

CARDINAL CADENCE

THE MAGAZINE OF LAMAR UNIVERSITY

VOL. 50, NO. 3 | WINTER 2022



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| FROM THE **PRESIDENT** |



As my connection to Lamar University and the people here has deepened over the last year and a half, I am moved by the generosity and expansive thinking of our alumni. Lamar University has a unique way of connecting people together across different times and places. The University not only becomes an indelible part of our students' identities but also a part of their opportunities. And so when our alumni eventually find themselves in a position to provide new opportunities to others, they don't hesitate. And the Cardinal nest grows larger and more secure.


The autumn issue of *Cadence* unpacks this pattern again and again. Lance Taylor '20, '21, for example, benefited greatly from a highly competitive Walmart internship opportunity,

made known to him through his membership in the LU Association of Latino Professionals for America. Now his work as a financial analyst at Walmart involves, among other things, recruiting great candidates from LU for jobs and internships at Walmart. He put it best when he said, "I don't want to just give back; I want to be a resource." It's this kind of thinking that will help Lamar University move to the next level.

Sometimes our alumni encounter the Cardinal connection when they least expect it. Last year, three of our alumni found themselves together in Guatemala doing humanitarian work through Refuge International. Dr. Ken Eveland '68, who has served as longtime medical director of the project, at first did not know his physician's assistant and nurse's assistant were more recent LU grads. Only after the three of them came to know each other better during their time there did they discover their shared ties. Dr. Eveland considers it an honor and privilege to be given the opportunity to mentor other Lamar University alumni in the field. But he also expressed faith and enormous pride in the humanitarian commitment displayed by Patricie Stephens '14 and Tim Pallone '07. They themselves are the mentors of the future.

I hope you are as inspired by this issue of *Cadence* as I am. It showcases several alumni and local supporters who see Lamar University as a place worthy of their time, art, resources and talents. Please enjoy the issue, and continue to share your Lamar University story every day, wherever you go.

With Cardinal Pride,


Jaime R. Taylor, President



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VOL. 50, NO. 3 | WINTER 2022

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Schnick

creates unique gifts to inspire next generation, honor parents

by Natalie Frels-Busby



Dr. John Schnick '68 is not interested in his own legacy. Though he has made generous donations to both Lamar University and the University of Texas Medical Branch, Schnick said that upon his death, he hopes to inspire the next generation of physicians and musicians at LU.

A scholarship has been pledged to Lamar University students and graduates attending the University of Texas Medical Branch to help those with financial need. LU will also benefit from Dr. Schnick's gift of a piano.

Schnick's combined gifts—designed as a planned gift with the Lamar University Foundation Inc. designated as beneficiary—will create multimillion-dollar endowments to support LU students.

Not only is he an alumnus, but Schnick is a legacy student, as his father attended South Park Junior College. Both his brother and sister also graduated from Lamar University, and he is establishing a scholarship in honor of his parents, William Burl Schnick and LaDonna C. Schnick.

"I want to honor my parents. [This scholarship] will honor their legacy by hopefully giving others an opportunity to attend LU. And there's absolutely a family connection to Lamar University," he said.

After a successful career in the medical field, Schnick still looks upon his time at LU fondly.

"My experience was very, very positive. If it hadn't been for Lamar University, I wouldn't be where I am now," he said. "It gave me the foundation to grow and develop into a mature adult."

Schnick was in the band and a member of Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity, where he served terms as the fraternity's secretary and vice president. He also served as the band representative to the Student Government Association House of Representatives and was a Lamar University Ambassador.

After graduating from Lamar State College of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 1968, Schnick then attended the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, where he earned his medical degree. He practiced medicine with the Hillcroft Medical Clinic as a family practitioner in Houston until his retirement. In the latter stage of his career, Schnick also served as chief operations officer of the Hillcroft Medical Clinic. As a medical professional, he served as a clinical assistant professor at both Baylor College of Medicine and UT Health Science Center in Houston.

Though Schnick played the baritone during his time at Lamar, he said his passion belongs to the piano.

Upon his death, Schnick will also gift his beloved Bösendorfer piano, which he has been playing for the past 30 years. Growing up, his father forbade him from taking piano lessons, though he'd come to change his mind. After many years, Schnick began taking piano lessons when he was 40 years old.

"Dad thought boys don't play piano. Later in life, he was happy for me playing," he said, noting that he's always had a passion for music. "[My love for music] was always there. It was always there. My grandparents had a stand-up piano in the living room, which I would play. It's always been there even as a child. [Music] can give you peace, give you calm when you're playing. It's very peaceful, you know?"

In recognition of his generous gift to LU, the university also is naming a piano rehearsal room the "Irish Williams Rehearsal Room" after the woman Schnick credited for raising him and his siblings.

"Dad worked; mother worked. Irish Williams was my second mother. She passed at 53. She never saw me graduate from medical school. She's very important to me," he said. "I wouldn't be where I am but for her. Irish would be so honored to have a rehearsal room named for her. She will be dancing in heaven."

Schnick also has established a scholarship for Lamar University

students to attend the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston so that other aspiring doctors can follow in his footsteps, as medicine has been an important part of his life.

"I've always wanted to be doctor since I was eight or nine years old. My cousin was a physician, and I always looked up to him. There was no other profession I wanted to be in," he said. "Medicine has been very important in my life. Healing people and taking care of the ill was always very important. Always put the patients ahead of everyone else."

Schnick said that medicine and music aren't as different as they may appear on the surface.

"Diagnosing a patient is a puzzle and so is playing a piece of music; it's a puzzle which keys to play," he noted. "So, they're both connected in a way."

Distributions from the William B. Schnick and LaDonna C. Schnick Scholarship will provide scholarship support to Lamar University undergraduate students from Beaumont, or high school graduates in Hardin, Jefferson and Orange counties or in the state of Texas based on financial need.

The John C. Schnick, M.D. Endowed Scholarship will be used to support students who demonstrate financial need and meet one of the following preference criteria: Recipients who are from Beaumont with a Lamar University undergraduate degree; recipients who are from Hardin, Orange or Jefferson counties with a Lamar University undergraduate degree; and recipients in the state of Texas, with preference given to students in that order.

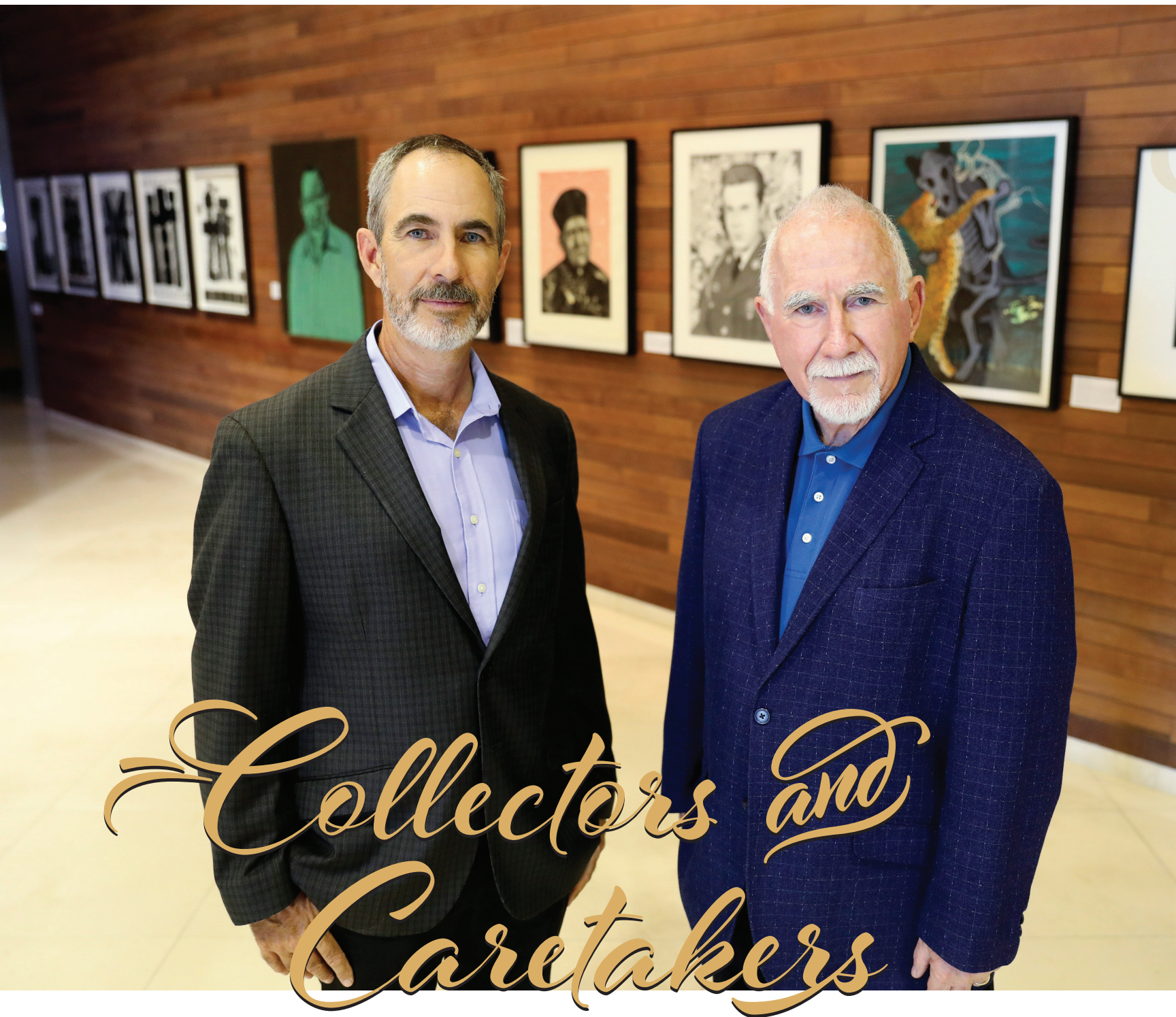
Randall Terry, associate professor and chair of the Biology Department, said this type of donation is trailblazing and affects LU in a tremendous way.

"Dr. Schnick has established a transformative scholarship program for Lamar University students pursuing medical careers," Terry said. "The impressive scope of the scholarship program, including scholarship awards for LU undergraduate students and scholarship opportunities for students who persist to medical school, is unprecedented and truly paves the way for student success in that field of study. Dr. Schnick's vision and generosity are remarkable."

Terry added, "Among the greatest challenges students face is the rising cost of higher education. This is particularly true for students pursuing professional careers in medicine and dentistry. Given the many challenges students face in today's higher education environment, the importance of financial assistance cannot be underestimated. The generous support of Dr. Schnick, especially to attend a prestigious medical school like UTMB, has the potential to change lives."

Schnick said that he just hopes that these scholarships will inspire the next generation of musicians and doctors at Lamar University.

"I hope it [inspires students] to go into medicine or to enter the performing arts, whatever their choice," he said, adding that his gifts are not about him. "[The scholarship] is not about my legacy. It's out of generosity. It's not about my own fanfare. After I've passed on, if I can give a helping hand to a student to go to medical school or study music, I'm happy to do it from the grave."



Clark and Thacker grow LU's Public Art Collection

by Casey Ford



When Rob Clark graduated from LSU, instead of buying himself a class ring, he acquired an etching by Picasso. After the art lessons his mother secretly paid for in his youth, that rare and inspired purchase was the start of Clark's devotion to collecting and sharing art for the sake of itself and for the inspiration of others. Later in his life, Clark would meet his husband, Jerry Thacker, and the pair would discover they had this passion in common. Together, they have since built a collection that reflects their respective and mutual interests and has taken them all over the world—and they have brought that world back to Southeast Texas and Lamar University and put it on display for all to share.

Art from their collection lives in numerous buildings on campus. A large, vibrant painting by David Shapiro, "Forest From the Trees," is displayed in the Rudy C. Williams Building at the John Gray Center. Sculpture by Dennis Adams graces a wall in the Education Building, as do paintings by Ken Dixon and Bert Long Jr. and a lithograph by Randy Twaddle. The newly renovated geography building boasts two aptly placed, naturalist pieces: a mixed media collage by Liz Ward entitled "Writhing River" and a painting, "Presa," by Lucas Johnson. The theatre arts building houses an etching by Mel Chin, a drawing by James Drake, and a silver print by Nic Nicosia. A photo series by James Turrell lives in the Carl Parker Building, current home of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Kim Steinhagen, co-chair of the LU Public Art Committee and development officer, says that more art is on its way.

She said, "Even though they are not Lamar alums, Rob Clark and Jerry Thacker have given 15 works of art to LU's public art collection since 2017. [Dishman Art Museum director and curator] Dennis Kiel and I just installed the most recent two . . . The works they have given are outstanding additions. They are helping us get art into buildings that don't have the percent for art that comes with new construction." Steinhagen refers to the Texas State University System's 2010 adoption of a Percent for Art program, which allows one percent of the budget for any new construction to be used for the purchase of art. For example, funds

from that program purchased all of the art in the new Science and Technology Building. Older buildings on campus, however, can house donated pieces. For example, in addition to Clark's and Thacker's donations, the committee has curated pieces both early and late by John Alexander '68 of New York, a beloved LU alumnus and Beaumont native, into the Rudy C. Williams Building at the John Gray Center. They are striving to bring art into any space where learning and reflection can be enhanced by an interesting aesthetic environment.

For Clark and Thacker, learning is not the only outcome of exposure to art, but also social justice. They strive to curate equally among men and women artists inclusive of all races and types of subject matter, from the pastoral to the controversial. Clark says something that drives him as an art patron and donor is a concern that someone will be denied exposure to "just the right piece at just the right time" for inspiration, knowledge or even salvation. Thacker says, "This art will outlive us. We're collectors, which really just means we're caretakers." For them, access to art is an equalizer and an endowment for the future. Art starts conversations; it builds paths to unity. There can be no more fruitful place for these discussions and for such community-building than a university campus.

Lamar University's public art collection is growing at a rate that places it among the ranks of the University of Texas and University of Houston, which have the largest public university art collections in the state. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of Rob Clark and Jerry Thacker and their collaboration with the illustrious committee, which includes Steinhagen; Kiel; photographer Keith Carter, who holds the Wade C. Sr., Della H. and Homer Walles Chair in Fine Arts at LU and committee co-chair; Katherine Fouts, community representative and board member of the Art Museum of Southeast Texas; and Donna Meeks, LU Art Department professor. Lamar University has become a unique destination in Beaumont and in Texas for the quality and number of artists whose work is on display here. Most are living and working today, but long after they are gone, and long after these caretakers have entrusted the work to the next generation, the art will remain, and it will breathe and wait for the next right time, the next right person, the next revelation.

View the Public Art Collection at lamar.edu/publicart





Generations of giving and *giving back*

by Casey Ford

Celebrating the partnership of Lamar University and the Keating Family

At the intersection of university, family, community and business is where we find the Keatings, and not just a few of them. This huge Southeast Texas family has interwoven its life and its livelihood with Lamar University for decades. Since the 1960s, at the most recent count, LU has educated and/or conferred degrees on nearly 30 members of the Keating family. In turn, they have supported LU in countless ways and specifically through a variety of property gifts, donations and scholarships.

In Southeast Texas, we know the Keatings as “car people,” but in truth, their empire encompasses not only the automotive industry but also media, medicine, education, agriculture, the arts, ministry, engineering and business. Lamar University is just one of the fortunate beneficiaries and participants in that vast network of people, interests and success. The Keating legacy, at least 100 years in the making, is one of hard work, a belief in the power of education and love for family and humanity.

In the alumni records of Carolyn Keating '67, we have the story of Joseph Keating (1919-2010), her father-in-law, who graduated from the Colorado School of Mines as a petroleum engineer and came

to Texas, where he worked for Humble Oil for 23 years. A car enthusiast all his life, he and his brother Paul co-owned Chevrolet dealerships in Groveton and Winnie, Texas. Later, he opened Keating Ford in Crosby and owned it for 20 years. After selling it, he served on the state advertising board for Ford Motor Company and on the boards of several Ford dealerships. The Keatings loved their life in Baytown, Texas, where they were active in the community and charter members of Westminster Presbyterian Church, now Faith Presbyterian. Joseph and his wife, Mary Gay Keating, raised their five children to greet each day with optimism and faith. Those five children—Diane, Tom (Carolyn's late husband and LU class of 1967 alumnus), Kathy, Calvin '73 and Margaret—have grown the Keating family from Texas into Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, back into Colorado, and beyond.

According to Diane Woodcox, one of Joseph Keating's daughters, all 200-plus members of her family, as spread out as they are, remain close to each other in ways that are not typical of such a big family, and about 50 of them manage to come together in one place each year. She herself lays claim to 11 grandchildren and 14 great-nieces and nephews. Many of the Keating family are LU alumni, as are many of the people in their vast network of friends and colleagues. She says something they all



have in common is a deep sense of obligation to support the academic and professional potential of people with real need.

Perhaps because their family's history is so intertwined with that of the university, they have made it part of their mission to give vital support to LU faculty and students—across seven scholarships—so that in turn, those beneficiaries of their generosity can enhance classroom and college experiences for students in business, English and modern languages, and engineering. Among the many gifts this family has given to Lamar University, the Keating family's support of LU students is especially noteworthy, because it seems to extend beyond financial need to human connection.

Conversations with Diane and Carolyn reveal their authentic good natures, their kindness and humor, and their true desire to make otherwise impossible goals entirely possible for students with potential. Judging by the stories people tell about them, these women inspire each other and the people around them to faith and acts of kindness. They have inspired the next generation of Keatings to continue the family's tradition of giving.

The Keating family's philanthropy has benefitted Southeast Texas and Lamar University in so many ways, but the evidence of their legacy cannot be measured in currency. Their family is truly our family, and this is the sincerest measure of their generosity: it can be seen and remembered in the lives of each student who has felt their support.



Back to the lab, back to life

David G. Gates recipient speaks of empathy, gratitude, resilience

Every life is an important story, but John McPherson's life for the last few years is much more than a story. It's a testament to the idea that suffering can be a benediction and a path to strength and peace. Finally diagnosed with a brain stem tumor in 2017 after years of meeting a phalanx of stumped health care providers, the subsequent surgery, recovery and residual health issues could have left him bitter and hopeless. Instead, McPherson came back to graduate school.

His stellar undergraduate education and early engineering career were all but destroyed by his disease, which, for several years, became a full-time job of meeting specialists, dealing with intense pain, navigating narcolepsy and living moment-to-moment with a dangerously, terminally compromised nervous system. Such circumstances would permanently sideline even the most resilient person, but McPherson, refusing to resign himself to a fate of perpetual disability, found his way back to engineering and education.

Having earned his B.S. in mechanical engineering at Texas Tech, he went on to intern with Phillips 66, where he subsequently took a position as a reliability engineer. His diagnosis ended his position as an application engineer with Flowserve and effectively removed his ability to work on-site mechanical engineering roles he'd been trained for. So, when he returned to Lamar University to pursue his master's degree in engineering science, he chose to branch out into industrial engineering. He now believes that his reinvigorated academic life has spurred his recovery by taking him out of a disability mindset.

Despite his transition to IE, McPherson's research to model LNG turbo-compressors combines his past in ME with the data science and statistics skills learned from IE at Lamar. Under guidance of Xinyu Liu, professor of industrial and systems engineering, and Xianchang Li, professor of mechanical engineering, this project is preparing him for a career he could not have imagined before his health scare.

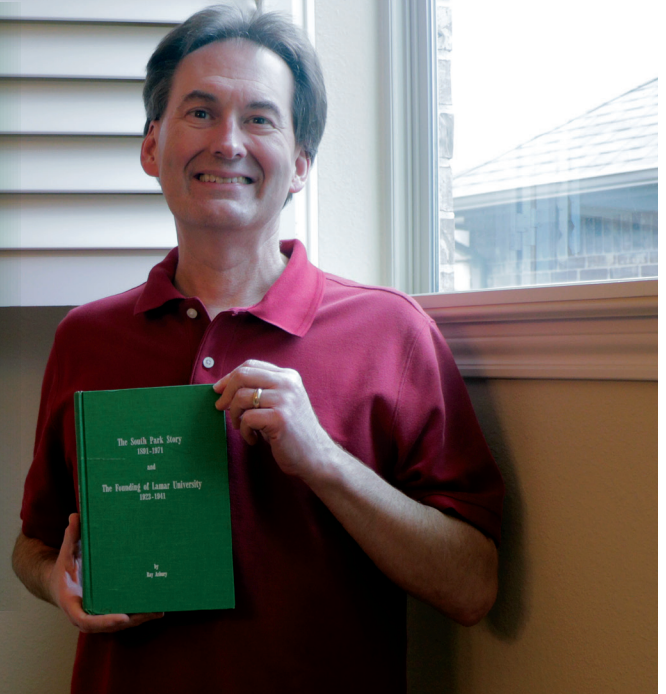
He attributes his renewed sense of purpose to the people who have helped him pay for this phase of his education and research. Among other awards such as the Valero Scholarship, the Srinu Chittaluru Graduate Research Scholarship and the Jimmy Booker Regents Award, McPherson is a beneficiary of the prestigious Dr. David G. Gates Scholarship in Industrial Engineering, endowed by Carol Keating. He says these awards came suddenly and unexpectedly, and in addition to helping him afford school in the face of monstrous medical expenses, the gifts also helped him to heal emotionally.

His return to the university has reaffirmed his zeal for life by allowing him to pursue a new path, and he acknowledges that none of it would be possible without the generosity, genuine interest and kindness of donors like Carolyn Keating and her family. McPherson dwells in hope and gratitude, knowing that every day is a gift when life and health are not guaranteed. Lamar University is grateful, too, for his life, for all the possibilities of his future and for the part its alumni donors have been able to play in bringing him back to engineering.

DRS. DAVID AND JEANNETTE HALL:

Endowing a legacy, *inspiring* passion and purpose

by Shelbe Rodriguez



When LouAnn Asbury passed away unexpectedly in January of 2021 from complications resulting from COVID-19, her son Dr. David Hall and his wife, Dr. Jeannette Hall, knew they had to do something extraordinary to honor her legacy and passion for education and helping others. Just a few months later, the two established the LouAnn Asbury Scholarship in honor of David's late mother to help support students pursuing a degree in counseling within the College of Education and Human Development.

"Our goal is to carry on and acknowledge that more professionals need to be in the Southeast Texas area," David said. "We're hoping that this gift will help provide the education for future clinical counselors and that it helps others follow their passion in this field—and we want them to come to Lamar University to do it."

Family roots run deep at LU, and within the Beaumont community, for LouAnn. Her grandfather J.C. Sparks was among the founding members of South Park Independent School District in 1891. Her parents worked as educators in the district where her father, Ray Asbury, worked as a history teacher and assistant coach for most of his life. Ray also was instrumental in the naming of South Park Junior College in 1923, which would later go on to be named Lamar College in 1932, Lamar State College of Technology in 1951 and finally Lamar University in 1971.

"Growing up, my grandfather never considered the work that he did in education or his part in the naming of South Park Junior

College, now Lamar University, as history. It was just his life," David said. "My grandfather's appreciation was for South Park as a whole. He was educated in South Park, he worked in South Park ISD for most of his life, he was educated at Lamar College, and I think my mom also was appreciative for the education that he gained."

Following in her father's footsteps, LouAnn went on to earn her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Lamar University in 1973 and her Master of Divinity in 1988 from Perkins School of Theology. After working as a Methodist minister for 11 years, she decided to chase what David said is her true calling—counseling.

LouAnn then pursued her Master of Counseling degree at Southwestern College, and after graduation, she became the first counselor at the CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Cancer Center in Santa Fe, New Mexico. LouAnn dedicated the next 20 years of her life counseling patients and their families, as well as providing support groups for those in need until she retired at the age of 65.

"My mother had so many careers in her lifetime, but she really felt like counseling was her true calling, her true purpose in life. Jeannette and

I had decided several years ago we wanted to do something to honor my parents and my grandparents," David said, holding back tears. "I know that my mother would be very proud of us and all that we're doing. I think most of all, she would be glad to know that we're working to help other people."

"Our goal is to carry on and acknowledge that more professionals need to be in the Southeast Texas area"

—Dr. David Hall

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

The **William “Mac” and Martha Timmerman Scholarship in Education** was established by Dr. Iva Timmerman '78 and Hector Caldera. Though he had a degree in teaching, Mac Timmerman '70 was not able to pursue this because of a hearing deficit. All four of Mac and Martha's children graduated from Lamar—two with teaching degrees. The Timmermans helped raise funds for two scholarships at what was then Lamar-Port Arthur, partially by collecting cans and having garage sales. They always strived to help others—having foster children, Martha handmade 50 Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls two years running for the Hughen School along with many more efforts.

Dr. David L. Hall and Dr. Jeannette G. Hall endowed the **Thomas S. Hall Endowed Scholarship for Excellence in Math Education** in memory of David's father, Thomas Sanford Hall '62 was born on June 14, 1940, and raised in La Porte, Texas, where he attended high school and graduated in 1958. After high school, Tom attended Lamar State College of Technology and graduated with his bachelor of science degree in 1962. While attending Lamar, he met LouAnn Asbury, and they married June 9, 1962. LouAnn and Tom moved to Louisiana where he earned his Master of Arts degree in 1964 from Louisiana State University. Tom had a long and illustrious teaching career that included teaching mathematics at numerous high schools across Texas. He also served as a reader for the College Board test service in Princeton, N.J., for six years. Tom received multiple awards during his teaching career, including teacher of the year while in Beaumont, teacher of the year from the Dallas Chamber of Commerce, and the Advanced Placement Teaching Excellence Award from the College Board of Texas. [See pg. 11 for more about the Halls.]

Allegiance Bank endowed the **Allegiance Bank Scholarship in Business**, formerly known as Post Oak Bank Scholarship in Business. The Allegiance Bank leadership team in Beaumont includes Lamar University alumnus Steve Lucas '82 who serves as executive vice president of the bank. Since 2007, Allegiance Bank has been serving the Greater Houston

area and neighboring communities by providing full-service banking solutions to serve the needs of owner-operated businesses, professionals and individual customers.

Diane and Larry Woodcox established the **Woodcox-Keating Family Scholarship** for students pursuing English degrees. Diane (Keating) Woodcox was the first of many in her family to attend Lamar University. Diane feels strongly about how education is promoted and its importance in her family, along with the value of sharing. Diane and Larry believe that “a scholarship is a hand to help those who have a desire to improve. This can be a four-year degree, a two-year degree or certification for employment.” Diane and Larry endowed this scholarship with the intent to inspire others to pay it forward after their own success.

James M. Roach III '01 graduated from Lamar College of Technical Arts in 1990 with an Associate of Applied Science in Industrial Electricity and Electronics. In 2001, he graduated from Lamar University with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology. James shared that he is thankful to Lamar for its night school program because both of his degrees were earned at night. He said that even though attending night school was difficult, it was a blessing for Lamar to offer a program where a student could earn a degree while working during the day. When James thinks about the struggles he managed to overcome to earn his degrees, the benefit was well worth it. James chose the Lamar University scholarship program to thank his parents. They instilled in him the dedication and commitment to arduous work that takes to make a living. His parents did not get the chance to finish school because of survival responsibilities when they were young, but they made sure that James received a good education. James endowed the **James and Verna Roach Memorial Scholarship in Industrial and Systems Engineering** to thank his parents for their concern and dedication to improve his future.

Sandra G. Hoke '69 established the **Michael W. Hoke Memorial Scholarship** in loving memory of her

husband. Michael W. Hoke graduated from Lamar State College of Technology in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education. He returned to Lamar University for graduate school, completing a Master of Science in Biology in 1974. Michael taught science at West Orange Middle School for 30 years, earning the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching in 1989. He retired from teaching to become the director of Shangri La Botanical Garden in Orange, Texas. Michael's wife, Sandra, is a 1969 graduate of Lamar State College of Technology, obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics. She was a teacher for 25 years.

Marleen R. Swerdlow, professor of business law and interim chair of the Department of Business, endowed the **LaKisha R. Thomas Memorial Scholarship**. LaKisha Rochelle Thomas was born July 8, 1980, and died April 15, 2020, at age 39. LaKisha graduated from Central High School, where she was in the ROTC, and from Lamar Institute of Technology in May 2000 with an A.A.S. in business and computer information systems. She was pursuing a bachelor's degree in general studies at Lamar University, one class at a time, and would have finished it in a year or so. It was the one thing that she was doing for herself because LaKisha often did more for others. She became the administrative assistant for the general business program Dec. 1, 2004. The program director at that time, Richard Drapeau, said, “hiring LaKisha Thomas was the best decision I made during my two years as director of general business.” Over the years, she was promoted to administrative associate, senior administrative associate and in the fall of 2019 to coordinator. LaKisha was a guiding beacon for Beta Gamma Sigma, the honorary society for the LU College of Business. Additionally, she won “The High Five Award” within the College of Business on numerous occasions. It is hoped that this scholarship will help students to complete their degree and be inspired by LaKisha's life of giving back to Lamar University.

The **Jeffrey C. and Jennifer L. Hembree Scholarship** was established to help engineering students at Lamar University complete their degree. Jennifer

(Priddy) Hembree and Jeffrey C. Hembree '91 both grew up in Southeast Texas, graduating from Port Neches Groves High School in 1989 and 1987, respectively. Jeff graduated Lamar University in 1991 with a B.S. in chemical engineering while Jennifer transferred to the University of Houston to pursue a degree in pharmacy, relying on her undergraduate coursework while at Lamar. Jennifer and Jeff would simply like to recognize Lamar University and the surrounding area for helping them achieve their goals academically and to become well-rounded individuals.

Juanita (Parker) Corbin endowed the **Herbert Kinney Parker Memorial Scholarship in Mechanical Engineering** in memory of her brother. Herbert Kinney Parker Jr. was born in Beaumont, Texas, Sept. 16, 1927, and died Aug. 5, 2012. He attended Lamar State College of Technology from 1946 to 1956. As a lifelong resident of Beaumont, Parker was a retired lab technician with Mobil Oil, a member of South Park Baptist Church and a U.S. Navy veteran. The intent of this scholarship is not only to aid mechanical engineering students at Lamar University with their undergraduate studies, but to also give back to the community that molded Herbert Kinney Parker Jr. into the outstanding man he was.

The **Chase Taylor Memorial Scholarship** was established by the friends and family of Chase Taylor. Chase Covington Taylor, 23, passed away Oct. 10, 2017. Chase graduated from West Brook High School in 2012 and then began his college journey. He obtained his instrumentation degree from LIT and continued pursuing his bachelor's degree at Lamar University. While attending Lamar, he was initiated into the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. He immediately found a second home and became a leader to his brothers. Within this brotherhood, bonds were created that impacted Chase's short life profoundly. He had just begun a career as a process operator at Chevron Phillips. He loved his job and the people he worked with. His outlook was bright, and he was even beginning to talk about purchasing his first home. Chase's charismatic personality was most infectious. He had a smile as bright as his red hair and was the epitome of the term "Spitfire." To know him was to love him

and to be his friend was to love him even more. He leaves a legacy as the life of the party and the one that always reminded those close to him to never let life get in the way of spending time with the people you love.

The Budwine family has supported Lamar Institute of Technology for many years and desires to enhance educational opportunities for serious students in the field of electricity toward bachelor's and/or post-graduate degrees. Therefore, The Budwine Family Giving Fund endowed the **Budwine Family Scholarship in Engineering** with the hope that it will help engineering students at Lamar University to achieve their academic goals.

Shirley (Woodell) Coffman '56 established the **Shirley Woodell Coffman Scholarship**. Shirley, a 1956 graduate of Lamar State College, earned a Bachelor of Science in Social Science. She began her career as a social worker in Chicago, Ill. While at Lamar University, Shirley was a scholarship recipient, cheerleader and member of the Southern Belles Sorority, which became the Alpha Chi Omega Sorority in 1957. She is immensely proud to be a graduate of Lamar and is pleased with the progress the university has made over the years. She was well equipped for her first job after graduation in Chicago because of the education she earned at Lamar University. Shirley resides in Pearland, Texas, with her husband, Stewart, a graduate of Texas A&M University and an avid fan of Lamar University. Shirley believes "the exciting thing about a good education is the doors that can open and the larger world to be experienced and explored."

The **Jungen Family Scholarship in Accounting** was endowed by Charlotte M. Jungen '97. Charlotte was born in Pusan, South Korea, and was adopted by a Southeast Texas couple, Ray and Jackie Jungen. Ray and Jackie's love of children led them to grow their family to include nine children, including Charlotte and four others who were adopted. A priority was placed on education in the Jungen household that inspired six of the children to pursue higher education at Lamar University–Beaumont and two to attend Lamar University–Orange. Jungen

and three of her sisters each earned a B.B.A. in accounting. After graduating *summa cum laude* from Lamar University, Jungen became a licensed CPA in 1998 and a CFP professional in 2005. She became a shareholder in the Beaumont accounting firm Edgar, Kiker & Cross, PC, in 2007 and stayed with them until 2013. Afterwards, she moved to Houston and joined the investment management firm Goodman Financial Corp. All of this was made possible for Charlotte through the generosity of scholarship donors.

Joe D. Koshkin '70 attended Lamar State College of Technology, earned a B.B.A. degree in accounting after completing training in the U.S. Army and subsequently passed the CPA exam. Joe spent his career in public accounting working in various roles with large multinational companies, retiring from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP in 2006. Gloria B. Koshkin '68 also attended Lamar, earning a bachelor's degree in elementary education in 1968. She began her career as one of the first special education teachers in the Port Neches school district with a class of 15 students. In 1970, Gloria joined the Spring Branch school district in Houston as an elementary special education teacher and spent many years in this role. As a result of her experiences and the continuing need for qualified special education instructors, Joe and Gloria established the **Gloria and Joe Koshkin Presidential Scholarship in Special Education**.

The **Dr. Mary Alice Baker Family Scholarship in Communication** was endowed by Mary Alice Baker, who taught at Lamar University for 38 years. During her career at Lamar, she taught thousands of students in at least 20 different courses. Baker was honored as a University Professor in 2005. The professorship, awarded for life to recognize a senior faculty member for distinguished teaching, is Lamar's most prestigious academic honor. She was and still is a mentor to many Lamar Cardinals and other former students. Baker earned both her B.S and M.A. at the University of Oklahoma and her Ph.D. at Purdue University. Prior to coming to Lamar University in 1969 (then known as Lamar State College of Technology) her career included six years at Southeast High

School in Oklahoma City followed by three years at Eastern Illinois University. Baker's distinguished career included 15 years coaching debate and serving as state president of the Texas Forensics Association, of which she was also a founding member.

Together, Steve Scott '79 and Peggy Scott '79 have at least 17 members of their families who have taken classes, earned certificates, been awarded degrees, or helped found Lamar. Peggy's grandfather was W.H. McDermott, shop teacher at South Park, who helped start "the first Lamar" with a focus on technology, which has grown into what it is today. Among the family, there are many areas of study. Steve and Peggy were among the first generations to be involved in traditional college activities (clubs, organizations, etc.), but Lamar has been the educational foundation for the majority of their relatives. However, for all the varied areas they have studied, they are choosing to support the arts, believing the world needs beauty and the study of art becomes expensive at the upper levels. This desire led Steve and Peggy to endow the **Dr. Peggy Scott and Mr. Steve Eric Scott Family Heritage Fine Arts Scholarship**.

The Magnolia Garden Club was founded in 1937 and is a leading advocate for gardening, horticulture and conservation within the Beaumont community. MGC has turned its focus to restore, improve and protect the quality of the environment in Southeast Texas through educational programs and action in the fields of conservation and civic improvement. Therefore, the **Magnolia Garden Club Environmental Summer Studies Scholarship** was established to encourage studies and careers in the environmental field, with the opportunity to gain knowledge and experience beyond the regular course of study.

Mary L. Scheer and Richard L. Scheer both share a strong love of history and culture. Mary shared that she owes her early interest to her seventh-grade history teacher, Mr. Upadell, and her parents, James and Margaret Searls. Mary was particularly lucky to have a friend and mentor, Ben Proctor, who taught her how to be a historian. In the fall of 2002,

Mary moved to the History Department at Lamar University to teach and share her love of history. During her time at LU, Mary served as history professor, chair of the History Department and founding director of the Center for History and Culture of Southeast Texas and the Upper Gulf Coast. Mary shared that she could not have accomplished her many jobs and responsibilities without the aid and support of her husband, Richard. As a way of returning her good fortune to the institution and profession that shaped her, Mary and Richard Scheer endowed the **Dr. Mary L. Scheer and Richard L. Scheer Scholarship in History and Culture**.

Ronald E. Proctor Sr. '70 and Anita Proctor established the **Ronald and Anita Proctor Scholarship in Accounting**. Ronald Proctor graduated from Lamar State College of Technology in 1970 with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting. Ronald and Anita were born and raised in Beaumont and were married there in 1969 while Ronald was a senior at Lamar. For the first 27 years of his career, Ronald worked at several large companies holding various manager and controller positions. During this time, Ronald lived and worked in Houston, Atlanta, Chicago and the Netherlands, traveling all over the world. In 1997, Ronald decided he wanted to be independent and studied every day for over six months for the CPA exam, passing it in 1998. Since becoming a CPA, he has been successful during the past 21 years and is CFO and partner in several companies serving the home building industry in the Houston, Dallas and Austin areas. Ronald credits a lot of his success in business and life to the foundation he received at Lamar University.

The **S.L. Greenberg Study Abroad Award in the College of Business** was endowed by the family and friends of S.L. Greenberg in honor of his 85th birthday, celebrated April 15, 2019. Greenberg graduated magna cum laude with his Bachelor of Business Administration from The University of Texas. In 1959, he graduated cum laude with his law degree from The University of Texas School of Law. Greenberg is of counsel with Wells Peyton Partain Baldo & Lighty LLP. He

has practiced law in the areas of estate planning, general business and tax since 1959. In 2006, he endowed the **Natalie A. Greenberg Scholarship in Fine Arts** in honor of his wife.

The Grantham family established the **William E. Grantham Endowed Scholarship in Entrepreneurship** in memory of Bill Grantham for his achievements in business and entrepreneurship in Southeast Texas, specifically, leading and growing a successful local business over many decades. Bill took the initiative and financial risk to achieve business goals. He overcame many challenges during the years while displaying steady business acumen and creativity. These achievements were accomplished while always appreciating his roots and contributing back to the local community, including Lamar University.

The friends and family of Paul T. Zeek established the **Paul T. Zeek Lamar University Student Athletic Trainer Scholarship** in recognition and gratitude for his many years of service at Lamar University and contributions in the athletic training profession. Zeek was a pioneer, leader, teacher, caregiver, friend and mentor throughout his career. He grew up in El Paso and began his athletic training career at Austin High School under the supervision of football coaches. He then attended Texas Western College (now UTEP) and grew his knowledge and skills under the tutelage of Hall of Fame trainer Ross Moore. His duties included working with the football team and the legendary Coach "Bum" Phillips. In 1971, Zeek came to Lamar University to begin a distinguished 35-year career at the university. From 1971 to 1992, he was the head athletic trainer for all intercollegiate sports at Lamar. During this time, Zeek was developing one of the first coeducational athletic training programs in the nation. He oversaw the education of dozens of student athletic trainers during this period. Zeek completed his Lamar tenure as the senior associate athletic director where his chief responsibility included the NCAA and Southland Conference rules compliance.

A photograph of Edwin E. Vallery, a smiling man with a shaved head, wearing a white blazer over a red polo shirt and black trousers. He is standing outdoors in front of a building with large windows and columns.

EDWIN E. VALLERY:


Dedicated to making a *difference*

by Brooke Barnett

“

It is my hope that I can make a difference with my giving and involvement. In addition, I am hopeful that by sharing my story someone might be encouraged to do something similar. My journey from a 17-year-old college freshman to 65-year-old scholarship donor has been remarkable.

—Edwin E. Vallery



When Edwin E. Vallery '79 reflects on coming to Lamar University's campus as a freshman in the fall of 1975, he admits to being "rather green, a bit immature, but excited" about beginning his college experience. As an undergraduate, Vallery remembers life-changing experiences that enhanced his education, influenced his successful career with the Shell Oil Co., and guided his philanthropic efforts as a valued LU donor.

"I was highly encouraged and influenced by faculty and staff members of Lamar," Vallery explains. "The first campus organization that I joined was the Black Student Alliance, and Dr. George McLaughlin, the vice president of student affairs, was a strong supporter. I also remember encouragement from two College of Business professors, Dr. Richard Cherry, finance, and Mr. H. A. Barlow, accounting. They were very helpful in my educational development."

Vallery remembers another experience at Lamar that also had a profound influence on his outlook on life.

"In the 1970s, there were some challenges for black students at Lamar," he reflects. "I had an experience with my Masterworks of British Literature professor who would return my assignments with demeaning comments. I was one of only two black students, and we were both having a similar experience."

Vallery chose to meet with the professor, share his concerns and discuss how he could learn and improve.

"Early in our visit, he was very defensive, but we continued to talk. At the end of the visit, he gave me some helpful tips which I was able to integrate. Soon afterwards, he positively commented on my improvements," Vallery shares. "My conclusion was and still is that it is harder to dislike those whom you get to know. I greatly appreciated him talking with and investing in me."

After graduating from LU with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance in 1979, Vallery enjoyed a long career with Shell Oil and its affiliated companies. Among his accomplishments, he worked to successfully move work offshore from the U.S. to countries in Asia.

"My success in the oil and gas industry was a result of good business relationships and strong work ethics," he explains. "I benefited from great mentors at Shell."

He recalls when Shell's vice president of finance was looking for someone in the company to assist with the Houston Minority Business Council, with plans for the appointee to eventually replace him as the Shell representative on the council.

"The opportunity came to me because my mentor in the company recommended me," Vallery said. "That was a rewarding experience, working alongside the vice president and representing Shell to foster minority-owned businesses."

Vallery became a mentor to new Shell employees who were in the early stage of their career and shared advice, experience and industry knowledge.

"I enjoyed mentoring, and saw a hunger and a deep desire in young people," he adds. "They had the education and talent, but wanted to gain the intangible skills and connections to excel. Mentoring is vital to success in the workplace and for career development."

Upon his retirement in 2019, Vallery began looking for ways to give back to his alma mater. Working with the Lamar University Foundation, he established the Edwin E. Vallery Scholarship Fund in Business to provide tuition assistance to two College of Business students, preferably members of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA). In 2020, the scholarship was expanded to include several book scholarships for NABA members.

"My relationship with the NABA students and faculty advisor Dr. Delvin Seawright has been spectacular," he shares. "Once a year, NABA members invite me to speak to the group and conduct a workshop on financial learning and investments."

In 2021, Vallery learned about the newly established Lamar Chapter of the Collegiate 100 (C-100), the college extension of the 100 Black Men of Greater Beaumont (100 BMGB). C-100 members focus on mentoring minority high school students and are mentored by members of 100 BMGB. To support the members of C-100, Vallery worked with faculty advisor Kathryn Washington to create the Edwin E. Vallery Scholarship for Collegiate 100.

In 2022, Vallery established the Edwin E. Vallery Scholarship for Student Members of the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), working in collaboration with advisor Freddie Titus. NPHC membership consists of historically black fraternities and sororities. Scholarship recipients demonstrate both academic accomplishment and service to the university and community.

Vallery has since endowed his scholarships in perpetuity with a planned gift to Lamar University. He says that the staff and the students at Lamar have shown tremendous gratitude for both his generosity and his involvement on campus, and he is happy that his legacy will continue after his passing. He credits the LU Advancement and Foundation staff with being supportive of his desire to help the next generation of Lamar students.

"It is my hope that I can make a difference with my giving and involvement," he said. "In addition, I am hopeful that, by sharing my story, someone might be encouraged to do something similar. My journey from a 17-year-old college freshman to 65-year-old scholarship donor has been remarkable," Vallery concludes. "I give sincere thanks to all who contributed so much along the way."



For as long as he could remember, Lance Taylor '20, '21, has always followed the same formula in life: *God + Hard Work = Undefeated*. Now, as he settles into his new role as financial analyst at Walmart Corporate Headquarters, the accounting and finance graduate said there's also one not-so-secret ingredient that has been pivotal to his success—Lamar University.

"I developed close relationships with my professors, I vocalized my future goals and dreams, and they put me in positions to succeed," he said. "It's those communication skills, networking opportunities and resources that LU provided that have really taken me far in the professional world."

Before landing a job with the Fortune 500 company, Taylor earned a spot in the company's highly competitive internship program after virtually attending a student conference for members of the LU Association of Latino Professionals for America.

"That conference was a huge networking resource for me, and it's

what helped me successfully land the internship. I definitely had some memorable experiences," he said.

Taylor recalled one memory in particular that makes him thankful for being a Cardinal.

"The last two weeks of the program were held in Arkansas at corporate headquarters, and the interns had the opportunity to eat lunch with Walmart executives, including Brett Biggs, who served as the CFO at the time," he said.

There at the table, Taylor sat in his Lamar University polo shirt when an unlikely acquaintance approached him.

"Brett Biggs walked right up to me and said, 'Hey, I'm Brett Biggs. That's Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, right?' and he looked down at my polo and pointed," Taylor said, laughing.

Through their conversation, Taylor learned that Biggs lived in Beaumont for a brief period of time while his father taught classes locally.

"From there, he shared so many stories with me, and we talked for a while, though it was all happening so fast," he

said. "I couldn't believe that the CFO of Walmart lived in Beaumont. It's such a small world and you never know where Lamar University can take you or who you'll meet."

Now, a year later, with his Master of Science in Accounting and dual bachelor's degrees in accounting and finance in hand, Taylor has set his sights on giving back to students at LU.

"At Walmart headquarters, I'm involved in the recruiting process, and I'm working to bring more attention to our great candidates at LU for internships and full-time hires," he said.

Taylor is a member of the LU Black Alumni Network and is also a founding member of the College of Business Young Professionals Board, a mentorship program launched in 2021 that aims to cultivate a network of professionals and mentor the next generation of business leaders.

"I don't want to just give back; I want to be a resource," he said. "To contribute and serve my alma mater, and to be a part of the journey for LU students is a true honor."

INVESTMENT BENEFITS:

BASF *grows* talent pool

by Andrew Strange

For 13 years, the BASF Scholarship in Chemical Engineering has benefited Lamar University students, helping them to reach their academic and professional goals. Established in 2009 with the first awards provided for the 2009-2010 academic year, BASF has given \$274,929 in support of the scholarship.

Shelly Vitanza, community and government affairs manager at BASF TOTAL Energy and Petrochemicals in Port Arthur, said the four-year scholarship not only supports the College of Engineering but it is also an investment in the future talent pool of engineers.

"We see Lamar as one of the community's greatest assets, especially the engineering program," Vitanza said. "We wanted to give to academically inclined students who can't afford school and give them that opportunity to become engineers. We see it as one way that we can support workforce development in our area. It's part of our workforce investment strategy, an investment for the company in growing the talent pool."

Jenna Fratus, chemical engineering sophomore from Lumberton, said the scholarship afforded her the opportunity to focus less on work and more on doing well in school. She said it also helped her obtain the supplies and tap into resources she needed to be successful.

"I think it's a really good opportunity for students who maybe don't have as much funding from their parents," Fratus said. "They are able to go to college and achieve their goals through the scholarship, and it gives



them some hope to keep going on with school."

In addition to the scholarship benefiting the College of Engineering, BASF also has a relationship with Lamar through their internship program. Vitanza said internships are a win-win situation for the company and students: the intern makes significant contributions while gaining invaluable on-the-job training, and the company increases their talent pool.

"We give (the interns) really significant projects," Vitanza said. "We immediately start treating them, from day one, like they are real employees. They work side-by-side with professional engineers, and they immediately became part of the team. We give them a very broad overview of the BASF operations and everything we do, so they volunteer at community events, they attend some lunch-and-learns. So, although they are given a specific manager and a team and a

project at BASF, their overview is very large. They learn a lot about the company globally and all the opportunities that exist, and they plug into that network of employees globally."

Another important element of interning is networking and communicating with professionals about the industry.

"One of the things they get is connections with engineers in the field," Vitanza said. "But by talking to other engineers, they narrow down their focus...they determine what their area of interest is so they can become even more focused when they are in school."

One valuable milestone Vitanza pointed out for interning students is the transition from a flexible student schedule to a more structured and rigid work schedule.

"All of our interns have to do an end of the internship presentation where they present their projects," Vitanza said. "And they all said in addition to focusing on their projects it was a good experience because they had to be somewhere from 8 to 5, and many of these students have never worked a real job before. I think that is important too because it can be hard to make that developmental transition from being a college student to really being a professional."

Through the BASF Scholarship in Chemical Engineering, internships with students and various other partnerships, BASF continues its relationship with Lamar University, helping its students reach milestones, accomplish goals and live their dreams.

Parents' selfless love *inspires* Hammond

by Lauren Wilson



Tim Cohrs and Judy Hammond

From the time that her voice could be heard saying a prayer at the end of every episode of her father's radio and television program, *The Uncle Willie Show*, from 1955 to 1963 on KFDM, Judy Hammond '72 has been inspired to follow in her parents' footsteps, in her education, her career and in sharing their legacy of helping others.

"Both of my parents were very, very special to me. I am adopted, so they are my very special parents," she said. "They supported me at Lamar any way they could." Hammond has so many stories to tell of Gladys and Bill coming to the rescue during her years at Lamar

University studying communications and journalism. One year, she remembers, they hosted the Delta Zeta Sorority initiation in their home for 35 girls. "Daddy got up at four o'clock and made homemade biscuits, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, coffee, orange juice; you name it, we had it." Gladys and Bill could always be found lending a helping hand for whatever Hammond was involved in, attending meetings, delivering sandwiches, taking part in bake sales and silent auctions. "They always supported us," she says, "Mother and Daddy were just very supportive of my college life."

Hammond graduated with a

communication degree from LU in 1972 and earned a master's in speech in 1982. She became a highway safety specialist, beginning a federal career with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. She later moved to the Office of Traffic Injury Control in Washington, D.C., where she was responsible for assisting in regional operations and program delivery, managing child safety and highway safety grant programs, and overseeing child safety inspection sites.

In honor of her parents' love and care during her years at LU, Hammond established a scholarship in their name, to help students achieve what her parents made possible for her. For Tim Cohrs, a student studying communication with a focus in journalism, and a recipient of the Gladys and Bill Hammond Scholarship, this support means the world. "I couldn't be more grateful," he said, not only for the award, but also for getting to know the person behind the scholarship. "The conversations I had with Ms. Hammond were very inspiring and insightful," he shares. "It was great to meet someone who attended Lamar and who is also interested in the same field. It really meant a lot to be able to meet one of the people supporting my educational journey at Lamar University."

Hammond notes that much has changed in the communication field since *The Uncle Willie Show* aired or when she typed her news stories into a Friden Justewriter, but even still, she can see the ways their paths align, the way that Cohrs is following her footsteps and those of her parents before her, and how the legacy of her parents' selfless love lives on to create opportunities they could have hardly imagined.



Grads in Guatemala: **LU ALUMNI CONNECT ACROSS BORDERS**

by Brooke Barnett



Tim Pallone, Patricie Stephens and Dr. Ken Eveland

In May 2021, Patricie Stephens '14 was working in Guatemala, serving as a physician's assistant on a medical mission trip in the town of San Raymundo. As a volunteer for Refuge International, she was serving alongside a cadre of individuals from across the U.S. volunteering in both clinical and non-clinical positions. Sponsored by Refuge International, the week-long clinic brought together a diverse mix of medical personnel, students, educators, translators and others to provide professional medical care in remote areas of Guatemala.

"I've always had a passion for helping people, which led me to my strong passion for global health since many around the world do not have access to healthcare the way we do in the U.S.," Stephens explains. "On these mission trips, people from all backgrounds come together to serve for a week in Guatemala. We start the week with the majority of us being complete strangers, but we become family as we work together to help the people of Guatemala."

Stephens had previously worked with Dr. Ken Eveland '68, the medical director for Refuge International, on a mission trip in 2018. The two reunited in San Raymundo in 2021 and also became acquainted with Tim Pallone '07, who had joined the mission trip in support of

the philanthropic efforts of his now-wife, Shanea. Shanea was serving as a nurse practitioner in the clinic, and Tim was helping with patient intake and collecting vital sign information on patients.

It was during this week that Stephens and Pallone realized that they had both graduated from Lamar University. Later in the week, they discovered the surprising coincidence that Eveland was also an LU graduate.

"The three of us did not know each other during our times at Lamar University as we had all attended at different times, but it was humbling to come to meet each other in Guatemala," Stephens reflects.

Crossing paths more than 1,500 miles away from LU was not the only coincidence that the LU graduates discovered. Pallone had served as the band director at Port Neches-Groves school district in Port Neches during the time Stephens had been a high school student in 2010. She had volunteered for previous Refuge International mission trips, but it wasn't until the trip this past May that the three Lamar graduates realized all their shared connections.

"Both Tim and Patricie are proud alums and should make LU proud for their humanitarian efforts," Eveland said. "Refuge International is proud to have them on our team."

"I was fortunate to see firsthand the

important work that Refuge International tirelessly does for the people of Guatemala," Pallone adds. "Many of the people that I met during this trip are now an important part of my and my wife's life."

The three enjoyed a shared connection to LU that dates back more than 50 years. Eveland graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 1968 and enjoyed a successful medical career that spanned more than 20 years. Pallone graduated from in 2007 with a Bachelor of Music and is currently the director of bands at Iowa Colony High School in Brazoria, Texas. Stephens, a 2014 graduate with a bachelor's degree in biology, currently specializes in robotic and minimally invasive surgery at UT Southwestern in Dallas.

Despite attending Lamar during different eras and with different areas of study, a shared passion for helping others has united the three as friends and colleagues.

"None of this would have been possible without the exemplary education available at LU," Eveland said. "Every phase of my personal and professional life was preparing me for doing general surgery in the developing world. This has been the best chapter of my life so far and I'm delighted to share it with such great LU alumni."

For more information about the medical mission trips sponsored by Refuge International, please visit refugeinternational.com.

FREDDIE TITUS:

A four-decade *legacy*

by Shelbe Rodriguez

The year was 1976 when an excited Freddie Titus stepped onto the Lamar University campus for the first time, determined to make the most of his time at LU.

"I participated in a lot of things. I joined Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. I was part of the marching band playing alto saxophone and then Dr. Jimmy Simmons moved me to baritone sax. I participated in a lot of student organizations and was a founder of the Psalm 150 Gospel Choir, and I also worked at the student union," he said.

As a student in the late 1970s, Titus worked as a math tutor in the on-campus Developmental Math Lab until he graduated with his mathematics degree in 1983. He then went on to work as a teaching assistant for mathematics while he completed his second bachelor's degree from LU, which he did in industrial engineering in 1986. His plan was simple: work for one semester as a teaching assistant and then move on to the next opportunity.

"Here's where the true story begins," he said jokingly. "This was supposed to be for just one semester. Now, here I am 39 years later, and I'm still waiting for that one semester to end."

After teaching mathematics courses from 1987 to 2012 and earning his doctorate in math education from the University of Houston in 2010, Titus then transitioned to the College of Education and Human Development where he served as associate professor and later interim department chair for the Department of Teacher Education. He is the National Pan-Hellenic Council advisor, providing guidance to student leaders of four sororities and fraternities. In 2015, he was honored as a Living Legend in Recognition of Outstanding Leadership by the ExxonMobil Black Employee Success Team, and in 2017, he was honored as LU's Julie & Ben J. Rogers Community Service Award recipient.

Throughout his tenure at LU, the Port Arthur native said he has had just one goal in mind: to impact students' lives and make a difference. Alaric Harrell '99 and Brian Roberson '09, '10, said their early ties with Titus have culminated into what the two described as a lasting legacy.

"There are things that I learned being in his classroom that helped me when I became an educator, a teacher and now as an administrator," said Roberson, who serves as principal at B.F. Terry High School in Houston. "Dr. Titus was a mentor and an advisor, especially for students of color, and even a brother over time."

Harrell, who first met Titus his junior year in high school as a mentee in the Minority Scholars Institute, said that while he never formally took classes from Titus, he still became a driving force in his life.



“I’m most excited and honored to have this opportunity to positively impact the university that has poured so much into my life.”

—Freddie Titus '83

“We had a heart-to-heart conversation my senior year at LU and he told me to shape up and get focused. I had so much respect for him, so I did just that,” he said. After graduating with his B.B.A. in accounting, Harrel went on to work as an assistant controller at Cameron LNG and serves on the advisory board for the School of Accounting and Information Systems, and he said he’s thankful for Titus’ “firm, but fair” push toward success. “He knew what we as students were capable of and he empowered us to do it.”

Now, nearly four decades later, President Jaime Taylor has appointed Titus as the new interim vice president for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Relations, a role formerly held by LU Distinguished Alumnus Norman Bellard '79.

“When I was asked to do this, I first thought about a famous quote by Vernon Myers: ‘Diversity is being invited to the party and inclusion is being asked to dance,’” he said. “It’s really a no-brainer why this has been one of the best experiences that I’ve ever had. I’m most excited and honored to have this opportunity to positively impact the university that has poured so much into my life.”

BELLARD RETIRES:

A champion for student success

by Shelbe Rodriguez

For those in the Southeast Texas area, when you hear the name Norman Bellard, you also think “Star athlete at Lamar University. A true champion.”



Throughout his professional tenure at Lamar University, he has worked in student affairs as the associate vice president and then senior associate vice president for the department, special assistant to the president, athletics liaison and, finally, interim vice president for the Division of Diversity, Inclusion and Community Relations.

Bellard’s history at LU, however, goes back to 1974 when the Louisiana native, a star basketball athlete in high school, attracted the attention of then LU head basketball coach Jack Martin. Bellard played point guard on the LU men’s basketball team from 1975 to 1979 as part of one of the most successful runs in Cardinals history.

He earned his bachelor’s degree in accounting in 1979, and, after a 20-year career in business, the former student-athlete found himself back at LU where he would spend the next two decades serving as a mentor and guiding light for students.

“It’s always been about student success,” he said. “What I feel the best about, though, is being able to assist students with getting what they came here for, and that’s ultimately to walk across the stage with their degree.”

Ashley Spicer-Runnels '07, '13, assistant vice chancellor for academic and health affairs for the Texas State University System, said, “Mr. Bellard has been a constant mentor and family friend for nearly 20 years always providing his unwavering support. He recognized my potential, never accepted less than my best and empowered me to work towards what could be rather than what is.”

As a community advocate, Bellard served as a volunteer basketball coach at the L.L. Melton YMCA while also being tabbed as chairman of the Melton board of advisors. He also served on the board of advisors for the local Boys and Girls Club and the Salvation Army. He is a founding member of the Greater South Park Neighborhood Partnership, established in 2015 with a mission to address issues facing citizens of local and surrounding communities. Bellard also played a key role in the establishment of 12 Cardinal NEST—Navigating Excellence, Success and Triumph—learning labs in local Beaumont school district schools.

In 2003, he was named a Lamar University Distinguished Alumnus, the highest award presented by the institution to its alumni. In 2021, he was inducted into the Cardinal Hall of Honor, a recognition bestowed upon former Cardinal student-athletes for their achievement, commitment, sportsmanship and leadership in athletics.

“I’ve always been a part of a winning team,” he said. “As I look back at my time at Lamar University, I’m extremely proud of the work that we were able to accomplish over the last 22 years.”



Cindy Stinson '75

What would Doris do?

by Andrew Strange

Lamar University's nursing program is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2023 and has a rich history of teaching and mentorship. The JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing, endowed in 2006, began in 1973 with a 1975 graduating class of 53 students. At the head of the program then was Doris Price-Nealy, who earned her master's in nursing at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

Price-Nealy said upon traveling to Beaumont to interview for the position at Lamar that she soon realized she was the only applicant qualified for the job.

"At that time, they required people who headed a nursing program to have a master's degree," she said. "Of course, now, it's a Ph.D. But there were no other nurses in the Golden Triangle who had a master's degree because, at that time, it was very rare. Of course now it's not. So, I was hired by Dr. John Gray to go there and start the nursing program, hire faculty, write curriculum, get accredited and all those things."

Among the first graduating class in nursing at Lamar University in 1975 was, now chair of the JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing, Cynthia "Cindy" Stinson of Lumberton.

Stinson also recalled how much things have changed in nursing education since 1975.

"We used to practice our skills on our faculty," Stinson said. "We used to start IVs on them; we used to give them injections. And now we have a simulation lab where students are able to practice their skills."

A first-generation college student, Stinson said she had no one in her family as a role model for her education in nursing. She said her relationship with Price-Nealy proved invaluable both as she went through the program at Lamar and when she came back as a faculty member at Lamar herself in 1994.



DORIS PRICE-NEALY

“And every once in a while, I stop and think, ‘Now what would Doris do if she was in this spot?’—even 50 years later.”

—Cindy Stinson '75

“She was the head of the nursing program here at Lamar when I came in 1973, and she was my first teacher,” Stinson said. “She left in 1999, so I got to work with her for five years after I got back (as a faculty member). It was really important to her to be fair. It didn’t matter what your race or ethnic background was, what really mattered was your work ethic and what you were willing to give. Everyone had the same way of being evaluated and that was for the faculty too.”

“I remember when I first started working here and I would tell her about all the exciting things I was doing with my students in my clinical group, and she would always say ‘Cindy, that’s great for your students, but what are you doing for the other students to be fair to them? It’s not just about you or your students—we want to make sure everyone is given the same opportunities,’ and so that’s really important to me still.”

Price-Nealy said her first relationship with Stinson was as the head of the nursing program, interviewing student applicants to the university.

“At that time [Stinson] was very young,” Price-Nealy said. “But she had a lot of energy, and I could tell from my experience in nursing and dealing with people that she would be able to contribute if she was given a chance to pursue her career in nursing. So I gave her a chance, and the other faculty who interviewed her did as well.”

“I have always respected her because she had so much energy and so much vigor. She was also quite pushy. She would just let you know, ‘I’m going to do this,’ and I couldn’t help but respect her for that, even though she was young.”

Price-Nealy became a mentor to Stinson, giving her the guidance through the program and into the professional world that she needed.

Being a mentor is based on a few fundamental components, Price-Nealy said.

“I think it is mutually beneficial,” she said. “It is based on trust, and respect, and then the other side of that is based on humility and believing that the two people have something in common to share. And respecting each other for their competency in the field.”

Price-Nealy said certain things throughout her career remained constant in the everchanging medical landscape.

“The lessons I feel that have stayed true for me as a human being and for the students that I’ve taught would be to stay focused and have personal life objectives,” she said. “If you stay focused, you can meet those objectives. I feel that everybody who wants to succeed must have a clear vision of what they want to become. That was always my personal philosophy and goal in life because I feel that when people don’t stay focused, there are so many things that occur around them

that throws them off, and they can find it very hard to get back on target. So, focus and staying on target are what I feel has worked for me and my relationships with students and people.”

Price-Nealy said she and Stinson share a very personal relationship to this day.

“We first have a very warm and personal relationship from the humanistic side, and then we have a very respectful relationship as professionals,” she said. “And those two coming together bind us together sometimes as one.”

Stinson said Price-Nealy stays in contact with her, offering her praise and criticism when she finds it appropriate.

“Every once in a while, she will give me a call to tell me that she’s read something—and not only does she give me good feedback on what I am doing right, she also tells me when she thinks I’m doing something wrong, still to this day,” Stinson said.

Stinson said having Price-Nealy as a mentor has had a lasting impact on her and her own methods of teaching.

“It makes me really think before I do something about how it affects all people, the whole general group and not just a small amount of the group,” she said. “And every once in a while, I stop and think, ‘Now what would Doris do if she was in this spot?’—even 50 years later.”

Where have Ambassadors flown?

More than 100 exceptional LU students apply for a coveted 15 available positions each year, facing a competitive application and panel interview process to become a Lamar University Ambassador. The few that are selected enjoy training in leadership as well as personal and career development, remembering it as a uniquely invaluable experience that helped them become successful young professionals. A few of them share their thoughts below.

Lauren (Graser) Atwood '10, '11 BBA Accounting, MS Accounting

Atwood is currently working as a financial reporting specialist and previously served as a senior accountant.

"I wish I could have been a part of this great organization for a longer time. I really enjoyed getting to meet fellow students and past alumni at the events where we represented Lamar University."

Andrea Figueroa '21 BS Social Work Figueroa is working in Austin as a SmartKid coordinator with Communities in Schools and is pursuing an Master in Social Work online at University of Texas at Arlington.

"Honestly, if it was not for the Lamar University Ambassadors program, I would have never pushed myself to excel nor found the passion I have to continue to serve the people around me. It truly has helped be blossom into a professional and for that I am forever grateful."

Madison Hamby '20 BA Psychology Hamby is a lead therapist at Behavior, TLC (an ABA Clinic for children with autism spectrum disorder). She began a master's program in applied behavior analysis at the University of Houston–Clear Lake in fall 2022.

"The Ambassadors Program at Lamar University allowed me to step outside of the traditional college experience and into the professional world that lies beyond. I found that being a part of this community dedicated to producing well-rounded people pushed me to become one—a citizen of the world that is passionate about giving back some of what was given to me."

Davey Langham '20 BBA Marketing Langham is a marketing automation specialist working remotely for Tremco Sealants (parent company, RPM, is a Fortune 500 company).

"The ambassadors program truly gave me a sense of purpose at Lamar University. I was able to turn my love for my school into action and hopefully leave it better than I found it."

Avery Murdock '19 BS Exercise Science and Fitness Management Murdock is currently attending the University of St. Augustine Health Sciences in Austin to earn his Doctor of Physical Therapy degree in April 2023.

"The Ambassadors program allowed me to actively participate in personal and professional development through networking, community service and leadership workshops. It also gave me the opportunity to connect with alumni and donors through many Lamar University events and service projects. The ambassadors

program helped me realize my potential both inside and outside of the classroom, as well as the many benefits and opportunities that arise from being a Lamar University Cardinal."

Erica (Edgerly) Rone '16 BS Family and Consumer Sciences-Fashion Retailing/Merchandizing

Rone owns two Merle Norman Cosmetic Studios, one in Orange and one in Bridge City. She is also the creator and owner of Jewel Luxury Lashes, a luxury false eyelash line sold in her stores, on her website and other retail stores across the country. She also co-owns along with her mother, Stephanie, Millikids Boutique, an upscale children's clothing shop.

"Being a Lamar University Ambassador gave me key social, leadership, communication and networking skills, as well as confidence in myself and pride in Lamar University. I am now a business owner and am a boss to multiple employees who I lead every day. The skills I learned as an ambassador have helped me become a successful business owner. These skills have also helped me lead and grow a team of successful Merle Norman Beauty Consultants throughout the years who have become some of the most sought-after makeup artists in Southeast Texas. All-in-all, being an ambassador gave me a set of skills and experience that I don't believe I would have received with any other program, and I am so proud to have been a part of it."

Bernard (Ben) Yett '15 BS Electrical Engineering and Mathematics

Yett completes a Ph.D. program in electrical engineering at Vanderbilt University in December this year. He teaches electrical engineering courses at Tennessee State University.

"The ambassadors program was great for providing unique opportunities through both the events that I was able to participate in and the people I was able to associate with. Whether they were my peers representing every department of the university or all the way up to the university president and everyone in between, I was constantly awestruck by their accomplishments and conversations."

Christine Zabala '13 BA English, BA History

Zabala went on to earn an M.A. in literature at Texas State University–San Marcos and completed her Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction at the University of Colorado, Boulder. She is an assistant professor in educational leadership and policy studies at the University of Oklahoma.

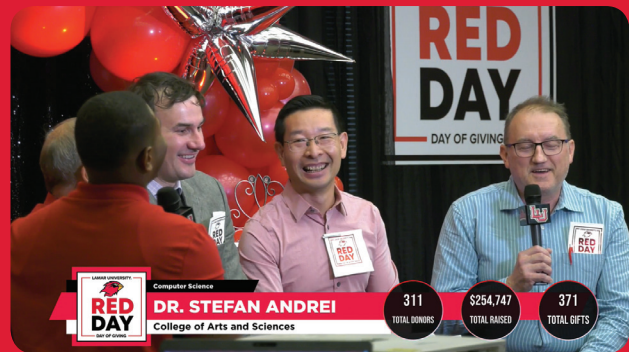
"I made some really close connections with my fellow ambassadors, with many of whom I am still very close. Additionally, I got some insight into the alumni affairs side of higher education, which has served me well during my career."



Red Day: Goal achieved

In 2021, Cardinals came together to celebrate the anniversary of LU's founding with the very first Red Day event, a 24-hour day of giving designed to shine a spotlight on philanthropy and to raise funds in support of the amazing opportunities and programs at LU. During that first event, our community of alumni, family and friends together raised more than \$120,000 to directly benefit our students. This year, not only did our Cardinal family answer the call again, but they nearly tripled that number, raising over \$340,000.

Red Day team members were stunned, both by the extraordinary generosity of Lamar University supporters and by the incredible number of students, faculty, staff and alumni who committed their time and energy to make Red Day a success. During the 24-hour giving day, Red Day emcee and alumnus Landon Richard '22 hosted 10 live broadcasts on LU social media, welcoming 40 students, faculty and staff interviewees to share their stories about opportunities at LU and the amazing impact donors have all across



campus. Behind the scenes, more than 25 volunteers joined the Red Day Command Center to answer calls and hand-write personal thank-you notes to Red Day donors, and 57 LU fans signed on to become Red Day Champions, pledging to spread the word and encourage others to take part. Additionally, generous donors, including Ed Gunderson '78, Tom Mays '76, Dean Dan French '73, Don Warren '63 and the LU Foundation sponsored a total of seven Red Day challenges, collectively contributing more than \$40,000 and providing key incentives for viewers to join them in donating to support LU.

"This means everything," said President Jaime Taylor, as he joined the closing broadcast, sharing how much this tremendous outpouring of support meant to LU. "This is going to go directly to helping our students be successful, helping them through scholarships, special events, activities. It just really creates a lot of excitement on our campus, knowing there are so many individuals out there that want to support Lamar University."



LU professor reflects on causes, effects of Hurricane Harvey in new poetry collection

When poet Katherine Hoerth, assistant professor of English, moved to Nederland, something was brewing in the Atlantic—far from the shores of the Gulf Coast where each year, a handful of hurricanes are projected to make landfall. Each name evokes an emotion, a memory, a feeling of something lost—Rita, Ike, Imelda, Laura and others. But none gnaw at the deep knot of our center quite like Hurricane Harvey, which made landfall on Aug. 17, 2017—just two weeks after Hoerth moved to the area. Five years after the torrential tempest devastated Southeast Texas, she has published *Flare Stacks in Full Bloom*, an eco-feminist collection of poetry that explores the causes and effects of Hurricane Harvey—the personal, the communal and the universal. They are poems, she said, about the natural beauty of our landscape here in Southeast Texas, the strange beauty of the industrial landscapes and the tenuousness of life on the Gulf Coast.

Fine arts students' work featured in Japan

The Miyazaki Prefectural Art Museum in Miyazaki City, Japan, displayed more than 37 pieces of art work created and produced by 14 art students. The Lamar University Digital Art Exhibition 2022 curated by Christopher Troutman, associate professor of art in the LU Department of Art & Design, featured Troutman's large mixed media of works on paper from 2020 and 2021 with some digital artwork included. The initial goal of planning the exhibitions, Troutman said, was to motivate students to create quality artwork while developing digital drawing curriculum in the Department of Art & Design. What started out as an experiment quickly turned into an international research opportunity for Troutman's students. Finally, after a pandemic postponement, the show was on display July 6-10. "It feels great. The museum director is also happy to see the work up. Students are happy as well—students that had been waiting two years after graduating are happy to know their work is filling the gallery there." Selections also were shown at the Art Studios Inc., in downtown Beaumont.

College of Education and Human Development earns national accreditation

In July, the College of Education and Human Development received news from the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP) that the undergraduate interdisciplinary studies program met standards for accreditation. "This accomplishment was an essential building block for both the department and college to build on continuous program improvement and take our teacher education program to higher levels of quality in the future," said Robert J. Spina, dean of the college. Associate Dean Rebecca Weinbaum and Freddie Titus, who formerly served as interim department chair for the Department of Education, played key roles in assisting the college in earning the accreditation.

RED AND WHITE HEADLINES

New exhibit opens at Boomtown In the newest building of the **Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum**, community members along with President Jaime Taylor and Beaumont mayor Robin Mouton gathered June 11 to open the newest exhibit, *Cawley's: From Machining to Automation*. It features four model steam engines, along with a model robot from **Sage Automation** and a video presentation on how steam engines were used in the oil fields and how Don '59 and Cliff Cawley '83 used their experience in the oil fields to create these steam engines, eventually founding the company that is now Sage Automation today.



From left, Cody Tran, Krystal Le, Dion Tran, Jennifer Tsan and Emmanuel Grandeza

Asian Business Student Association founded

Dion Tran and Krystal Le, both master's degree in accounting students in the College of Business, have formed the Asian Business Student Association, open to all students, to equip those majoring in business or related fields with essential skills, such as leadership, networking, community service and professional development. In addition to promoting cultural awareness, heritage and the achievements of LU Asian-American leaders, the group plans to establish an ABSA alumni membership to help former Asian-American alumni stay engaged with both the chapter and LU.

College of Business establishes new board

College of Business administrators and alumni have partnered to establish the Lamar University College of Business Young Professionals Board. Its purpose is to cultivate a network of professionals who are engaged in giving back and connecting with the college community. The board will work with college leaders to communicate the needs of recent alumni and mentor the next generation of business leaders. Marc Lerma '20, current president of the board, said, "We have developed a mentorship program from the ground up that will help students by pairing them up with a board member who is in the early to mid-stage of their career. The program covers a broad range of topics from resumes and LinkedIn to discussing interviews, negotiating and handling conflict." Lance Taylor '20, '21, YPB member and mentor, said, "Seeing the students succeed is the most exciting and rewarding part for me. To contribute and serve my alma mater, and to be a part of the journey for Lamar University students is a true honor."



LU partners with Flowserve

Flowserve Corp., a leading provider of flow control products and services for the global infrastructure markets, recently opened a new Learning Resource Center within the **College of Engineering**. The new state-of-the-art center provides LU engineering students, Flowserve customers and Southeast Texas community members with training opportunities through hands-on, lab-based learning experiences with Flowserve's innovative products and technology.

Brian Craig, dean of the College of Engineering, said the main goal of the college is to prepare engineering graduates to be job ready. "This learning center will give them exposure to exactly what they will see in the workforce—valves, in-service pumps, training pumps, seals and actuators—and they'll be able to take these things apart, put them back together and trouble shoot where needed," he said. "Ultimately, the lab will give our students a competitive advantage right out of the gate."

Stewart Shoefstall '85, vice president of sales in the U.S., said, "I can tell you, there is no substitute for actually seeing what you'll be working with before you graduate. It makes you way more valuable in industry. What I hope is that this lab will increase the want and drive for our students at LU to come into our co-op programs so that they fuel the future with new opportunities for talent."

LU ranks in Top 10

The Center for Online Education recently ranked Lamar University among the most affordable online colleges in Texas. The ranking bases assessment on in-state yearly tuition, or annual tuition rates if a school does not differentiate between in-state and out-of-state students. Tuition rates are based on full course load each semester or term. LU ranked No. 7 in a time when online education is become increasingly popular. . . EDsmart.org, a nationally recognized publisher of college resources and independent rankings, placed LU's online bachelor's programs at No. 2 in the state and No. 22 in the nation for most affordable. Lamar University offers 14 online bachelor's degrees and 33 online master's and doctoral degrees.

ADMINISTRATORS ASSUME NEW POSTS



President Jaime R. Taylor announced in June that **Dann Brown** was named university provost and vice president for academic affairs, effective July 1,

2022. Brown replaced Brenda Nichols, who retired from the position after 21 years of dedicated service in different leadership roles at Lamar University. Trained as a plant pathologist, Brown's research focused on the influence of environmental parameters and change on plant-pathogen interactions. As an administrator, he has researched the effects of high-impact practices on student success in college and has published extensively to help identify best practices for other institutions to implement. . . . President Taylor



announced in September that **Mark Robinson**, an experienced higher education leader and

financial officer, has been named the university's new chief financial officer. Robinson was selected for the position following a national search led by the university and began his new role on Oct. 1. With more than 35 years of financial leadership in higher education and corporate sectors, Robinson will oversee financial services departments, shared business services and the university's operating budget. . . . The College of Engineering has appointed five new chairs. "We were able to attract these talented leaders due to the rich history of Lamar Engineering, which can be traced back to our earliest days as Lamar State College of Technology," said President Taylor. "The reputations of our successful alumni and their contributions to endowments and scholarship funds were key to recruiting a cadre of such high caliber academic leaders." The new chairs are **Venkatesh (Venki) Uddameri**, chair of civil and environmental engineering; **Mansour Karkoub**, chair of mechanical engineering; and **Abdelnasser Eldek**, chair of electrical engineering. **Tracy Benson** has been promoted to chair of chemical and biomolecular engineering, and **James Curry** has been promoted to chair of industrial and systems engineering. All began their new roles Aug. 1.



2022 David J. Beck Fellows, Presidential Fellows announced

Lamar University selected two recipients of the David J. Beck Fellowship and finalists for the Presidential Summer Fellowship at the annual reception March 2. The David J. Beck Fellowships reward outstanding academic achievement and allow top students to further challenge themselves with unique opportunities for undergraduate research and creative study. One of the most prestigious honors a student can earn, Beck Fellows are awarded full academic scholarships covering all tuition, books, fees and on-campus room and board. They also receive up to \$10,000 in tuition funding for a summer project, which may entail research, an internship, or international study.

The 2022 David J. Beck Fellows are Beaumont native and sophomore pre-med biology major **Zaid Mohammed** and junior biology major **Angel Flowers** of Port Arthur. For his summer project, Mohammed has been invited to conduct research in Ottawa, Canada, at the University of Ottawa with molecular biologist and co-director of the Genome Editing and Molecular Biology facility, Dr. Ryan Russel. Russel's lab environment is one of the few labs in the world that are proficient in autophagy experiment. Flowers will conduct research regarding the microscopic animal phyla, Tardigrada. She will be studying the marine tardigrades and the effects of water quality, sediment organic content and habitat type on population density and species distribution patterns. She will be working with different groups in the U.S. and abroad to conduct this research.

Taliah Belcher and **Tristan Tonche** are 2022 Presidential Summer Fellows. Senior accounting and finance major Belcher will participate in an international study and research project in Alicante, Spain, focusing on the impact of militarization on the financial and economic growth of developing and highly militarized countries. Tonche, sophomore American Sign Language major, has been invited to research and interview the Plains Indian Sign Language users that remain today at the University of British Columbia. She will work alongside the Native Indian Teachers Education Program faculty and interview Deaf Natives to collect data.

LU receives \$259,000 grant to renew, support McNair Scholars Program

The U.S. Department of Education recently announced that LU's Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program has been renewed to receive a grant in the amount of \$259,198 each year for the next five years, totaling more than \$1 million in support of its scholars. Established in 1986 and named for astronaut and space shuttle Challenger crew member Dr. Ronald E. McNair, The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program is a federally funded program that provides first-generation, low-income minority college students with paid internships and mentoring to prepare for enrollment in graduate programs. Each year, the LU program selects up to 26 students to serve as McNair scholars, offering juniors and seniors opportunities to conduct research and publish, or present, their findings and assisting the cohort in applying to graduate school. Benefits also include a stipend of up to \$2,800 to work with a McNair research faculty member during the summer.

EPA awards more than \$440,000 to LU

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced more than \$11 million in grant funding for projects promoting a Healthy and Resilient Gulf of Mexico watershed, with \$448,625 to Lamar University for deployment of distributed stormwater infiltration and bioretention infrastructures to mitigate flooding and related non-point source pollution in Beaumont and Port Arthur. These awards will improve water quality, habitat, community resilience and environmental education in the Gulf of Mexico watershed.

Chemistry professor awarded \$200,000 NSF grant

The NSF has awarded Sylvestre Twagirayezu, assistant professor of chemistry, a LEAPS-MPS (Launching Early-Career Academic Pathways in the Mathematical and Physical Sciences) grant of \$249,682 to develop detection technology for long-chain fluorinated compounds for environmental trace analysis. "Fluorinated compounds are man-made chemicals that become toxic to human health after being released into the environment. However, the determination of its structure and its environmental fate is a challenging task and demands highly selective analytical tools," Twagirayezu said. "This grant will address this challenge and expect to provide scientific insights that will enable the development of new tools for the fast characterization of perfluorinated compounds in the environment." The project will benefit multiple scientific communities involved in fundamental studies of molecular physics and environmental analysis and will strengthen existing research capabilities.

Physics instructor receives highly competitive grant

Evgeny Romashets, instructor of physics, has been awarded a \$219,902 grant from the National Science Foundation's Coupling, Energetics and Dynamics of Atmospheric Regions program to study current streamlines and charged particles' trajectories in the ionosphere, the upper atmosphere stretching from 50 to 400 miles above Earth's surface. "This is a very significant grant awarded by a highly competitive program," said Jerry Lin, atmospheric scientist and associate provost for Research and Sponsored Programs. "The observational and modeling data that describe what's happening in the upper atmosphere had been lacking because of the cost and challenges in making measurements as well as the knowledge gaps at this altitude of the atmosphere." Romashets believes this problem can be solved with the Euler potential method which enables the definition of each magnetic field line and monitors its changes over time for predicting the formation and evolution of field-aligned currents. Field aligned currents and associated shell currents in the ionosphere are one of the fastest growing areas of research.

JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing awarded \$607,018 grant

The Department of Health and Human Services awarded the JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing a \$607,018 grant to provide education and tuition support to students who pursue degrees in nursing education. The funds will help eligible nursing students who choose the Master of Science in Nursing Education track and Graduate Certificate Program for Nursing Education. This grant funded project aims to increase the number of qualified nursing educators to address the national shortage of nursing faculty. "Eligible graduate nursing students can apply for loan repayment-up to 85% of their loans for their MSN," said Ruthie Robinson, director of Graduate Nursing Studies.



2022 Cardinal Hall of Honor

LU inducted five new members into the Cardinal Hall of Honor Oct. 22. The inductees include from left Bruce Aven (Baseball, 1991-94), Donald Davis (Football and Track & Field, 1973-77), Herbert Harris (Football, 1980-82), Reginald Begelton (father of inductee Reggie Begelton, Football, 2012-15, who was unable to attend), and, not pictured, inductee Jennifer Heisler (Volleyball and Track & Field, 1988-91).

An Evening with the Dean: Arts and Sciences

Nancy and Mark Browning, senior vice president trust advisor with Extraco Wealth and Trust, hosted An Evening with the Dean Oct. 5 at their home in College Station. Joining Mark, right, are, from left, Jeff Spoeri, associate vice president for University Advancement; Joanne Brown, major gifts officer; Ginger Carrabine, superintendent, Bryan school district; Dean Lynn Maurer, College of Arts and Sciences; and Pat and Bill Smith '59, professor emeritus, Texas A&M University. Mark established a planned gift for a scholarship in memory of his mother—the Frances E. Browning Memorial Scholarship in Music, who attended LU. His father was a 1955 graduate.



Red Blazer Ceremony

The Red Blazer Ceremony marked the significant achievement of students who have been selected to become 2022-2023 Lamar University Ambassadors. Only a few such students are selected each year, outstanding in academics and accomplished beyond the classroom, to represent the very best of LU at official university events and to continue a tradition that first began in 1962. Pres. Taylor presented the 18 new ambassadors with their red blazers in the Richard L. Price Auditorium Sept. 16.



Charlton-Pollard Elementary gets its Red on!

Yokishia (Broussard) Hope '10, '17, shared this photo of Charlton-Pollard Elementary teachers—led by Principal Ariane Moore '03, '09, back row right—wearing their LU shirts for Rep Your College Alma Mater day at their campus. Lots of proud alumni in this pic!



New ambassadors from left, back row, Vavah Kamasa-Quashie, sophomore, psychology, Fort Worth; Jada Bowie-Coleman, junior, biology, Destrehan, La.; Tomisin Egbewale, sophomore, computer science, Nigeria; Kalan Bonnette, senior, mathematics and computer science, Pineville, La.; President Taylor; Jacob Murphy, senior, business management, Sour Lake; Conner Montgomery, senior, chemical engineering pre-medicine, Lumberton; Jonah Smith, sophomore, mechanical engineering, Port Neches; Waverlee Cooper, sophomore, biology pre-dental, Bridge City; Shelby Williams, junior, political science, Port Neches; **front row,** Folasade Asoro, junior, public health administration, Houston; Julia Barrett, junior, interdisciplinary studies, Groves; Amarie Guillory, junior, marketing, Beaumont; Zuhair Merchant, junior, computer information science, Mumbai, India; Jacob Thompson, junior, biology pre-medicine, Beaumont; Jacob Smith, junior, nursing, Port Neches; Chloe Raczkovi, junior, interdisciplinary studies, Fannett; Madeline Tzul, junior, psychology, Guatemala; not pictured, Lucia Ortiz, senior, chemical engineering, Lima, Peru



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:

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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.

60s

The Litigation Section of the State Bar of Texas inducted **David J. Beck** '61, B.S. government, '12, L.H.D., as a Texas Legal Legend at its annual meeting June 9, 2022, recognizing him as one of a select group of lawyers who have spent their professional careers serving others and taking on challenges that are much bigger than themselves. He is founding partner of Beck Redden, and he and his wife, Judy, live in Houston.

Texas District 3 **Sen. Robert Nichols** '68, B.S. industrial engineering, is chair of the newly formed Senate Special Committee to Protect All Texans to prevent school shootings by assessing school safety, mental health resources, social media, police training and firearm safety. He lives in Jacksonville.

70s

Distinguished Alumnus **Bob Wortham** '71, B.S. government, will retire at the end of his current term as Jefferson County criminal district attorney. He and his wife, **Karen** '93, live in Beaumont.

Tennis player and professional engineer **John Jordan** '72, B.S. industrial engineering, played on the LU team that was ranked in the top 20 in Division 1 in the U.S. His 32-year career with Otis Engineering and Halliburton spanned a number of executive-level assignments across the globe. Today, he owns his own consulting company focusing on engineering solutions for the oilfield and is an agent and advisor for companies in China, Mexico, Turkey, Italy and the U.S. He and his wife, Mariko, live in Houston.

Tim Spell '73, B.A. history, '81, M.A. history, is a retired writer for Hearst Media and the Houston Chronicle. He was the automotive columnist and wrote a syndicated column for *Motor Matters*. He and his wife, Melissa, live in San Leon.

Helen (Munden) Hays '74, B.S. elementary education, '78, M.Ed. elementary education, and her husband, Steve, spent five years renovating the oldest home in Tyler County, the Peter Cauble House, built in 1835. After a 19-year teaching career, she is a tour guide for the house and Peachtree Village with the Tyler County Heritage Society. They live in Chester.

Congratulations to **Sandra (French) Clark** '76, M.A. English, on being named president of the Symphony of Southeast Texas. She is a shareholder and vice president of Mehaffy Weber and lives in Beaumont.

Connie (Sanderson) Butler '76, B.S. home economics, retired from teaching at Hillcrest Elementary School after 17

years of service. She and her husband, **Tommy** '76, A.A.S. drafting technology, who is a draftsman with ExxonMobil Corp., live in Nederland.

Craig Jackson '77, B.S. electrical engineering, rode with Team Suicide Prevention and completed the 930-mile 2022 Race Across The West June 14. On June 27, he and his team also finished the 3,037-mile Race Across America. The mission of Team Suicide Prevention is to raise awareness and spread hope. Craig owns Craig Jackson Photography and lives with his wife, Lorraine, in Broken Arrow, Okla.

Nederland High School named **Sue (Weatherford) Jordan** '77, B.S. secondary education, '84, M.Ed. secondary education, 2022 Teacher of the Year. She retired in May after 45 years in education. She and her husband, **Victor** '76, A.A.S. industrial electricity and electronics, who is an analyzer technician for Star Enterprise, live in Nederland.

David Frenzel '78, A.A.S. fire protection technology, retired as fire chief for the city of Orange, where he lives.

Kountze Middle School selected sixth grade teacher **Karen (Turner) Key** '79, B.S. elementary education, as 2022 Teacher of the Year. She lives in Silsbee.

80s

Paula (Lindstrom) Peavy '80, B.S. elementary education, retired from Langham Elementary School as a special education and life skills teacher after 42 years of service. She and her husband, James, live in High Island.

Stephanie Pitts '80, B.S. home economics, is supervisor of family and consumer sciences and state advisor for Family, Career and Community Leaders of America Missouri Association. She lives in Jefferson City, Mo.

Karl Segura '80, B.B.A. accounting, retired in June as senior manager of business development for Entergy Texas Inc. He and his wife, **Lisa (Hock)** '79, B.S. elementary education, live in Port Neches.

Faith Community Nurses made a donation to the Foundation for Baptist Hospital of Southeast Texas in honor of the work **Cynthia (Kellam) Stinson** '75, A.S. nursing, '80, B.S. nursing, has done with the Dauphin Women's Center and her continued promotion

of cancer awareness. She is director of Nursing Continuing Education at LU and owner of Heath Education Resources. She lives in Lumberton.

Cheryl (Holcombe) Evans '81, B.F.A. art, owns Doodles Art Studio, which she opened after a 33-year teaching career. She takes commissions and offers private lessons, paint parties and summer art camps. She and her husband, David, live in Port Arthur.

Maria (Richard) Fontenot '81, B.B.A. office administration, retired as a career and technical education teacher from Nederland High School after 30 years of service. She and her husband, **Dale** '81, B.S. computer science, '13, M.Ed. administration, live in Port Neches.

Michael Long '81, B.S. health and physical education, is head football coach for Monsignor Kelly High School. He lives in Santa Fe.

Leadership Beaumont named **David Thornhill** '81, A.A.S. mid-management, a 2022 Distinguished Alumnus June 2. He is president of SBS Southwest Building Systems, and he and his wife, **Sherrie (Scoggins)** '84, B.S. elementary education, who is assistant superintendent of curriculum and human resources for Silsbee school district, live in Silsbee.

Lisa (Heller) Boudoin '82, B.A. mathematics, retired from teaching algebra 2 and pre-calculus at Port Neches-Groves High School. She lives in Port Neches.

Ginger (Eiland) Bourque '82, B.B.A. office administration, retired in May from teaching at Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School and Vidor High School. She lives in Orange.

Doug Farmer '82, B.S. mechanical engineering, retired from The LYCRA Co. after a 38-year career. He and his wife, Jodi, live in Greensboro.

Dale Peddy '82, B.B.A. marketing, retired as public affairs manager after a 30-year career with Entergy. He and his wife, **Alana (Mulhollan)** '82, B.S. elementary education, who retired from Mauriceville Elementary School, live in Mauriceville.

Carolyn (Harbour) Stinson '82, B.A. history, retired as vice president with Wells Fargo in June. She lives in Houston.

Melanie Touns '82, B.S. speech, '01, M.Ed. counseling and development, retired as principal from Bridge City Elementary School. She and her husband, Jerry, live in Orange.

Mom and daughter pen book

Mother and daughter duo **Katherine (Yosko) Graham** '07, B.G.S. general studies, and **Kathleen (McDaniel) Yosko** '77, B.S. elementary education, '80, M.Ed. supervision, wrote *Hildi and Hans Great Adventure*, a children's guidebook of Fredericksburg with a few German lessons added in. They own Liebskind, a children's boutique in Fredericksburg. Both taught in various school districts prior to opening the business.



| CLASS NOTES |



Alumni Homecoming Pre-Game Party | LU vs. HCU Oct. 1, 2022–Montagne Center

1 CARDS, TECHSAN, and Lambda Tau Reunion guests: Richard Valley '70, Sarah (Atwood) Bardwell '79, Delores (Wilber) Rollo '78, Amy (Gauthier) Walla '76, Sherry Simmons '75, Lee Anne Nabors '78, back row: Pat Bardwell '92, Mike Wheeler '77, Craig Stelly '78, Julius Albonetti '76

2 Crystal Davis '08, Cecita (Hightower) Seals '95 and Chasta Winslow '06

3 Karen Nichols '83; Jeff Spoeri, associate vice president of University Advancement; Joshua Davis '11, '15, '19; and Thomas (Tran) Davis '15

4 Ta'quisha Radford '16, '20, Felicia (McAdams) Roberts '09, '11, Andrea Benford '15 and Karen Land '87

5 LU Ambassador Julia Barrett assists Stephan Malick '95, '18, and Olivia Malick '21 with the photo booth

6 Hetty (Green) Brown '79, J.R. Richardson '92 and Lila (Creamer) Stevens '01

7 Future Cardinal Aaron Allen, Emily (Everett) Allen '98, '04, Future Cardinal Andrew Allen and Chris Allen

8 J.R. Richardson '92, Nicole Kyles-Burton '17, '19 and Mario Watkins '81

9 Nina (Lopez) '07 and Harold Baker '82 with Ethel (Means) '03 and Curtis Rogers

10 Future Cardinal Maddox Guidry, Chris Kovatch '02 and Future Cardinal Stryker Kovatch

11 Future Cardinal Andrew Lakich, Cherlyn (Boyd) Linscomb '79, '84, and Future Cardinal Valerie Lakich

12 Lonnie Turner, Future Cardinal Aiden Harrison, Sandra (Lavergne) Turner '94 and Renella (Booker) Johnson '97

13 LU Ambassadors with Pres. Jaime Taylor and advisors to the Ambassadors Program Shannon Figueroa and Evie Clifton: First row, Big Red (we're not supposed to reveal his name, but he's an Ambassador this year); second row, Miguel Arevalo, Stephanie Barron, Julia Barrett, Amarie Guillory, Sindi Castillo; third row, Vavah Kamasa-Quashie; Madison Taylor; Lucia Ortiz; Pres. Taylor; Shannon (Copeland) Figueroa '02, '03, '07, director of Alumni Affairs; Paul Ivory; Jacob Thompson; and Evie Clifton, coordinator of Alumni Affairs

14 Kay and Phil Lohec '69 with Pam (Lohec) and Mark Stasney

15 Andrea (Rugg) Lee '17, '18, and John Rugg '18

16 Nga "Tea" (Nguyen) Do '08 and her future Cardinals Logan and Lucas Do

17 Christi Grudier '10, Thaddeus Green '11 and President Jaime Taylor

18 Travis '06 and Octavia Brown-Reed '90, '97

19 Cody Glenn '03, future Cardinal Zoey Glenn and Ashley (Yentzen) Glenn '08

20 Sharon (Smith) '83, '89, and Roger McCabe

21 Mike Theriot and Future Cardinal Blakelynn Theriot

22 Phyllis (McAfee) Thibodeaux '00, '06, Future Cardinal Margeaux Stevens, Future Cardinal Peyton Thibodeaux and Future Cardinal CoreyNa Whisby.

23 Kattya Fernandez '22, Shannon Mills '20 and Landon Jefferson

24 Chris and Cindy (Dinkins) Partin '97, '99, with Julie (Turner) '98 and Brett Weldy

25 Scott '77 and Joan McKenney '76 with Mike Wheeler '77

26 Brian Wulf, Future Cardinal Cody Wulf and Brandi (Spoonmore) Wulf '97, '13

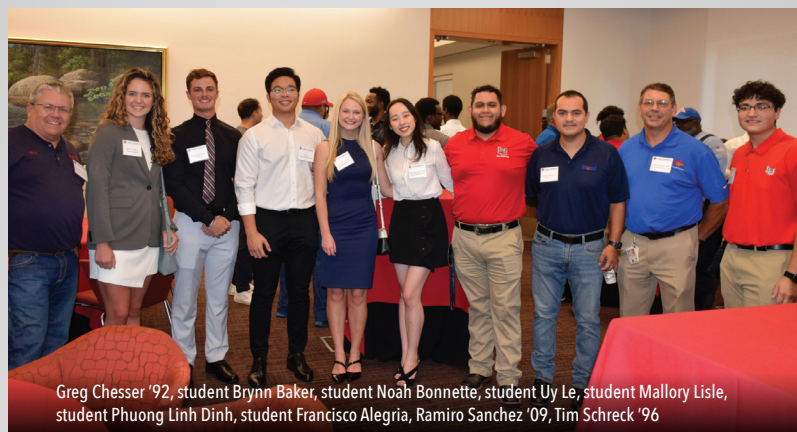
27 Raju '93 and Jules Srirama

28 Steven '13 and Sandra (Juarez) Frederick '10, '19



PHOTO CREDIT: BRANDON GOUTHER





Greg Chesser '92, student Brynn Baker, student Noah Bonnette, student Uy Le, student Mallory Lisle, student Phuong Linh Dinh, student Francisco Alegria, Ramiro Sanchez '09, Tim Schreck '96

ExxonMobil ALUMNI MIXER

Alumni who work at ExxonMobil spent their afternoon Aug. 25 mentoring LU students about potential career path, grad school and education choices in the Wayne A. Reaud Administration Building Executive Event Space.



Student Marcellious Prentice, Steven McKinney '20, student Luis Ramirez, student Emmanuel Grandeza, Rich Healey '21



Cebron Hendrix '87, '91, and LU Ambassador Isaac Moreno



Student Uy Le, student Phuong Linh Dinh, student Kevin Araujo, student Emmanuel Grandeza, Tim Schreck '96, and student Rafael Gutierrez



Student Ma'Kenzi Knoch, student Khalaya Coleman, student Camryn Free, Kelci Crawford '18, Katie Sparkes '18, Megan Huddleston '16, '19, student Islamiyat Abubakar, student Juliette Colvin

Terry Welch '82, B.S. electrical engineering, is CEO and managing partner of Sinclair Belgrave Energy in The Woodlands. He is co-chair of the LU College of Engineering Advisory Council. He and his wife, Janelle, live in Decatur, Ala.

Mary (Eickenhorst) Hardy '83, B.B.A. accounting, retired as an accountant with TotalEnergies Petrochemicals and Refining USA Inc. She and her husband, **Clay** '83, B.B.A. finance, who is principal with Argent Trust Co., live in Groves.

Roxane (Simmons) Gray '84, B.S. theatre, retired from Nederland High School after a 22-year teaching career. She and her husband, **Phillip**, '89, B.S. theatre, live in Nederland.

The Lamar State College-Port Arthur Small Business Development Center named **Kay (Patteson) DeCuir** '85, B.S. elementary education, '09, M.Ed. teacher leadership, 2022 Small Business Champion of the Year. She owns K DeCuir Properties, and she and her husband, Bruce, live in Nederland.

Robert Long '85, B.S. communication, retired from Nederland High School after 30 years as a teacher. He and his wife, **Linda (Clark)** '86, B.S. family and consumer sciences-fashion retailing and merchandising, '91, M.S. home economics, who is an event planner for Brentwood Country Club of Texas, live in Groves.

Michael Wood '85, B.B.A. marketing, is chaplain at Buckner Calder Woods Retirement Community. He and his wife, Lisa, live in Vidor.

Cindy (Wall) Carlin '86, B.S. elementary education, is a certified tumor registrar for Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center in Houston. She lives in Pearland.

Donna (Watt) Hayes '86, B.S. family and consumer sciences-fashion retailing and merchandising, retired as a teacher at Hillcrest Elementary School after 23 years of service with the Nederland school district. She and her husband, Mark, live in Nederland.

Cheryl (Markum) Higgins '86, B.S. criminal justice, '05, M.Ed. special education, retired as a teacher from Helena Park Elementary School after 21 years with the district. She and her husband, Timothy, live in Groves.

Beaumont school district named **Angelia Joseph** '86, B.S. elementary education, 2022-2023 Teacher of the Year at Vincent Middle School. She lives in Port Arthur.

Joseph Malbrough '86, B.S. communication, owns The UPS Store Smyrna. Joseph and his wife, Cara, live in Smyrna, Ga.

Penny May '86, B.S. secondary education, retired in May from teaching science at Vidor High School. She lives in Vidor.

Cindi (Neal) Bordelon '87, B.S. secondary education, '13, M.Ed. school counseling, retired after 35 years of

service from Nederland High School as a curriculum coordinator and counselor. She and her husband, **Todd** '86, B.B.A. marketing, who is credit manager for American Paneling Plywood, live in Port Neches.

Ginger (Gilfillian) Carrabine '87, B.S. criminal justice, is superintendent of Bryan school district. She and her husband, **Mike** '84, B.S. physical education, '85, M.S. health and physical education, who just completed 37 years coaching high school basketball and served as president of the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches for 2020-2021, live in Bryan.

In June, **Bill Jardell** '87, B.S. kinesiology, '10, M.Ed. administration, was promoted to assistant superintendent of Nederland school district, where he and his wife, **Keely (Smith)** '87, B.S. dance, who owns and teaches at Keely Jardell School of Dance, live.

Gina (Whiddon) Johns '87, B.S. elementary education, retired in May from teaching at Pine Forest Elementary School in Vidor school district. She lives in Vidor.

Hardin Jefferson school district named **Kristi (Hobson) Knauth** '87, B.S. speech, '04, M.Ed. elementary education, Sour Lake Elementary School Teacher of the Year for 2021-2022. She and her husband, **Patrick** '87, B.A. psychology, who is first assistant district attorney for Jefferson County, live in Beaumont.

Michael Laird '87, M.S. kinesiology, retired as assistant superintendent for personnel and auxiliary services with Nederland school district after 43 years of service. He and his wife, **Cynthia (Stevenson)** '85, B.S. elementary education, '90, M.Ed. elementary education, who is director of instructional technology for Nederland school district, live in Beaumont.

Little Cypress-Mauriceville school district promoted **Kelly (Montagne) Meadows** '87, B.S. nursing, to director of health sciences. She and her husband, Benjamin, live in Orange.

The Lamar State College-Port Arthur Business Development Center named **Linda (Ingham) Tait** '87, B.B.A. accounting, '02, M.B.A. business administration, 2022 Small Business Champion of the Year. She and her husband, Lynn, live in Port Neches.

Patricia (Pope) Kimball '88, B.S. secondary education, retired as a science and chemistry teacher from Nederland High School after 33 years of service. She and her husband, Eric, live in Nederland.

Charles Colvin '89, B.S. psychology, '90, B.S. sociology, '11, M.Ed. administration, retired as associate principal of Beaumont United High School after 23 years of service with Beaumont school district. He and his wife, Sekeia, live in Beaumont.

90s

Elisa (Taylor) Baptiste '90, B.S. biology, is senior vice president and chief operating officer for Care Purchasing Co. and is serving a two-year term as president of the board of the LCS Foundation, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting the senior living industry. She and her husband, Kenneth, live in Hollywood, Fla.

Alice McDonald '90, B.S. secondary education, retired in May as a teacher at Vidor Elementary School. She lives in Vidor.

James Solis '90, B.S. chemical engineering, is a senior technical service engineer for Chevron Phillips Chemical Co. He lives in Owasso, Okla.

Tammy (Ling) Davis '91, B.S. mathematical sciences, '97, M.Ed. secondary education, retired in May as a teacher at Vidor Junior High School. She and her husband, Toby, live in Sour Lake.

Robin (Slott) McCutcheon '91, B.S. elementary education, is executive director of Samaritan Counseling Center of Southeast Texas and serves on the Solihien Institute National Board of Directors, an interfaith counseling network comprised of over 40 centers across the country. She and her husband, Darren, live in Groves.

Service Corporation International promoted **Terence Washington** '91, B.B.A. accounting, to assistant vice president. His wife, **Kathryn (Walker)** '91, B.S. elementary education, who earned her M.Ed. in 1997 and her Ed.D. in 2006, is president of the Texas Council of Women School Executives and assistant professor for Lamar University Educational Leadership. They live in Porter.

In April, the Neches River Festival named **Mark Fertitta** '93, A.A.S. real estate, King Neches. He owns Fertitta Realty Inc. and is president of Whitetail Inc. He and his wife, Carolyn, live in Beaumont.

Nederland Chamber of Commerce and Tourist Bureau named **Stephanie (Valka) Garsea** '93, A.A.S. office technology, Mother of the Year. She works in regional business development for Acadian Ambulance of Texas and lives with her husband, Christopher, in Nederland.

Catherine (Barnes) Hillsten '93, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '05, M.Ed. counseling and development, retired from counseling and teaching sixth-grade science and math at Central Middle School after 28 years with the Nederland school district. She and her husband, Kevin, live in Nederland.

Girl Scouts of Utah Council elected **Anita Riddle** '93, M.E.M. engineering management, '96, Eng.D. chemical engineering, to be a member-at-large

of the board of directors. She and her husband, Steven, live in Draper, Utah.

University of Phoenix named **Greg Friesz** '95, A.S. nursing, to its Phoenix500, and he received its Nursing Faculty of the Year Award, selected from nearly 3,000 nominations nationwide. He earned his doctor of nursing practice degree in 2019 and is an online instructor for the institution's master's degree in nursing program. He is also region 4 nursing director of correctional managed care for the University of Texas-Medical Branch and a distance learning adjunct instructor in LU's Professional Pedagogy Department. He and his wife, Shanna, live in Nederland.

Shawn Gray '95, B.S. nursing, is executive director of health, wellness and accessibility at Lamar University. She and her husband, **Steve** '88, B.S. communication, who teaches audio/video production at Nederland High School, live in Nederland.

Dr. Peter Hu '95, M.S. biology, is director of the Molecular Genetic Technology Program, director of diagnostic genetics and also professor and interim dean of the School of Health Professions at University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. He and his wife, Cynthia, live in Houston.

Kristina (Sonnier) Mott '95, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches at Dripping Springs Elementary School. She and her husband, Simon, live in Austin.

Terry Savoy-Hadley '95, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, was named 2022 Humanitarian of the Year at the annual Constable Christopher Bates Scholarship Breakfast in April. She teaches at Booker T. Washington Elementary School and lives in Port Arthur.

Art Simpson '95, B.S. kinesiology, '16, Ed.D. educational leadership, is assistant track coach for Memorial High School. He and his wife, **Teresa (Cossey)** '10, M.Ed. supervision, '14, Ed.D. educational leadership, who is director of institutional research and effectiveness for the University of Houston-Victoria, live in Beaumont.

Tunesia (Ashford) Benard '96, B.S. industrial engineering, earned her doctorate in June and is a product owner with Sysco Corp. and a Realtor with Walzel Properties. She lives in Cypress.

Stephanie (Torres) Vanskike '96, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '11, M.Ed. administration, is regional clinical coordinator for southeast Texas at Sam Houston State University's College of Medicine. She and her husband, Lanny, live in Beaumont.

Beaumont school district named **Melissa Chapman** '97, B.G.S. general studies, 2022-2023 Teacher of the Year at Early College High School. She lives in Beaumont.



From left, first row, are Mario Watkins '81, Thurman Bartie '92, Ransom "Duce" Jones '88, Kenneth Franklin '93, Clayton Hardman, second row, Joe Burton '90, Victor Scott '90, Bernard Whitaker, J.R. Richardson '92, Chris Hodrick '91, Parrish Owens '87, William Edwards '89, '92; third row, Bobby Johnson '86, Efosa Ebuomwan

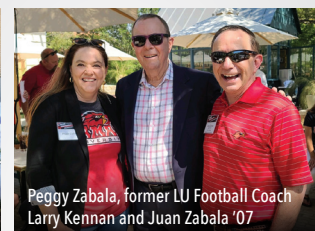
Members of the **Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. Zeta Psi Chapter** held a 50th Anniversary Reunion planning meeting for their reunion coming up in 2023. The chapter was founded 1973.



From left, Whitney (Evans) Campbell '05, Maricela Gutierrez, Isla Garcia, Barbara Franklin '72, Ernesto Garcia, Steve Gutierrez '21, and Myles Campbell



Lee Miller '71, Phillip Fuller '81 and Joel Hannemann '81, '82



Peggy Zabala, former LU Football Coach Larry Kennan and Juan Zabala '07

MEN'S SWIM TEAM 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Coach Bill Blackshear led LU's first swimming team, formed 50 years ago in 1972. Richard Hensley is one of the founding members of the team, which began as a club and competed for three years. Randy Patterson '68 served as assistant coach. Their first intercollegiate competition was Nov. 18, 1972, beginning a nine-meet schedule of racing including the 400-yard medley relay, 400-yard freestyle relay, 200-yard individual medley, freestyle at 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1,000 yards, one-meter diving, 200-yard breaststroke, 200-yard butterfly and 200-yard backstroke.



CLASS NOTES

Sherri (Sanders) Foreman '97, B.S. nursing, is vocational nursing program director at Lamar State College–Orange. She lives in Orange.

Charlotte Jungen '97, B.B.A. accounting, is serving as the 2022-2023 Texas CPA Houston president. She is chief operating officer and chief compliance officer at Goodman Financial and lives in Houston.

In April, **Joseph Pace** '97, B.S. political science, '98, B.S. sociology, '04, M.P.A. public administration, was one of only three city managers in Texas to be recognized by the International City/County Management Association as an ICMA credentialed manager, one of only 116 in the state. He and his wife, Lori, live in Wharton.

Dr. William Fermo '99, B.S. biology, who earned an M.B.A. in 2002 and his medical degree in 2008, and his brother, **Jeremy** '03, B.S. psychology, co-founded 3 Bros Running Co., which brings big city race experiences to smaller cities across Texas. They live in Lumberton.

Martha Picazo '99, B.A. English, retired as a Spanish teacher at Nederland High School after 23 years of service. She lives in San Antonio.

The Texas Association of Secondary School Principals named West Hardin Secondary School Assistant Principal **Terri (Schroeder) Smith** '99, B.S. kinesiology, '10, M.E. administration, Region 5 Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year for 2022. She and her husband, **Michael** '05, B.G.S. general studies, '10, M.Ed. administration, who is director of finance and operation for West Hardin County school district, live in Sour Lake.

00s

Holt Lunsford Commercial promoted **Schmeka Andris** '00, B.B.A. accounting, to accounting manager. She lives in Red Oak.

Janet (Best) Bradley '00, M.Ed. educational leadership, retired in May as director of technology for Vidor school district. She and her husband, Charles, live in Orange.

Tammi Halliburton '00, B.G.S. general studies, received the 2022 Wayne A. Reaud Excellence in Education Award in June. She is a librarian at Little Cypress Elementary School and lives in Orange.

The LU Finance and Operations Division promoted **Lane Smith** '00, B.B.A. management information systems, to associate director of information technology systems and cloud operations. He and his wife, **Sarah (Grohn)** '09, A.A.S. nursing, '20, B.S. nursing, '21, M.S.N. nursing education, live in Groves.

The Texas Parent Teacher Association

selected Beaumont school district Superintendent **Shannon (Pier) Allen** '01, M.Ed. administration, '13, Ed.D. educational leadership, as 2022 Superintendent of the Year. She and her husband, **Red** '90, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, who is an artist and owns Red Allen Cowboy Art, live in Beaumont.

The Texas Association of Secondary School Principals named Hardin Jefferson High School Principal **Patrick Brown** '01, B.S. kinesiology, Region 5 High School Principal of the Year for 2022. He lives in Beaumont.

Orangefield Elementary School named **Carey (Tisdale) West** '01, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, 2021-2022 Teacher of the Year. She teaches first grade, and she and her husband, Robert, live in Bridge City.

Nicole (Dengler) Martin '02, B.B.A. accounting, '07, M.B.A. business administration, is finance director for southeast Texas and southwest Louisiana Christus Health. She and her husband, **Clint** '02, B.B.A. management information systems, '04, M.B.A. business administration, who is marketing and materials manager for Metalforms Ltd., live in Lumberton.

Jenny Achilles '03, B.S. communication, recently graduated from Leadership Austin Essential Class 43 and is senior director and chief program officer for the Trelis Foundation. She lives in Austin.

Vidor school district named **Erica (Breau) Richard** '03, B.G.S. general studies, '22, M.Ed. educational leadership, Secondary Teacher of the Year for 2022. She and her husband, Randall, live in Bridge City.

Lynn Boudreaux '04, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, married David Burleson May 28, 2022. They live in Opelousas, La.

The Texas Association of Secondary School Principals named Spurger school district junior high and high school Principal **Michael Hatton** '04, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '18, M.E. administration, Region 5 Middle School Principal of the Year for 2022. He and his wife, **Amanda (Frazier)** '04, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '10, M.Ed. administration, who works as a program coordinator for Region 5 Education Services Center, live in Silsbee.

China Elementary named **Jenny (Guye) McLaughlin** '04, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, Teacher of the Year 2021-2022. She and her husband, Richard, live in China.

Jennifer Ravey '04, B.A. English, '07, M.A. English, is senior social media strategist for EducationDynamics. She and her spouse, **Caleb Fontenot** '14, B.M. music, live in Beaumont.

Harbor Healthcare Systems promoted **Brenna Rodriguez** '04, B.B.A. marketing, to vice president of operations. She and her husband, **James** '07, B.S. kinesiology, '17, M.Ed.



From left, back row: Bryson Wilson '17; Brian Roberson '09, '10; J.R. Richardson '92; Kelsi Caicedo '15; front row: Taylor Haynes '17; Jasmine Toliver '17; Tondelyn (Donatto) Johnson '98; Weslynn (Taylor) Morris '17; Aaron Laverne '17 and Aliyah Thomas '16



Left to right: Mario Watkins '81, J.R. Richardson '92, Parrish Owens '87, Todd Johnson '88, Kenneth Franklin '93 and James "Mitch" Marce



Ta'quisha Radford '16, '20, and Scorpio Dion Collins '16



Tamika Clark, Sharita Gardner '12 and Stephanie (Forward) Sims '09



Christina Craft '16 and Aliyah Thomas '16



Carmyn (Adams) Thompson '13, '16; Bryanna Robinson '18 and Chanell Martin '12

GALA 2022

The Lamar University Black Alumni Network hosted a scholarship gala during Homecoming at The Major Event Center Sept. 30, 2022. With the funds raised at the gala, they were able to endow a new scholarship—the LU Black Alumni Network Scholarship—with the Lamar University Foundation.



CARDINAL ADVENTURES

Switzerland, Germany and Austria
Aug. 29-Sept. 8, 2022

From back left: Juan Zabala '07, Bob McLendon '64, Grady Crawford '64 and Larry Green '80, '93, From front left: Peggy Zabala, Susan (Terry) McLendon '64, Michael Ann (Agee) Crawford '64, and Patricia (Bland) Green '95.



THE TRUCK YARD

Dallas-Fort Worth alumni gathered at The Truck Yard Dallas before the LU v. SMU football game for a pre-game party Sept. 10, 2022

Derek Schramm, associate athletic director of external affairs and revenue generation; Dennis '11 and Karen (Martain) Blair '10; and Jeff O'Malley, LU athletics director



Christine Zabala '13 and Mike Eisshofer



Juan J. Zabala '07, Sharon (Johnson) Williams '21, Donna (Hughes) Settle '93 and Peggy Zabala



Shelly (Butler) Allen '14, Shelly Harrison and Glen Harrison '10, '16



Juan J. Zabala '07, vice president of University Advancement, Drew Sauerwein '78 and Vickie (Tingen) Sauerwein '80

CARDINAL ADVENTURES Switzerland, Germany and Austria

Aug. 29-Sept. 8, 2022

Alumni and friends watched an amazing performance of the decennial Passion Play in Oberammergau; glided across the pristine Bodensee, Europe's third-largest lake, from Friedrichshafen to Lindau; and viewed the stunning Alpine peaks and verdant valleys. They walked in the footsteps of Mozart in Salzburg and enjoyed a performance of his works.



Bottom from left: Michael Ann (Agee) Crawford '64, Peggy Zabala, Susan (Terry) McLendon '64 and Patricia (Bland) Green '95, top from left: Juan Zabala '07, Grady Crawford '64, Bob McLendon '64 and Larry Green '80, '93.

administration, who teaches physical education at Sallie Curtis Elementary School in Beaumont school district, live in Port Neches.

Beaumont school district named **Pamela Segura** '04, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, 2022-2023 Teacher of the Year at Fletcher Elementary School. She lives in Beaumont.

Beaumont school district named **Jola Waggener** '04, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, 2022-2023 Teacher of the Year at Guess Elementary. She lives in Silsbee.

Kristin (Mattingly) Ferguson '05, B.B.A. accounting, B.B.A. finance, is chief financial officer for Jefferson County Drainage District 6. She and her husband, **Jason** '02, B.B.A. human resource management, live in Lumberton.

Tamara (Hanks) Grantham '05, B.A. English, authored her newest book, *Dare to Call Me Vampire*, published by Babylon Books and the second in a series. She has written more than a dozen books and novellas, including the Olive Kennedy: Fairy World MD series and the Shine novellas. *Dreamthief*, the first book of the Fairy World MD series, won first place for fantasy in INDIEFAB's Book of the Year awards, a RONE award for best new adult romance of 2016 and is a No. 1 bestseller on Amazon. She lives with her husband **David** '05, B.A. Spanish, who is a surgeon, and their five children in Kansas.

Elena Korbut-Smith '05, B.A. political science, '07, M.P.A. public administration, is the executive director of Partnership for the Advancement and Immersion of Refugees.

Kayla (Marcus) White '05, B.B.A. general business, is executive director of the Southeast Texas Nonprofit Development Center. She and her husband, Bruce, live in Beaumont.

Debbie (Williams) Brown '06, retired as an instructor and clinic coordinator for the dental hygiene program at Lamar Institute of Technology. She and her husband, **Brad** '81, B.B.A. accounting, who is senior vice president and trust manager for First Financial Trust and Asset Management Co., live in Beaumont.

Niki Brown '06, B.B.A. human resource management, married Maurice Funches June 18, 2022. They live in Missouri City.

Kristine (Broussard) Beardon '06, B.B.A. human resource management, married Kelly Gunn May 14, 2022. She is a human resources professional with the Lower Neches Valley River Authority. They live in Nederland.

Patrick Patterson '06, B.S. communication, earned a master's degree in hospitality administration in 2018 and is a photographer with William Patrick Photography. KVLU Bayoulands has featured his photos. He and his wife, Abigail, live in Portsmouth, N.H.

Tamera Thompson '06, B.S. communication, married Anthony Williams April 22, 2022. She is a certified pharmacy technician for Sam's Club Foundation, and they live in Beaumont.

West Hardin Junior High School named **Charla (Leger) Adams** '07, B.G.S. general studies, 2021-2022 Teacher of the Year. She and her husband, Brant, live in Sour Lake.

Beaumont school district named **Danielle (William) Guidry** '07, B.G.S. general studies, 2022-2023 Teacher of the Year at Fletcher Elementary School. She lives in Lumberton.

Julie (Mooneyham) Guidry '07, B.S. communication, and her husband, Cole, welcomed their third son, Parker Cole, into the family. She teaches fourth grade at Port Acres Elementary in Port Arthur school district. They live in Groves.

Congratulations to **Clent Holmes** '07, B.S. mechanical engineering, and his wife, **Sonya (Chalk)** '06, B.S.W. social work, on the birth of their daughter, Shiloh Kai. Sonya is a licensed social worker with Longview Regional Hospital, and Clent is an associate engineer with Luminant. They live in Longview.

Ashton Moreau '07, B.M. music education, married Gerard Monier Feb. 12, 2022. Ashton is assistant band director for Memorial Middle School in Spring Branch school district. They live in Houston.

Daylyn Turner '07, B.B.A. finance, married Nicole Dean June 26, 2022. He is vice president/general manager for JK Chevrolet Subaru. They live in Beaumont.

Ashley Barnes '08, B.B.A. accounting, married Brian Bradley Oct. 22, 2021. She is controller for FMC Technologies, and they live in Aurora, Colo.

Amy Bradberry '08, B.S. communication, is assistant director of marketing for Lamar Institute of Technology. She lives in Lumberton.

Katie (Whitney) Celli '08, B.G.S. general studies, and her husband, Frank, purchased a new home in Beaumont.

Beaumont school district named **Marida Chaisson-Joubert** '08, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, '15, M.S. criminal justice, 2022-2023 Teacher of the Year at Fehl-Price Classical Academy. She lives in Beaumont.

Spindletop Center of Southeast Texas promoted **Andrea (Duchamp) Davis** '08, B.G.S. general studies, to human resources training coordinator. She and her husband, Cody, live in Lumberton.

Beaumont school district named **Chaz Hall** '08, B.B.A. management, 2022-2023 Teacher of the Year at Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School and Secondary Teacher of the Year for the district. He lives in Beaumont.

Congratulations to **Ashley (Lovelady) Koch** '08, B.S. family and consumer



Jacob Wills '22, Sharita Gardner '12, Charlee Chelette '18, '19, and John Rollins '12

Alumni Advisory Board members turned out for their Fall Meeting and Social Sept. 8, 2022. Before the business meeting and dinner, the event began with a social in the saloon at Spindletop Gladys City Boomtown Museum followed by a team-building activity lead by LU Outdoor Pursuits under the direction of Megan (Schneider) Coots '10, '19, assistant director of Recreational Sports.



J.R. Richardson '92 and
Hetty (Green) Brown '79



Gerard Celestine '91, '96; Chris Ingram '93; Nathan Mistic '13, '21;
Josh Davis '11, '15, '19; and Todd Senters, Sr. '96



Hetty (Green) Brown '79, Sheri
(Horn) DelMaga '01, '03, and
Daylyn Turner '07



Maegan Collins '16, '18, and Celine Do '18, '22



Jacob Wills '22 and Joshua Davis '11, '15, '19

PHOTOS BY KALAN BONNETTE

science-dietetics, '11, M.S. family and consumer science, and her husband, George, on the birth of their daughter, Wren Hadley Coale. She is a certified diabetes educator for Cecelia Health, and they live in Nederland.

Dr. Jelani Oville '08, B.S. chemistry, earned his medical degree in 2013 and is a staff physician for the University of Texas. He and his wife, **Sade (Smith)** '09, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, live in Houston.

Kristen (Tompkins) Placette '08, B.B.A. marketing, is vice president of marketing, training and compliance for Sabine Federal Credit Union and president of the Rotary Club of Orange for 2022-2023. She and her husband, Brandon, live in Orange.

Beaumont school district named **Tiffany Nguyen** '08, B.S. mathematics, 2022-2023 Teacher of the Year at West Brook High School. She lives in Port Arthur.

Tracey (Castillo) Hernandez '09, B.S. communication disorders, '14, Au.D. audiology, is an audiologist with Allison Audiology and marketing coordinator for the LU College of Arts and Sciences. She and her husband, Jose, live in Katy.

The Houston Area Alliance of Black Educators named **Brian Roberson II** '09, B.S. communication, '10, M.Ed. education technology leadership, 2022 Principal of the Year. He is principal of B.F. Terry High School in Lamar school district, and he and his wife, Jocquelyn, live in Rosharon.

West Hardin High School named **Renae (Redmond) Rose-Anderson** '09, M.Ed. administration, 2021-2022 Teacher of the Year. She teaches seventh and eighth grades at Henderson Middle School, and she and her husband, Perry, live in Sour Lake.

10s

Zach Bass '10, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, '18, M.Ed. administration, is athletic director and head football coach at Hardin-Jefferson High School. He lives in Lumberton.

Judge Naomi (Showers) Doyle '10, B.A. political science, '12, M.P.A. public administration, was commencement speaker at Harmon Science Academy's 2022 graduation. She is justice of the peace for Precinct 1, Place 1, and lives in Beaumont with her husband, Earnest.

Christi Grudier '10, B.S. communication, earned her master's degree in higher educational administration in 2013 and her doctorate in higher education leadership in 2020. She is director of marketing and communication for Consolidated Containment and owns C.L.G. Educational Consulting. She lives in Beaumont.

Philip Salazar '10, M.Ed., administration, is principal of Somerville

High School in Somerville school district. He lives in Texas City.

Katie (O'Neill) Baker '11, M.S. family and consumer science, will serve as president of the Junior League of Beaumont through May 31, 2023. She and her husband, **Clark** '12, M.B.A. business administration, who is a business development analyst with Merrill Lynch and Co., live in Beaumont.

Carly (Wright) Broussard '11, B.B.A. marketing, M.B.A. business administration, is director of the kids ministry for Commonground Church. She and her husband, Michael, live in Bridge City.

Congratulations to **Thaddeus Green** '11, B.S. communication, who earned a master's degree in city and regional planning in 2016, and recently purchased a new home. He is a development officer for the Housing Authority of Prince George's County and lives in Silver Spring, Md.

Mobil Oil Federal Credit Union promoted **Miranda (Nunez) Looney** '11, B.B.A. human resource management, to commercial lending loan officer. She and her husband, James, live in Beaumont.

Monica (Schmidt) Bentzen '12, B.S. nursing, earned her doctor of nursing practice in 2021 and is a certified registered nurse anesthetist. She and her husband, Joshua, live in Nederland.

Helena Park Elementary School in Nederland school district named **Lindsey (Stephens) Eldridge** '12, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, 2022 Teacher of the Year. She and her husband, **Cody** '14, B.B.A. general business, B.B.A. entrepreneurship, who is an insurance agent with Goosehead Insurance, live in Port Neches.

The Beaumont chapter of the NAACP recognized **Sharita Gardner** '12, B.S. communication, as a 2022 Young Trailblazer. She is public affairs and communications manager for the Port of Port Arthur and lives in Beaumont.

Mike James '12, B.G.S. general studies, who played basketball professionally for the Phoenix Suns, Brooklyn Nets and Euroleague, among others, and is now retired, may be seen in a cameo role in the new Adam Sandler movie, *Hustle*. He lives in Vancouver, Wash.

Damara Paris '12, Ed.D. deaf studies and deaf education, published *Deaf People in the Criminal Justice System* in June 2021. The book focuses on criminal justice issues within the Deaf community. In January, Paris, associate professor of counselor education at Emporia State University, received The Teachers College Excellence in Service Award and, in April, the Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentor award. She also served as a volunteer consultant for the documentary, *Being Michelle*, about a deaf woman with other disabilities whose language level led to court system misunderstandings and incarceration. She lives in Salem, Ore.

Eric Templeton '12, B.S. criminal justice,

'16, M.S. criminal justice, and his wife, Larisha, welcomed their son, Eric Templeton III, March 21, 2022. They live in Beaumont.

Justin West '12, B.M. music, is assistant professor in music and human learning at the University of Texas Sarah and Ernest Butler School of Music. He and his wife, **Malyndi (Tillis)** '13, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, who teaches in Denton school district, live in Bastrop.

Joseph Bowser Jr. '13, M.Ed. administration, is principal of Pathways Learning Center in Beaumont school district, where he lives.

Elizabeth Fontenot '13, M.A. studio art, earned her M.F.A. in May. In addition to creating and exhibiting her work, she teaches workshops and classes. She lives in Nacogdoches.

Eric Rose '13, B.M. music, '21, M.Ed. administration, is head band director at Central Middle School in Nederland school district and was named Secondary Teacher of the Year for the district. He and his wife, **Carly** '19, B.M. music education, who is head band director for Vidor Junior High School in Vidor school district, live in Nederland.

Samon Tahir '13, B.B.A. human resource management, '15, M.B.A. business administration, and her husband, Hammad, welcomed their daughter, Alayna, April 28, 2022. Samon is a talent acquisition sourcer for Rimkus Consulting Group and owns Digital Couture Marketing Agency. They live in Katy.

Congratulations to **Nicole (Quebedeaux) Toney** '13, B.S. graphic design, and her husband, Matthew, on moving to a new home. Nicole is marketing director for 5 Under Golf Center.

Jiselle (Thomas) Wilson '13, B.S. communication, is communications and marketing manager for the National Council of Jewish Women in Los Angeles, Calif.

Sonny Adhikari '14, M.E.M. engineering management, is a project manager with Sunny Construction. He lives in San Angelo.

Natalie (Rhodes) Butaud '14, B.S. dance, is a business analyst with Lamar University Information Systems and Analysis. She and her husband, Chase, live in Port Neches.

Arkema Inc. promoted **Erik Camacho** '14, B.S. chemistry, '17, M.B.A. business administration, to production engineer. He lives in Beaumont.

Casey Dean '14, B.S. mathematics, B.S. computer science, '15, M.S. mathematics, began a new position in June as senior software engineer for SiriusXM and Pandora. He lives in Plano.

The National Association of Social Workers-Texas elected **Ryan Dollinger** '14, B.S.W. social work, to serve on its board of directors. He is a social worker with the Michael E. DeBakey

Veterans Affairs Medical Center and lives in Humble.

Jenna (McCain) '14, B.B.A. accounting, '15, M.S. accounting, and her husband, **Cole Durkin** '15, B.B.A. finance, welcomed their daughter, Isla Rose, in May 2021. Jenna is a senior assurance associate with BDO, and Cole is a portfolio manager for Insight Wealth Strategies. They live in Houston.

Loni Lilley '14, B.S. graphic design, married **Matthew Gaither** '21, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, June 25, 2022. She teaches graphic design and yearbook at Chapel Hill High School, and they live in Tyler.

Blanchette Elementary School named **Patrice (Williams) Morris** '14, M.Ed. school counseling, 2022-2023 Teacher of the Year. She and her husband, **Cecil** '05, B.G.S. general studies, who is an adaptive behavior teacher at Central High School in Beaumont school district, live in Beaumont.

Kiara Monique Mumphrey '14, B.S. psychology, married Michael Martin June 18, 2022. She teaches English at Wessendorff Middle School in Lamar school district. They live in Richmond.

Dr. William "Will" '14, B.S. biology, and **Dr. Erin (Binagia) Pickard** '10, B.S. biology, '11, M.S. biology, recently welcomed their daughter Eloise Tate into the family. Will is a family medicine physician with Christus Trinity Clinic. They live in Port Arthur.

Congratulations to **Ashlyn (Larcade) Sanderson** '14, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, and her husband, Kevin, who moved into a new home in Sour Lake. Ashlyn teaches pre-K at Bingman Blanchette Elementary School in Beaumont.

Carissa Daigle-Dugas '15, B.S. nursing, published *Be the Spark – A 30 Day Devotional for New and Transitioning Nurses*. She and her husband, Andre, live in Groves.

Congratulations to **Dr. Gabriel Graham** '12, Texas Academy for Leadership in the Humanities, '15, B.S. chemistry, on his graduation from medical school with his doctor of osteopathic medicine. He lives in Vidor.

Augusta (Broussard) Hollier '15, B.S. nursing, earned her master's degree in nursing in May. She lives in Beaumont.

Christopher Lee '15, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, and his wife, **Andrea (Rugg)** '17, B.B.A. finance, B.B.A. economics, '18, M.B.A. business administration, moved to a new home in Richmond. Christopher is a teacher and coach at Sartartia Middle School in Fort Bend school district, and Andrea is a growth team support analyst for Botkeeper Inc.

Stephanie (Bermudez) '15, B.S. psychology, '18, M.S. speech-language pathology, and her husband, **Cody Richings** '14, B.S. criminal justice,

welcomed their daughter, Charlotte Rose, May 23, 2022. Stephanie owns Stephanie Richings Photography. They live in Beaumont.

Omar Rodriguez '15, B.S. civil engineering, works for Tolunay-Wong Engineers and married **Andrea Hernandez-Iglesias** '16, B.S. family and consumer science-nutrition, dietetics and hospitality, April 30, 2022. They live in Beaumont.

Morgan Stackhouse '15, B.S. nursing, earned her master's degree in nursing with an acute gerontology acute care nurse practitioner certificate in August 2021. She lives in Houston.

Kristin (Weber) '15, M.Ed. administration, '21, Ed.D. education leadership, and her husband, Jake Tudor, welcomed their daughter, Emmylou Grace, April 26, 2022. Kristin is the assistant principal for Dripping Springs Elementary School. They live in Austin.

Bryan Boeck '16, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is state executive vice president of California for Republic Beverage Co. He and his wife, Lauren, live in Laguna Beach, Calif.

Holden Butler '16, B.S. environmental science, married Karington Thurston Oct. 9, 2021. He is an environmental field specialist with Motiva and lives in Nederland.

Courtney Clark '16, B.F.A. graphic design, is a graphic designer on the donor marketing team at Houston Methodist Hospital Foundation. He and his life partner **Diana Inostroza** '16, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, who co-owns D&C Air Fresheners, live in Missouri City.

Jason Craig '16, B.S. industrial technology, is maintenance team 3 with Motiva. He lives in Beaumont.

Beaumont school district named **Gerald Domoneck Jr.** '16, B.S. industrial technology, 2022-2023 Teacher of the Year at Odom Academy. He lives in Beaumont.

Congratulations to **Robert Ehrlich** '16, B.S. chemical engineering, who earned his law degree in 2019, and his wife, **Emily (Blanke)** '16, B.B.A. marketing, on their purchase of a new home in Houston. Robert is an associate attorney with Morgan, Lewis and Bockius, and Emily owns businesses Rainy Day Embroidery and Forever Young Boutique.

Deloitte promoted **Ivone Garcia** '16, B.B.A. accounting, '17, M.S. accounting, to audit and assurance manager. She lives in Winnie.

Congratulations to **Morgan (McClain) Greenway** '16, B.S. nursing, and her husband, **Austin** '11, B.G.S. general studies, '17, B.S. industrial technology, on the birth of their son, Chance West, May 25, 2022. He teaches chemistry, forensic science and physics at East Chambers High School, and she is a

nurse for Christus Southeast Texas-St. Elizabeth. They live in Beaumont.

Christopher Hagner '16, B.S. mathematics, married Lauren Malmay Sept. 4, 2021, and bought a home in May in Edmond, Okla. He is the business intelligence manager for the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Kevin McGee '16, B.S. communication, '20, M.B.A. business administration, married **Katie (Leavins) McGee** '18, B.S.W. social work, April 23, 2022. Kevin is a multimedia specialist with the City of Beaumont, and Katie, who earned her master's degree in social work in 2019, is a clinical coordinator for Communities in Schools of Southeast Texas. They live in Port Neches.

The Texas Association of Secondary School Principals named Nederland High School Assistant Principal **Lauren Sanders** '16, M.E. administration, Region 5 High School Assistant Principal of the Year for 2022.

Congratulations to **Ariana (Jones) Bates** '17, B.S. communication-broadcasting, '21, M.Ed. administration, and her husband **Chris** '08, B.G.S. general studies, on the birth of their son, Christopher, May 24, 2022. Chris earned his master's degree in public administration in 2017 and is constable of Jefferson County Precinct 2. Ariana teaches second grade at Travis Elementary School in Port Arthur school district, where they live.

Kaysi Cox '17, B.S. communication, and her fiancé, Brandon, purchased a new home in Sherman. She is librarian for Harry McKillop Elementary School in Melissa school district.

Congratulations to **Siara Dodds** '17, B.S. political science, on being named first term director for the Jefferson County Young Lawyers Association. Dodds earned her law degree in 2021 and is an attorney with Wilkins Gire. She lives in Beaumont.

Morgan (Penick) '17, B.F.A. graphic design, and her husband, Garrett Hill, welcomed their daughter Mila Quinn April 26, 2022. Morgan is a graphic designer, and Garret is a video coordinator, both for LU. They live in Silsbee.

Matthew McAfee '17, B.S. mathematics, began a new job this fall teaching math at Nederland High School. He lives in Port Arthur.

Macy Morehead '17, B.S. nursing, married Christian Michael Daimler May 21, 2022. She is an NICU nurse at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital, and they live in Anahuac.

Micah Murdock '17, B.S. chemical engineering, is product manager for GEON Performance Solutions. He and his wife, Olivia, live in Cleveland, Ohio.

Megan (Odom) '17, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, and her husband, Justin Ridgaway, welcomed their daughter, Kate Marie, May 18,

2022. Megan teaches in the Vidor school district. They live in Beaumont.

Congratulations to **Ezandria Spencer** '17, B.B.A. management information systems, on her new home. She is a transitions specialist at Matlen Silver and lives in New Caney.

Michael Wilkinson '17, Ed.D. educational leadership, married Rais'a Obi June 8, 2019. He is senior director of student services and judicial affairs at University of Houston-Victoria. They live in Victoria.

Charlee Chelette '18, B.B.A. marketing, '19, M.B.A. business administration, is assistant vice president of marketing for Sabine Federal Credit Union. She is a steering committee member of the Southeast Texas Young Professionals Organization, member of Port Arthur's Young Emerging Leaders, member of Next Generation Orange County, board member of the Port Arthur Education Foundation and an LU Alumni Advisory Board member. In 2020, Charlee was selected as a 40 Under 40 Honoree at the age of 24. She lives in Port Neches.

Garrett Gaspard '18, B.S. communication-corporate, married Taylor Guidry. Garrett is president of G&T Insurance Agency. They live in Port Neches.

Congratulations to **Rene Gutierrez** '18, B.S. family and consumer sciences, and his wife, Esli, on purchasing their new home. Rene is a warehouse coordinator for M&I Electric.

Congratulations to **Lauren Hale** '18, B.G.S. general studies, on purchasing her new home. She teaches eighth-grade science at Marshall Middle School.

Marie Lund '18, B.B.A. entrepreneurship, '19, M.B.A. business administration, is a financial advisor with DNB. She lives in Straume, Norway.

Peyton McKinley '18, B.B.A. management, married **Katherine (Schlett) Stampley** '17, B.S. nursing, Nov. 27, 2021. He is assistant coach of girls soccer at Nederland High School, and they live in Nederland.

Cole Michalk '18, B.S. criminal justice, handles district operations for Speaker of the Texas House Dade Phelan's office in House District 21. He lives in Vidor.

Brooke Nash '18, B.S.W. social work, earned her master's degree in social work in 2020 and married Brandon Swate II May 6, 2022. She is director of disaster response at Catholic Charities of Central Texas. They live in Austin.

Congratulations to **Victoria Rocha** '18, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, '21, M.B.A. business administration, for being named 2021-2022 Bob Hope School Employee of the Year. She lives in Beaumont.

Ryan Sherer '18, B.B.A. management, was named first term director for the Jefferson County Young Lawyers Association. Sherer earned his law degree in 2021 and is an associate

attorney with The Daws Law Firm. He lives in Nederland.

Chemical engineer with Invista **Marvin Achi** '19, B.S. chemical engineering, appeared this summer on the television show America's Got Talent, advancing to the second round. He lives in Houston.

Baylee Burt '19, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, married Brendan McRae June 4, 2022. They live in Buna.

Daniel Chavez '19, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a reliability engineer with Valero Energy Corp. He lives in Port Arthur.

Sakurah Fisher '19, B.A. biology, is the Tokyo International Conference on African Development intern with the United Nations Development Programme in New York. She earned a master's degree in international peace and security in 2022 and lives in Port Neches.

Derek Inoma '19, B.S. industrial engineering, is an industrial engineer for Briggs and Stratton. He lives in Decatur, Ga.

Victoria LaFleur '19, B.B.A. finance and accounting, earned her law degree in 2022 and is a commercial litigator with Scheef and Stone. She lives in Fort Worth.

Emily Lawrence '19, B.S. political science, earned her law degree in 2022. She works at Ricker Law Firm and lives in Orange.

Congratulations to **MaKayla Lueckemeyer** '19, B.B.A. accounting, '20, M.S. accounting, on her new home purchase in Lumberton with fiancé, Jose Vidal. She is an accountant with Lawrence, Blackburn, Meek, Maxey and Co.

Congratulations to **Caitlin (Washburn) Myers** '19, B.S. kinesiology, and her husband, Aaron, on the birth of their daughter Ryann Lynn June 20, 2022. She teaches sixth and seventh grade physical education at Port Neches Middle School in Port Neches-Groves school district, and they live in Nederland.

Ashla Taylor '19, B.B.A. marketing, and her husband, Dillon, welcomed their son Royce Michael April 19, 2022. She is marketing and promotions manager at Innovative Air Solutions, and they live in Orange.

20s

Pedro Alvarez '20, B.S. industrial engineering, is a continuous improvement engineer with NOV in Houston. He lives in Baytown.

Bailey Broussard '20, B.S. communication-corporate, joined the opening crew for Disney Cruise Line "The Wish" as a recreation cast member for the ship's inaugural sailing in July. She lives in Lumberton.

Patricia Correa '20, B.F.A. graphic design, is a designer at Razorfish. She lives in Harker Heights.

April Cravy '20, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, teaches first grade at Fred Elementary School in Warren school district. She lives in Silsbee.

Saeid Hosseini '20, Eng.D. civil engineering, is geotechnical project manager with S&ME. He lives in Beaumont.

Hannah Hudgins '20, B.S. communication-film studies, is assistant media coordinator for the Bioengineering Department at the University of Texas at Dallas. She lives in Dallas.

Congratulations to **Osha Jones** '20, B.S. speech and hearing sciences, who received the Rookie of the Year award from MedCare Pediatric Group, where she is a speech language pathologist assistant. She lives in Sugar Land.

Zoe Lewis '20, B.S. criminal justice, married Donai "DK" Kelly Oct. 16, 2021. They live in Houston.

Raegan Minaldi '20, B.S. political science, has been elected vice president of administration for the LSU Women Law Students Association.

Maegan Myers '20, B.B.A. accounting, earned her M.B.A. from LU in May and is an accountant for Indoraman Ventures Oxides. She and her fiancé, **Cody Sasser** '21, B.S. chemical engineering, who is a production engineer with Indoraman Ventures Oxides, live in Groves.

Ryan Rippeon '20, B.B.A. marketing, and his wife, Madison, purchased a new home in Beaumont.

Makenzie Sattler '20, B.B.A. human resource management, married Caden Coplen June 4, 2022. She is Human resources manager for G&G Enterprises Construction Corp., and they live in Nederland.

Ashley Shackelford '20, B.G.S. general studies, owns Freshly Dressed, a boutique and children's consignment store. She sells custom t-shirts, locally made candles, tumblers and hand-painted signs, and she offers a 10% discount to Cardinals. She lives in Nederland.

Rutvik Sojitra '20, M.E.M. engineering management, is a project executive with ADVANTA US in Amarillo. He lives in Canyon.

Abigail Albright '21, B.S. nursing, married Dustin Pecorino May 28, 2022. They live in Nederland.

Bre'ala Box '21, B.S. kinesiology, is head volleyball coach at Port Neches Groves High School.

Makayla Brown '21, B.S. nursing, married Alex Corbello June 11, 2022. She is an ICU registered nurse with Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital, and they live in Orange.

Carli Murdock '21, B.G.S. general

studies, teaches third grade at Ridgewood Elementary. She lives in Groves.

Beaumont school district named **Courtney Cumby** '21, M.Ed. teacher leadership, 2022-2023 Teacher of the Year at Regina-Howell Elementary School. She lives in Beaumont.

Margaret Fazio '21, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches fifth-grade writing and social studies at Hamshire-Fannett Intermediate School. She lives in Beaumont.

Licensed professional engineer **Courtney Kelly** '21, M.B.A. business administration, wrote and self-published *Celeste Saves the City*, a children's book about how a child makes a difference in the world through engineering. She is a commercial and heavy civil construction project management professional and lives in Dallas.

Emily Lewis '21, B.F.A. studio art-drawing, is a museum assistant with the Dishman Art Museum. She lives in Vidor.

Kelsey Loyacano '21, B.S. nursing, married Nicholas Shofner June 4, 2022. They live in Port Neches.

Former LU baseball player **Trevin Michael** '21, B.G.S. general studies, pitched for the Oklahoma Sooners in the 2022 Men's College World Series Game June 17 against Texas A&M. He is a graduate student at OU.

Ashton Zamora '21, B.B.A. human resources management, is associate account manager at Collabera Inc. He lives in Beaumont.

Alexander Bahrim '22, B.S. electrical engineering, is an associate technical professional in systems engineering at KBR Inc. for the Artemis Campaign Development Enterprise at NASA Johnson Space Center.

Kyleigh Dixon '22, B.S. civil engineering, married **Camron Abate** '22, B.B.A. management, June 25, 2022. They live in Groves.

Casey (Lenard) Flynn '22, B.S. multidisciplinary university studies, is an instructor at Lamar Institute of Technology. She and her husband, Daniel, live in Vidor.

Martaeus French '22, B.B.A. management information systems, is a data analyst with Deloitte. He lives in Houston.

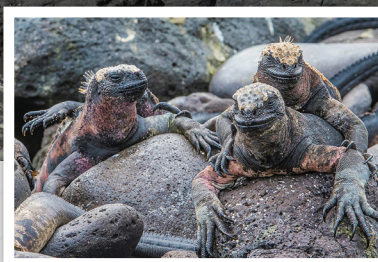
Ayo Okunle '22, B.S. chemical engineering, is an engineering project manager for iPhone hardware at Apple in Cupertino, Calif. He lives in California.

Noah Stansel '22, B.S. mechanical engineering, is an applications engineer with Flowserve. He lives in Spring.

Trevion Wilson '22, B.S. mechanical engineering, is an EDGE maintenance engineer at Dow Chemical Co. He is pursuing an M.B.A. at LU and lives in Alvin.



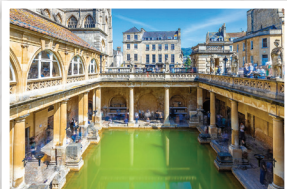
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Galapagos Islands **October 2023**
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CARDINAL love stories

Brooke (Crowell) '14, '16, and Stephen Tanton '19

I was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha fraternity, and Stephen was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. We had mutual friends, and I always admired him at the famous red couches (if you know, you know). I was also a peer advisor and asked him if he'd like to apply. We went upstairs in the Set to the computer lab, and I helped him apply and gave him my number. After that, we went on our first date and the rest is history! We had so much fun dating while at Lamar University and being involved in our organizations. A lot of our wedding party were friends we met through our journey at Lamar! We received degrees in speech language pathology and mechanical engineering and have one child together named Carter, who we hope will become a future Cardinal.



Sarah (Schultz) '17 and Colby Almendarez '18

While at Lamar, I would often host game nights that took over the entire kitchen of whatever dorm hall would have us. One day while setting up, this guy (Colby) walked in looking like a lost puppy. He thought it was an event hosted by the dorms, and although everyone was welcome, that was not the case. He wondered if he could stay. I, of course, said yes, and Colby made friends with everyone there. He then stuck around for a while and kept showing up for events and gatherings. We got along well, but our interactions at that point were all within group settings. Something about him piqued my interest. He was (still is) the nicest, most generous, most honest person I know. I was planning to leave the country after I graduated, and I had no idea that around the same time my thoughts about him started creeping in, he was having the same thoughts about me. He eventually asked me on a date EXCEPT I had JUST finalized my plans to leave the country for an 11-month mission trip after graduation (which at that point was seven months away). I gave him a chance to end things before the date even happened, but he still wanted to go . . . We spent so much time that seven months getting to know each other as friends. When I graduated that May, for my gift he wrote me 11 letters for every month that I would be gone. He is always going out of his way for people he cares about, and he constantly melts my heart with sweet things like this. We kept in touch through the 11 months apart, but it was so amazing to see how we grew as people in that time. A few days after landing back in the states, Colby took me on our second date. Throughout the entire date we kept thinking of more fun date ideas, and that's when we realized that we wanted to continue to do everything together. We were engaged 10 months later and married seven months after that. And now we're happily married with a beautiful 1.5 year old toddler.





Jes (Bres) '04 and Jay Prince '19

Jay and I met in 2001 while we were both students at LU. We had mutual friends that introduced us. In 2003, we started a business, and Jay took a break from his engineering degree so he could travel as needed. I graduated in 2004, and we continued to expand our business to three states. We were married in 2005, and 21 years later we are still thriving. Jay went back to complete his engineering degree in 2019. Many adventures and opportunities have come our way. We remain in Jefferson County and continue to support Lamar University through alumni volunteering, athletics participation and committee service. I have served on the Community Relations Advisory Council for many years and love attending the ribbon cuttings of our NEST programs! #peckem

Megan (Fournerat) '13 and Nathan Mistic '13, '21

We met in 2008 during sorority recruitment. It was Bid Day for me. This was when the fraternity guys would come sing sweetheart songs to the new girls in the sororities. I am a Zeta Tau Alpha, and Nathan is a Sigma Nu. We grew to be fast friends until one day Nathan's fraternity guys did something to make me frustrated, so of course in Megan fashion I decided to call my friend Nathan and tell him he had to make it up by taking me to eat Mexican food. When I told my sisters that I was going to eat Mexican food with Nathan, they just giggled. Later that night, I called my sisters to tell them about the free Mexican food, and that's when I found out that he had been "chasing" me for the LAST TWO years. So in summer of 2010, we had officially started to date, and in 2015 we married. We now have three kids: Forrest, Maverick and AnnMarie. We enjoyed our years at Lamar University and continue to be an avid supporters of The Great LU! Also #peckem



Jasmine (Lashan) '16 and Dominique Johnson '14

Jasmine and I met in the dining hall fall of 2012. We got married in 2016 a few months after Jasmine graduated, and now we have two children. I completed my chemistry degree in 2014, and Jasmine completed her BBA in management and marketing in 2016.

Sandra (Abshier) '60 and Kenneth Voytek '60

We met in the ninth grade while at Baytown Jr. High School in Baytown, Texas. We dated the next three years of high school at Robert E. Lee High School. Upon graduation in '57, we attended one year at Lee College, then transferred to Lamar where Sandra completed her degree in elementary education. Graduating in January 1960, she went to Liberty ISD while I finished my degree in secondary education in August 1960. We married in August 1959 while we were students at Lamar. We served communities throughout southeast Texas, teaching in Baytown, Liberty, Tomball, San Augustine, Little Cypress-Mauriceville, Dayton and Hull-Daisetta schools. Sandra taught reading and was a librarian, and I was a science teacher, counselor, principal and superintendent of schools. Lamar was an inspiration to us both as we pursued our studies. After 63 years of marriage, we return to the campus occasionally and enjoy the ongoing activities provided by the university.



Submit your Cardinal Love Story at
alumni@lamar.edu



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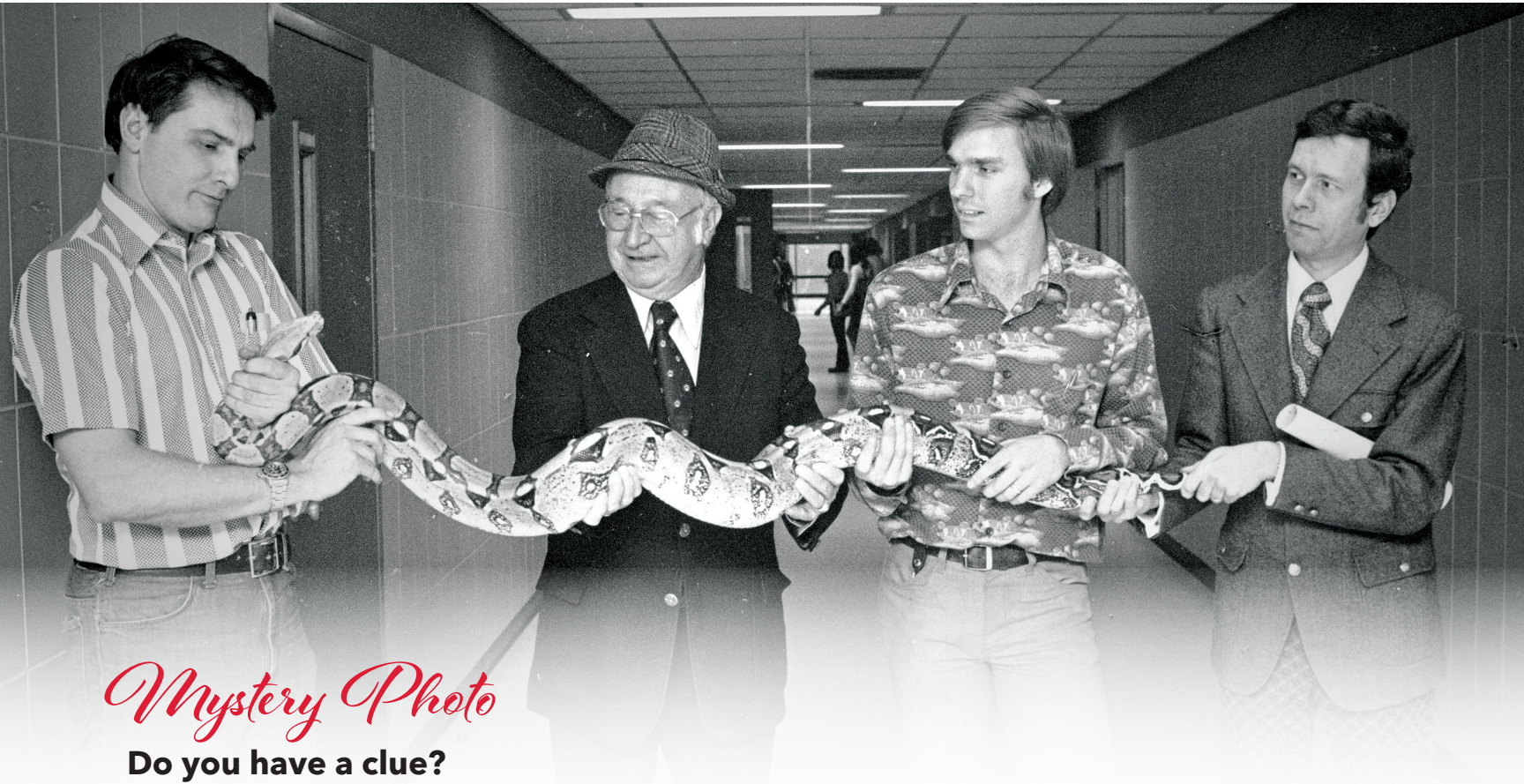
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Courtesy The LU 100 Project

Cadence Vol. 50, No. 1

Thank you
Nancy (Howe) Fitzpatrick, former adjunct professor of dance; Roberta "Bobbie" (Huff) Applegate Pizzo '85, then program director for the Setzer Student Center and currently owner of Roberta Applegate PC; Annie Batee, then assistant program director for the SSC; and Larry Markley, then SSC director.



From left, Nancy (Howe) Fitzpatrick, former adjunct professor of dance; Roberta "Bobbie" (Huff) Applegate Pizzo '85, then program director for the Setzer Student Center and currently owner of Roberta Applegate PC; Annie Batee, then assistant program director for the SSC; and Larry Markley, then SSC director.

Cadence Vol. 50, No. 2

Thank you Charlie Rojas '94 and Daniel Williams '85, '10, for naming these lovebirds, c. 1975-1979: Cynthia (Chaison) Washington '78, '83, who retired as principal of Fehl-Price Elementary School in Beaumont school district, and her now late husband Andrew Washington '79, Cardinal football defensive back and letterman 1975-78, who was an athletic director, head football coach and assistant principal in Beaumont school district and football coach and defensive coordinator for Monsignor Kelly High School. They married in 1984 and remained so for 36 years.

