalisha LaRue '07 and Megan Ellison '21



Rebecca (Higginbotham) Robertson '16, Leah Trevino '15, Quade Robertson '17, Austin Rodriguez '15 and Ryan Donina '18



Black Alumni Network members Aaron Layerghie '17, Bryson Wilson '17, Jasmine Toliver '17, Taylor Haynes '17, Aliyah Thomas '16, Kelsi Caicedo '15 and Brian Roberson '09, '10

LU GAINS OMICRON DELTA KAPPA CHARTER

Lamar University chartered a circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society, at LU March 3. The group of more than 40 members included faculty, staff, administrators and student leaders as founding members of the circle. Omicron Delta Kappa President and CEO Tara S. Singer presided over the ceremony.



Alumni with faculty and staff: Brandie Van Zanden, Nick Lampson '68, '74, Lance Taylor '20, '21, Tea (Nguyen) Do '08, Ginger Gummelt, Freddie Titus '83, '86, Brenna (Gordon) Rodriguez '04, Hector Flores '16, '20, Shannon (Copeland) Figueroa '02, '03, '07, Lynn Maurer, Brenda Nichols, Dawanna Jones '06, '11, Nathan Sanders, Kristin Helm, Josh Davis '11, '15, '19, Celine Do '18, Paul Howell '12, '16, Nutan Ashok Chougule '22, Jason Harrington '06, Maegan Collins '16, '18, Daylyn Turner '07, Morgan Pulliam and Daniel Cruz '18

Sissy (Smyrl) Sparacino '12, M.Ed. administration, owns the travel agency Travels with Sissy in Conroe, where she and her husband, Donald, live.

Hilary Allen '13, B.S. geology, '17, M.B.A. business administration, founded her bakery, Opan and Onyx Cookie Co., in her home and opened a store front in Boerne, where she lives, in August 2021.

Lachell (Williams) '13, B.B.A. management information systems, '15, M.B.A. business administration, and Leonard Bradley '14, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, welcomed their first baby, a son, Leonard Charles Jr., Nov. 15, 2021. They live in Baytown.

Ashley (Landry) Collier '13, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is a realtor and owns The Collier Real Estate Team in Houston. She lives in Humble.

Hilary (Allen) Deville '13, B.S. geology, '17, M.B.A. business administration, owns Opal & Onyx Cookie Co. specializing in gourmet homestyle cookies in Boerne, where she lives.

Dr. Joel Edgar '13, B.S. mathematics, is a dentist at Advanced Dentistry of Spring, and his wife **Heather (Daniel)** '13, B.A. Spanish, teaches at Sidney Lanier Middle School in Houston school district. They live in Spring.

Holli Farias '13, M.Ed. administration, is principal of Evadale High School. She lives in Buna.

Quentin Jiles '13, B.S.W. social work, earned a master's degree in social work and owns Just Jiles Productions. He creates, writes, produces and stars in the Youtube and Instagram show "The Queue with Que. He lives in Houston.

Jesi (Courville) '13, B.S.W. social work, and Blake Jones welcomed their fourth child, Marshall Hayes, in August 2021. They live in China, where Jesi is the operations manager for Courville's Catering and Special Events.

Darius '13, B.S. construction management, and **Enger (King) Miller** '13, B.S. communication, welcomed their second child, daughter Harper Marie Feb. 14, 2021. Darius is the owner/founder of Millerboys Outdoors where he does taxidermy. Enger is a pediatric sales representative at Abbott Labs. They live in Beaumont.

Nathan Mistic '13, B.B.A. entrepreneurship and general business, '21, M.B.A. business administration, is outside sales at M&D Supply. He and his wife, with **Megan (Fournier)** '13, B.G.S. general studies, welcomed baby number three, AnnMarie, who joins her brothers Forrest and Maverick. Megan is director of client services for Nutrition Services for Seniors. They live in Nederland.

Doug Prewitt '13, married Lauren Handzlik Aug. 28, 2021. They live in San Francisco, Calif., where Doug is a marketing manager for VISA Inc.

Ashley (Estes) St. Clair '13, M.Ed. school counseling, '21, M.S. nutrition, is a nutritionist and owns Wellness with Ashley in Irving, where she and her husband, Luke, live.

Nicole (Quibodeaux) Toney '13, B.S. graphic design, is marketing coordinator for the Medical Center of Southeast Texas. She lives in Bridge City with her husband, Matthew.

Lisa Topping '13, B.S. psychology, married Caleigh Barrow, Aug. 19, 2021. They live in England, where Lisa is a business intelligence manager for EFL Trust.

Charles (Reed) Anyichie '14, B.B.A. marketing, is executive chef and owner of Cooking with Flavour, a restaurant and caterer located in southeast Houston, offering private and corporate catering and event space rental.

Matthew Calvert '14, B.G.S. general studies, teaches special education at Henderson Middle School and is the Hardin Jefferson High School boys' soccer coach. He earned his master's degree in sports administration, and he and his wife, **Amanda** '13, B.S. communication disorders live in Sour Lake.

Ryan Dollinger '14, B.S.W. social work, is a licensed clinical social worker with the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center and lives in Houston.

Lachelle (Lavalais) Edwards '14, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is the music teacher at Lakeview Elementary School in Port Arthur school district. In addition to being a worship leader, vocalist for The FLAVA Band of SETX and part-time chapel musician, she started her own business, Mrs. E's Keys Musical Academy and Entertainment Co. to bring vocal and instrument lessons to the Southeast Texas community. She and her husband, Jacoby, and their three children, Jacoby Jr., Lance and Layah live in Port Arthur.

Taylor (Miller) Henderson '14, M.B.A. business administration, is associate director of career services at the Mays Business School of Texas A&M University. She and her husband, Jason, live in College Station.

Madison (Trevino) Kitchens '14, B.S. mathematics, married Jay Kitchens Oct. 16, 2021. They live in Port Arthur.

Alycia (Ulrich) '14, B.S. graphic design, and Wade Konvicka welcomed their daughter, Wilhelmina, in August 2021. They live in Schulenburg.

Shishir Mahmood '14, M.Eng. mechanical engineering, is senior manufacturing engineer for rocket propulsion for Aerojet Rocketdyne. He lives in El Dorado, Ark.

Thomas Neal '14, B.S. chemical engineering, is a senior process engineer with Indorama Ventures in Port Neches. He lives in Nederland.

Dr. William Pickard '14, B.S. biology, earned his medical degree in

osteopathic medicine in 2018 and is a family medicine physician with Christus Trinity Clinic in Port Arthur, where he and his wife, **Erin (Binagia)** '10, B.S. biology, '11, M.S. biology, who earned her D.V.M. in 2015 and is a veterinarian, live.

Lauren Robinson '14, B.S. psychology, earned a master's degree in social work in 2019 and is a school social worker for Aldine school district. She and her husband, **James** '13, B.A. kinesiology, who teaches physical education at Pugh Elementary School, live in Houston.

Brooke (Crowell) Tanton '14, B.S. speech and hearing sciences, '16, M.S. speech language pathology, is a speech language pathologist with the Big Thicket Co-Op in Kountze and West Hardin school districts. She lives in Lumberton.

Daniel Ward '14, B.S. civil engineering, is a manager with Grant Thornton. He lives in San Diego.

Krista Adams '15, B.S. fashion retailing and merchandising, is a purchaser with the Texas Department of Transportation. She lives in Bridge City.

Lianne (Gravis) Allen '15, B.S. criminal justice, '21, M.S. criminal justice, is a community supervision officer in Jasper. She and her husband, Mark, live in Orange.

Raviteja "Ravi" Boyanapalli '15, M.E.M. engineering management, is a software engineer for Management Science Associates Inc. in Pittsburgh, Pa. He and his wife, Joshnavi, live in Monroeville, Pa.

Mallory (Raborn) '15, B.S. speech and hearing sciences, and **Brett Brown** '16, B.S. kinesiology, welcomed their son, Case Davis, Sept. 26, 2021. She is a speech language pathologist and he is a teacher and coach, both for Nederland school district, where they live.

Shelby Davidson '15, Ed.D. educational leadership, is a principal in Van school district, where he and his wife, Amanda, live. He recently completed a certificate in school management and leadership from Harvard Business School and Harvard Graduate School of Education. He also completed a certificate of biblical counseling at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and is pastor of New Beginnings Community Church in Van.

Jennifer (Clarkson) Frazier '15, M.Ed. school counseling, is director of athletics for McKinney school district. She lives in Celina.

Scott Howard '15, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a coach and owner of Impact Sports Training, a basketball training program for kids across Southeast Texas from elementary through high school in Beaumont, where he lives.

Gene Powell '55, B.B.A. general business, began working in the oil

and gas industry at Oil Well Supply in 1955 before venturing out to start his own business in 1963 as Gene Powell and E-Tex Will Service. In 1982, that business became known as Gene Powell Investments Inc. He lives in Longview.

Breanna Ross '15, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches sixth grade language at Hamshire Fannett Middle School. She lives in Beaumont.

Lauren (LeBlanc) '15, B.B.A. accounting, and **Jacob Scully** '15, B.B.A. management and general business, welcomed their daughter Peyton Rose in August 2021. They live in Pearland.

Samon Tahir '15, M.B.A. business administration, is a recruiting coordinator for Rimkus Consulting Group in Houston. She and her husband, Hammad Rasul, live in Katy.

Alex Westbrook '15, B.A. history, lives in Dallas and is coordinator of communications and public relations for Invitation Homes. He married Shelby Allen Sept. 27, 2021. They live in Fort Worth.

Lauren (Schuldt) Wilson '15, B.A. English, earned her master's degree in English in 2018 and is a development coordinator with LU's Division of University Advancement. She and her husband, Derek, live in Beaumont.

Kristen Woods '15, B.S. kinesiology, '15, M.Ed. administration, is a behavior support teacher at Henderson Middle School in Hardin-Jefferson school district. She lives in Vidor.

Kelsey Young '15, B.S. psychology, earned a master's degree in sports management and is manager of donor relations for the 12th Man Foundation. She lives in College Station.

Adrienne (Bourque) Angelle '16, B.S. communication, and **Chase Angelle** '14, B.B.A. accounting, welcomed a baby in May 2021. They live in Houston.

Natalie Avery '16, B.S. communication, is director of communications for the Westwood School. She lives in Dallas.

Rachel Bingham '16, B.S. psychology, married Santos Acosta Oct. 2, 2021. They live in Charlottesville, Va.

Holden Butler '16, married Karington Thurston Oct. 9, 2021. They live in Nederland.

Jessieca (Brock) Clark '16, B.B.A. human resource management, is the human resource generalist at Langan Engineering & Environmental Services. She and her husband, Corday, live in Katy.

Elizabeth (Alred) Francis '16, M.Ed. special education, teaches fifth grade at Mohawk Elementary School. She lives in Richardson with her husband, **Ronald** '12, M.Ed. administration.

Amber Grady '16, M.Ed. administration, '20, Ed.D. educational leadership, is associate principal of Lake Olympia Middle School in Fort Bend school district and was selected as the 2021 Texas Association of Secondary School Principals Assistant Principal of the Year.



WE LOVE OUR ALUMNI BUSINESS OWNERS!

Let us send you a little something to dress up your entrance and thank you for all you do for our community!

lamar.edu/alumniowned

Christopher Hagner '16, is manager of business intelligence for Oklahoma City Thunder. He lives in Edmond, Okla.

Tempist Haywood '16, B.S. psychology, owns StormiCreations, a custom merchandise shop she founded in 2019, and Storm Moon Studio, a yoga studio and metaphysical/crystal shop she founded in 2020. She earned a master's degree in May 2021 and lives in Katy.

Rebekah (Drummond) Hunt '16, B.B.A. retail management, '17, M.B.A. business administration, is administrative manager at Southwest Marine Construction in Lake Charles, where she lives with her husband **Matt** '17, B.S. mechanical engineering, who is a mechanical drafter with Citadel Completions.

Diana Inostroza '16, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, and her life partner **Courtney Clark** '16, B.F.A. graphic design, a graphic designer with Houston Methodist, own D&C Air Fresheners, which produces handmade air fresheners in different shapes, tins and sachets. They live in Missouri City.

Gov. Greg Abbott appointed **Emmitt Jackson Jr.** '16, M.S. criminal justice, to the Texas Crime Victims Institute Advisory Council for a term to expire Jan. 31, 2023. He is chief of police for the Argyle Police Department.

Chelsea Maier '16, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, owns Bawdy in Richmond, a fitness brand that offers fitness equipment, apparel and both pre-made and custom fitness plan programs. She lives in Richmond.

Preston Mattingly '16, B.S. communication, is director of player development for the Phillies after five seasons with the San Diego Padres, including a year as their coordinator of major league advance scouting and game-planning. He lives in Phoenix, Ariz.

Jorden Moore '16, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is an organ placement specialist with LifeGift Organ Donation Center. She lives in Rosenberg.

Maci Morris '16, B.S. biology, teaches science at Nederland High School. She lives in Nederland with her husband **Levi** '16, B.S. mathematics, who is a



ABU SIMBEL: Roger McCabe, Sharon (Smith) McCabe '83, '89, Tillie Hickman, Peggy Zabala, Juan Zabala '07, and Brenda (Long) Jackson '68



PYRAMIDS OF GIZA - Brenda (Long) Jackson '68, Tillie Hickman, Peggy Zabala, Juan Zabala '07, Sharon (Smith) McCabe '83, '89, and Roger McCabe



Janice Kite '62, Ellen King '64 and Nancy Sunkel dined on the first-class MS Amadeus Classic cruise ship.



Tillie Hickman with her ride



Nancy Sunkel, Janice Kite '62, Ellen King '64 and Maria Robertson visit a windmill.

CARDINAL ADVENTURES

Alumni and friends floated along Dutch Waterways with LU's travel partner, AHI Inc. April 22-30. They witnessed the Netherlands in full bloom during its glorious tulip season, took a boat trip through Amsterdam's picturesque canals, explored the beautiful gardens blossoming at Floriade Expo 2022, and admired Antwerp's medieval treasures in the colorful Old Town.

Alumni and friends traveled to Egypt with LU's travel partner, TRIPS Inc. They explored the treasures of the Nile River, saw sand-covered tombs, austere pyramids and towering pharaonic temples. They visited the Valley of Kings in Luxor where Tutankhamen's tomb was unearthed, the Egyptian Museum in Cairo and even rode camels Feb. 24-March 5, 2022.

Photos submitted by Juan and Peggy Zabala and Tillie Hickman

Kristin Matthews '20, B.S. nursing, completed her cardiovascular nursing certification and works in the Cardiovascular Intermediate Care Unit at the Texas Medical Center in Houston, where she lives.

Josie Moore '20, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, and Nickolas Creel married Jan. 16, 2021. She teaches fourth grade math at Sour Lake Elementary School in Hardin-Jefferson school district. They live in Sour Lake.

Kelly (Clements) Nevarez '20, M.Ed. school counseling, is a school counselor for Watkins Middle School in Cyfair school district. She and her husband, Benjamin, live in Cypress.

Soccer player **Esther Okoronkwo** '20, B.G.S. general studies, signed with the AS Saint-Etienne, a soccer team in the first division in France, in August 2021. She lives in Nigeria.

Juan Carlos Martinez Pinzon '20, M.Ed. mental health counseling, is a fatherhood initiative and engagement specialist with Baker Ripley. He and his wife, Sonia, live in Houston.

Ryan Rippeon '20, B.B.A. marketing, married Madison "Maddie" McClain Nov. 13, 2021. They live in Beaumont.

Demi Schlageter '20, B.S.W. social work, is youth program director at Harvest House in Beaumont. She lives in Nederland.

Emily (Montellano) '20, M.Ed. digital learning and leading, married Andres Soto Oct. 8, 2021. They live in Clint.

Brandon Swate '20, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a certified real estate appraiser and owns Swate Appraisal Services. He and his wife, Jennifer, live in Crosby.

Logan Thompson '20, B.B.A. finance, is a confirmations analyst for Motiva Enterprises in Houston, where he lives.

Ke'Eria Watkins '20, M.P.H. public health, owns and directs Sky Is the Limit Learning Center in Port Arthur, where she lives.

Samantha Arthur '21, B.B.A. general business, is a human resources assistant with Broussard's Mortuary Inc. She lives in Beaumont.

Lee Ann Braun '21, M.Ed. educational administration, is a writer in health economics and outcomes research for Open Health. She lives in Irving.

Caleb Brown '21, M.P.H. public health, is a project coordinator and prevention specialist with the Baylor College of Medicine AIDS Education Training Center. Houston's ABC13 recently featured his advocacy work to help end the HIV epidemic. He lives in Houston.

Braydee Bryan '21, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches sixth grade math at Port Neches Middle School. She lives in Port Neches.

Azineth (Miranda) Buan '21, Ed.D. educational leadership, is a math department head in Port Arthur school district, where she and her husband, Conrad, live.

Rachel Campbell '21, M.B.A. business administration, is executive director of events for JDC Unlimited Productions. She lives in Grapevine.

Carli Cates '21, B.G.S. general studies, teaches second grade at Hillcrest Elementary School in Nederland. She lives in Groves with her fiancé, Zachary '22, B.S. biology.

Kimberly Cook '21, M.P.H. public health, has been promoted to laboratory

manager with Clinical Laboratory. She lives in Houston.

Margaret Fazio '21, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches in Hampshire Fannett school district and owns Shining Star Embroidery in Beaumont, where she lives.

Cypria (Morgan) Flowers '21, exercise science fitness management, is assistant director of Discovery Learning Center. She and her husband, Aaron, live in Beaumont.

Madelyn Hamilton '21, B.B.A. management, and Taylor Eubanks welcomed son Myles Taylor in October 2021. They live in Orange.

Stephanie (Kirby) Harris '21, M.B.A. business administration, is director of public affairs and marketing at Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Joshua '06, B.S. health and kinesiology, who teaches at Fletcher Elementary School.

Loren Hebert '21, M.S. management information systems, is a professional services consultant with CentralSquare Technologies in Lake Mary, Fla. He and his wife, Mary, live in Cordova, Tenn.

Ashlynn Johnson '21, B.G.S. general studies, is a teacher and coach at Vidor Junior High School. She lives in Orange.

Naresh Koppela '21, M.S. computer science, is an SAS programmer with Neostride. He lives in Tampa, Fla.

Katelyn Maxwell '21, B.S. mathematics and mechanical engineering, is a spacesuit project engineer for Aerodyne, a contractor at NASA's Johnson Space Center. She lives in Port Arthur.

Jenna McArthur '21, M.Ed. administration, is a teacher and lives in Belton.

Mariah McCoy '21, B.B.A. accounting, is an accountant with BDO USA. She lives in Houston.

Nicholas Nelson '21, M.S. management information systems, is an I/E supervisor ONEOK. He and his wife, LaRisa, live in Baytown.

Ayana Robinson '21, B.B.A. human resource management, founded Bloss Event Designs in 2021, a luxury balloon design business in Houston, where she lives.

Yesenia (Loera) Romo '21, is a banking analyst with Texas Capital Bank. She lives in Houston.

Tynisha (Joubert) Smith '21, M.Ed. counseling and development, was named the 2020-2021 Teacher of the Year for Mission Glen Elementary School in Fort Bend school district. She teaches third grade and lives in Houston.

Wesley Stapleton '21, B.S. political science, teaches world history and economics at Lumberton High School. He lives in Lumberton.

Dulce Rodriguez Valazquez '21, B.B.A. human resource management, is a data entry assistant in advancement services for LU's Division of University Advancement while she pursues her master's degree in Beaumont, where she lives.

Alden White '21, M.S. criminal justice, is a police officer in Minnesota. He lives in Hudson, Wis.



MARK YOUR
CALENDAR
NOV. 19

Golden Circle 1924-1972
Classes of 1970-1972
lamar.edu/alumni

CARDINAL *love stories*

Sojourner (Stephens) '96, '08, and Brian McLemore '06, '14

We met in Psalms 150 Gospel Choir in August 1994. Our first date was the South Texas State Fair, and it has been a wonderful “ride” the last 24 years. We were married in December 1997. We have three daughters and reside in Houston where we work as school administrators.

Lauren (Holt) '09 and Grant Snyder '10, '19

Grant and I met when we were in nursing prerequisite classes together. I entered the nursing program, and he did the same a year later. Once dating, I saw he had a very familiar hat that reminded me of one I saw a guy wearing in my algebra class my very first semester at Lamar. He would always walk up the auditorium stairs, and I would think how bad that hat looked. What a small world. It was him! It was the same hat I always thought looked so silly. We dated all through nursing school, worked at Baptist and St. Elizabeth Hospitals and were married in 2012. We now have two girls and are enjoying living our lives together! The hat though—I haven't seen it in a long time.

Renee (Morris) '11, '20, and Zach Celeste '11

My wife and I went to high school together at Kelly High School. We never said a word to each other, aside from the one time I asked her for graph paper. I always had a crush on her. After high school, I found out she was going to Lamar. We met at a friend's house and exchanged numbers. One morning, weeks later, I sat in the parking lot at Lamar (before some kind of introduction to golf class) trying to figure out how to ask her to go to lunch. I ended up missing class because I sat there too long. Ultimately, all I was able to muster up was, “Wanna go get Jason's for lunch?” Real smooth talker, I know. Anyway, it was our first date, even though she didn't know it was our first date. Now that we're married and have a beautiful daughter, I think she knows that. She and my daughter are my world. I'll never forget sitting in the parking lot at Lamar typing out the perfect text message for two hours—totally worth it!





Christy (Thompson) '93 and Jason Black '95

Jason and I met in 1991 when I worked as a lifeguard at the recreation center and he was the president of Pi Kappa Alpha at Lamar University. We married in 1994 surrounded by members of his fraternity and lots of Lamar University graduates. After 30 years together, we continue to attend Lamar University football, basketball games and alumni events. #matchmadeatlu #luproud

Hannah (Meyer) '20 and Christian Jack '21

Hannah and I met in our freshman semester at Lamar, fall of 2017, immediately following the devastation of Hurricane Harvey. We shared a few classes throughout our first and second year, wherein we quickly became great friends. In our junior year, we were cast as lovers in the production of *La Canterina* by Lamar Opera Theater. The rest is history. We began dating, got engaged and eventually got married in July of 2021—the height of the coronavirus pandemic. I say, “Our love has outlasted both a hurricane and a pandemic; who knows what we’ll be able to add to the résumé! . . . and to think it all started at Lamar University.”

Victoria Simon '20 and Saúl Ochoa '20

We met in engineering economics a couple of years into engineering school. We continued to be friends and study for different classes in the same group. It wasn't until late fall of 2019 that we started dating where I joked Saúl had to ask me out in an unforgettable way to make it official. During winter break on a trip to Peru in Jan. 2020, Saúl asked me to make it official at the top of Machu Picchu (How could you ever say no to that?!). We graduated in May 2020 with our bachelors' in chemical engineering and been together over two years. Saúl works at Chevron Phillips Chemical, and I work for Coastal Automation Services engineering firm. We enjoy traveling (safely) as much as possible and working on projects at the house. Thanks LU!



Submit your Cardinal Love Story at
lamar.edu/cardinallovestory



LAMAR UNIVERSITY

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM™

P.O. BOX 10011
BEAUMONT, TX 77710

CONNECT WITH US!



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 502
BEAUMONT, TX



LU'S ANNUAL DAY OF GIVING

RED DAY

SEPT. 15-16 12 NOON-12 NOON

EARLY GIVING BEGINS SEPT. 9

LAMAR.EDU/REDDAY



Mystery Photos

Do you have a clue?

We don't know who they are but someone out there may! Do you recognize the Cards in this photo and can you name the year?

Help LU Archives put names to faces.

(409) 880-7787 or pclark@lamar.edu

Courtesy The LU 100 Project