

CARDINAL

CADENCE

THE MAGAZINE OF LAMAR UNIVERSITY

VOL. 46, NO. 1 | SPRING 2018



| FROM THE **PRESIDENT** |



Innovation comes in many forms and especially at a varied academic institution such as Lamar University. This issue of Cadence highlights numerous individuals in our LU community who exemplify this in their everyday work, studies and diverse interests. They are inspiring and creative, and I hope you enjoy reading about them as much as I did.

We have more than 1,500 faculty and staff, who all come together to provide the very best education and collegiate experience possible with an abundance of opportunities for our students at every turn. We focus in this issue on a long-time staff member, Art Simpson, and faculty member, Jane Liu, both utilizing unique methods to assist with university retention initiatives. Nandhu Radhakrishnan, assistant professor of communication sciences and disorders, is featured with the Voice Lab and Vocology Clinic he established at LU. Additionally, George Saltsman, director of educational innovation and associate research professor, works with the Beaumont Independent School District and others to utilize Micro:bits, easy-to-use and affordable pocket-sized computers.

Keeping up with our alumni, especially the ones who are busy running their own companies, is always exciting for us. The featured alums in this Cadence are finding solutions in business through innovative methods. Anthony George created the number one marine fuel management product in the world. Ed Sturrock formed an e-commerce solution providing shopping cart software for companies such as MasterCard, Coca-Cola and Dell. Randy Best recognized the need for some students to learn online, and Academic Partnerships was born, while Larry Lawson, founder and CEO of HeartCoR Solutions, recently earned the prestigious Horatio Alger Award.

LU encourages students to think outside the box and teaches inside the classroom and out, flipping the classroom, if you will, where activity and discussion take place during class and instruction is outside of the scheduled course time. We see our students displaying entrepreneurial and creative thinking often times, and we highlight a few in this issue. Natalie Sfeir is one student making large strides in dementia research and even formed memory cafés, where people can go with loved ones suffering from dementia to communicate freely and do shared activities. Sudha Kheterpal, world-renowned pop musician, is working with LU marketing students at the Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship to show young people around the world how to use a device to charge mobile phones called SPARK. Also at the CICE, a team of doctoral and master's students form AtmoSpark Water Generation, a company addressing potable water needs.

On page 28, please read a brief summary of our response to Hurricane Harvey and watch for the next issue of Cadence, which will focus more on LU coming together as a community.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Evans, President



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| ON THE **COVER** |

Electrical engineering senior Aleksander Allen demonstrates the open source prosthetic hand he assembled under the direction of faculty mentor Professor Weihang Zhu.

*Photo by Daniel McLemore
Cover art by Amanda Toups*

| IN THIS **ISSUE** |

- 4** From potato chips to pipelines
- 8** Staff Profile: Art Simpson
- 10** Memories & coffee
- 12** Voice of vocology
- 15** Faculty Profile: Jane Liu
- 16** AmeriCommerce: welcome home!
- 20** Pocket-sized innovation
- 22** Keeping the heart of innovation beating
- 24** Sudha Kheterpal: music inspires innovation
- 26** AtmoSpark: Atmospheric water generation innovation
- 28** Hurricane Harvey & LU
- 30** Best takes education innovations around the globe

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We Are LU®

From entrepreneurship, port management and the petrochemical industry to healthcare, education, the speech and hearing sciences and engineering, among others, Lamar University's outstanding students, dedicated faculty and transformative alumni are changing the world for the better. Advanced and unique teaching practices in and outside the classroom spark far-reaching innovation through the endeavors of our students and alumni.

We are one community. We are LU.

28



26



- 9** Athletics News
- 32** LU News
- 34** Class Notes
- 42** Red & White: Events on campus

| COLLEGE **SNAPSHOTS** |

- 14** Fine Arts & Communication
- 18** Business
- 19** Education Human Development
- 21** Engineering
- 29** Arts & Sciences

INNOVATION



“FuelTrax is the No. 1 marine fuel management product in the world today.”

—Anthony George '88

From POTATO CHIPS to PIPELINES

Independent spirit invents

by Brian Sattler

Anthony George, '88 found himself waiting at the end of a long dirt road in the Louisiana delta, waiting for his skiff to come in.

Soon, he would be plying the waterways aboard the titans of transport—tugboats and their mammoth barges—while a problem weighed on him as heavily as the cargo they moved—how to eke out more efficiency? Then the idea struck him—a solution straight out of one of his Lamar University physics classes. In that eureka moment was born George's second company, one that spawned an enterprise that is growing exponentially and spans the globe.

From an early age, Anthony George approached life with an entrepreneurial edge and the independent spirit to be his own boss. His parents had successful professional careers, and instilled in George a drive for both success and freedom from routine schedules. He was inspired by a friend's father, a very successful entrepreneur who recommended that he “go to college, get good work experience, then go out on your own,” George said. “I saw in his life style the freedom he had and was very impressed by that.”

In being an entrepreneur, he saw “the opportunity to create something from nothing, to try my own ideas, [and] to not be limited in my creativity,” George said. Fueled by this passion, he “dabbled horribly in real estate and a few other things” before heeding his

mother's advice to “get a degree to have something to fall back on.”

He began his time at LU majoring in electrical engineering and computer science. “I recognized even then that personal computers were going to matter,” he said of a time when a Honeywell mainframe and VAX system were in use; however, four years into the two degrees, while holding demanding jobs outside of school, he sought to parlay those experiences into a degree in physics with the help of Joe Pizzo, distinguished professor emeritus and then physics department chair.

“I remember going to see Dr. Pizzo and he lined out a two-year plan for me,” George said. “He wanted to know if I was a ‘physics head’ and if I wanted to teach. I told him I wanted to get out and start my own company. He helped arrange a plan so I could finish my degree. I owe him a debt of gratitude.”

George graduated in 1988 with a degree in physics and a double minor in electrical engineering and computer science.

During his last three years at LU, George worked part-time for Emerson Automation Solutions of Austin, here he learned about distributive control systems, a newly developed computer technology for running manufacturing processes and facilities. When he graduated, he quickly received multiple job offers based not only on his degree but also on his work experience.



He accepted a position with the control systems group for Petrocon Engineering in Beaumont, and just three months later an offer came to join Temple-Inland in Evadale where they had similar systems deployed.

“I had no idea that the first company I was going to build would be related to my career,” he said. “I was just out looking. I was reading multiple books on entrepreneurship, how to grow companies, educating myself on the business side of things.” He also took advantage of every business seminar

“ We used equations that I learned under Dr. Pizzo that I would not have understood had I not changed my major to physics. I look back on that and think how fortuitous that decision was. ”

—Anthony George

offered by the John Gray Institute at LU.

He found his first opportunity for innovation at his new job, where he soon learned that the antiquated controls for the pulp side of the mill were falling apart and that the company was looking at a proprietary system with an \$8 million price tag. “I had done research on PC-based controls, so I had this vision

that what PCs were doing in the office environment, once they become robust enough, could be integrated into the industrial environment.

“I bet on that trend,” he said. He approached his boss with the suggestion that he could automate half of the mill by Christmas for just \$100,000. “He said, ‘You’re crazy,’ but I just said it will work,” George said. “Not knowing what you don’t know, that can be advantageous.” His boss said yes.

“I went home that night sick as a dog,” George said. “I didn’t sleep at all that night thinking ‘what have I done? My career...if I fail, I’ve ruined it!’”

After the initial shock, he began working many long hours on innovating a new system to automate the pulp side of the mill. By Christmas, he “had half of that plant running on six 386-33 PCs doing complex cascade loop control,” including bleaching pulp and other mill processes. “The operators loved it,” said George. “They called it the ‘Mattel System’ because it was colorful and looked like a toy. But it was incredibly reliable,” so reliable, in fact, that it helped increase business at the mill to \$300 million a year, and “every dollar ran through those PCs.

“I learned an incredible amount at that job,” George said. “I even received a nice raise and a letter of commendation from corporate.” More significantly, the idea for his first company was born. “I thought, ‘surely other people would pay me to do this,’” George said.

He started Control Dynamics in 1991 based on open systems architecture

where he provided engineering services that integrated software and off-the-shelf PCs to provide control automation. Using this approach, he could provide the service offered by proprietary systems for “20 cents on the dollar.”

His success in Evadale led to attention at Temple-Inland’s corporate office where there was the need to automate several fiberboard plants. George’s \$250,000

offer to automate one plant drew a quick response and word came that a corporate representative would be there in three weeks to see his office and employees. At the time, he was working by himself out of his house. He scrambled. “I leased an office,” he said, “hired my sister-in-law as a receptionist and a young programmer from Baskar Reddy and had my brother stand in with me,” George said. When the representative came, “he looked around and presented us with the purchase order.”

Together, Baskar and George successfully completed the first project. The company grew from two employees in 1991, to 100 in 2000 with \$10 million in annual business doing work primarily in forest products, pipelines and foods, including work with Frito Lay helping develop the Scoop Chip. The 2001 recession and post 9/11 slowdown led the company to “back up and retool, focusing on oil and gas.” They developed Universal Master Control Systems for offshore production and hold joint patents with ExxonMobil.

Reading about the successes makes it sound easy, but “everything I learned about business I learned the hard way,” George said. “I probably have a Ph.D. in it now, but I made every single mistake, twice. It just took a while for me to figure it out.”

Paying great attention to getting the right people is paramount to his success. “Today, it takes me several months to hire one person,” he said. “I’ve surrounded myself with super smart leadership and managers, with some

from Lamar University.”

One of those was Port Arthur native Van Wilson, who graduated LU in 1992 with a degree in Human Resource Management. He joined Control Dynamics in 1996. “He had such high integrity, and worked his way up the channel, that, in the early 2000s when I decided to focus on oil and gas, I chose to make him president,” George said.

Having Wilson in the position was a “great move” and allowed George to focus on other areas of his growing business.”

In October 2003, George got a call from college friend Adam Fadhli ’86, founder and CEO of Discovery Information Technologies in Nederland. Fadhli had a potential customer who wanted to measure fuel consumption on a tugboat, a request that was outside Fadhli’s scope. “He asked if I wanted to look into it,” George said. “With all that automation experience, from cookies and potato chips to sewage treatment plants and gas pipelines, I wasn’t afraid to stick my nose into anything.”

He quickly recognized that the tug’s fuel piping layout looked a lot like a field pipeline control system in miniature, something his company had a great deal of experience in.

The potential customer, Kirby Inland Marine, is the nation’s largest operator of inland tank barges and towing vessels. George introduced his new control system design to Kirby for measuring fuel consumption. “They told me, ‘This is great, but unless it saves us money on fuel, we can’t sell it to management,’” George said.

Designing a complete marine fuel management system soon followed. “I started riding tugs 24-hours-a-day up and down the Mississippi, watching how they operate, and I recognized the physics behind the relationship between the forces acting on the hull and the power of the vessel,” George said. He was looking for ways to make the tug’s fuel consumption more efficient.

“It was Newton’s second law of motion,” he said. “So, I designed, with some other smart engineers, algorithms to help the captain set the throttle to the most economic setting for the given environmental conditions.”

This new technology spawned FuelTrax and, ultimately, Houston-based Nautical Control Systems LP in 2006. Nautical Control Solutions LP manufactures and supports FuelTrax, which provides real-time monitoring and optimization recommendations for marine fuel use, alongside FuelNet, which allows access to the FuelTrax data online, anytime and anywhere. FuelTrax delivers fuel-saving efficiencies and clear

visibility into marine operations.

“FuelTrax determines how hard the vessel is working,” George said. “We used equations that I learned under Dr. Pizzo that I would not have understood had I not changed my major to physics. I look back on that and think how fortuitous that decision was. I remember when my dad asked me, ‘Son, what are you going to do with a physics degree?’ Well, Dad, in 20 years I’m going to invent FuelTrax.”

With strong employees continuing the growth of Control Dynamics, George focused on FuelTrax, growing from its first installation on small, inland tug boats in 2004 to multiple global patents in the USA, Canada and across Europe and installations on all major classes of vessels.

“FuelTrax is the No. 1 marine fuel management product in the world today,” George said. It has become the global standard, only through the continued support and interest of its users. “Our clients drive our product development, since day one with Kirby,” he said. “This is why we are listed as a sole source for BP, ENI Petroleum and ExxonMobil. When an oil company negotiates a charter agreement, they require the installation of FuelTrax on their chartered vessels. That’s a huge endorsement by the world’s foremost oil companies.”

Propelling FuelTrax sales are two huge forces—market pressures demand for greater efficiency in operations in the U.S., Canada and Europe and the necessity to deter fuel theft in other regions of the world.

“Fuel theft in many parts of the world is endemic,” George said. The ability to monitor marine fuel loading, quality and use in near real-time around the globe is a game changer, he said. With a quarter million vessels in the world, George sees a multi-billion-dollar market in taking fuel tracking from the dipstick to digital automation.

To focus on that potential and growth at NCS, George sold Control Dynamics to ENGloal Automation Group in 2010. Today, FuelTrax is growing at 200 percent a year, and accelerating, he said. “They tell us the return on investment on our product is so great it makes installation a simple accounting decision,” George said.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP at LAMAR UNIVERSITY

Although busy growing FuelTrax and Nautical Control Solutions, Anthony George also finds great reward in working with young entrepreneurs through Lamar University’s Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship and other avenues, where he can “take some of my hard-earned experience to coach other entrepreneurs, helping them to get there faster than it took me.”

Anthony George serves on several boards related to entrepreneurship, including the board of LU’s CICE and the Woodlands chapter of The Entrepreneurs’ Organization, a global network for entrepreneurs providing peer-to-peer learning, experiences and connections to experts, with more than 11,000 members in 153 chapters in 48 countries.

“When I started out, I was a physics major with a great idea, but no business experience,” George said. “So, I started making mistakes. Fortunately, the engineering was good enough to cover up those mistakes. But if I could have teamed up with (fellow LU alum) Van Wilson day one, or gone to the CICE and received advice from the business college, it would have rapidly accelerated my personal ascent as an entrepreneur.”

“I’m a huge proponent of the CICE,” he said. “Where business is going, you need to get out and get started earlier. The business world is moving so much faster than it was when I started 25 years ago.”

The new CICE building “would have been the shining light on the hill for me as a student.”

“I’m having so much fun growing the No. 1 fuel management company in the world,” George said. “This is a once in a lifetime event—having a specialty niche, which was opened by the continued development of our product with the support of the largest oil companies in the world.”

In the search for innovation, it's no surprise that a college campus is a sure place to find it. Youthful energy and forward thinking combine on the Lamar University campus to break ground in fields as diverse as engineering and modern languages. For Artha Simpson Jr. '95 '16, director of recreational sports for the last 15 years, innovation doesn't stop outside of the classroom. "As a professional working in recreational sports, I see now how participating in activities when I was a student played an important role in helping me improve my quality of life. Recreational sports gave us that 'out' or 'escape' from the stress and demands on us personally and in campus life," he said.

We held each other accountable." Innovation, according to Simpson, stems from the desire to improve and progress, principles as common in the sports world as in the tech or business worlds. As the single largest student employer on campus, Simpson believes many of his staff leave having learned valuable lessons. "Recreational sports does have a positive effect on student recruitment, as well as social integration, retention and satisfaction," he explains. "Many students have gone on to advanced degrees as well as very successful careers. They stay in contact with me and are proud alumni."



As a former state finalist in the 800-meter run representing his hometown of La Marque and later as a student athlete at LU and record-holder in the Sunbelt Conference, Simpson understands the role of competition and sportsmanship in driving improvement and change. In a major initiative undertaken in the early 2000s, Simpson played a pivotal role in the planning and development of the multi-sport Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center. "Our plan was to establish programming for not only those who considered themselves athletes, but also to cater to those students who had other interests such as rock-climbing, billiards, foosball, indoor hockey and golf," Simpson said. He credits relationships made as a student athlete for instilling many of the lessons that he draws on today. "I had great teammates that bonded and cared for one another.

Simpson earned his bachelor's degree in kinesiology and his doctorate in educational leadership from LU. He is married to Teresa Simpson '10 '14, Ed.D. educational leadership, who is coordinator for the Center of Doctoral Studies in Educational Leadership. With all of the physical changes around campus, Simpson believes that the value of recreational sports programming and facilities can't be overstated. Since the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center opened, his staff continues to rotate programs and incorporate the interests of the student body. "Our programming has evolved with the great leadership from the staff working together to provide operations and programs that keep our students engaged and active participants in sports and wellness," Simpson said.



Langley drafted by Denver Broncos

Lamar University All-American cornerback Brendan Langley '17 was drafted by the Denver Broncos with the 101st pick in the third round of the 2017 NFL Draft. Langley becomes the first Cardinal to be drafted since the program's rebirth prior to the start of the 2010 season. It's the first time a Cardinals' name has been called during the draft since Tyrone Shavers was selected by the then-Phoenix Cardinals in the sixth round of the 1990 draft. Langley became the Cardinals' highest draft selection since the 1968 draft when defensive back Johnny Fuller was selected

by the San Francisco 49ers in the fourth round. Teammate Tom Smiley was taken in the second round of that same draft by the Cincinnati Bengals. Langley also became the 11th defensive player to be drafted from LU. The school's all-time leader for interceptions in a game, Langley continues a strong tradition of defensive backs who have been drafted from the Cardinals. He is the eighth LU defensive back to be taken in the NFL draft. Named to numerous All-America squads in 2016, Langley garnered first-team All-Southland honors as a cornerback and a return specialist. Beginning with a school-record tying performance against Southeastern Louisiana when he picked off three passes, Langley went on to record an interception in four consecutive games. He led the Southland and ranked among the nation's leaders in interceptions and interceptions per game.

Langley garnered Southland Conference Player of the Week honors twice during the 2016 season, but joins a very unique list in doing so. Langley garnered his two weekly honors at different positions receiving defensive honors following the three-interception game against Southeastern Louisiana, and special teams recognition after returning two punts and a kickoff return for scores against Incarnate Word. Langley really began to receive national attention following the 2016 season when he was invited to the Reese's Senior Bowl and the NFL Combine. At the combine, Langley outperformed some of the nation's top talent at his position. He set the highest marks in the bench press (22 reps) and 60-yard shuttle run (11.19) among all defensive backs. A transfer from Georgia prior to the 2016 season, Langley had an impact in all three phases of the game. Originally slated to be a receiver, Langley hauled in four passes for 51 yards and a touchdown before being switched to defense. Langley closed out his career by recording 64 tackles, including 44 solo stops and seven interceptions. He was also responsible for 18 pass breakups during his two seasons in the Golden Triangle.



LU softball makes historic run to postseason

The 2017 Lamar University softball season was one for the record books. The Cardinals smashed individual and team records in a year that saw them make their first-ever appearance in a national postseason tournament—the National Invitational Softball Championship. LU recorded 34 wins, one win shy of the school record set the previous season. The Cardinals redeemed themselves for an early exit in the Southland Conference Tournament with their play in the NISC. LU hosted and won its regional to advance to the national tournament in Lynchburg, Va., advancing to the finals before falling to the host Liberty Flames in the championship game. Several LU players earned postseason honors in 2017 with Brynn Baca and Brittany Rodriguez selected for first-team all-conference. Ciara Luna and Sable Hankins were second-team selections, while Ashley McDowell and Kelly Meeuwsen were named to the third team and Corina Thornton received honorable-mention recognition. McDowell, Luna and Baca were all named to the all-tournament team at the NISC. "I'm staring at two tremendous trophies," said LU head coach Holly Bruder following the tournament. "We were second at the conference tournament in 2016 and runner-up in the NISC this year. I think all of us here don't want to be runner-up. Our goal is to bring some championship trophies to LU."

LU's Chapelet named Southland Golfer of the Year

Lamar University freshman Elodie Chapelet was named the Southland Conference Women's Freshman and Golfer of the Year in 2017. It marks the third consecutive season a Cardinal has received the honor (Wenny Chang - 2015 and 2016).

Tennis reigns again in 2017

After winning their first Southland title in 40 years in 2016, the Lamar University men's team successfully defended its title in 2017. LU won 17 matches for a share of the regular-season title and advanced to the NCAA Championships after winning the conference tournament.

James signs with NBA's Phoenix Suns

Former LU standout Mike James '12 signed a contract with the NBA's Phoenix Suns in July. The former first-team All-Southland Conference selection averaged better than 17 points per game as a senior while leading the Cardinals to the NCAA Championships.

Cardinal basketball returns to postseason

In just his third season with the basketball program, LU head coach Tic Price returned the Cardinals to the postseason. After a 19-win campaign, the Cardinals received a berth in the CollegeInsider.com Tournament. It was the program's first trip to the postseason since the 2011-12 season.



Memories & coffee

by Morgan Collier

Rather than a carefree pastime, enjoying the aroma of coffee over café style food with a loved one can be a daunting task when that person suffers from dementia. Natalie Sfeir, 2016 Beck Fellowship recipient, has researched an innovative solution to the difficult outings for those with dementia and their family. It's called a Memory Café.

"I want to be an advocate for those who can't work to do things on their own," the speech and hearing science major said. "The café is something that you can't find in this area, so this would really stand out, and I believe that it will really help the community."

The idea for the Memory Café came into fruition when Sfeir received the David J. Beck Fellowship in November of 2016, and she has been working on it ever since, traveling across the world from Dublin and Donegal, Ireland, to Liverpool and London, England, along with visiting Roseville, Minn., for research purposes.

"[The cafés] originated in the Netherlands, then the idea spread throughout Europe, including Ireland and England, before being replicated in the United States," Sfeir said. "A lot of what I got to see was hands on and experience based."

"I went to a few memory cafés in each place. They have adult day centers, where people with dementia will go to spend the day and do different things that will help develop the brain," she said.

While there, she also worked with the Alzheimer Society of Ireland, trained at the House of Memories in Liverpool.

"The House of Memories trains you how to communicate with people that have dementia, and they did a lot of theatre to portray the life of a person who goes through this daily," Sfeir said. "I also learned about new dementia-related technology and initiatives that helped by my research progress."

During her time in Roseville, she said things

"I really hope that it will be sustainable for the community in the sense that this isn't just a research project, but that it will bring a sense of camaraderie so that people have a safe place to go in the area," Sfeir said. "We aren't a huge city, but we aren't a small town either, so to have something like this could really be life changing."

The café is meant to be a judgment-free zone for all customers who enter. Aside from just a place to grab a cup of coffee and a cookie, Sfeir says the café also will have guest speakers to talk about things such as memory care.

"When you walk through the doors, the people helping you will be trained on how to communicate with people

employees have the necessary background on this topic," she said.

Before the official café opening, Lamar University offered rooms in the speech and hearing building where two informal sessions were held. The previous sessions had light refreshments and guest speakers, and attendees were able to create a memory book.

"A memory book is where we try to augment memories, so these books tell the story of your life, starting from when you were little, then talking about your kids and your family, and it's used to help reminisce," she said.

To promote the café's availability, Sfeir said she has created Facebook social events, been published in the Beaumont Enterprise, pinned bulletins and used a mailing list and word of mouth. The goal for the café is to have it open twice a month as a fun outing that is a little bit different to do, she said.

"I noticed in my research that people would sit and wonder where to bring their loved ones with dementia," Sfeir said. "(The café) is meant to be informative, and my hope is that this will create a sense of family, and community, for all of those who come."

"I want to be an advocate for those who can't work to do things on their own."

—Natalie Sfeir

were a little different from her experiences in Europe.

"It was a small town, so I got to meet with the city manager and see what they are doing to set the city apart and how they have their own team that specializes in dementia care," Sfeir said.

As she brings her research to Southeast Texas, she has high hopes for the café.

who suffer from dementia," she said.

Sfeir says they welcome all of those with dementia along with their loved ones.

"At this point, they (family) aren't worried about them forgetting what something is called, and getting weird looks or feel like they need to worry about something medical, because the

Voice of Vocology

by Caitlin Duerler

In 2013, only a year after he joined Lamar University's Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, Dr. Nandhu Radhakrishnan helped the department establish the innovative Voice Lab and Vocology Clinic. While in the lab, he works with various instruments and computer software to analyze clients' vocal folds in images and videos obtained via endoscopy to observe vocal patterns. The lab and clinic also serve as a hands-on classroom for students and embodies the tenets of the university's strategic planning in research, training and teaching.

"We teach through training budding speech pathologists on how to use the equipment and based on what we find, how we can diagnose patients with voice disorders," Radhakrishnan said. "For research, I use my clinic population or music population of singers and record them and see how their voice changes across time or if they have a problem, how we can fix it."

Radhakrishnan has contributed his expertise in mentoring and teaching the next generation of speech language pathologists. In addition to teaching in the department as an assistant professor of communication science and disorders,

he works with patients and clients whose voices may be weakened or damaged from an array of disorders.

"Generally, our lab sees any patient with a voice problem and that can range from laryngitis, which is a basic illness, all the way to paralysis of the vocal fold, which can occur in a patient who has had a stroke," Radhakrishnan said. "A growing problem in vocal disorders in acid reflux; it is becoming more common and normal."

One recent undergraduate research project he supervised investigated the discrepancy of subjects' self-report of their vocal health. In the project, all the patients reported no vocal problems and that their voice was normal. Through using tools to measure patients' vocal effort, clinicians' perception of voice, acoustic analysis and laryngoscopic examinations, Radhakrishnan and his undergraduate mentee were able to determine that 55 percent of the subjects who participated in the study had some sort of vocal abnormality.

Besides treating voice problems, disorders and conditions, the lab also facilitates the growing field of vocology, or enhancing one's voice, which developed from voice therapy. "In the past, it was referred to as voice therapy because we would treat a patient and get them close to normal and send them back to work," said Radhakrishnan. "For example, if you have a teacher whose voice is weak, we would work to get her back to normal and in the classroom. In vocology, we still do therapy but go beyond to work to make their voice stronger so that they can meet the demands in their profession."

"Another success story from our vocology lab is working with a pastor who couldn't finish a sermon and after completing therapy could finish his services and not experience pain in his throat anymore."

Additionally, voice enhancement may include accent reduction to help professionals speak more clearly in American English or help them train their voice to match their gender identity and enhance their quality of life, which is one of the most rewarding aspects of working in his field, Radhakrishnan said.

"One of our clients is pretty happy with her voice change already and is continuing to complete the therapy," he said. "She has mentioned that previously when she would go through a drive-through, she would be referred to as 'sir' and now she is hearing 'ma'am.' It is a huge change for her emotionally."

Outside of the lab, Radhakrishnan has provided his expertise to the community at various workshops and events to inform others of the importance of vocal health. "The university is committed to service through vocal hygiene programs for the community and to teach them what they should and should not to do to conserve their voice," he said.

Radhakrishnan aims in all the varying aspects of his field to help others find and use their voice to garner professional success and personal confidence. "As humans, we are social animals and in order to be social, we have to talk," he said. "In the current state of life, you have to talk or speak to stand out in your field or to earn a living. Research has shown that if voice is affected, speech is going to be affected and that can affect personal, social and professional levels of life. From the perspective of speech pathology, having a healthy voice can help one to excel in their field and add to their quality of life."

Whether he is working with young clients or old, those affected by a pre-existing condition or a recently developed nodule of the vocal fold or clients who want to enhance their voice for personal or professional reasons, Radhakrishnan lends his expertise to help others and instill a call to the profession in his students.

"From the perspective of speech pathology, having a healthy voice can help one to excel in their field and add to their quality of life."

Dr. Nandhu Radhakrishnan



Bobby Sanabria headlines weekend
Bobby Sanabria, seven-time Grammy-nominated drummer and percussionist, performed at last spring's Lamar University Percussion and Jazz Weekend. Hosted by the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music, the festival featured workshops, symposiums and master classes, concluding with the gala concert featuring Sanabria in the University Theatre. The Cardinal Jazz Orchestra and percussion ensembles performed with the musician.
"Bobby Sanabria is one of the most dynamic performers I've ever seen, as well as being a noted expert on the history and culture of Afro-Cuban music," said Rick Condit, associate professor of music and director of jazz at LU. Sanabria lectured on the history of the clave, the rhythmic basis for Afro-Cuban music, and conducted two Latin percussion workshops.



Voice students take first
During the annual Greater Houston Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing classical auditions last spring at the University of Houston, voice students from the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music captured six of the twelve college and adult division categories: Jason Choi, Brea Marshall and Chasiti Walker of Houston; Earl Sigee, Beaumont; Cortney Prescott, Pasadena; and Keith Walls, Detroit, Mich.



Proksch publishes 'A Sousa Reader'
Bryan Proksch, associate professor of music at Lamar University, has edited a new book of writings by famed composer John Philip Sousa. Published through Gia Publications, *A Sousa Reader: Essays, Interviews, and Clippings*, gathers works by Sousa, *The March King*, and his contemporaries to give us a greater understanding of this iconic figure. Proksch worked with Sousa's great-grandson, John Philip Sousa IV, to obtain copyright releases on Sousa's writings that are included in the book. Sousa IV also wrote the forward for the volume. After conceiving the idea for the book, Proksch spent a great deal of time in the Sousa Archive at the University of Illinois, identifying, transcribing, and editing the writings that he thought most worthy of being included in the collection. In addition to Sousa, Proksch's research centers on the reception and "revival" of Haydn's music in the early twentieth century, Viennese Classicism and the history of the trumpet. In 2015, he published *Reviving Haydn: New Appreciations in the Twentieth Century*. Proksch also hosts a music history show, *Behind the Music*, on 91.3 KVLU Public Radio, which airs Sundays at noon.

Alvarez enters national conversation with 'Borders'

Art graduate Gonzalo Alvarez '17 gained national attention as a student for his video game art installation, "Borders." Alvarez created the retro-style arcade game to express both the idea of video games as an art form and to portray the dangers faced by Mexicans who seek to illegally cross the border. A Port Arthur native, Alvarez was interviewed by Telemundo, The Huffington Post, Imagen Television and other national news outlets as his game coincided with a national dialogue regarding immigration. "To actually get noticed to the degree I am right now just feels surreal," said Alvarez. "This is the first video game I ever made—I am an illustrator, and to have my first shot at something connect with so many people really helps validate my new-found career in indie game development." At LU, Alvarez applied and was accepted in the McNair Scholar's program in order to fund his video game research. He also designed an independent study abroad experience to explore drawing and video game design in Japan with Christopher Troutman, assistant professor of drawing in the Department of Art.



Gruber Seminar Series welcomes two guests

LU hosted two guest lecturers as part of the Gruber Seminar Series presented by the Speech and Hearing Sciences Department.
Pierre Ratinaud, associate professor in the Laboratory of Applied Studies and Research in Social Sciences at the University of Toulous in France, discussed the use of multidimensional analysis to study social representations last March. One example illustrated lexical analysis with Reinert's method of comparison tweets in French and English issued during the 2015 terrorist attacks of CharlieHebdo.
Balaji Rangarathnam, assistant professor and director of the Voice and Swallowing Research Lab at East Carolina University, spoke about evidence assessments and treatment for neurogenic dysphagia and vocal hyper function last April.



► **Cellist Adkins performs**
Christopher Adkins, principal cellist of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, performed by invitation of the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music last spring. The program included two of the great 20th-century Russian cello sonatas, the D minor sonata of Dmitri Shostakovich and the G minor sonata of Sergei Rachmaninoff. Adkins was accompanied by faculty members, Jacob Clark and Sujung Cho.

► **Pinter plays performed**
The Department of Theatre and Dance performed two one-act plays, *The Dumb Waiter* and *A Kind of Alaska*, from different periods of the career of Nobel prize-winning British dramatist Harold Pinter last spring in the Studio Theatre. "Pinter is a great playwright whose work doesn't get staged enough," said director Joel Grothe, associate professor of theatre. "I try to choose work no one else in the region is doing."

As computer science University Professor Jiangjiang Liu brainstormed ways to increase freshman success, she knew it would require collaborative and innovative thinking. Liu is the Ann Die-Hasselmo Faculty Scholar and is a 13-year faculty member with a doctorate in computer science and engineering. Selected as a 2017 Texas State University System Chancellor's Faculty Fellow, Liu's fellowship proposal, titled First Year Success, includes a study of LU's first-year programs focused on student success and developing original strategies to improve freshman retention rates.
"The first year is kind of tough because you just graduated from high school, and then college is different from high school expectations," Liu said. "You have to be on your own. There are academic issues such as determining if students are college ready as well as encouraging engagement and getting involved in student activities.
"I started exploring our campus—what kind of services and support we can offer—so we can help students academically and enrich their college experience. The goal is to provide motivation so that they can finish their degree in four years."
First Year Success strategies involve easing the student transition from high school to college, providing academic support through mentoring and tutoring, and enhancing student engagement with peer connectivity and offering career opportunities.
"In the spring, we invited a group from Little Cypress Mauriceville to visit us," Liu said. "Our students can share their experiences and talk to them about how to apply to college. We have different departments visit with them, and they can ask questions. We're reaching out to help them in their pre-college preparation. Then when they're accepted, we encourage them to get advised as soon as possible, go to orientation and participate in activities like freshman convocation."
After studying data in the spring and summer and visiting with other offices to create collaborative efforts, Liu, along with other faculty, developed a small-scale pilot program focused on Computer Science and Chemistry Cardinal Communities, First Year Success, to test the proposed retention strategies. "We meet every week—one faculty mentor, one student mentor and then a group of first-year students for one session," Liu said.
"The first week we had lots of team-building activities to get the students connected," she said. "We invite speakers from STAR Services. They have the LU Success partner program to help with learning strategies and tutoring. We help them start early on their assignments and teach time management. We invite faculty members every week to talk about their research, and we invite speakers from study abroad, undergraduate research and other offices to talk to the students and share their experiences. We really want them to get involved and connected with their fellow students."
Liu said if the pilot program proves successful, it could prelude university-wide implementation. "Hopefully, the lessons we learn from this fellowship could be adopted by other programs or extended to STEM majors or even campus wide," she said. "We have wonderful support on campus and look forward to adding more innovative approaches."



LIU USES
CREATIVITY
& RESEARCH
TO INSPIRE
SUCCESS

by Kara Timberlake



“ Shaping commerce is my passion; it’s the video game I can’t put down, and merchant success is how I keep score. ”

—Ed Sturrock '02

AmeriCommerce: *welcome home!*

SETX native, LU alum keeps global e-commerce in the shop around the corner

by Casey Ford

In 2005, just three years after graduating with his B.B.A. in management information systems from Lamar University, AmeriCommerce CEO and co-owner Ed Sturrock and his partners took their company national, and they did it without a dime of investor funding. Completely bootstrapped into fluidity, by his own description, he and his partners called themselves “the masters of breakeven,” but they had created a company that would rapidly take them to all the places they’d dreamed of going.

The Vidor native and natural entrepreneur was never one to dream small. Sturrock began cutting his teeth on industrial software applications during college while working for the local plants. He built software for several Houston companies, even commuting there for a time. His family’s business, Beaumont-based Jubi Prints, provided the ideal platform for Sturrock to implement his developing shopping cart software that increased their online sales so exponentially that they eclipsed local sales two- to threefold.

He and a friend were each working on expansive e-commerce applications and saw an opportunity to merge their codebases. AmeriCommerce was born. This software allowed merchants to completely manage their online shopping experiences from product selection to purchase and beyond, to shipping options, order management and performance tracking.

Developers have continually added functionality, including powerful rule-based e-commerce options that allow customers to engineer their own sales and discounts, for example. Although today the e-commerce software market is highly competitive, by Sturrock’s estimate, AmeriCommerce still offers a difficult-to-replicate power and an array of features that keeps them at the top of a list of more than 600 global competitors.

Taking this imaginative company nationwide without investors meant that AmeriCommerce could remain as its founders intended. They were concerned about assuming the roles of conventional consultants. By retaining control of their firm they were able to continually create and evolve. The company saw steady, dependable growth, and Sturrock says he’s thankful they never “hit a Twitter moment” where they grew out of control, which would have forced them away from Southeast Texas.

That slow, steady growth caught the eye of would-be buyers like MasterCard and others who came knocking. And for all its success, Sturrock says, “there came a point where AmeriCommerce hit a peak in terms of what we could do, from that bootstrap perspective, and we needed either a strategic partner with an existing customer set or investment funds to help us fundamentally evolve the products and build a new customer base.” So in 2014, Capital One acquired AmeriCommerce.

By the time of their acquisition, AmeriCommerce had recruited more than 30 people, most of them LU graduates. Sturrock says their clients included “the big ones you tell people about,” including Yo-yo, Coca-Cola, Dell and the Discovery Channel program “Whale Wars,” but their primary client was the mid-market merchant, “the ones that sell, say, doorknobs and the like.” These clients were the bread and butter of AmeriCommerce because they could effectively manage multiple stores on one platform through the diverse capabilities of a flexible e-commerce software.

Capital One took that existing software and merged AmeriCommerce into their national commerce business, which included a card reader application similar to Square and their online and brick-and-mortar credit card terminals. The AmeriCommerce team spent the first year of the acquisition learning the ropes of a vast international corporation and how to attach to small business customers inside such a big machine.

Today they have come to more fully understand their identity as a company and more precisely what it is that they do well; they are not a mass-market, overly simplified product for everyone, but they are tailored to growing and complex mid-market merchants. This clarity, and a serendipitous chain of events, has meant that as of this year, Sturrock has announced that they are buying AmeriCommerce back from Capital One.

Sturrock says the move is “a result of a growing sense awareness of our ideal customers.” These last few years with Capital One have caused a loss of focus on their customer base, which felt like a backward step, even amidst so much growth and forward momentum. The expansion took Sturrock away from his family and took AmeriCommerce away from their merchants. Of course, Capital One must focus on what brings the highest mass-market potential and revenue, but for Sturrock and his team, the focus must be the mid-market client, the one who is harder to find and needs more attention. Buying back the company will give them back their agility, which they had lost due to navigating multiple strategies and target customers. They’re getting back to basics, on their own terms and in a big way.

They are doing it all from the top of Edison Plaza, with an amazing view of the Neches River, in downtown Beaumont.

AmeriCommerce will stay in the building and close to home, which suits Sturrock fine, as his family and personal life are here in Southeast Texas. By staying in local, they are able to continue to meet their customers’ needs and to substantially invest in the community. Additionally, the office itself looks like a set from the 1988 film “Big” if it were built on an atmospheric pirate ship. Sturrock advises entrepreneurs to “never lose your inner kid.” One step inside his offices proves he’s walking that walk. The team, 80 percent of whom are Lamar University graduates, comes to work casual and comfortable yet poised with precision to address the pressing daily issues of an international e-commerce clientele.

New recruits from Lamar University enter this innovative company either as part of the merchant success team where they are immersed into the product and the e-commerce industry, or they enter as developers right out of the computer science program. They sit down for team lunches, and they collaborate in committees with names like Team Glass, which works continually toward transparency; Team Atmosphere, which works on office space design and Team Iron Chef, which decides how to feed everyone.



Sturrock expresses immeasurable gratitude to the Lamar University community for people like Paul Latiolais, director of LU’s Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship, “he always has ten irons in the fire, being a startup guy at his core,” and for professor and computer science department chair Stefan Andrei, who “prepares computer science students with such compassion and integrity.” (Sturrock has stolen more than his share of Andrei’s teaching assistants.) He

enjoys serving on the CICE board, influencing entrepreneurship programs and having exposure to the life sciences and chemical work happening on campus.

He says he was a “slacker” in college, but nothing could be further from the truth. Sturrock was already starting companies as an undergraduate and dreaming up entrepreneurial technological innovations. He spent his time as a student learning about focus and aligning his daily tasks to accomplish big goals and dreams. Lamar University afforded Ed Sturrock the opportunity to build the kind of company for which he always wanted to work.

True entrepreneurs aren’t driven by money or acquisition; they’re driven by dreams, and Sturrock has realized his. He has said, “I dream in features that solve problems and fantasize about the day we have 100 developers on staff. Shaping commerce is my passion; it’s the video game I can’t put down, and merchant success is how I keep score.” The innovative ideas he tinkered with in college have grown into an enormously successfully company and an immeasurable asset to Southeast Texas and Lamar University.



Dean Venta wins Beta Gamma Sigma Dean of the Year

Enrique (Henry) R. Venta, Dean of Lamar University's College of Business since 2002, was recently honored as "Dean of the Year" by Beta Gamma Sigma, the international honor society serving business programs accredited by AACSB International-the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. He was honored as the 2017 recipient among the 576 BGS chapters worldwide. Venta plays an active role in developing BGS members as students and professional leaders beyond the grounds of Lamar University.

Beta Alpha Psi receives "Superior Status"

The Lamar University chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, an honor organization for financial information students and professionals, received superior status for the 2016-2017 academic year. Chapters are evaluated in the following activity areas; outreach, professional and service. Each chapter is awarded a chapter status, with superior being the highest and most prestigious.

"This was a great accomplishment by our Beta Alpha Psi students," **David Rose**, instructor of accounting and business law, and faculty advisor for the chapter states. "The students and particularly officers were very active in helping us achieve this superior status recognition."

The Beta Alpha Psi chapter represented LU at the National Beta Alpha Psi Convention in Anaheim, Calif., this past year, gaining knowledge on how to further improve this outstanding chapter.

Student participates in semester exchange in France

Kay-Alana Turner, M.B.A. student and president of LU's College of Business Student Advisory Council, participated in the College of Business semester exchange program. The program gives students an opportunity to study abroad for an entire semester at École Supérieure de Commerce de Rennes, an accredited business school in Rennes France, just two hours away from Paris. Students from 22 different countries participated in this experience last spring.

Turner saw several benefits to her time abroad, including sharpening her foreign language skills, establishing a global network and gaining confidence from her unique interactions. When addressing the benefits of study abroad, Turner said, "I think going to school and working on intensive group projects with people from different countries not only makes learning fun but also redefines your teamwork strategies."

When she was not studying she was seeing the sights. Some of her stops included the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, Notre-Dame Cathedral and the Louvre.



College of Business Hosted executive vice president and chief brand officer of the Dallas Cowboys

The College of Business welcomed **Charlotte Jones Anderson**, EVP and chief brand officer of the Dallas Cowboys and president of the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders, as the spring 2017 Academic Lecturer. The students were invited to

a private reception allowing them to meet Anderson and ask questions. Concluding the reception was an open lecture titled, "How Passion, Innovation and Leadership Shaped the Star."

"Anderson was the perfect choice for the College of Business because she is more than just a powerful businesswoman; she is a philanthropist and a true visionary," said **Kayce Smith**, marketing coordinator for the College of Business. "Her spirit for service and passion for business is exactly what we hope to inspire in our students and the community."

Anderson is heavily involved in philanthropy and serves as chairman of the Salvation Army National Advisory Board. At the conclusion of her presentation, she was presented with a gift from the local area chapter of the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club.

► **New department chair announced**
The College of Business has named professor and former director of accreditation and assessment **Toni Mulvaney** as the new department chair of the Accounting and Business Law Department.

► **M.B.A. student awarded Texas Business Hall of Fame Scholarship**
M.B.A. student **Eric Spaulding** was chosen from a pool of applicants to receive the Texas Business Hall of Fame Ben J. Rogers scholarship. This \$15,000 scholarship was endowed by **Regina Rogers** in loving memory of her father **Ben J. Rogers**.

► **Russ Waddill returns to LU**
Former College of Business assistant professor and director of entrepreneurial studies and now a partner at Neos Marketing, **Russ Waddill**, returned to campus last spring to speak to students. His lecture titled "Marketing at the Speed of Now" addressed the changing fast pace of marketing and the evolution of consumer preferences.



Goffney addresses college commencement

LaTonya Goffney, Lufkin ISD superintendent, served as the May 2017 commencement speaker with 734 graduates present at the ceremony. Among them was her husband, **Joseph Goffney**, who graduated with his master of education in educational administration. Goffney proudly presented the degree to her husband as he crossed the stage after focusing her remarks on adding value to those around you.

Hamza pioneers new term

Professor Mohamad Hamza, clinical mental health professor and neuropsychologist, chairs the mental health committee of the Syrian American Medical Society, which provides medical aid to war survivors. The group is one of the largest medical humanitarian societies that render mental aid to refugees across the world. He coined the term "human devastation syndrome" to describe the pain suffered by children because their symptoms far exceed post-traumatic stress disorder. Each summer, Hamza visits refugee camps and works with other mental health professionals to deliver services that help people suffering from psychologically devastating problems.



Italy Internship

This past summer, five hospitality and culinary arts students traveled to Italy for a 6-week international internship adventure with program director **Molly Dahm**. In an alliance with the Marco Polo Institute of Mediterranean Culture, the LU students experienced cooking, tourism, and cultural experiences across northern Italy. They traveled with a group from SUNY Schenectady to Nettuno, Bologna, Parma, Ferrara, Venice and Cinque Terre, then remained in Asti where they worked in local restaurants and hotels for the last half of the journey. The trip was funded in part through the fundraising efforts of the Sabine Area Restaurant Association as well as local chef **Debbie Bando**.



Doctoral Program accepted into the CPED Consortium

The Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate and its board of directors have accepted LU and 21 other graduate schools of education that will join more than 80 members of the consortium in the important work of redesigning professional practice preparation in education for the improvement of PK-20 education and the organizations that support it. This is a great opportunity for LU's program to be involved in the design and redesign of Ed.D. programs across the country. New members were chosen through an application process and evaluated by a CPED committee composed of faculty members of current consortium institutions. The doctoral program in educational leadership went

online in 2011 and has grown steadily, averaging 300 applications for approximately 45 openings in the next cohort. Upon completion of the program, the students will earn an Ed.D. with a concentration in global educational leadership.

Online M.Ed. program ranks high

In a review of schools across the nation, AffordableColleges.com found that LU's M.Ed. in educational administration program stands out in both quality and affordability, ranking it 20 out of 50. In addition, U.S. News and World Report and GetEducated.com has ranked it as a top affordable online graduate education program.

► **Clinical Mental Health Program ranked**
The Ultimate Guide for Counseling Psychology Majors, published by universities.com, recently included a ranking of the Best Counseling Degree Colleges. Lamar University came in at No. 10.

► **Education Research Conference**
The college research committee orchestrated the 14th Annual Education Research Conference, opening dialogue between professors across campus to share their research projects. The keynote session focused on digital literacy, presented by College of Engineering **Dean Srinivas Palanki**.

► **Faculty and alumni attend Midwinter Conference**
The Texas Association of School Administrators Midwinter Conference has become the most popular conference of the year for Texas school leaders because it provides such a valuable opportunity to come together to discuss and share innovative practices, network with peers, address the administrative issues and gain fresh insights.



Put inexpensive, easy-to-program, pocket-sized computers in the hands of kids and who knows what kind of innovations their discoveries might lead to. That's the theory behind the micro:bit, a powerful technology tool now in use in the Beaumont Independent School District thanks to assistance from Lamar University faculty.

Micro:bits, which measure 4 centimeters by 5 centimeters (1.6 inches by 2 inches) and sell for about \$15, originated as a British Broadcasting Corporation project to teach students in the United Kingdom as young as 11 how to code and get them excited about what they can do.

"The hope is to inspire a new generation of innovators, of people who will see how to use these digital tools to create the next great things that we will use as a society when they begin to enter the workforce in the next 15-20 years," said George Saltsman, director of educational innovation and associate research professor. "It's to empower them to create their own tools, not just to be passive consumers of what's been

created, to get out there and create tools for solving problems they see in their lives and be able to create the games and things they wish they had."

Saltsman met with micro:bit leaders about two years ago and began spreading the word about this innovative, accessible technology tool at conferences around the U.S. He had a supply of about 20 and last year asked the Micro:bit Foundation if he could donate them to Beaumont ISD to help launch the school district's new STEM center. They not only agreed, but also donated an additional 40 devices.

Joy Schwartz, lead STEM teacher for Beaumont ISD, said she loves using micro:bits to introduce young students to computational thinking, coding and programming.

"Maybe they'll move forward and create an app or major in computer science or a STEM-related field," she said. "We're really hoping that this is a pivotal moment for the computer science program here in BISD."

This school year, Schwartz has been taking micro:bit-based lessons into fourth-grade and seventh-grade classrooms throughout the district. The pocket-sized device includes temperature and light sensors, a compass and accelerometer, programmable buttons and LEDs, wireless communication via Bluetooth and radio, a USB connection and physical connection pins that can be used in building and operating robots.

In one experiment featured on the microbit.org website, students attached a micro:bit to a helium balloon and measured temperature changes as the device moved through the stratosphere. In another, the traditional "egg drop challenge" went high-tech by using micro:bits to measure G-forces when cushioned eggs hit the ground.

In early 2018, Beaumont ISD was ordering more micro:bits using grant funding to be able to put these creative devices in the hands of more students. The free ideas and lessons available online using micro:bits are nearly limitless. But even more exciting is the prospect of seeing what students come up with on their own.

| COLLEGE SNAPSHOT: ENGINEERING |

Students study engineering management in Spain
Thirteen engineering students spent two weeks in Tarragona, Spain, as part of a new program to study contemporary global issues in engineering management. Under the leadership of **Dr. Jerry Lin**, professor and senior director of graduate programs in the College of Engineering, the team experienced life in another country at the Universitat Rovira i Virgili, where students discovered what its like to be an engineer who regularly work abroad.

During the course, students were assigned a case requiring them to work in teams to incorporate the knowledge gained through theoretical sessions and technical visits on the trip to discover unique solutions for their projects. Their work was presented on the final day in Tarragona. "For our project, we had to take two countries—Spain and another of our choice—and perform a market analysis to see which would be better to first, produce in, and second, sell in," said senior mechanical engineering major **Nasim Abdelwahab**. "We had to conduct research and draw conclusions from the data, then defend our findings for our final. It was interesting because not many of us had experience with this kind of work."

In addition to their academics, students were able to experience the rich culture and history of Spain. Students took excursions to various Roman ruins, learning about engineering innovations dating back thousands of years. The group also visited local industry such as the Institute for Applied Automotive Research to learn about groundbreaking research happening in automotive safety. "Combining project teams with international travel has provided an in-depth learning experience still rare in the field of engineering, giving students the opportunity to improve their technical skills," Lin said.



Chemical engineering wins Senior Design Symposium

Micha Murdock, whose team was crowned grand champion of the second annual Senior Design Symposium, described it as the "best experience of my undergraduate career." The team spent an entire year planning, researching and coordinating a project that looked at ethanol fermentation, distillation and recovery for making beverage, fuel and industrial ethanols. A team of five judges from the College of Engineering faculty deemed the

team's project the most creative and useful in regard to real-world applications.

The Senior Design Symposium saw 44 projects across all five engineering disciplines compete for departmental recognition and the prize of grand champion. Projects ranged in scope from crude expansions for local industry to laundry machines for extended space missions. "There are so many great projects this year, I am humbled by the judges who chose our project," Murdock said.

With funding from various industry partners and the College of Engineering, students are given the opportunity to explore and pursue their interests. Teams work together throughout the year designing, creating and perfecting their projects. "Senior design projects have become a point of pride for engineering students across the country," said **Dean Srinivas Palanki**. "Students use their achievements to enhance their résumé and create interesting talking points for employers. We hope to continue the trend of producing top-quality students through hands-on opportunities such as those provided by the Senior Design Symposium."

Mechanical engineers compete at Google

In a collaboration between Shell and Google, four senior mechanical engineering students were chosen to participate in the Hack-a-Truck design competition in Mountain View, Calif., at the Google Garage. LU students were grouped with students from Cedarville University to design and create a food truck, inside and out, that was both innovative and energy-efficient.

"This was a rare treat for our students to participate," said **Ken Aung**, professor of mechanical engineering and advisor. Students were not allowed to receive help from their advisors, but were mentored by **Cameron Davies**, owner and president of Cruising Kitchens, celebrity chef **Ludo Lefebvre**, **Jaime Moreno** and **Jose Luis Marin-Oar** of Mormedi, a consulting firm that excels in areas of service and digital design.

"The competition was an amazing experience and a breath of fresh air that allowed us to get out of the classroom and laboratory," said team member **Justin Amedee**. "We were able to contribute to something that really matters and walk away with awards for Best Engineering Design and Best Energy Calculation."



► **Wu honored for project**
Xing Wu, assistant professor of civil engineering, was honored by TxDOT and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials for his research on traffic mitigation in the Houston area

► **EEs score big at competition**
Senior electrical engineering students **Lukas Moravits**, **Mitchell Davis** and **Jesse Wells** participated in the Texas Space Grant Consortium Design Challenge finishing second place overall. They also garnered best oral presentation among teams from more than a dozen universities around Texas.

► **Xiang receives large grant**
Yisha Xiang, assistant professor of industrial engineering, received a \$279,025 grant from the National Science Foundation to study failures in capital-intensive industries that may threaten lives and have significant environmental impacts.

KEEPING THE *heart* OF innovation BEATING

HORATIO ALGER ASSOCIATION NAMES
LU ALUMNUS LARRY LAWSON '12
TO ITS MEMBER CLASS OF 2018

The Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans Inc. has selected Larry Lawson, founder and CEO, HeartcoR Solutions, to join its prestigious ranks. The nonprofit educational organization honors the achievements of outstanding individuals and encourages youth to pursue their dreams through higher education. Lawson joins 11 other esteemed business, civic and cultural leaders from across the U.S. in receiving 2018 honors. For more than 70 years, the Horatio Alger Award has been annually bestowed upon admired leaders who have succeeded despite facing adversities, and who have remained committed to higher education and charitable efforts in their local communities.

Lawson lives this commitment through his unflagging allegiance to LU, sharing his success in numerous ways. He is a founding member of the Legacy Society and also serves on a number of boards at LU, including the Foundation Board of Trustees and the Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship Advisory Board. Additionally, he recently was the featured speaker at the Entrepreneurship Boot Camp for LU's faculty in engineering and business. In recognition of Lawson's extensive support and passion for LU, the university awarded him an honorary doctorate in 2012.

Born to working-class Texan parents, Lawson is the youngest child of three and was diagnosed with polio at age six. His family sought a second opinion, and he was later re-diagnosed with a serious bone deficiency. For six years following his diagnosis, he was required to wear a metal leg brace that severely impaired his walking and left him a frequent victim of ridicule. Lawson learned at an early age that grit, determination and confidence would take him far in life. He began his career in a creative space—writing and producing music. Following his time working in music, he pivoted to healthcare, where he was first exposed to the medical device industry as a sales representative at Johnson & Johnson. As Lawson progressed through his career, he learned the intricacies of the industry, eventually starting his first company, LifeMed Inc. in 1983. From there, he continued to establish other medical

monitoring companies, eventually focusing on cardiology. Today, Lawson's latest project is HeartcoR Solutions, an ECG Core Lab that provides research and clinical trial management services to pharma, medical device and biotech companies worldwide.

"Larry's innate entrepreneurial inclination and his genuine affection for people have been a driving force in his success. These characteristics coupled with his keen knowledge of market mechanisms and distribution systems in the medical device industry led to his phenomenal rise as a leading innovator—experience he has selflessly put to work for the benefit of Lamar University," President Ken Evans said.

Lawson has included LU in his estate to establish the Larry W. Lawson Research Fund in Electrical Engineering. Recently, he directed a special \$1 million gift to the College of Engineering, creating fellowships for early career faculty. He is an active member of TMCx, the Texas Medical Center's Accelerator program, and GOOSE Society of Texas, an organization that provides funding and mentorship to startup companies in life science, energy and emerging technologies. He also has donated to entrepreneurship centers and facilities for the disabled, in memory of his sister, who had spina bifida and was confined to a wheelchair her entire life. Lawson has received numerous accolades, including election into the Gulf Coast Music Hall of Fame for his tenure with The Clique, Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2009 and Houston Technology Center's Lifetime Achievement Award in Health Sciences in 2017.

"As a child, I was fortunate to have parents who believed in me and encouraged me to pursue my dreams, despite the serious physical challenges I faced," said Lawson, upon acceptance of his most recent award. Understanding that many students don't have this same type of support system to build them up, it is an honor and privilege for me to be a change agent in their lives. I am grateful that the Horatio Alger Association has welcomed me into this special organization so that I may continue to provide hope and opportunity to those who deserve it

most." Through its members, Horatio Alger Association aims to educate young people about the limitless opportunities afforded to them by the free-enterprise system. Like association members, Horatio Alger Scholars have faced significant adversities, but have also displayed unmatched resilience in overcoming challenges. Lawson and the member class of 2018 were formally inducted into the association April 5-7, 2018, during the 71st Horatio Alger Award Induction Ceremonies in Washington, D.C.

Lawson's passion for encouraging young people and preparing the next generation of entrepreneurs has contributed to his interest in a variety of LU initiatives. These innovative educational objectives involve more experiential learning, cross-disciplinary partnerships and collaborations with industry. Lawson has been at the heart of conversations addressing entrepreneurship education at LU.

- **FOUNDER AND CEO, HEARTCOR SOLUTIONS**
- **ERNST & YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR, HEALTH SCIENCES**
- **INC. MAGAZINE 500 FASTEST-GROWING PRIVATE COMPANIES IN AMERICA, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012**
- **LU LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBER**
- **FOUNDER, LARRY W. LAWSON RESEARCH FUND IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**
- **FOUNDING MEMBER, LU PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE**
- **TRUSTEE, LU FOUNDATION**

Sudha Kheterpal:

MUSIC INSPIRES INNOVATION

by Brian Sattler

Several students are engaged in “real-world” work at LU’s Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship thanks to a partnership with world-renowned pop musician Sudha Kheterpal and her vision for a device to harness the sun’s energy while engaging the power of music and education.

Entrepreneurship isn’t new to the British Indian percussionist who has been the heartbeat of electronic and pop bands for more than 20 years. Her music resume includes work with internationally known electronica and pop musicians like the Spice Girls, Faithless, Dido and others. “I was very humbled to play in front of hundreds of thousands of people quite regularly internationally,” she said. “I’d often wonder if the energy of the crowd could be harnessed and used for anything else such as for a social good.”

A few years ago, her understanding of the genuine need for renewable energy and potential of using energy created from music, gave rise to her founding Shake Your Power, an organization that seeks to bring clean energy to places in the world without electricity.

“There was one occasion at an electronica gig I was performing at where the crowd stomped their feet so hard in time with the music that they appeared to cause an earthquake. It was really the pivotal moment when I

thought ‘I’ve got to look into this. Can we do anything with this energy?’”

It was around this time when she was introduced to Diana Simpson Hernandez, now head of industrial design and strategy at Shake Your Power. She also was the founder of Designers for Humanity, a platform for designers seeking to tackle some of the most pressing environmental issues today.

“She’s a great voice in product design and development and has won us several awards,” says Kheterpal. When they met, they talked about the idea to “create an instrument that uses the kinetic energy in playing it for electricity.”

Out of this initial conversation came the SPARK device and a Kick Starter campaign that provided crowd funding enabling a trip to Kenya to test the prototype.

“It was then that we saw an

incredible need not only for electricity for light but also for mobile phone charging,” she said. “In Kenya, three quarters of the population lives without electricity and just as many have a mobile phone.”

Beyond the immediate need to charge mobile phones, Kheterpal recognized that “the biggest impact of what we were doing would be through education. By showing young people how to put their own mini SPARK together, they could really learn to understand such things as entrepreneurship, renewable energy and STEM—science, technology, engineering and math.”

“All of that was being done through this lovely medium of music,” Kheterpal said. “We found a real connector for young people.”

Fast forward to working with Lamar University to develop the SolarMC as an exciting educational tool

for young people whereby individuals can build their own solar mobile phone charger.

The proof-of-concept is complete, and Shake Your Power is exploring, with the help of LU electrical engineering students, decisions on how it will be put together, inclusive of the cost of components and whether to use a printed circuit board or breadboard-style perfboard. The device will include a solar panel, charger, connection for cellular phone and a speaker case to amplify the sound.

“With the device, the user would be able to charge their phones and enhance the ability to listen to music,” she said. “We’re looking at some of these ideas with electrical engineering students here at LU, and also focusing on the marketing aspects.”

Lamar University marketing students, who

are taking a course under Paul Latiolais, director of the CICE, are developing plans for educational and retail marketing of the device on behalf of Shake Your Power. Business majors Nicolette Tate of Nederland, Ramee Biffle of Vidor, Taylor Chatagnier of Groves and Patricia Lauritzen of El Paso, along with graduate student Kristeen Reynolds of Port Arthur, are working on the marketing plans.

“Because we’re a mission-led company, the social good element and the purpose is very important to us,” Kheterpal explains. “We want to encourage young innovators to really think about solving real-world problems.”

While the project provides the elements common to any marketing plan, “we’re taking it one step further by asking the marketing students here to consider the social good aspect,” Kheterpal said.

“As a college student, one rarely has the opportunity to work on an assignment that offers such real-world experience while also advocating for social good,” Biffle said. “The marketing team and I are very grateful to have had the privilege to play a part in something that has the potential to make such a positive impact on so many lives.”

Kheterpal sees potential for the device to bring the world closer together by pairing schools in building the devices and developing interchange between schools. For example, a science class in Port Arthur could be paired with a school in rural Mexico, both building the SolarMC. There could be a widening of learning outcomes as students learn about life in other places and how we can solve real-world problems together through innovation.

“You can create music with your phone with applications like Garage Band,” she said. “We’d like to encourage refugee camps to set up a music challenge for the best tune to come out of a camp, to share with a twin school, perhaps in Texas, as a way to add to global understanding and a fun way to get into STEM.”

“There are lots of interesting things that we’re exploring, and certainly being here at LU with the students has been really great for us,” Kheterpal said.





AtmoSpark

Atmospheric water generation innovation

by Brian Sattler

AtmoSpark Water Generation, a new technology developed by Tejus Mane, a master's student in chemical engineering at Lamar University, recently received a National Science Foundation Innovation Corps grant for \$50,000 to facilitate a customer discovery tour to explore new applications and new markets while the team continues to refine its patent-pending technology.

Mane, CEO of AtmoSpark, and co-founder Aniket Khade, a Ph.D. student in chemical engineering at LU, submitted the grant proposal with the help of LU's Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship, the Office of Sponsored Research, and Jerry Lin, senior director of graduate programs, University Professor and Ann Die-Hasselmo Faculty Scholar at LU. Matthew Bukovicky, an M.B.A. student in leadership, joins Mane and Khade on the team, along with Damilola Runsewe, a master's student in chemical engineering, who is soon leaving to pursue a Ph.D. at Texas State University.

AtmoSpark uses an innovative electro-condensation technology that has shown a significant increase in water production compared to conventional condensation under the same working conditions. The overall device named

Blu Element combines this technology along with using an innovative design of hydrophobic and hydrophilic materials on nano-sized condensation surfaces to enhance water extraction from the air.

Originally envisioned as a solution to water shortages in developing countries, the technology holds promise as a way to address potable water needs in several novel markets. This expansion came about last summer during the 12-week Owl

Spark program at Rice University, where the student team participated in a concentrated exploration of potential customer segments.

"The big learning moment or pivot point was when we learned that while non-governmental organization's would like such a project, to them there was too much liability in technology at such an early stage," Mane said.

Instead, they discovered strong potential markets for the water-generation technology in the "cruising community" of live-aboard sailboats, motorsailers and small yachts, and among RVers around the nation in motorhomes, fifth wheels or travel trailers.

"There are a lot of potential customers who are looking for better water," he said. They may be cruisers who want to "stay on the hook" longer without having to go into marinas to refill

"The CICE has been a huge support for us, and we are excited to also engage with NSF and LU engineering during this phase."

—Tejus Mane

water tanks, or install and maintain desalination systems at considerable expense. Additionally, they could be RVers who want to have fresh water while traveling, or "boon docking" away from power and water sources for long periods of time.

Given the significant numbers of cruisers along the Gulf Coast and beyond, Mane sees a significant potential market. Later, AtmoSpark's technology may find application in larger vessels or on offshore oil rigs. "We believe our product will be more cost-effective than current technology, but there is a big cycle to go thorough in proving our process to these kinds of customers through field testing, pilot phases and so on," Mane said. "That would be extremely difficult financially for a start-up."

Beyond the sailing and RV markets, Mane sees a potential market in sustainable housing and pilot testing is planned in Puerto Rico and the Netherlands. He also envisions one could work with the Department of Defense for scalable solar-powered units to give the military greater freedom of movement by providing sustainable water. The technology could also serve in times of disaster relief, potentially through FEMA, non-governmental organizations or other relief organizations.

The I-Corps seven-week discovery tour began Jan. 16 with a workshop in Seattle where they received training in customer discovery and continued through March 2. Mane, Khade and Mark Harkness, a mentor the team met at Owlspark who has experience in industrial water use and recovery and

governmental regulations, are traveling around the U.S. under the grant.

In addition to the recent NSF grant, AtmoSpark has won the top prize in three recent competitions: the 2017 Texas Rural Challenge, the Big Idea Challenge at LU and the Texas State University Business Plan competition.

The team is refining the product at LU's Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship. There they have both office and laboratory space. Both are vital as the team works on business models and "next steps" as it prepares for the next Rice Business Plan competition and continues to test and refine its design with new prototypes.

As for the spark that lead to AtmoSpark, Mane first had the idea while attending the Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship graduate class taught by David Cocke, the Jack M. Gill Endowed Chair of Chemical Engineering and associate director of the CICE. The class changed his professional trajectory, Mane said, to a future in entrepreneurship.

"Dr. David Cocke's class at the CICE was the major reason we were able to start this project and are now able to bring it to a state that we are able to get NSF funding for customer discovery and other outside funding as well," Mane said. "The CICE has been a huge support for us, and we are excited to also engage with the NSF and LU's College of Engineering during this phase."

HURRICANE HARVEY & LU

Aug. 24	Students were invited to move in to the dorms early to avoid the rain weather reports estimated.	Aug. 26	The storm came ashore and then wandered back out into the Gulf.	Aug. 29	Harvey made landfall in the Beaumont/Houston area.	Aug. 24-Sept. 1	Harvey brought record rains—60.58" in one week just south of campus.
Aug. 25	Harvey came ashore near Corpus Christi.	Aug. 28	Classes were scheduled to begin August 28, 2017.	Aug. 30	Upriver, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released water from the dams, making a bad situation worse.		

More than 500 students stayed in the LU residence halls throughout the storm. The City of Beaumont lost its water supply, and drinking water as well as bathroom facilities became an issue. With the rain continuing for five days, LU students had time on their hands. Some of the local students had already begun to volunteer with their church or community groups.

HARVEY *Heroes* was born

Lamar University students completed more than 5,000 hours of volunteer work through Harvey Heroes.

THE NUMBERS

- 294 student volunteers signed up
- 112 student volunteers completed 40 or more hours Volunteer Areas
- Salvation Army and Red Cross—distribution and shelter
- Humane Society—rescue animals
- Habitat for Humanity, local churches and homes—pulling up carpet and cutting sheetrock
- Schools—distribution and shelter
- SETX Food Bank, Red Cross, Meals on Wheels and HEB—food and water distribution

FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS REBOUND

Like millions of other Texans, Lamar University students faced mandatory evacuation, loss of electricity, non-potable water, recovery costs and the loss of personal possessions. After the storm, faculty and staff members and administrators responded swiftly to accommodate students:

- Extending registration for fall
- Waiving late registration fees
- Implementing a revised academic calendar
- Creating three additional fall semesters, or "Harvey Sessions," with later start dates to give time for students to recover from the storm

Lamar University delayed the start of the Fall 2017 semester to Sept. 5 by initiating all courses online until they could transition back to campus. Although overall numbers will be down slightly, some areas still grew or remained steady:

- Occupancy in the university's residence halls, Cardinal Village, is at an all-time high
- Transfer student enrollment rose
- The incoming freshmen class is among one of the best prepared to date based on average SAT and ACT scores
- This fall's undergraduate student enrollment of 10,287 was virtually tied with 2016 numbers

| COLLEGE SNAPSHOT: ARTS & SCIENCES |

Nursing faculty feted for research excellence

Nine faculty members in the JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing received the Texas Organization for Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Education Excellence in Research Award for their research analyzing the effects of mindfulness meditation on anxiety levels in undergraduate nursing students. "I think this shows the excellent work that the Lamar University Dishman School of Nursing faculty is doing," said **Cynthia Stinson**, chair of the school. "We have a reputation of winning research and state awards." That reputation was further enhanced when LU's nursing programs were recognized for excellence by the Community for Accredited Online Schools, AccreditedSchoolsOnline.org. In addition, College Choice recently ranked the master's degree program as the second-most affordable online nursing master's degree program.

Noel awarded physics national internship

Zakary Noel, a senior physics major from Baytown, was one of 12 recipients from a nationwide pool of applicants for the 2017 internship with the Society of Physics Students and the National Institute for Standards and Technology last summer. "This is much more meaningful than just gaining lab work experience," said Noel. "Science is about sharing ideas and working together. It's about learning firsthand how the scientific community bridges gaps and comes together to support mutual goals and achievements." Noel worked directly with the national office of the SPS to develop Science Outreach Catalyst Kits "to provide SPS chapters with innovative outreach presentations" as well as with the NIST Summer Institute to develop hands-on activities, lectures, tours and visits with NIST scientists who educate teachers and non-scientists. Noel plans to attend graduate school and earn a Ph.D. He is considering a future in academia or research.



Collaborative research bridges LU, University of Belize

Matthew Hoch, associate professor of biology, and **Hostin May**, senior biology and business major from Bridge City, collaborated with the University of Belize on research pertaining to coral reef microbiology. May and UB biology student **Mark McNab** spent two weeks during the winter stationed at the Smithsonian Institute's Field Station on Carrie Bow Cay. May and McNab assisted Hoch in studying the

hypothesis that microbial response to macroalgal dissolved organic matter and temperature facilitates coral loss on the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef. "Besides the tropical allure and delicious cuisine, not much research has been performed on back-reefs like these—mostly it's the 'big, sexy reefs' like the Great Barrier that get all the attention," May said. "So the goal is to help expand the back reef journal collection. Like the human body, corals also have 'good bacteria,' or microorganisms which positively affect the health of coral and 'bad bacteria,' or disease-causing pathogens," Hoch said. Temperature, the focus of much of their research, has been shown to influence the microbial community in both positive and negative ways. The experiences gained from this type of research are worth infinitely more than what you could learn in a classroom. Research teaches you teamwork, scheduling and perseverance and completely alters your school experience for the better," May said. And according to May, he was lucky to have Hoch's mentorship. "A huge part of research is your mentor, and I am lucky to have one of the very best. Dr. Hoch pushed me to make these projects happen and has kept me on a path to success, even when I doubted myself."

Bradley, Parker earn accolades

Jerry Bradley, professor of English and modern languages, and graduate student **Salena Parker**, took home awards at 84th Conference of College Teachers of English and the Texas College English Association recently at Tarrant County Community College Northeast. The association awarded Bradley best presentation based on the conference theme of Texas Heritage for his poetry reading, *Approaching the Coast of Arizona*. Bradley also received an award for best creative writing from the conference for his reading of *Alive in Captivity after the Flood*, which was selected for inclusion in an Austin Poetry Festival anthology. Parker won the L.D. Hendricks Award, the top graduate student prize, for her paper *A Fine Tang of Faintly Scented Urine: An Analysis of Scorned Acts in Joyce's Ulysses*, and her research was published in the CTE Studies journal this past fall. Previously, her research was accepted for publication by the International James Joyce Society.



► **Lone Star author talks lit**
Steve Davis, author of *Dallas 1963*, *J. Frank Dobie: A Liberated Mind*, and *Texas Literary Outlaws*, spoke about "Texas Literature: The first 470 years (give or take a few days)" during a lecture last spring at the invitation of the English and Modern Languages Department.

► **Bradley poem earns award**
Jerry Bradley, Professor of English at Lamar University, was selected for the prestigious Margie Boswell Poetry Award for his poem *Alive in Captivity after the Flood*. Bradley was commemorated in ceremonies celebrating creative writing at Texas Christian University.

► **Criminal justice ranks 11th**
Top Criminal Justice Schools ranked LU 11th out of 50 in their national list of best online master's degree programs in criminal justice. The rankings were determined from an initial list of 145 online criminal justice programs.

Best takes EDUCATION INNOVATIONS *around the globe*

by Beth Gallaspy

Randy Best '67 recognized early on that adult learners want a different style of higher education than traditional college students. An innovative approach to meeting the goals and needs of this growing market of students has been the key to success for his company, Academic Partnerships, and for the partner schools he works with worldwide, including Lamar University.

"We call it the Lamar model," Best said. "What we're introducing in seven great universities in South Africa and universities elsewhere is the Lamar model, unchanged with no modifications, because it worked so well. Usually you don't get it right the first time, but we fortunately did in that it met the need of this category of student, this mature, working adult."

Best's Dallas-based company began working with LU more than a decade ago to create online versions of selected degree programs still taught by LU faculty and to recruit working professionals to enroll in as students in those programs. One innovation, Best said, was simply identifying the need for such programs and committing resources to meet that need.

"I think we recognized a bit early that college graduates, because of changes in the job market, because of new skill requirements in the jobs they already held and the chance for advancement, would someday return to the university," Best said. "In the past, one degree was good for life, but that was not true in the network-based economy and fast-changing 21st century."

By working with affordable, public universities like LU, Academic Partnerships was able to effectively market programs to students looking to develop additional expertise and earn an advanced credential at a relatively low cost without accumulating huge debt. Additionally, Best's company focused marketing and recruitment efforts through employers rather than just trying to reach potential students directly. For graduate degrees in education, they worked through school districts. For advanced nursing degrees and RN to BSN programs, they worked through hospitals. Those efforts proved a major asset both for Academic Partnerships and for Lamar University. "LU was an early mover and dominated the market in Texas for master's degrees in education and is still growing and expanding after 10 years. That was guessing the market right," Best said.

Best's company and the universities he works with also strive to build flexible scheduling into their programs.

While traditional college students might be able to dedicate semester after semester to completing a degree program, adult learners often balance school with other commitments.

"They take three courses then have to lay out a course because of something going on in their job or life or their family," Best said. "We developed a thing called a carousel that allows them to just hop back on after laying out a course. It may be for the summer when they have children out of school, or they're going on a vacation. So maybe they'll lay off two courses and just hop back on where they got off. That was just revolutionary. It really made this whole thing possible. Prior to that when you stepped out you dropped out."

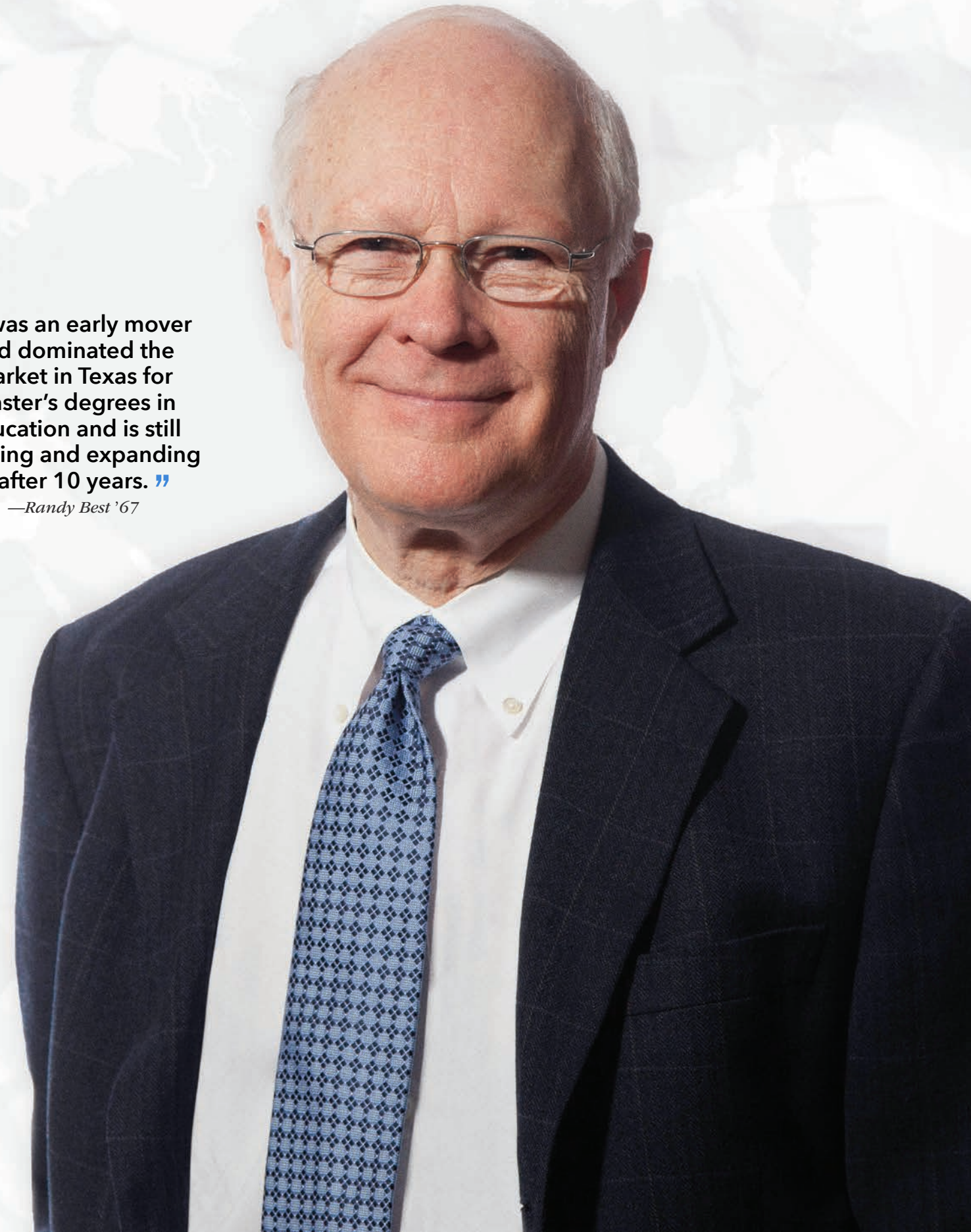
The innovative approach worked so well at Lamar University that it quickly spread to other institutions. Academic Partnerships now serves 52 public universities in the United States. Sister companies also are working with seven South African universities and one in the United Kingdom, with other U.K. universities in the planning stages to come online. Best also is in talks with universities in Morocco and is constantly evaluating opportunities to expand into other markets. Before developing the "Lamar model," Best made his first forays into higher education in Latin America, working with universities in multiple countries, including Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Argentina and Mexico. His sister company in Latin America, Ilumno, now serves more than 300,000 students on 75 campuses.

In addition to expanding into new markets, Best's company is continuing to develop innovative ways to better serve partner universities by shouldering more of the load in a scalable way of enrolling large numbers of students with multiple start dates per year. "We're studying how to be more supportive and more helpful and also how we can increase our mentoring and support of enrolled students who have full lives and families and jobs," Best said. "The second thing we want to do differently is to help take our partner universities here in the United States abroad and help them be active in huge markets overseas where there's tremendous demand and little to any access to U.S. higher education."

As technology infrastructure and mobile access continues to improve around the world, more and more tech-savvy adult students are seeking out expanded higher education options. Best's Academic Partnerships and the universities he works with, including Lamar University, keep growing, changing and innovating to meet the demand.

“ LU was an early mover and dominated the market in Texas for master’s degrees in education and is still growing and expanding after 10 years. ”

—Randy Best '67



ALUMNI GIFTS ESTABLISH
NEW FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS

Lamar University announced the inaugural recipients of the College of Engineering Faculty Fellowship Program, awards made possible through the generosity of five alumni last spring. Eleven faculty members were recognized and received the title of faculty fellow in an afternoon program March 22 at the Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship.

"These faculty fellowships recognize and support the innovative endeavors of outstanding members of the College of Engineering faculty," said Srinivas Palanki, dean of the college. "We are grateful to our alumni who have made these fellowships possible through their generosity. Their support and interest in building and sustaining a culture of innovation at Lamar University is outstanding."

Ten fellowships were possible thanks to funding from five alumni donors: Anthony George '88, CEO of Nautical Control Solutions and founder and president of Control Dynamics International; successful scientist, technology entrepreneur, venture capitalist, educator and philanthropist Jack Gill '58, Distinguished Alumnus; Larry Lawson '12, founder of eCardio Diagnostics, and an Ernst & Young Health Science Entrepreneur of the Year; Larry Norwood '73, retired Lubrizol Corp. corporate vice president of operations and LU benefactor; and Anita Riddle '93, '96, procurement manager for ExxonMobil who has established numerous faculty development and innovation funds within the college. Each of the following fellows receives a stipend of \$10,000 per year for three years: Gill Fellows Tao Wei, assistant professor of chemical engineering, and Rafael Tadmor, professor of chemical engineering; Norwood Fellows Ramesh Guduru, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, and Jerry Lin, professor of civil and environmental engineering; Riddle Fellows Qiang Xu, associate professor of chemical engineering, and Quin Qian, associate professor of civil engineering; George Fellows Reza Barzegaran and Hassan Zargarzadeh, both assistant professors of electrical engineering; and Lawson Fellows Xuejun Fan, professor of mechanical engineering, and Xing Wu, assistant professor of civil engineering. An eleventh faculty member, Yueqing Li, assistant professor of industrial engineering, was named a College of Engineering Fellow and will receive a stipend of \$5,000 per year for three years from the college.



New Science and Tech Building rises

The new 83,000-square-foot Science and Technology Building broke ground last May with an expected completion goal of November 2018. It will be the first new entirely academic building to be added to the LU campus in more than four decades. "This building is long overdue, and the Texas State University System is very happy to facilitate that," said TSUS Regent Bill Scott. The new Science and Technology Building is sited to take advantage of a future pedestrian corridor planned for Cunningham Street and new campus entry off Rolfe Christopher Drive. It is in a prominent location and will be highly visible as Lamar University continues to grow. "As much as we celebrate the building, it's an opportunity for us to recruit better students, to recruit better faculty, to, in turn, transform our programs, and to be more competitive in career and graduate program placement," said LU President Ken Evans. "At the end of the day, science and technology will increasingly play an evermore important role in the evolution of our economy and our ability to solve the pressing problems of present and future generations."

LU noted as a 'Rising Star' in UK study

Times Higher Education and World University Rankings identified Lamar University as one of 20 universities worldwide and one of just nine nationally that could "challenge the elite universities" and become globally renowned by 2030. A study conducted by Firetail, a strategy consulting firm in Great Britain that works with some of the world's most outstanding universities, research organizations and civil society groups, identified a "Class of 2030" that consisted of an emerging group of "challenger" universities that are quickly rising in the world rankings and "have an opportunity to become globally renowned in the next 10 to 20 years."



York secures Goldwater Scholarship

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program bestowed its distinguished scholarship on Chris York, a senior double major in mathematics and computer science, making him the fourth LU student to earn the most prestigious undergraduate award given in the sciences. The scholarship is awarded to about 300 college sophomores and juniors nationwide based on merit.

CHC to focus on Civil War and 1930s Beaumont

During its inaugural year beginning in 2017, the LU Center for History and Culture of Southeast Texas and the Upper Gulf Coast hosted numerous events. From "Culinary Traditions of Southeast Texas and Louisiana," "LaBelle: the Ship that Changed History" and "Oil and Water: Economic Linchpins of Southeast Texas and the Upper Gulf Coast" to "The Golden Triangle and the Great War," "Singing the Dream: Cajun and Prison Music" and "John Phillip Sousa Meets Beaumont's Magnolia Petroleum Band," the center's presentations commemorate the region's rich history, art, literature, music and cuisine. Community takes center stage April 23 when Center Fellow Marilyn Mason-Hayes presents "1930s Beaumont Voices," a multi-media program with costumed actors presenting essays enhanced with radio, movie clips, music and pictures.



Participation doubles at undergrad expo

LU's Fourth Annual Undergraduate Research Expo, held April 21, surpassed its expected growth with a major leap in attendance, the number of presentations and in student involvement in comparison to the 2016 event. "The annual undergraduate research Expo has become a proud tradition at Lamar University," said Catalina Castellón, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research. "As a university, we are at the leading edge of undergraduate research in Texas." The 2017 conference included 120 presentations by 250 LU students mentored by 88 faculty members representing 28 academic departments. "This research expo was an incredible experience for me," said Humberto Jimenez, a senior double major in advertising and Spanish from Beaumont. "It really opened my mind to what all I can do with my education."



Daniel recognized by Council of Undergraduate Research

Jennifer Daniel, associate professor of mathematics, received a 2017 Faculty Mentoring Award from the Council of Undergraduate Research, a national organization representing more than 900 colleges and universities, to honor her success in directing students in undergraduate research. "As a mentor, she is unparalleled," said Alys Marken '12, Daniel's former student. "Most notably, she instills in her students invaluable tools for life-long learning and success."

LU gains special USDA status

The USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture has designated LU as a Non-Land Grant College of Agriculture. These colleges provide important translational research and outreach benefits, while developing a highly skilled workforce for the agricultural, food and natural resource industries. This designation opens up new possibilities and opportunities for external funding with the USDA.

ORIGINAL 1892 MAP
FINDS HOME AT LU



A piece of history came home when Kit Herrington of Corsicana delivered an original map of Gladys City as envisioned by entrepreneur Pattillo Higgins to Lamar University, home of the Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum. Higgins used the map, printed in 1892, to sell lots that helped finance the first drilling effort at Spindletop Hill. That effort, and several subsequent efforts, failed. While Higgins' vision as presented in the map was never realized, he is credited with recognizing the potential for oil and starting the process that changed history on January 10, 1901, when the Lucas Gusher blew. "It's a treasure, it really is," said LU Distinguished Alumna Ellen Rienstra '62, '80 who accepted the map on the university's behalf. With ancestral ties to Beaumont, Herrington has always had a keen interest in the area's history. The map, which he donated in honor of the late Judge James D. McNicholas, former mayor of Beaumont, and Dr. Thomas A. Lombardo, Beaumont cardiovascular specialist, is in remarkably good condition. The late Michel T. Halbouty, geologist, petroleum engineer, wildcatter and author, encouraged Herrington to donate the map to LU because of the university's unique tie to Spindletop.

Science camp selects LU as one of 10

The ExxonMobil Foundation and Dr. Bernard A. Harris Jr., the first African-American to walk in space, selected LU as one of 10 sites nationwide to host the 2017 ExxonMobil Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp. The two-week residential all-expense-paid camps for aspiring innovators, scientists and engineers are held on college campuses across the country for middle-school students.

Literary Press author Stan Crawford honored

A Lamar University Literary Press author is among the honorees of the Texas Institute of Letters 2017 awards for Texas Literary Works. Resisting Gravity by attorney and poet Stan Crawford earned the Bob Bush Memorial Award for First Book of Poetry. To learn more about the Lamar University Literary Press visit lamar.edu/literarypress.

PayScale ranks LU No. 2

PayScale's 2017 College ROI report ranked Lamar University as a Best Value College for engineering students based on salary profiles compiled by the website. The annual College ROI report measures the return on tuition investment 20 years after graduation, and this year it ranked LU No. 2 out of more than 500 universities across the nation.

Xiang nets NSF grant

Yisha Xiang, assistant professor of industrial engineering secured a \$279,025 National Science Foundation grant for collaborative research exploring equipment failures in capital-intensive industries, such as oil and gas exploration, aerospace and power generation, that may threaten human lives and have significant environmental and economic impact.



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

SEND US YOUR NEWS:

Cardinal Cadence
P.O. Box 10011
Beaumont, TX 77710
e-mail alumni@lamar.edu
or call (409) 880-8921

YOU & LU
A lifelong relationship.

The Office of Alumni Affairs is your connection.

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

lamar.edu/alumni

50s

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

60s

David J. Beck '61, B.S. government, '12, L.H.D. doctor of humane letters, was selected for inclusion in the inaugural Legal 500 U.S. Hall of Fame in the Dispute Resolution – Leading Trial Lawyers category in April 2017. Beck is co-founder and partner for Beck Redden LLP and has been for 15 years. Beck Redden LLP also has maintained its Band 1 ranking in the annual Chambers USA for 2017. He and his wife, Judy, live in Houston.



James Robson '66, B.B.A. marketing, retired as CEO of The Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board after 15 years and returned to Texas. He and his wife, Molly, live in Argyle, and Robson is working as a food industry consultant on sales and marketing projects, along with a private equity firm as an advisor on acquisitions in specialty foods.

Eola Buchanan '67, B.A. history, '87, M.A. history, taught in Fulton County for 20 years before moving to Atlanta, Ga., where she worked in education before retiring. She lives in Atlanta.

Dr. Samuel “Sam” Low '67, B.S. biology, earned his master of education in 1980 and his dental degree in 1973. He is associate dean/professor emeritus for the University of Florida College of Dentistry. He and his wife, Tess, live in Palm Coast, Fla.

Lynn DeBlance '67, B.B.A. accounting, M.B.A. business administration, retired as a cost accountant, auditor, assistant controller and tax manager for Memorial Hermann Healthcare

System. He and his wife, Brenda, live in Sugar Land.

Kenneth Baird II '69, B.S. geology, retired from the oil and gas industry in 2015 after working for several major and independent oil and gas companies in Texas and California as an exploration and production geophysicist and a geophysical manager. He is enjoying retirement in Greenhorn Mountain, Calif., where he grows fruit and nut tress along with driving and restoring antique and classic cars from his collection.

70s

Jose Berrios '70, B.S. elementary education, retired from teaching after 30 years. He is a part-time employee for Amalie Arena and University of South Florida Sundome and volunteers at an assisted living facility in Brandon, Fla. He and his wife, Jill, live in Tampa, Fla.

Dwain Lovett '70, B.B.A. marketing, wrote a book entitled Rescued! The Amazing Story of Gertie Agouti. The children's book is written for both adults and children and takes place on the Caribbean Island of Montserrat. It tells the true story of resilience, compassion and acceptance of others. His book is featured in a program in South Dakota to encourage elementary students to read by publishing books with positive themes. Lovett lives in Rockwall.

The Golden Triangle Business Roundtable named **Dennis Isaacs** '71, B.S. secondary education, as executive director of the organization. Isaacs retired as a safety, health and environmental manager for DuPont Beaumont Works, after spending 22 years at the company. He and his wife, **Kimberly** '04, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, live in Beaumont.

Joe Tortorice '71, M.B.A. business administration, is the president, owner and founder of Jason's Deli, which opened in 1976. He is also a managing member for Estate Assets LLC, president and director of Deli Management Inc., owner for High Sendero Inc., as well as secretary and director of Deli Properties, Inc. He and his wife, Shelley, live in Beaumont.

Jimmy Cheek '72, M.Ed. counseling and development, stepped down as the seventh chancellor of The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in Febuary 2017. He completed

eight years as chancellor and transitioned to chancellor emeritus and distinguished professor of educational leadership and policy beginning last August. He and his wife, **Ileen** '71, B.S. home economics, live in Knoxville.

Betty Peebles '72, B.S. speech, retired after 45 years of teaching last May. Peebles was a teacher for East Champers Junior High School. She and her husband, Corky, live in Hamshire.

Esta (Autrey) Johnson '73, B.S. elementary education, '75, M.Ed. elementary education, '81, M.Ed. supervision, retired as counselor from Port Neches Middle School last May. She lives in Nederland.

Delores Black '74, B.S. music–instrumental, '84, M.M.Ed. music education, is a senior administrative associate for the College of Fine Arts & Communication for Lamar University, after serving as administrative assistant in the Mary Morgan Moore Music Department for 42 years. Black also sings with the St. Jude Chorale, serves as assistant to the director of the Symphony of Southeast Texas chorus, and is a corresponding secretary and membership chair for Beaumont Interfaith Choral Society. She lives in Vidor.

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

Kathleen “Kathy” (Dean) Hayes '74, B.B.A. office administration, is a paraprofessional for Port Neches-Groves High School. She worked 28 years at the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office and retired in May 2005, then started work as a substitute teacher with Port Neches-Groves school district before being hired as a full-time employee in the fall of 2006 as a paraprofessional. Hayes lives in Port Neches with her husband, John '77, B.B.A. marketing.

James Hebert '74, B.S. secondary education, retired from Port Neches-Groves High School as a world geography teacher in last May. He and his wife, Kathleen “Kathy,” live in Port Neches. Robert Lay '74, B.S. industrial engineering, retired as lead global content management business analyst from KBR Inc. He and his wife, Lu Ann, live in Houston.

Woodrow “Woody” Bishop '75, A.A.S. business data processing, is senior programmer and analyst for GM Financial. Bishop marks

a milestone this year for having worked in IT/computers for 41 years. He and his wife, Shelia, live in Rockwall.

Ann (Hill) Daniels '75, B.S. elementary education, '91 M.Ed. special education, retired from Van Buren Elementary as a counselor. She and her husband, William, live in Orange.

Lt. Col. Barry Craigen Sr. '77, B.B.A. management, retired from Federal Civil Service last May, after more than 35 years of service to the Air Force. Craigen received his commission and the rank of second lieutenant from the Lamar University ROTC detachment in December 1977. He served on active duty for 23 years in the U.S. and in Europe and was deployed to Saudi Arabia for the Gulf War from 1990 to 1991. Craigen retired from active duty in June 2001 and, shortly after working in civilian human resources, he returned to work for the USAF as a civilian in 2005. He and his wife, Denise, sold their house to travel around North America in an RV.

Kenneth Leavins '78, B.S. electrical engineering, '85, M.B.A. business administration, was honored for 10 years of service in Port Neches-Groves school district at the Alternative Education Center. Leavins is also a pastor for Triangle Baptist Church in Nederland, where he and his wife, Tina, live.

Paul Mendoza '78, B.B.A. marketing, is director of culinary arts academy for Galveston College.

Mark Russo '78, B.B.A. accounting, retired in April 2017 after working for GSU/Entergy for 38 years. He and his wife, **Joann** '91, B.B.A. finance, live in Beaumont.

Eldridge Ravey II '79, B.A. English, retired from teaching marketing at Port Neches-Groves High School last May. He and his wife, **Marlene** '89, B.S. elementary education, live in Beaumont.

Janis (Doyle) Ryan '79, B.A. English, retired from teaching at Port Neches-Groves High School last May. Her son **Sean** earned a Bachelor of Science in mathematics in 2012. She lives in Port Neches.

80s

Ronald Strybos '80, B.S. chemical engineering, is facility manager for Air Liquide Spindletop Hydrogen

Storage. The hydrogen storage cavern, located on Spindletop Salt Dome is the world's largest and is located just south of Lamar University. Strybos and his wife, Gwen, live in Kountze.

Roxanne (Trahan) Boyd '81, B.S. elementary education, '82, M.Ed. special education, retired from Taft Elementary in May of 2017. Boyd and her husband, Jeffery, live in Orange.

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

Susan (Sarver) Rozell '81, B.S. elementary education, was awarded the Margie Barnes PNG Education Foundation Grant in May 2017. She and her husband, Brent, live in Port Neches.

Lenora Choice '82, B.S. criminal justice, '16, M.Ed. clinical mental health counseling – AP, is an intervention specialist for Foster Middle School. She lives in Tyler.

Barbara Damuth '82, B.S. elementary education, retired from Taft Elementary, where she was a third-grade teacher, last May. She lives in Groves.

Gayle (Dumesnil) LeMaire '82, B.S. elementary education, retired from Van Buren last May. She and her husband, Douglas, live in Groves. Jackie (Day) Riddle '82, B.B.A. management, teaches fourth-grade math at Groves Elementary School. She and her husband, John, live in Port Neches.

Lori (Kube) Halbert '83, B.S. elementary education, is a first-grade teacher for Ridgewood Elementary School. She and her husband, Karl, live in Groves.

Lone Star College-North Harris awarded **Ellen (Rawls) Turnell** '83, B.A. mathematics, winner of John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Award last April. She is a professor of math at LSC-North Harris and has been for 22 years, making an impact on the campus and in students lives. Turnell and her husband, Thomas, live in Humble.

Kim (Cameron) Keith '85, B.S. kinesiology, retired from teaching



Secret Series: The things they won't tell you about how to achieve success in the workplace—Lamar University partnered with the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce to put on a professional development series last spring.

1. Secret to Unleashing the Power of LinkedIn–Brenna Rodriguez '04, administrator for Harbor Hospice, taught participants how to enhance their LinkedIn profiles.
2. Secrets to Leading Across Generations in the Workplace–Marco Villasana '02 and Lori Rachal '04
3. Secrets HR Won't Tell You–LU Ambassadors Thanh Tsan, Kayla Clifton, Caroline Nwandu, and Marcus Rodgers are pictured with Amy Tarver '99, executive director of Leadership Beaumont of the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce.

CLASS NOTES

U.S. history at Port Neches Groves High School last May. She and her husband, **Marc** '82, B.S. health and physical education, '09 Ed.D. educational leadership, live in Port Neches.

Lori (Broussard) Lofton '85, B.S. art education, retired in may 2017 from Groves Middle School, where she taught art. She lives in Port Bolivar.

Laurie (Lackey) Henry '86, B.S. secondary education, earned a master of education in educational psychology in 1994. She and her husband, James, live in Bryan.

Eugene May '86, B.S. kinesiology, retired from Groves Middle School in May 2017. He and his wife, **Melanie (Soileau)** '80, B.S. secondary education, live in Port Neches.

School honored **Nancy (Adams) Daigrepoint** '87, B.B.A. accounting, for 10 years of service as an English

3 teacher. She and her husband, Lloyd, live in Nederland.

Preston Hutson '87, B.S. political science, has joined the team of MehaffyWeber attorneys. He and his wife, Julie, live in Cypress. Port Neches-Groves High

Rachel (Tassin) Dykes '88, B.B.A. marketing, is a second-grade teacher for Woodcrest Elementary School. She and her husband, **James** '86, A.A.S. machine tools, live in Port Neches.

Port Neches Groves school district honored **Treva (Swanson) Hodge** '88, B.S. communication disorders, for 10 years of service. She teaches speech at Taft Elementary and previously taught at West Grove

Education Center. She and her husband, Stanton, live in Port Neches.

Jane Richardson '88, B.M. music education, '94, M.M.Ed music education, is choir director for Bill Sybert School Socorro school district. She lives in El Paso.

Timothy Campbell '89, B.S. criminal justice, retired from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice after more than 28 years of service. He lives in College Station. Rodney Cavness '90, B.S. kinesiology, '94, M.Ed. school administration, is Superintendent of Texas Ciry school district. He and his wife, Tanya, live in Texas City.

90s

Jeff Guidry '90, A.A.S. computer electronics and robotics, and wife, **Angie (Ellis)** '92, B.S. nursing, are proud parents of Savana, a current LU softball player. Savana signed to play for LU in April 2017 after playing two years for the Lamar State College Port Arthur Seahawks.

Michelle (Martin) Mitchell '90, B.S. elementary education, is a first-grade teacher for Taft Elementary School. She and her husband, Allan, live in Nederland.

Angela (Plagman) Robison '90, B.S. elementary education, '14 M.Ed. school counseling – AP, is a fifth5grade teacher for Groves Elementary School. She and her husband, Terren, live in Port Neches.

Anthony Holmes '91, B.A.A.S. applied arts and science, is manager of talent services for TDECU (Texas Dow Employees Credit Union). He and his wife, Tawanna, live in Fresno.

Gerstle “Spikes” Sturdivant Jr. '91, B.S. kinesiology, lives in Groves and is a P.E. coach for Groves Elementary School.

James Walsh '91, B.B.A. general business, is chief information officer of community and state for United Healthcare. He and his wife, Greta, live in Spring Hill, Tenn.

Larry Rideaux '93, B.S. psychology, is vice president for student development at Tarrant County College District. He and his wife, Ronnette '97, B.G.S. liberal arts, live in Tomball.

The Texas Association of Secondary School Principals selected **Janna (Tiner) Carter** '94, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, as Outstanding Principal for the year. Carter is principal of Hampshire-Fannett High School, and lives in Beaumont with her husband **Chad** '95, B.S. kinesiology.

Leo “Jake” Hebert III '95, B.S. physics, earned an M.S. in physics in 1999 and a Ph.D. in physics in 2011. Hebert became a research associate for the Institute for Creation Research in 2011. He lives in Irving.

James “Jimmy” Samaha Jr '95, B.B.A. marketing, became manager of Diamond S Diner in China. after his in-laws, **J.E. Sherman** '66, B.B.A. general business, and **Sandra Sherman** '62, B.S.

elementary education, '82, M.Ed. school administration, bought the diner seven years ago. He and his wife, **Jessica (Sherman)** '97, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, live in China.

Nathan Moye '97, B.S. political science, is a teacher and coach for Enris school district. He and his wife, Catherine, live in Dallas.

Port Neches-Groves High School honored **Paul Pate** '97, B.S. mechanical engineering, for 10 years of service teaching physics. He and his wife, **Charla (Hicks)** '94, B.S. family and consumer sciences–food and nutrition, '00, M.S. family and consumer science, live in Port Neches.

Groves Middle School honored **Kimberly (Denzlinger) Nobles** '98, B.S. interdisciplinary studies for 10 years of service teaching sixth-grade language arts. She and her husband, **Robert** '91, B.S. kinesiology, live in Port Neches.

Port Neches Middle School honored **Jamie (Budd) Perkins** '98, B.B.A. human resource management, was honored for 10 years of service. She teaches seventh- and eighth-grade language arts, as well as a reading lab. She and her husband, **Gary** '97, B.S. criminal justice, live in Port Neches.

00s

Port Neches school district honored **Danna (Desmond) Fournet** '00, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, for 10 years of teaching at Ridgewood

Elementary School. She and her husband, Jesse, live in Port Neches. Tricia (Jones) Times '00, B.S. criminal justice, '04, M.Ed. special education, earned an Ed.D. in educational leadership in 2016 from LU. She is a principal for Goose Greek school district at Point Alternative School. Times and her husband, Kevin, live in Mont Belvieu.

Angela (Pittman) Hill '01, B.B.A. finance, '01, B.B.A. management information systems, earned her Ph.D. in educational management in May 2017. Hill is executive director for the teaching and learning center at Lamar Institute of Technology. She and her husband, **Doniel** '95, A.A.S. process operating, live in Beaumont.

Amy (Stainaker) Walker '02, communication disorders, '04 M.S. deaf education, is a reverend with the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. She lives in Orange.

Port Neches Middle Scholl honored **Samara (Chesser) Bean** '03, B.S. kinesiology, was honored for 10 years of service. Bean is a life management teacher as well as eighth-grade girls basketball and seventh- and eighth-grade girls track coach. She and her husband, **Rusty** '98, B.S. kinesiology, live in Groves.

Everlina (Spikes) Lee '04, B.A.A.S., applied arts and sciences, retired

from Lamar University after 18 years. She lives in Beaumont.

John-Paul Schmidt '04, B.S. chemical engineering, earned a master of business administration degree in 2015. He lives in Houston and serves as pipe stress engineering leader for The Dow Chemical Co.

Charlotte Coffman '05, B.S. communication, '11, M.Ed. educational administration, is a program specialist for the Texas Education Agency in the Division of School Improvement. She and her husband, **Andrew Duchamp** '05, B.S. communication, live in Austin.

Colleen Irvine-Davis '06, B.G.S. general studies, was named Campus Teacher of the Year for Booker T. Washington Elementary School. She and her husband, **Keith** '06, B.G.S. general studies, '09, M.P.A. public adminstration, live in Beaumont.

Chris Araj '07, B.S. communication disorders, earned an Au.D in 2011. He is the owner of Pearland Hearing Aids and Audiology and president elect of the Texas Academy of Audiology. He, his wife, Rund, and their son, Andrew, live in Houston.

John Brazzil '07, B.S. electrical engineering, is senior field engineer for Absolute Testing Service in Houston. He and his wife, Keri, live in Crosby.

James Brown Jr. '07, B.S. communication, is a direct lender for Capital One Bank. He and his wife, Shondrea, live in Mesquite.

Port Neches-Groves school district honored **Celina (Flores) Ellis** '07, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, for 10 years of service as a kindergarten teacher at Taft Elementary. She and her husband, **Matt** '07, B.S. kinesiology, live in Port Neches.

Sivasanthosh Komirelly '07, M.E. chemical engineering, is senior process simulation engineer for Wood Group. He and his wife, **Santhoshi** '08, M.E. electrical engineering, live in Cypress.

Ashley Nunez '07, B.B.A. human resource management, is an office manager fro L.G. Barcus and Sons Inc. She lives in Vidor.

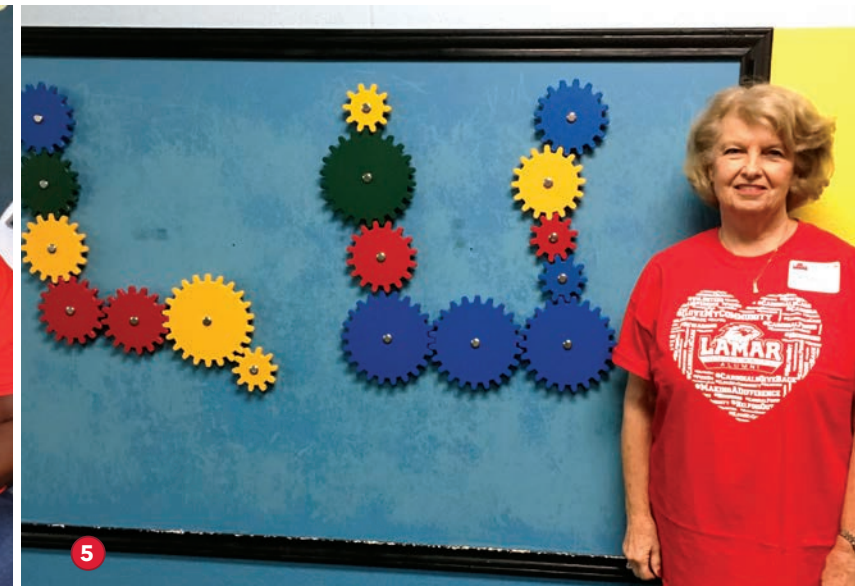
Malachi Daws '08, B.B.A. finance, was selected as Texas Super Lawyers Rising Star for 2017. Daws is an attorney for The Daws Law Firm. He and his wife, Andrea '06, A.A.S. nursing, live in Beaumont.

Vanecia Jordan '08, B.B.A. accounting, '14, M.B.A. accounting, is a staff accountant for Baptist Hospital of Southeast Texas. She lives in Beaumont.

Melanie Lanuza '08, B.S. communication, '08, B.S. graphic design, is lead graphic designer for The Refinery Source in Beaumont, where she lives.

Mallory (Hebert) Maunder '08, B.M. music, is a fourth- and fifth-grade music teacher for Little Cypress Intermediate School. She and her husband, Mark, live in Port Neches.

Rebekah (Davis) Patin '08, B.S. accounting, is an internal auditor for Jefferson County Auditors Office. She and her husband,





Alumni Between the Basketball Games Reception—Alumni and friends gathered for a reception between the men and women's basketball games last February.

1. Jeff Landry '92 pictured with his two sons Jake and Josh.

2. Jason Henderson and Chris Bates '08, LU alumni board president-elect, present the game ball.

National Have A Brownie Day—The Offices of Alumni Affairs and Marketing Communications treated students to brownies in honor of National Have A Brownie Day last February.

3. Alumni programming intern Bri Graffagnino '16 and alumni coordinator Evie Clifton encourage students to stop by and enjoy a brownie.

LU Alumni Jazz Night—Southeast Texas alumni gathered for a night of desserts, coffee and great jazz music performed by Lamar University students last March at Rao's Bakery in Mid-County.

4. Jeremy Allen '16, '17, Myriam Allen, Tracey Perry Allen '05 and Kenny Allen enjoy delicious treats and jazz music.

5. Willie Broussard '03, Cynthia Parra '92, '17, and Joseph Cantu '11, '14, show off their Cardinal pride.



Jeremy '98, B.S. criminal justice, live in Beaumont.

Caitlin (Kruger) Hardegree '09, B.S. communication, '09, B.S. political science, is a volunteer coordinator for Goodwill in Dallas. She and her husband, Jacob, live in Irving.

Pinkee (Patel) Harley '09, B.B.A. economics, '10, M.B.A. business administration, and **Devin Harley** '10, B.S. industrial engineering, '11, M.B.A. business administration gave birth to their son, Jai Devin on May 10, 2017. They live in Beaumont.

Lindsey Moore '09, B.S. communication, is a histology tech for Dermatology Associates of Denison. She lives in Denison.

Sam Houston Elementary named **Meghan Scurria** '09, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, Rookie Teacher of the Year for the 2017-2018 school year. She teaches third-grade English language arts and reading and social studies. Scurria lives in Beaumont.

LaShanda Sullivan '09, B.S. nutrition, '10, M.S. nutrition, is a dietitian for Veterans Affairs. She lives in Houston.

Callie Summerlin '09, B.A. English, is director of sales and marketing for Port Arthur Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Rajiv Varma '09, M.S. computer science, is an application systems engineer at Wells Fargo & Co. He lives in Peoria, Ariz.

Stephanie Cole '10, B.S. fashion merchandising & retailing, is an associate buyer for At Home LLC. She lives in Wylie.

Bethany Aiena '11, B.S. psychology, earned a doctorate in primary care psychology in May 2017. She lives in New Orleans.

Amber (Alexander) Clark '11, B.S. general studies, is the new outreach coordinator for the City of Beaumont's Best Years Center. She earned an M. Ed. In educational leadership in 2016. She and her husband, Gregory, live in Beaumont.

Herbert Davis III '11, B.B.A. marketing, '11, B.B.A. management information systems, earned an M.B.A. and is global training coordinator/global project systems for Wood Group Mustang. He lives in Houston.

ReNita Antoine '12, B.S. criminal justice, earned her law degree in May 2017. She lives in Houston.

Chelsey (Bromley) Broussard '12, B.S. chemical engineering, works for ExxonMobil and lives in Baytown with her husband, **Kevin** '12, B.A. history, '15 M.A. history.

Larry Lawson '12, L.H.D. doctor of humane letters, is founder and chairman for HeartcoR Solutions and a team member for Texas Medical Center Innovation Institute. He lives in Houston.

Javier Cabanillas '13, B.A. political science, earned a law degree in April 2017. He and his wife, Fabiola, live in Carrollton.

Alex Edgerly '13, B.S. biology earned his dental degree in May 2017. He lives in Bridge City.



Kayleigh Romero '13, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, earned an M.Ed. in education technology leadership-AP in May 2017. She is a Texas-based educator, artist and explorer for Beaumont school district, where she lives.



Amanda "Mandy" (Chatagnier) Thompson '13, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is a seventh-grade mathematics teacher for Central Middle School. She and her husband, **Michael** '14, B.S. kinesiology, live in Nederland.

Sabrina (George) York '13, B.B.A. finance, earned an M.B.A. in human resource management in 2016. She is a business administrator for the University of Houston. York and her husband, Zachary, live in Houston.

Latavia Bell '14, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, earned a M. Ed. in educational administration in May 2017. She lives in Houston.

Brandon Laird '14, B.M. music, was promoted to band director of C.O. Wilson Middle School in May 2017. He and his wife, **Morgan (Simmons)** '14, B.S. speech and hearing sciences, '17, M.S. speech-language pathology, live in Port Neches.

Wheatley School of Early Childhood Programs named **Hillary McZeal-Jones** '14, B.A.A.S., applied arts and sciences, Rookie of the Year for the 2017-2018 school year. She is a special education teacher and lives in Port Arthur.

Sarah Saucedo '14, B.M. music, earned her law degree in political science and government in May 2017. She lives in Nederland.

Lindsey Sorrell '14, B.S. speech and hearing sciences, '16, M.S. speech-language pathology, started her position as a speech-language pathologist for Kindred Hospital in Tomball in May 2017. She lives in Houston.

Morgan (Walston) Autrey '15, B.S. communication, recently began

teaching kindergarten for Little Cypress Elementary. She and her husband, **Jared** '14, B.G.S. general studies, live in Bridge City and are expecting twins.

Silvia Cabrera '15, M.Ed. school counseling-AP, is a school counselor for Seagoville High School in Dallas. She lives in Forney.

Mohamed Elrifae '13, B.S. mechanical engineering, '15 M.S. mechanical engineering, is a



Bringing It All Back Home: Works of Art by Lamar University Alumni—LU Dishman Art Museum, Department of Art and Office of Alumni Affairs partnered to present an alumni art exhibition showcasing works of art by LU alumni that are in the permanent collection of the Dishman Art Museum.

1. Linnis Blanton '72, '77, poses with his original sculpture.

Lunch with the Dean

ExxonMobil hosted **Srinivas Palanki**, Dean of the College of Engineering, last April at their Houston campus for LU alumni ExxonMobil employees to learn more about the latest academic initiatives of the College of Engineering.

2. Srinivas Palanki and Neha Suttrave '15 participate in a panel discussion.



Distinguished Alumni Awards— The Office of Alumni Affairs named four graduates Distinguished Alumni for 2017, noting their dedication to their professions, service to their communities and loyalty to their alma mater epitomizing the Lamar University spirit. Nominated by their peers and selected for the honor by the Distinguished Alumni Awards committee, recipients are: Becky Dickson Mason of Beaumont and a member of the class of 1971; Charles E. “Chuck” Mason Jr. of Beaumont, class of 1972; Jorge L. Quijano of Panama, classes of 1973 and 1974; and Hyatt O. Simmons of Dallas, class of 1979. This is the first time in Lamar University’s history to present the Distinguished Alumni Award to a couple.

product engineer for NIBE in Del Rio, where he lives.

Da’Rel Haynes ’15, B.B.A. management information systems, and DeShonna Harris, current LU student majoring in theatre and dance, welcomed their son on April 30, 2017. Haynes lives in Spring.

Heath Parker ’15, M.Ed. administration-AP, is director of operations for Pampa school district. He and his wife, Christy, live in Pampa.

Breanna Ross ’15, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is a first-grade teacher for East Chambers school district. In March 2017, Ross was named Rookie Teacher of the Year at Booker T. Washington Elementary as a first-grade teacher. She lives Beaumont.

Memorial Ninth Grade Academy named **Emerald Vaughn** ’15, M.Ed. teacher leadership, as Campus Teacher of the Year. She lives in Beaumont.

Kelsey Young ’15, B.S. kinesiology, earned a master’s degree in sports management in May 2017. She is the development specialist for the Lamar University Athletic Department and lives in Beaumont.

Sean Milligan ’16, Ed.D. educational leadership, is principal for Johnson Sixth-Grade Campus. He lives in Azle.

Kristeen Reynolds ’16, B.B.A. accounting, earned a M.S. in accounting from LU in May 2017. She lives in Port Arthur.



Victoria “Tori” Shelton ’16, B.B.A. finance and economics, is a consultant for Essentia Advisory Partners in Houston, where she lives.

EVENTS *at* LU

JUNE

- 15 Alumni Art Show After School Special: The Lamar University First Juried Alumni Art Exhibition**
On display June 15–August 3
6:30–8:30 p.m. opening reception
Dishman Art Museum

SEPTEMBER

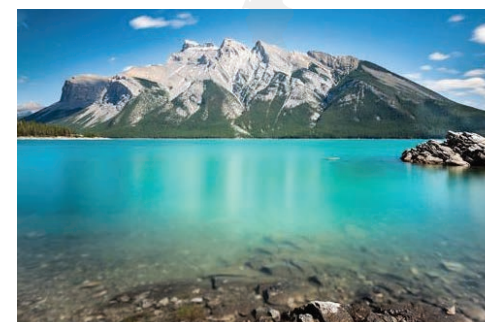
- 22 Homecoming Pre-Game Party**
4–5:30 p.m.
Montagne Center, 2nd floor concourse

OCTOBER

- 13 Golden Circle Luncheon & Class of 1968 Reunion**



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



Visit lamar.ahitravel.com for more information.

England’s Castles, Cottages & Countryside

July 5–15

Participants on this trip will visit two UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Canterbury Cathedral and Blenheim Palace, as well as Leeds Castle, The White Cliffs of Dover and Dover Castle. Classic Cotswolds towns and the Changing of the Guard at Windsor Castle are also on the agenda. St. George’s Chapel is on the list as well—the site of many royal weddings and funerals.

Canadian Rockies

August 16–24

Experience the vistas of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of The Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks—the most magical sights of Banff National Park, Jasper’s Dark Sky Preserve and planetarium, the breathtaking Columbia Icefield and floating on the Athabasca River. A talk from a retired member of the Mounties is an added bonus!

Amalfi Coast

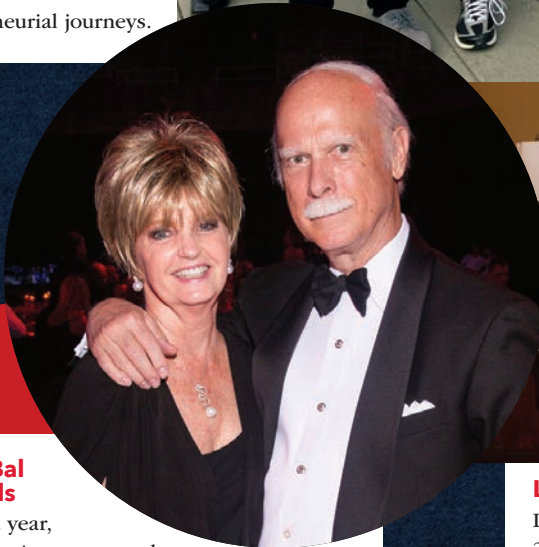
Sept 11–19

A wonderful option to experience the southern coast of Italy, this trip includes seven nights in Vietri sul Mare, Italy, allowing for a more thorough exploration of this area. Four UNESCO World Heritage sites are included—the archaeological sites of Paestum, Pompeii and Herculaneum and the Historic Center of Naples.

Red & White

Gill Scholars explore Silicon Valley

Ten graduate students recently traveled to Silicon Valley as Gill Scholars to participate in Ignite!, a three-day, immersive entrepreneurial experience. The group visited start-ups, high-tech firms and venture capital firms to learn from successful innovators who discussed their entrepreneurial journeys.



Le Grand Bal raises funds

For the 42nd year, Friends of the Arts presented Le Grand Bal: LU in Black and White, a gala evening of art, fine dining, dancing and entertainment last March to raise scholarship funds for fine arts programs at LU. The 2017 event honored Melody and Pat Parsons, longtime LU advocates and champions of the arts and celebrated the work of alumnus and internationally known painter Paul Manes.



LU recognizes four outstanding faculty

Lamar University honored four faculty members with 2017 University Merit Award in recognition of superior teaching, scholarship and service to the university during a ceremony last April in the University Event Center: Ali Beheshti, assistant professor of mechanical engineering; Perumalreddy Chandrasekaran, assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry; Mahdi Safa, assistant professor of construction management; and Xing Wu, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering.



Barbecue honors vets

LU Veterans Affairs and the Disability Resource Center hosted the Second Annual Veterans Appreciation barbecue last spring to honor our veterans for their sacrifices and raise funds that were contributed to Heroes on the Water, a charity organization that works with disabled veterans. The \$1,426 contribution help the organization take veterans on a kayak-fishing trip. For more information about Heroes on the Water visit heroesonthewater.org.



Jane Liu named 2017 University Professor

Professor of computer science Jiangjiang (Jane) Liu captured LU's 2017 University Professor and Ann Die-Hasselmo Faculty Scholar title, receiving it during a ceremony last April in the University Event Center. The honor is the university's most prestigious faculty award. Recipients' colleagues select the awardees, recognizing academic stature, achievements and leadership.



Dance Team explores artistry of color

The LU Dance Team wowed the audience during its annual spring show, "True Colors," at the Jefferson Theater last May.



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Chris Bates Innovative & inspirational by Kaylie Smith



Chris Bates '08 became the youngest person, the first African American and the first Jefferson County official to receive the Constable of the Year Award for the State of Texas at the 73rd Annual Justice of the Peace and Constables Association Conference. The award is given to constables who interact well with their community and are members of the JPCA, the largest association of elected officials in Texas.

Originally a music major, his inspiration for a career in law enforcement came from a conversation with an officer at a football game. Bates followed up by completing the Police Academy at Lamar Institute of Technology concurrently with continuing

his studies online at LU, graduating with a bachelor's degree in general studies.

Through budget cuts and changes in supervision, he held a variety of positions at the beginning of his career. Those role changes broadened his experience but also got him thinking about a more stable path to ensure he could adequately provide for his growing family.

While always interested in politics, Bates had never imagined himself as a constable, but his search for a more permanent job led him to the office. "I always thought [my office] would be through city council, but then the constable announced that he was retiring," Bates said. "After lots of prayer, talking to my mom about it, talking it over with my family, I decided to run. I filed for office and started campaigning like a crazy man."

His efforts proved successful, and when he was sworn in at 27 years old, he became the youngest constable in Texas (the second youngest in state history) and the first African American constable to be elected from Precinct 2.

Since taking office five years ago, Bates has become more involved than ever in the community. He engages youth through public speaking at youth empowerment and leadership conferences and is a minister of

music at his church; he adopted a highway through TxDOT; he is on the advisory board for the Salvation Army, where he started an annual 'Christmas with the Constable' food and toy drive; he created a scholarship for local youth who want to pursue a career in criminal justice; and he volunteers to mentor criminal justice students.

"I want to encourage students to see law enforcement in a positive light, to help them financially with the \$500 scholarship, and to mentor them to be a positive and productive leader in the community," Bates said.

Through the Police Academy, Bates was led to a career as a constable. His ties to Lamar University are stronger than ever. He began serving as the Lamar University Alumni Advisory Board president-elect this fall.

Bates continues his involvement at Lamar University by not only serving on the Alumni Advisory Board but also by being involved as a mentor to collegiate members of his fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, and serving on the search committee for the new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

"I'm blessed to have people who trust me and believe in me enough to let me be in this position, to do the great things I've been able to do with the position since 2013," he said.

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