

# CARDINAL Cadence

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A MEMBER OF THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

## \$5 million Umphrey gift sends center skyward

pg. 14

## Tweed talks Texan

pg. 10

## Diners dish

pg. 12





## From the President

The spring semester has drawn to a close and members of the Class of 2006 crossed the stage in the Montagne Center as they transitioned from students to graduates.

This semester, we celebrated Lamar University with another exciting Red, White & You Homecoming with a special tribute to all Greeks and the Class of 1956. That same weekend, Lamar hosted the annual meeting of the Texas Academy of Scientists and held our own Open House, introducing prospective Cardinals to the university. It all came together for one exciting weekend.

Improvements to the campus continue with construction of the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center taking center stage. The project dominates the western edge of campus, and excitement is growing as the building takes shape.

Students are now enrolling in summer courses. Lamar is offering an array of classes in Summer I and Summer II, along with mini-sessions in May and August. The August session makes up for the Rita-delayed December mini-session.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board recently released statistics on higher education costs at all Texas public colleges and universities. Today, Lamar is ranked 12th among the 34 state institutions in Texas in the cost of tuition and fees.

However, when reporting the total cost to residential students – room and board, books, transportation – Lamar is ranked as one of the most affordable colleges in Texas (30th of 34). That is a remarkable feat for a university with state-of-the-art facilities like Cardinal Village, the new dining hall and the recreational sports center.

Joining Lamar this fall will be the first group of Mirabeau Scholars. These 16 students chosen for their academic standing and leadership potential will receive the university's top scholarship support. This new initiative is another way Lamar University is working to add academic excellence. I anticipate hearing great reports on the effect this group – and subsequent Mirabeau Scholars – will have on the programs and life of the university.

The support of individuals like you helps make a university degree a reality for many students. Through your gifts of scholarships, and support of programs, you are a vital part of the work of Lamar University. Thank you so very much!

With Cardinal Pride,

James M. Simmons  
President  
Lamar University



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## CARDINAL Cadence

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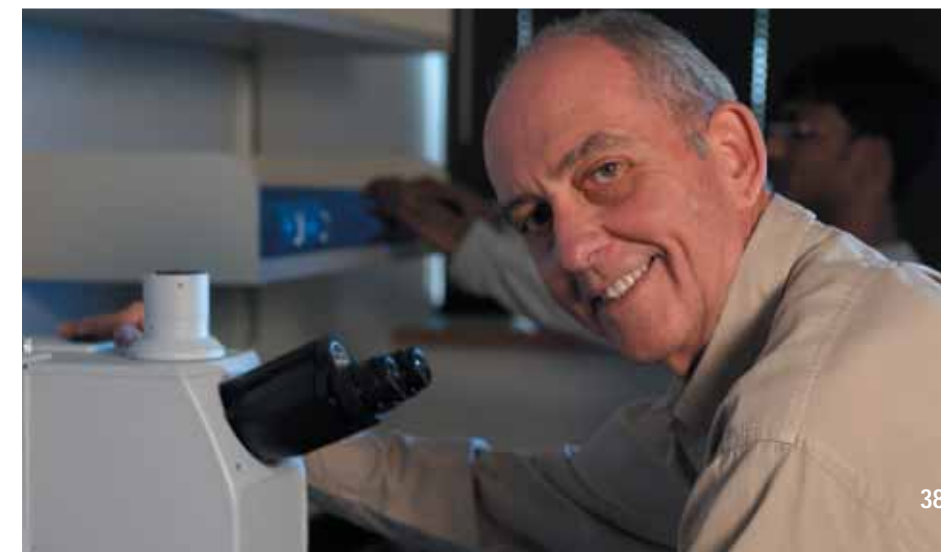
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Computer Science Professor Peggy Doerschuk, standing left, students Xing Jin and Bindiya Mansharamani, assistant professor Jiangjiang Liu, and, sitting, Rose Hogan and Iris Beltran look at autonomous robots the students created as a research project. Lamar computer science students Jin, of Chen Du, China; Mansharamani, of Lucknow, India; and Hogan and Beltran, both of Beaumont; earned third place in the undergraduate competition at the Texas Academy of Science's 109th annual conference conducted at Lamar in March. The 2006 Women in Research Development team also received the Dr. Amir-Moez Endowed Prize for its navigation research in autonomous robots. After developing a mobile robot capable of navigation and detection of obstacles, the team created an efficient and intelligent way of implementing behaviors to control it. With layered architecture, the robot used sophisticated algorithm for determining its paths and obstacle avoidance behaviors. The Women in Research Development Program, funded by a Texas Workforce Development grant and ExxonMobil, is designed to broaden participation in computing, a field where women are underrepresented. The women worked as a team under the direction of computer science faculty advisors Doerschuk and Liu. Jin and Mansharamani are graduate students in computer science. Hogan is a senior, and Beltran is a sophomore.

## Mirabeau Scholars recruits top students

Lamar University has announced a new scholarship program – Mirabeau Scholars – aimed at recruiting and retaining outstanding students. The highly selective Mirabeau Scholars program targets first-time-in-college students with a minimum composite math and verbal SAT score of 1250.

The national average of all students taking the SAT last year was a combined math and verbal score of 1028, according to the College Board, a not-for-profit membership association composed of 5,000 schools, colleges and universities.

"This is a highly competitive scholarship," said James Rush, director of academic services.

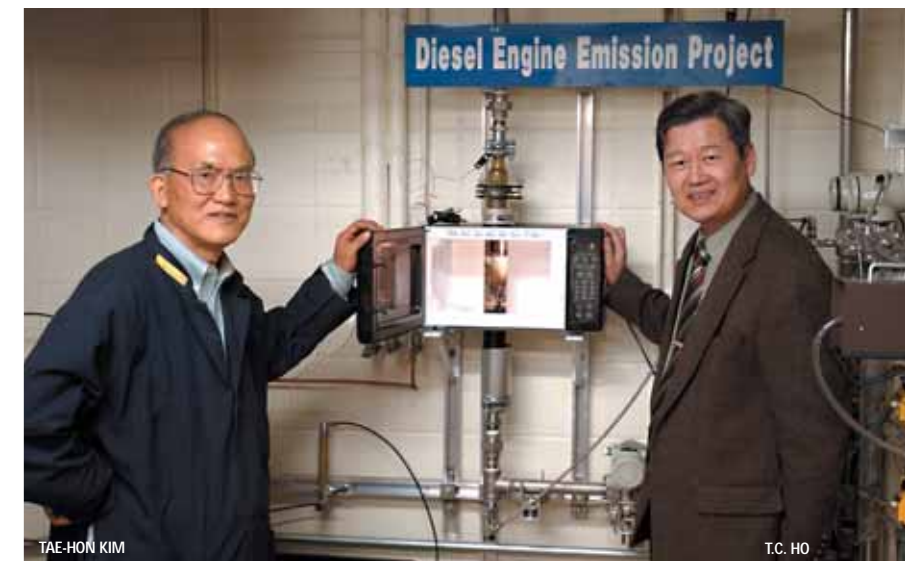
This year, 16 Mirabeau Scholars, will receive "full" scholarships that encompass tuition, fees, on-campus room and board, and a book stipend. The university is making a four-year, \$60,000 commitment to each Mirabeau Scholar.

Scholars will enter Lamar as participants in the University Honors Program and be active in one or more of the following: student leadership programs like Leadership Lamar, peer advising, Student Government Association or Lamar Ambassadors. Scholars may also conduct college or departmental undergraduate academic research or participate in other special programs.

## Simple microwave key to clean air

A group of LU researchers is well on its way toward creating a low-cost method of reducing air pollution from diesel engines, thanks, in part, to a \$40 microwave oven.

Looking decidedly low-tech perched amid an array of sensors, wires and elaborate plumbing, the 900-watt microwave oven is a key component of the working demonstration of a new approach to a major pollution problem funded by a \$127,000 Texas Research and Development grant from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The research will support the Texas emissions reduction plan, said T. C. Ho, the principal investigator for the grant and holder of the Aldredge Endowed Chair in Industrial Infrastructure in the College of Engineering.



Researchers hope to provide a low-cost commercial product for simultaneous control of nitrogen oxide, volatile organic compounds and soot emissions from stationary diesel generators.

Joining Ho in the research are Lamar professors Hsing-wei Chu and Tae-Hon Kim of the industrial engineering department and Jerry Lin of civil engineering.

## Faculty Senate lauds hurricane recovery efforts

The Lamar faculty Senate commended President James Simmons and university administration for effective leadership during the response to damage caused by Hurricane Rita.

William Holmes, professor of educational leadership and president of the Faculty Senate, presented Simmons with a resolution, which marked the magnitude of the damage to the campus and its threat to the ability of the university to complete the fall semester. It recognized that the president, administration and staff "responded swiftly and effectively to the crisis to ensure the completion of the semester."



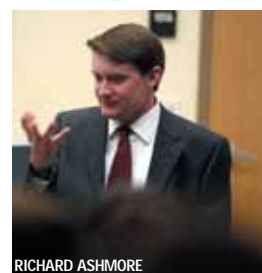
The senate also recognized Simmons and the administration for their ongoing efforts to complete the restoration of the campus.

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## Research group explores quantum computation

Lamar's research group on quantum computation has begun a multidisciplinary seminar series on the subject. The group, which includes mathematics faculty Quoc-Nam Tran, David Read, Jennifer Daniel and Valentin Andreev, is focusing on finding new theoretical models for the upcoming generation of computers. The late Alec Matheson was group leader.

## Campus hosts Texas Academy of Science



RICHARD ASHMORE



2006 DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST ERIC PIANKA

More than 400 scientists, science students and educators from universities and government agencies across Texas traveled to Lamar this March for the 109th conference of the Texas Academy of Science.

Nearly 200 talks and scientific posters were presented in 15 scientific academy sections, ranging from biology and threatened or endangered species to geology and science education.

Six Lamar students earned awards for research presentations in the undergraduate competition. Earning second place for spectroscopic analysis of atomic emission spectra were Joseph Hunt, a senior electrical engineering and physics major, and his faculty advisor, visiting assistant professor of physics Christian Bahrim. Colt Westbrook, a senior biology major from Kountze, and his faculty advisor, Andrew Kasner, assistant professor of biology, received honorable mention for a comparison of flight heights before and after the addition of power line markers at a water bird colony in Southeast Texas.



## Post-Rita enrollment better than expected

Final enrollment and semester-credit-hour totals for spring 2006 were higher than anticipated after Hurricane Rita's blow to the region.

Spring headcount stands at 9,436 and semester credit hours at 105,193. Headcount was down 4.1 percent compared to last spring, down 2.1 percent compared to two years ago, but up 1.6 percent compared to three years ago.

Credit hours fared better: down 3.15 percent against last spring, up .05 percent compared to two years ago, and up 4.6 percent compared to three years ago.

"Since we were down more than 300 in the fall and have continued to tighten suspension and probation policies, the spring numbers are both surprising and very pleasing," Kevin Smith, associate vice president for academic affairs said.



## Texas Academy hosts Pulitzer Prize winner

Newsman Eric Newhouse spoke with students of the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities

recently. Newhouse, who won the Pulitzer Prize in 2000, is one notable source referenced in the academy's latest book, a compilation of original "life-wisdom" observations from a wide array of

sources, such as Dick Cheney and Joseph Lieberman, Pulitzer Prize winners Newhouse and Franz Wright, and educators such as Rabbi Edward Romm in Jerusalem.



## Lau continues executive series

Clayton Lau III '69, president of Houston Dynamic Service Inc., joined the College of Business as its ExxonMobil Executive in Residence Feb. 16.

He hosted a faculty colloquium, met with graduate students and spoke to students about acquiring and operating a small business. Since Lau purchased Houston Dynamic Service from Allis-Chalmers Corp. in 2001, HDS has more than doubled its revenues increased personnel 45 percent, and expanded market focus into more of the U.S., as well as South American and European markets.



## Freakonomics author shares perspective

Stephen Dubner, a self-described rogue economist who "explores the hidden side of everything" in the book *Freakonomics*, appeared March

27 as the spring Academic Lecture Series speaker.

Dubner, who co-authored the book with University of Chicago economist Steven Levitt, met with students in the afternoon, then gave an evening lecture for the public. Student services fees fund the lecture series, which is hosted by the various academic colleges. Dubner and Levitt are regular contributors to ABC News, appearing monthly on "Good Morning America" and a segment of "World News Tonight" called "Freakonomics Friday."



## CE team takes honors in steel bridge competition

Despite a delayed start caused by Hurricane Rita, Lamar's student team of the American Society of Civil Engineers took first place in aesthetics and second place in construction economy at the 2006 Texas/Mexico Regional Steel Bridge Competition. The competition, hosted by Texas A&M-Kingsville Jan. 14, involved 11 universities.

"At first, we thought it would be impossible to compete this year because we lost so much time and finals ended so late," said Jeremy Mitchell, president of the student chapter and team captain for Lamar. "But when classes resumed, we felt that it was important to not let Rita stand in the way."

The students began construction Dec. 22 after the last final examination was complete. By working sometimes until 4 a.m., Lamar ASCE completed the 21-foot bridge just in time for the competition.



## Indian students celebrate Republic Day

Being half a world away from home can make staying connected with one's heritage a challenge, but for the about 250 Indian students at Lamar, that connection is kept vibrant in part through the efforts of the Friends of India Association.

About 60 students braved a blustery January morning to join in hoisting the colors of India for the day, then cheered and sang patriotic songs. Faculty and staff members from the university joined in the observance of Jan. 26, the day that marks ratification of India's constitution and resulting sovereignty.



After 29 years of distinguished service to Lamar, guiding and inspiring hundreds of engineering students, **Fred Young**, professor of mechanical engineering, retires this year. He became dean of engineering in 1979 and led the college to nationally recognized levels of excellence, forging relationships with the Texas Space Grant Consortium, the Texas Transportation Institute and Texas Engineering Experiment Station . . . **Dean Brenda Nichols**, College of Arts and Sciences, discussed the cost and benefits of specialized accreditation before a national panel at the 111th meeting of the Higher Learning Commission. She represented the National League



for Nursing Accreditation Commission . . . **Andrea Ogren** has accepted the position of coordinator for new programs in the Division of Student Affairs . . . Lamar University honored more than 100 employees with service awards at Lamar's annual staff recognition program Feb. 9. Honorees include three 35-year employees: Director of Postal Services **Regina Chaisson-Carr**, Lamar Chief of Police **Dale Fontenot** and Custodian **Mary Len Wilson** in Facilities Management and Operations . . . Lamar's 2004-2005 staff recognition and service awards were presented to **Sandra Bahr**, administrative associate in the Department of Management and Marketing; **Mary Givan**, environmental research coordinator, Texas Hazardous Waste Research Center; **Mike Hogan**, construction project manager, Facilities Management and Operations; **Royce McGuire**, business manager, Mary and John Gray Library; and **Peggy Pavlowich**, recently retired as technical support analyst in the Records Office.



## Honeywell Express makes a stop

The College of Engineering hosted the Honeywell Express, a mobile demonstration unit carrying state-of-the-art automation solutions for the process industries, March 29. Students and visitors gained a look at a state-of-the-art plant control system, wireless field implementation and integration of process control with cyber and physical security solutions.

## Hunt for knowledge nets fleeting new molecule

LU student-researcher Joseph Hunt approached his professor Cristian Bahrim about research opportunities he might pursue as an undergraduate student. He soon embarked on a year-and-a-half of research that netted him a second-place recognition at the 109th Annual Meeting of the Texas Academy of Science, March 2-4, as well as growing scholarly recognition. Bahrim, who is an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry and Physics, served as Hunt's faculty research advisor.

Hunt, a senior physics and mathematics major who will graduate this May, developed a quantum model that predicts the formation of a Helium-Neon temporary molecule during an atomic collision between Helium and Neon atoms.

"The existence of a Helium-Neon molecule is proved by the discovery of many modes of vibration within several bonding electrostatic potentials of Helium-Neon system," Bahrim said.

"This is the first time when one predicts that two rare gas atoms can form a molecular structure," Bahrim said. "This discovery could increase the efficiency of the Helium-Neon laser."

Hunt has already presented his work at several conferences. On April 24-25, Hunt and Bahrim traveled to Washington D.C., to present the paper "In search of a new molecule" to senators and representatives on Capitol Hill at the "Posters on the Hill" annual meeting. Hunt plans to pursue a Ph.D. in mathematical physics at the University of Texas, Austin, where he was recently accepted.



## ExxonMobil enhances engineering

ExxonMobil Corp. awarded \$11,000 in grants to four engineering departments at Lamar as part of its national program that gave grants to 88 colleges and universities totaling \$1.6 million in 2005. The following departments will benefit: \$4,400 to chemical engineering, \$3,600 to mechanical engineering, \$2,000 to electrical engineering and \$1,000 to civil engineering. The grants fund scholarships, field trips, visiting speakers, equipment purchases, student and faculty travel to academic-related activities, and other educational projects. ExxonMobil awards the grants to schools that offer degrees in subjects from which it recruits employees.

\* Greenberg collection finds new home

CHRISTINA BAUM



Sigmund Greenberg's maxim was "If you can read, you can do anything." He believed education had the power to change a person's life and that no one should ever cease to learn. His bookshelves reflected that philosophy, and his wife, Leah Greenberg, has not only presented the gift of her late husband's personal library to the Mary and John Gray Library but also established a scholarship in his memory.

The collection consists of more than 500 books, many of which are first editions; 300 phonograph records; and 200 journals. In addition, she donated his Underwood typewriter, turntable and speakers to the library.

"I am very appreciative to Leah Greenberg for thinking of Lamar and giving our library this outstanding collection," said Christina Baum, dean of the Mary and John Gray Library.

The collection includes books on composition, literature, history, books and reading, poetry, Greek drama, Judaism and religion, travel, cookery, mathematics, biography, and wit and humor, among other genres.

Many of the books, especially the first editions that include *Alice in Wonderland*, *Willa Cather; a Memoir*, and *Bookman's Holiday*, will go into the library's special collections. Other titles include a five-volume set of *The History of Texas* (1924), an entire series of *Cooking with Bon Appétit*, a 1930 edition of *Cyrano De Bergerac*, a 1925 edition of *Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf and a 1948 edition of *Prophet in the Wilderness: the Story of Albert Schweitzer*.

Greenberg, who died in February 2001, was president and chairman of The Fair Inc. department stores in Texas and Louisiana.

He served his country four-and-a-half years in the U.S. Army in the South Pacific during World War II and returned home unscathed, but, in 1952, he became a victim of polio. Greenberg remained active despite the challenges he faced, traveling extensively and fulfilling a love of hunting and fishing.

Leah Greenberg describes her husband as "a true intellectual." He loved discussing books with his family and friends, and he wanted others to fulfill their intellectual potential. Greenberg personally financed college for several students who otherwise could not afford to attend. Leah Greenberg endowed the scholarship, hoping to continue her husband's love of learning by helping other young students pursue their education at Lamar University.

\* New scholarships benefit students

Bonnie Salles, Larry Bell, Barry Bell and Brenda Wisniewski wanted to honor their parents' strong desire for their children to receive a college education. Bernice and Harry Bell grew up in a time when such opportunity was rare, but each of their four children graduated from Lamar in different disciplines and with the common goal of making their parents proud. "We all feel that our successes stem from the experiences we were able to have during our years at Lamar," said Barry Bell. They established the **Bernice and Harry Bell Memorial Scholarship** in "hope that the recipients will use the opportunity to gain tools to succeed and remember that help and kindness should always be repaid by giving it to others."

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The six children of Mamie and E.G. Edson Jr. have established the **Mamie W. and E.G. Edson Jr. Memorial Scholarship in Music**. An artist and musician, Mamie Edson attended Lamar College and hosted a show on KTRM radio. Beaumont businessman E.G. Edson Jr. was a Yale University graduate and a World War II veteran. The children know their parents would be proud to give educational opportunities to worthy young students.

\*\*\*\*\*

James Williams, professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Texas-Arlington, established the **Susan M. Morgan Civil Engineering Scholarship** in memory of his wife, Susan '79, who earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from

Lamar. She paddled one of Lamar's first concrete canoes in the Texas competition. She later worked for Arizona Public Service and the Texas Department of Transportation.

\*\*\*\*\*

Edward L. "Ed" Gunderson '78 has established the **Gunderson Heritage Scholarship in Chemical Engineering** in memory of his father, Ernst, and in honor of his mother, Doris. Their encouragement led him to attend Lamar and earn a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. Gunderson, who is environmental manager for Huntsman Corp.'s Jefferson County operation, attributes a solid career beginning to his mentor Dean Jack Hopper and to the "industry perspective and practical application provided by Lamar's excellent cooperative education program." He established the endowment to afford that same opportunity to future chemical engineering students.

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Many family and friends have established the **Shelby Lynn Smith Memorial Scholarship** in memory of how Shelby, a Lamar undergraduate, touched their lives with his laughter, smiles and loyalty. It was his dream to follow in his brother's footsteps by earning a university degree and pursuing advanced studies in graduate or law school. Family and friends hope the endowment will help Kelly High School graduates walk the path to a degree.



Robert Turner, president of JK Chevrolet, *Lamarissimo!* holiday concert sponsor, attends the performance with his wife, Michelle, sons Robert Jr. (standing left) and Kyle and daughter Mycah.



Jennifer Frisbie, center, shares a proud moment with her parents, Wesley and Yvonne Frisbie of Tolar, after the Julie and Ben Rogers Community Service Award ceremony Feb. 23. Frisbie, director of the criminal justice program and assistant professor of sociology, social work and criminal justice, was Lamar University's 2005 recipient of the award.



Kent Adams, chairman of The Texas State University System Board of Regents, welcomes U.S. Rep. Ted Poe to winter commencement, where Poe was the speaker. It was "the graduation that almost didn't happen" in the aftermath of Hurricane Rita, President James Simmons told graduates.



Distinguished Faculty Lecturer Kenneth Rivers dons a beret to reflect the French-film influence of his presentation, "100 Years of Cinema." He is pictured here with Lamar colleagues Jerry Bradley, Brooke Hall and Jim Westgate at the dinner in his honor before the lecture. ExxonMobil sponsored the event.



Charles Matthews, chancellor of The Texas State University System, unveiled a new scholarship program Feb. 8 to benefit students of Lamar University, Lamar State College-Port Arthur, Lamar State College-Orange and Lamar Institute of Technology. Port Arthur businessman Eber W. Ephlin gave a bequest of much of his estate to begin the endowment, which has a current value of \$8.2 million. It offers scholarships to students of Port Neches-Groves High School and to students at Port Arthur Memorial High School who have lived in Port Arthur's Griffing Park.



Dalton Babineaux Jr., president of American Valve & Hydrant Mfg. Co., arrives at the *Lamarissimo!* faculty artists concert with his wife, Myra. His company sponsored the performance in the Jefferson Theatre.



Jerry Bradford, a kinesiology major from Baytown, shares a light moment with fellow graduate Dyann Carney of Fannett before commencement Dec. 22. He attracted attention with his custom-designed graduation cap - homage to America's favorite mouse.



Madelyn Hunt, President James Simmons, Regent Bernie Francis and Hyattie Simmons '79 launch the inaugural Pro-Connections program, aimed at male African-American students. Administered by the Center for General Studies, the program partners students with an experienced LU alumnus or community member for career and personal development advice.

# The intersection of heart and soul

by Chris Castillo

## What do Liz Carpenter, Darrell Royal and Willie Nelson have in common? Just ask this transplanted Texan.

Tweed Scott '71 is a born storyteller. He grabs a yarn by the tail and just won't let go.

Born Arthur Donald Chouinard, Scott grew up in New England, and joined the Navy the morning after high school graduation. He was stationed at an auxiliary air station in Kingsville. "Coming from New Hampshire to Kingsville, it was culture shock," he said.

After his military tour, Scott returned to Keen, N.H., to attend Keen State College. When he learned it would cost him less to attend Lamar University even while paying out-of-state fees, he made the move.

Scott earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Lamar. He attended school on the GI Bill, he said, and worked his way through as a radio personality for Beaumont's KTRM radio. When the station turned country, he thought it was time to move on, but it didn't take long before he was hooked. During his stint in radio, Scott worked with some of the best. "I actually worked for old Gordon Baxter," he said, a

local radio personality noted for his quick wit and tall tales.

He was a member of the business fraternity Delta Sigma Phi. As his radio career began, his supervisor suggested he "get a last name for radio." One of his best fraternity brothers at the time was John Scott, and he had an uncle named Tweed, so he combined the two for an easy-to-remember, on-air name, and Tweed Scott was born. Eventually, he legally changed his name.

Scott started school at Lamar the first year it was known as Lamar University, rather than Lamar Tech. At age 23, he was working a full-time radio job while taking classes. After graduation, Scott moved to Sycamore, outside of Wichita Falls, where he learned more about the craft of radio in a career that would take him around the state and give him a love of Texas.

Scott worked in country radio most of his career. "I met a lot of people involved in country music," Scott said.

In July 2001, Scott walked away from the radio business. "I don't miss the business. I miss the people. I miss the energy."

More than a year ago, he started Tejas Communications, a

# "I believe Texans are born with an extra gene. I believe there is a T chromosome."

— TWEED SCOTT

company that specializes in creating and producing writing projects. The company develops website content, marketing material and other types of writing for large or small businesses.

Throughout his life and work, he has always loved the written word. But it was an odd set of circumstances that led him to write *Texas in Her Own Words*.

The idea was sparked several years ago when he was at the dinner table with his wife, Zady, and his son, Tyler. "Tyler, understand, that you have something your father will never have," she quipped. At his incredulous look, Zady explained that Tyler was born in Austin and would always be a full-blooded Texan. His father, no matter what, would never be a true Texan. Scott was a transplant.

"It (the book) was a result of a throw-away comment at the dinner table," Scott said. After thinking about it for a while, he said, he started to realize Texans are made a little different. "I believe Texans are born with an extra gene. I believe there is a T chromosome. I've lived in six different states, and this place is different. There are similarities (to all Texans), a commonality. When I got to the end of the book I realized, 'Yes, there are Texas traits.'"

The ultimate goal was to learn what it is like to be a Texan. To get that information, he went right to the source – Texans. During his research, he interviewed 100 people. Sixty interviews ended up in the book, with a forward by humorist and writer Kinky Friedman. "I talked to old pioneers, and even an old tanker-truck driver. That was one of the greatest joys of this book."

Scott made the criteria simple: He would interview folks who were native Texans, both blue- and white-collar workers, and transplants. He said, that having lived all over the state, including the Panhandle, the Gulf Coast, East Texas and West Texas, he had a hunch the people would share many similarities and some differences.

What he started on a lark became an obsession. "I did the work, trusted in the process, then started to understand where all this began," he said.

From concept to completion, he said, the book took about three years. "I went from having a love of Texas to having an absolute passion." He discovered one factor that makes Texas stand apart from other U.S. states: It was once its own

country. And, of course, the Alamo also plays an important role behind the Texas psyche, he said. "I believe Texans are spiritually connected to those men (who died at the Alamo). Texans admire them."

Overall, the book is about the people of Texas and the pride they have for their state. "I would sit down and talk, and people would open up and let me inside their heads. They instinctively knew they were part of something special," he said.

"I feel more like a Texan after writing the book," Scott said. Now, the author says he'll go anywhere to talk about his book and share his love of the Lone Star State. He and his wife put about 4,000 miles on their car while doing research for the book. Zady also took about 40 pictures that appear in it.

Liz Carpenter is among those quoted in the book. Possibly best known as Lady Bird Johnson's press secretary and chief of staff during LBJ's presidency, Carpenter has roots that go deep into the beginnings of Texas. "She had a relative who died on the sixth day of the Alamo siege and two others who fought in the battle of San Jacinto," Scott said.

Other notable Texans quoted in the book include singer-songwriter Bobby Boyd, University of Texas legendary head

football coach Darrell Royal and singer-songwriter Willie Nelson. Getting a quote from Nelson was the most difficult, which included rescheduling more than once, a stomach virus, waiting by the phone and getting cut off in the middle of an interview after losing a cell phone signal, Scott said. The duo finished the interview just in time to make it in the book.

"One great thing about Texas is if you become tired of the town you call home, all you have to do is move 200 miles and you'll be in a totally different place," Scott said. "You don't even have to change your license plates."

Scott learned a lot by writing the book. "I am better because of the experience. Texas has personality, and, in a way, it's still its own country. For many people, we are Texans first." And Texas natives never have a hard time giving directions to their home state, he said. "It's located at the intersection of the heart and soul."

*June 25th Scott will host Texas Trivia Day at the Bob Bullock Museum, where his new book is on sale. The book is also on sale at the Alamo.*



BRIAN SATTLER



# ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Cardinal Dining Hall

by Cynthia Hicks

“I have had the pleasure of eating breakfast, lunch and dinner several times at the Lamar dining hall and have never had a bad meal . . . the choice is great, the price is right and the portions are up to you . . . can't get better than that.”

TOMMY VANCE  
*Owner, Vance Consulting & Public Relations*

“I think it's an extremely impressive building and a massive improvement. And, of course, especially on Tuesday, the price is unbeatable. You can eat all you want, and although I'm not supposed to do that, it's nice to know you could. There's not a rigid line to get into and that gives you a leisurely freedom to walk about and choose. The food is wonderful. The Chinese particularly appeals to me, and I had Swedish meatballs with an out-of-this-world sauce. It's a happy, satisfying experience in every way – visually, psychologically and dietarily. I've never had so many needs satisfied in one place.”

DR. JOSEPH CARLUCCI  
*Conductor emeritus of the Symphony of Southeast Texas and retired professor of music*

“I like the variety of the different types of cultures represented by the food.”

LETHA HENSLEY  
*Sophomore, political science, Houston*

“I like the new furniture. It's a nice atmosphere, and my friends and I hang out here for hours.”

ESTELLA SEALS  
*Sophomore, criminal justice, Houston*

“When I think of two words, students and food, my mind conjures horrible thoughts of my own past experiences, but those days are long past. On my first visit, I was overwhelmed as I found the most amazing salad bar and then ventured farther to find a wonderful, fresh-bread station and an impressive soup station. I couldn't decide what to load on my tray next. Pizza, a fresh-grilled cheeseburger, fresh-carved roast, vegetables, and Mexican and Asian foods were choices that had me realizing that my tray (or my stomach for that matter) was just not going to be big enough to accommodate all of the choices in one visit. In a recent conversation, I was asked what was my favorite lunch spot. Hands down, it's the Lamar University Dining Hall.”

ELLEN SIMON  
*Specialty Publications Manager, A Division of The Beaumont Enterprise*

“Entrees from around the world: It's a huge temptation to try one of each, and I must confess I do end up with a smorgasbord plate! I also enjoy being in the collegiate atmosphere; it brings back good memories. My compliments to the chefs and the hard working staff who keep it running so efficiently.”

REX GOODE  
*Architect and retired director of campus planning*

“The quality and variety of choices, the cleanliness and the atmosphere almost make you forget you are on a college campus in a dining hall. Each time I have visited, I have run into other business people dining there, and I think that is a huge compliment to the facility and the service.”

KIRK M. SMITH  
*Vice President, Capital One Bank*

CHEF RICARDO SALDANA

**DIRECTIONS** | Cardinal Drive/U.S. 69 south, take Highland Ave./Sulphur Dr. exit to Rolfe Christopher Drive. Take a left to northbound access road. Take a left onto access road to University Drive. Take a right to East Virginia and another right to Cardinal Dining Hall.



## CUISINES

American  
Chinese  
Italian  
Mexican

## OPERATIONS

Daily breakfast, lunch, light lunch and dinner  
Weekend and holiday brunch and dinner

## FEATURES

American Grill  
Carving Station  
Chinese Station  
Dessert Bar  
Fresh Bread Station  
Mexican Station  
Pasta Bar  
Pizza Station  
Salad Bar  
Sandwich Station  
Soup Bar

## Pricing: off-campus patrons

Breakfast 4.25  
Lunch 5.50  
Dinner 6.25

## Weekends:

Brunch 5.50  
Dinner 6.25

## HOURS

### Monday – Friday

Breakfast 7 - 10 am  
Lunch 11 am - 1 pm  
Light lunch 1 - 2 pm  
Dinner 4:30 – 8 pm  
(Dinner Friday 4:30 – 7 pm)

### Saturday, Sunday and holidays

Brunch 11 am – 1 pm  
Dinner 4:30 - 6 pm

## SEMESTER HIATUS

Close May 11 at 10 am  
Reopen May 28 at 4:30 pm



**DÉCOR** | With cool interiors and soaring ceilings, the “airy, bistro” atmosphere beckons. From traditional table and chair, to banquets and barstools, seating is amenable to singles or groups and offers a comfy variety to students who want to “hang.” The space diffuses chatter for the study-conscious.

**SERVICE** | Staff is “efficient and helpful.” Surveyors take note of “service with a smile.”

**COST** | Modestly priced, it's a bueno bang for the buck.

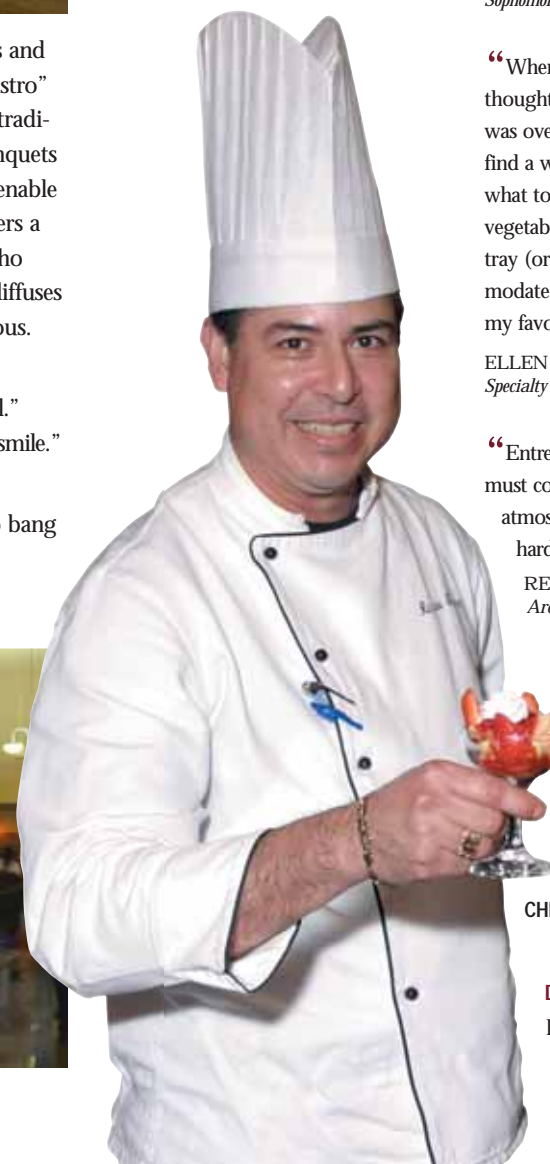
## RATINGS

**FOOD** | Tasty pasta and ultra-fresh salad bars vie for a place beside bowls of “extra-good” soups, custom sandwiches and hot pizza. Roast turkey, beef or chicken satisfies plate-lunch cravings. The grill flips classic burgers and fries. Fajitas sizzle at the Mexican station, while stir-frys and lo mein get the high-five. The sweet variety of desserts seduce the cheese-cake-and-brownie crowd. And weekend brunch begins with omelettes and tidbit choices, eggs your way, muffins and French toast and progresses to classic burgers and dogs with Tex-Mex twist along the way.

## REVIEW

Opened in January, this modern newcomer is attracting a following. Surveyors like that it satisfies the eye, mind and palate with a layout that encourages a “leisurely freedom” to choose among a cultural mix of cuisines termed “fresh” and “hearty.” “Go early or late” to avoid the “rush.” Famished students load up for the next study round, and off-campus groupies can choose a power lunch without blowing a lot of cash.

(409) 880-8055  
850 E. Virginia





CROWN  
JEWEL



## SHEILA UMPHREY RECREATIONAL SPORTS CENTER latest in a season of campus renewal

by Brian Sattler

Lamar's newest addition to its outstanding campus facilities will open this fall – the \$19 million, state-of-the-art recreational sports center.

This 129,550-square-foot building, the latest jewel in the crown of the university's ongoing campus renovation, will be named the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center in recognition of the largest gift in the university's history.

Sheila, and her husband, Walter, presented a \$5 million gift to the university in December 2005.

"A gift of this magnitude helps raise awareness of Lamar University," said President James Simmons when the gift was announced. "We are so grateful and appreciative of Sheila and Walter Umphrey's leadership in stepping forward to further Lamar's growth through this unprecedented, transforming philanthropy."

The gift was a bright spot at the end of one of the toughest years in the university's history. A direct hit by Hurricane Rita Sept. 24 left the campus badly damaged, but, after weeks of intensive restoration work, the university showed resilience by reopening Oct. 19, enabling its December graduates to complete their degrees on time.

The storm also delayed construction on the recreational sports center, but opening is still projected during the 2006-2007 academic year.

The state-of-the-art facility encompasses the landmark McDonald Gym, with spectator seating for volleyball and basketball games. The renovated areas and new construction will include 13,000 square feet of cardiovascular and free-weight training; a one-tenth-mile walking/jogging track; a 40-foot climbing wall; basketball, volleyball and badminton courts; a wellness and fitness center; health food café and juice bar; lounge areas with pool tables; and air hockey, foosball, video games and TV.

"It is really going to be a wonderful facility, absolutely incredible," Sheila Umphrey said after reviewing plans with Simmons.

"I wish more people could see the changes to the campus and the wonderful new buildings that are there – the residence halls, the dining hall and, soon, the recreation sports center," she said. "Jimmy and Susan Simmons have put so much into making Lamar bigger and better."



SHEILA UMPHREY

Simmons said, "We expect this facility to become a real centerpiece of campus life."

"Students make their home here," said Barry Johnson, vice president for student affairs. "With jobs and studies taking so much of their time, campus often functions as a city within a city. First-class facilities like Cardinal Village, the new dining hall and now the recreational sports center help students make the most of that time. We are actively planning campus improvements so that for the time students call campus home, they can truly feel at home."

"Private gifts can be transformational for a university,"

Simmons said. "The generosity the Umphreys have shown enables us to continue to provide the quality education our students deserve and need to become globally minded graduates destined to lead in their chosen professions. It also helps make it possible for Lamar to make lasting contributions to the region and to the world through its many outstanding programs, research initiatives and graduates."

Sheila Umphrey owns The Decorating Depot Inc., a residential and commercial interior design business in Port Neches, and is active in many local civic organizations.

Walter Umphrey is senior managing partner of Provost & Umphrey Law Firm. Born in Port Arthur, Walter received a football scholarship to Southern Methodist University, then completed undergraduate studies at Baylor University. In 1965, he received a law degree from Baylor Law School before returning to Southeast Texas to join the Jefferson County district attorney's office as a prosecuting attorney and, ultimately, chief felony prosecutor.

The Umphreys are noted contributors to important causes, from protecting Texas wildlife to the creation of Southeast Texas' newest cancer institute, the Walter Umphrey Cancer Center, in Port Arthur. Soon, the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center will contribute greatly to the region's quality of life as well.

- 1 Fitness Center, 13,000 square feet for Cardiovascular Training & Free Weight Training.
- 2 Rooms for Aerobics, Sports Clubs, Yoga, Martial Arts, and Dances.
- 3 1/10-mile Walking/Jogging Track.
- 4 5 Racquetball/Squash Courts with Glass Walls.
- 5 40' High Climbing Wall.
- 6 Court Sports including Basketball, Volleyball and Badminton.
- 7 Courts for Indoor Soccer, Roller Hockey and Indoor Tennis.
- 8 Wellness & Fitness Center.
- 9 Health Food Cafe' and Juice Bar.
- 10 Open Lounge Areas.
- 11 Lounge with Pool Tables, Air Hockey, Foosball, Video Games and TV Lounge.
- 12 Campus Convenience Store.
- 13 Volleyball/Basketball Court with Spectator Seating.



# Homecoming



## Red, White & You revs redbird spirit

It was Lamar University Red, White & You Day in Beaumont, but Cardinal Spirit took wing across Southeast Texas. From the Dining Hall to City Hall, bouquets to Big Red abounded. The festivities carried over to a kickoff reception, prize patrols, tailgate parties, basketball and baseball contests, luncheons and a celebration on the Quad – all part of Homecoming 2006. The Greeks were there – about 300 of them – representing 27 sororities and fraternities that have been part of campus life more than half a century. The Class of 1956 had its Golden Anniversary reunion, attracting a reminiscent crowd for that sentimental journey. City Council's proclamation "recognized the importance of Lamar University and its impact on the community while saluting the community's tremendous support of Lamar."



A



B



C



D

(A) Lamar's faculty and staff take on members of campus Greek organizations Feb. 27 in the Montagne Center as Homecoming 2006 activities begin. The Greeks won the game.

(B) President James Simmons welcomes Councilwoman Nancy Beaulieu and Mayor Guy Goodson to the Lamar campus where council members and city officials joined university representatives for a Homecoming week lunch at the Dining Hall.

(C) More than 30 city and Lamar officials share cuisine and camaraderie during lunch at the campus Dining Hall Feb. 28. Councilwomen Bobbie (Jackson) Patterson '76 and Becky Ames, from left in foreground, and Barbara Otto, administrative assistant in the mayor's office, dine with Stephen Doblin, provost and vice president for academic affairs, left, and Mike Ferguson, vice president for finance and operations.

(D) Members of Beaumont City Council show their Cardinal spirit after proclaiming Feb. 27-March 4 as Lamar University Red, White & You Week in Beaumont. Pictured, from left, are Mayor Guy Goodson, Councilwoman Becky Ames, Mayor Pro Tem Audwin Samuel '80 and Councilwoman Bobbie (Jackson) Patterson '76. The Lamar Brass Quintet provided music for the City Hall celebration.

(E) Bryoni Cambre, a sophomore from New Orleans, serves up strawberries covered with chocolate to Shaquita Green, a freshman from Houston, during Food Fest 2006. Cambre was staffing a booth to raise money for Rotaract, a student community service organization aimed at addressing the physical and social needs of

our community. It is affiliated with Rotary International. About 35 organizations participated in Food Fest.

(F) Alpha Kappa Alpha members display pink-and-green pizzazz in their support of Big Red at the Homecoming basketball game March 3. From left are alumna Karen Jones Thomas '77, students Jennifer Ghee and Niki Brown and alumnae Tamiaka Patterson '00 and Charisma (Walker) Popillion '03. The sorority won second place in the night's spirit competition.

(G) Members of the Lamar Spirit Team keep the fans entertained and the players energized at the Homecoming basketball game.

(H) Painted faces display devotion to the red and white at the Homecoming game.

(I) Students engage in a lively spirit competition, with winning organizations awarded cash prizes.

(J) Go LU! The Spirit Team gets enthusiasm going as Homecoming play begins.

(K) "Insane in the Montagne" – The student Homecoming theme is played out on T-shirts and in the crowd.

(L) Cardinal fans – many of them gathered for Lamar's first Greek reunion – rally behind the team at the Homecoming basketball game.



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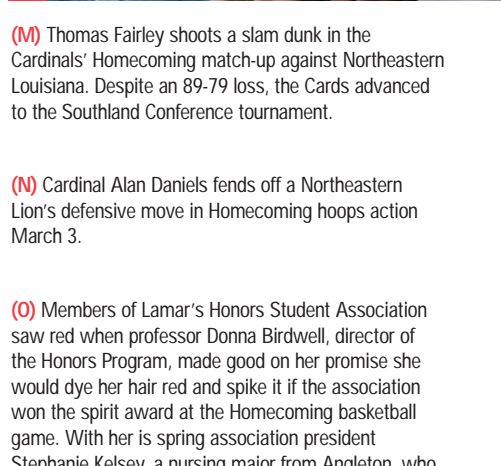
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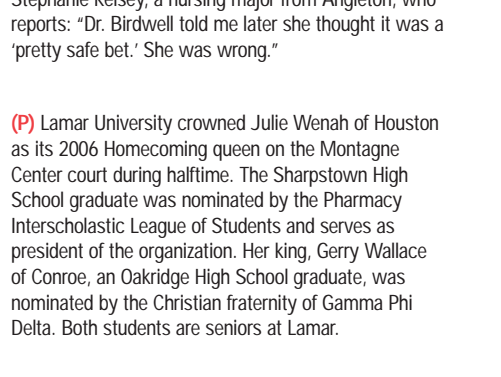
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P



P

# Homecoming



**(A)** Alpha Tau Omega brothers Richard Cacioppo '74, David Guidroz '75 and Bud Messina '73 met for the Greek Alumni Reunion Tailgate Party at the Montagne Center.



**(B)** Charlie Alberto -76, gathers with friends Terry Morris, Floyd Landrey '57 and Lupe Flores '71 joined other Beaumont-area alumni for the Red, White and You Kickoff Feb. 27 at Poblano Grill in Beaumont, beginning the week-long Homecoming celebration.



**(C)** Alpha Chi Omega sisters catch up: from left, Diane Howell Shaver '76, Charlene Steetman Fischer '76, Gale Giglio Colletti '76, Diane Perry Rienstra '75, Sharon Johnson Raven '78, Cathy Bebeau Zummo '78 and Liz Fertitta '78.



**(D)** Phi Delta Theta reminisce and make new memories: from left, Keith Henke '91, Tanya Cavness, Rodney Cavness '94, Dan Kroesch '90 and Kemp Newman '90.



**(E)** Class of 1956 alumni gather at the homecoming kickoff reception: from left, Bert Rogers '56, Mac McGreevy '56, Charles Radaz '56, Leonard Villalon Jr. '56 and Al Henderson '56.



**(F)** Megan Beckcom Cobb '78 and West Brook High School marketing students assembled hundreds of Red, White & You yard signs that dotted the Southeast Texas landscape.



**(G)** The Red, White & You Prize Patrol visited MehaffyWeber, where an impressive contingent of LU alumni showed their pride.



**(H)** Alumni at the Port of Beaumont welcome the Prize Patrol.



**(I)** Alumni with Southeast Texas Water in Beaumont sport mugs, mouse pads . . . and the red and white for the Prize Patrol.

**(J)** The Prize Patrol found alumni ready for their closeup at Entré Computer Center in Beaumont.

**(K)** From left, Sheila Ross-Henderson, Geneva Mobley Rideaux '76, Barbara Gordon-Mathis '72 and Elaine Brown Moore '75 have some food with their fellowship at the Homecoming 2006 Alumni Reception.

**(L)** Fifty-sixers enjoy tasty cuisine in Lamar's new dining hall during the Class of 1956 Reunion Lunch: Colleen McDonald Marks '56, Anita Bond Jones '57, Al Henderson '56, Jerry Jones '56 and Bobby Marks '56.

**(M)** From left, Bill Worsham '65 and Carolyn Mays Worsham '75 join Bob Morgan '64, Mary Plumlee, Jack Windlow '66 and Delmar Fussell '64 to celebrate.

**(N)** From left, Karen Johnson '70, Susan Williams Simmons '68 and Alisa Hicklin '02 pause for a photo during the Homecoming 2006 Alumni Reception.

**(O)** Celebration on the Quadrangle. Under Mirabeau's gaze, alumni dance to the beat of Homecoming 2006.

**(P)** Alpha Delta Pi sisters from near and far gathered for Reunion.

# Reward road

Mitchells' Hill Country home brings nature in

by Brian Sattler

It begins with a winding drive where towering oak and cedar meet the majesty of the hills ... a little slice of heaven offering beauty and a relaxing atmosphere.

Whitetail, flocks of turkey, mocking-birds and the occasional armadillo ... there's plenty to see on this windshield tour of Star Canyon Ranch, a piece of Central Texas paradise.

Just keep your eyes on the road, or you might miss the sharp right at the edge of the bluff overlooking crystal-clear Barton Creek, some 60 feet below, where kingfishers and heron search, watching for a careless sunfish or sunning frog.

Down the road winds toward its crossing as the new home comes into view.

Like the road that leads to it, there were twists and turns on the way to completion of Bill '58 and Mary '58 (Greer) Mitchells' new home near Dripping Springs ... but, like the drive, there is reward at the end.

"We wrote the first check to the architect in January 2001," Bill said. "It has been a significant project – more than I would have believed; it has been a good engineering project – that keeps me off the streets."

The home, designed by Hobson Crow Architects of Austin, is a new addition to the landscape, completed last April, but it works hard at being one with nature.



"We wanted to bring the outside in, and that is what we've achieved," Bill said. "We picked up the stone here, except for the very large slabs which were brought in from Leuters, Texas." The largest stone weighs six tons.

Like the land it shares, this home is grand. With about 12,500 square feet in three buildings – a guest house, office and main house – and a total area under roof of 14,500 square feet, there is no mistaking that this is a home with presence.

The main house has a four-story stair tower wrapping around an elevator. The stair tower's foundation is embedded deep in limestone bedrock and rises to a glass observation area offering a 360-degree panoramic view of the ranch. The main house entry is a thick-walled, top-lit, art gallery. It opens to the main living space that looks out on a panorama of a 60-foot-high wooded bank of Barton Creek. There is a large expanse of glass "curtain wall."

"The architect wanted the living room to elicit a 'wow' when people walked into the room," Mary said.

Moving the house from concept to completion was the task of Rizzo Construction Inc., an award-winning commercial general contracting firm in Austin.

Not only did the Mitchells want to bring the view into the home, but also the rich textures and colors of the nature that surround it. "We made as much use of native materials as possible," Bill said. Extensive use of Texas woods – mesquite,

cedar and pecan – combined with the harvested stone creates warmth that embraces.

Texas tough and full of character, mesquite has become a popular wood for furniture and flooring. Native mesquite is richly beautiful, very stable, resistant to buckling or splitting, and can withstand heavy weight and moisture changes. Mesquite figures extensively in the Mitchell home, from stair railings and steps to flooring throughout, including a unique end-cut block pattern yielding a beautiful and exceptionally durable floor in the main room.

Light-colored pecan veneers on walls and columns contrast with the dark flooring, while hand-hewed cedar beams accent the limestone interior rockwork.

The couple searched for property for several years before buying the first part of the ranch. They have extended its reach a couple of times since, but, in selecting the site for the home, settled near one edge of the ranch.

"We wanted a south view for a south sun in the wintertime," he said. "This was the only place that was really pretty and where we weren't looking onto someone else's property."

One of many unique features of the home is its approach to water use. Rainwater is collected at the metal barn, and gravity feeds it to an 87,000-gallon-capacity water collection system. Inside the barn are six fiberglass holding tanks, each 12 feet in



diameter and 12 feet tall, and fully integrated with a filtration system. The system includes circulation pumps, ozone generators and filtration to the 10-micron level. A well on the property and a connection to city water serve as backups during dry seasons.

Getting the home finished has meant a lot of work, but the Mitchells have found some time to entertain. "We've had a few large parties," Mary said. They recently hosted about 80 architects, builders and guests from the Friends of Architecture of the UT School of Architecture.

In 1993, Bill became vice chairman of Texas Instruments, a position he held until his retirement in December 1996. As a member of the office of the chairman and chief executive, he was directly involved with the company's strategic redirection, new market development and global business activities in systems, software, and components. He began his career with TI as a design engineer in 1961, steadily moving to positions of increasing responsibility through his business acumen.

After Mary graduated from Lamar with her bachelor of science degree in sociology, she worked for two years for the American Red Cross in Fort Worth, before becoming a full-time homemaker and community volunteer. Many organizations have become the fortunate focus of her volunteer efforts.



“When Bill stopped working (for Texas Instruments), I inherited the position of executive assistant, and that takes a lot of time,” Mary said. “He doesn’t like to do too much computer stuff.”

“I don’t like to sit still very long,” Bill said. “I like to get out there and do it – I’ve got projects going here all the time.”

Whether he’s at work on the home or the ranch, or lending his experience to national corporations, Bill is constantly on the go.

As a trustee of the 18-member board of MITRE Corp., chaired by James Schlesinger, former secretary of defense, Bill travels frequently to Washington, D.C., and Bedford, Mass., to attending meetings. Other times, he and Mary will travel to California or other locations around the country where the advisors may visit military installations to view projects underway. MITRE Corp. manages three federally funded research and development centers and partners with government sponsors to address issues of national importance. These centers in aviation system development, defense and intelligence, and enterprise modernization conduct about \$1 billion in business annually.

Bill also travels frequently to New York to serve on the board of Curtiss-Wright Corp., a company with leading-edge programs in motion control systems for aerospace, flow-control systems including critical zero-leak valves for nuclear submarines, aircraft carriers, the nuclear power generation industry as well as petrochemical and other processing industries. The company’s third business sector is advanced metal treatment, including laser peening, which uses a high-energy laser to induce residual compressive stresses into metal surfaces to provide unprecedented resistance to fatigue, stress or corrosion failure for such critical items as jet-engine turbine blades. “Curtiss-Wright did about \$1.2

billion in terms of sales last year,” Bill said.

His contributions also include service on the Austin Lyric Opera board, University of Texas Architectural School’s advisory committee, Lamar’s College of Engineering Advisory Board and the Lamar University Foundation.

One ongoing project is the extensive landscaping that surrounds the home. Massive flagstone walks use local stone, and edgings set off careful plantings. Making the mammoth task possible are Bill’s skid steer, tractor, dump truck and electric air hammer – the only way to go deep in the shallow-soiled hill country.

The couple’s decision to install a geothermal system for heating and cooling was motivated as much by atmosphere as potential energy savings.

The two “wanted no outside noise” to

**“I don’t like to sit still very long, I like to get out there and do it – I’ve got projects going here all the time.”**

—BILL MITCHELL

compete with the sounds of nature when on the veranda in the evening, or enjoying a stroll around the grounds. “When we go out at night, we have no compressor noise,” Bill said. “And, for a house this size, we would have horrible noise and some pretty big electric bills.”

The system employs 33 holes (22 for the main house; 11 holes for the office and guest house) bored down 250 feet into the rock in which water circulates in pipes reaching a constant 69 degrees. For cooling or heating, small heat pumps in the basement of the home bring the temperature up or down the desired amount.

To further the energy savings, Bill is considering installation of solar as well as small wind turbines to generate electricity for the home. He likes the idea of possibly being able to operate off of the electrical grid.

“We’re finally feeling that we’ve passed the major hurdles,” Bill said. “We’ve been working for months on this landscaping.”

Helping the couple with the landscape design is Ciel Williams, who holds a master’s degree from Harvard in landscape architec-

ture. His planter’s palette includes native plants such as mountain laurel and Nolina Texana, as well as scores of more commonly used landscaping plants. “He loves working with plants and is very creative,” Mary said.

The Mitchells’ previous home was xeriscaped – landscaping that conserves water and protects the environment – and while most of the plants in the new landscape are also low-water-use plants, “we realized that, coming from Beaumont, we missed grass,” Bill said. They have planted plenty of grass this time and the rain-collection strategy to sustain it. The largest area serves as a backdrop for several bronze sculptures by renowned sculptor Charles Umlauf, whose productive career included 40 years on faculty in the art department of the University of Texas.

More than grass reminds the couple of their Beaumont roots. Throughout their home are beautiful works by John Alexander and his teacher, Lamar Distinguished Professor Emeritus Jerry Newman, as well as Southeast Texas artist David Cargill. The couple’s penchant for collecting art began with two small pieces purchased on campus while they were students at Lamar.

A 1968 Lamar graduate, Alexander went on to a stellar career as an internationally renowned artist. The flora and fauna of Southeast Texas are reflected in much of his work as he interprets the region from his studios in the Soho area of Manhattan and at his home in Amagansett on Long Island. These works bring a splash of color and Southeast Texas to the Mitchell home.

Lamar alumni should also recognize the name of Beaumont’s Cargill as he was the sculptor of the imposing bust of Mirabeau B. Lamar in the campus Quadrangle. Cargill has been an integral part of the Southeast Texas art community for more than 50 years, and several of his smaller works find prominent display in the Mitchell home.

And, as Bill and Mary Mitchell work steadily on completing the grounds, they look forward to the Austin Lyric Opera Guild garden party set in May when their guests will share a little bit of quiet paradise by Barton Creek.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WISCONSIN MILK MARKETING BOARD

## TOP HAND IN DAIRYLAND Robson spreads the word on cheese

Beaumont for the Air Force, which sent him to posts including Cam Ranh Bay Air Force Base in South Vietnam. After his discharge in 1970, he moved to Houston to start a career in grocery sales.

“I had made sales calls and deliveries for the Seven Up Bottling Co. and the Royal Crown Cola Co.,” said Robson. “I guess that’s what led to me get into the food business.”

He started with Lipton Tea as a sales representative and, in 1972, transferred to Corpus Christi, where he stayed until 1978.

There, Robson continued his education, earning a MBA in management from Texas A&I University. Lipton promoted him to unit sales manager in 1979, and he moved to Charlotte, N.C., only to be recruited by Frito Lay as a regional sales manager. He moved to Savannah, Ga., then to Birmingham. Robson was soon recruited by The Southland Corp. to be general manager of Oak Farms Dairy in Houston.

Over the next three years, he was steadily promoted from Cabell’s Dairy in Dallas to MorningStar Foods in Maryland, back to Dallas and finally to Seattle in 1990, when he was named vice president of sales, marketing and transportation for Darigold Inc. In 1996, Robson returned to Houston and formed his own company, TRG Consulting, where he worked with dairy companies, food processors, distributors, brokers and retailers. In 2000, Robson received a call from a recruiter searching for a CEO for the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board.



If there is one thing Wisconsin is known for, it is cheese. Helping make sure that fact stays top of mind is James Robson ’66, chief executive officer of the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board.

Wisconsin produces more cheese than any other state in the nation — a staggering 2.397 billion pounds annually. From the more than 15,000 Wisconsin dairy farms flow more than 22 billion pounds of milk, making the dairy market the largest segment of the state’s economy.

In a nation where per-capita annual cheese consumption is projected to grow from 31 pounds to 34 pounds by 2014, there’s opportunity for continued market growth.

Robson has been at the helm of the marketing board since 2001, overseeing its programs, meeting with retailers and food-service operators and attending trade shows.

“One fun area we work in is cheese education,” he said. “We put on seminars for chefs and others in the restaurant business about cheese—how it’s made, what types there are, how to use it, which wines or beers are best paired with which cheeses, and on and on.”

His position in Wisconsin is a far cry from his first job at the Seven Up Bottling Co. in Galveston, where he worked during high school and on holidays and summers during his first three years at Lamar.

After graduating from Lamar, Robson married and left

Today, Robson finds his work for the marketing board exciting, but he remembers his time at Lamar as a little more relaxed. “I have great memories of my four years at Lamar,” he said. “No one could have had more fun than I did.”

He pledged Sigma Phi Epsilon, which made him keep up his grades, but also gave him a social outlet. “We could party with the best of them, but we were also successful in sports and other Greek activities.”

When deciding on colleges, he thought of places like Lubbock or Denton as “the other side of the world,” and liked the idea of being closer to home. With three years of running track at Ball High, Lamar’s top track program also caught his eye. He later changed his mind about running, but still liked the idea that Lamar’s business school was as good as, if not better than, those of other Texas schools.

“I have worked all over the U.S. with people with degrees from many universities,” he said. “A lot of those universities may be better known than Lamar, but you don’t have to take a back seat to anyone with your Lamar education.”

— AR



# Windfall

Region's loss a gain for science

by Brian Sattler



JIM JORDAN

Jim Jordan '71 saw the trees downed by Hurricane Rita as a windfall for science.

Jordan, who is chair of Lamar's Department of Earth and Space Sciences, already makes a career of sleuthing the past from subjects like rocks and minerals, so thinking of trees as a window to history was a natural.

"Part of what I do as a scientist is study the chronology of events: universe events and geologic events," Jordan said.

Jordan recognized that the abundance of downed trees from Hurricane Rita could provide a look into the past climatic history of the region, perhaps going back hundreds of years.

Jeffrey Fritz, a local businessman with Shell International, helped Jordan in collecting and preserving samples of the Compton Oak and other large pines and cedars.

Beaumont Mayor Guy Goodson was quick to recognize the scientific value of the old trees and assisted by asking Parks and Recreation to tag trees that appeared very old. Potential sample trees, primarily pine, but also oak and other species, soon covered more than two acres of Collier Ferry Park in north Beaumont.

Jordan's post on a scientific listserv resulted in a response that was "a little overwhelming" he said. Calls came from researchers coast to coast.

As a result, Jordan joined with James Speer, assistant professor of geography at Indiana State University, to submit a grant proposal to the National Science Foundation to bring a group of dendrochronologists to the area.

In its simplest form, dendrochronology is the dating of past events through study of tree ring growth. Botanists,

foresters and archaeologists began using the technique first developed by University of Arizona researcher A.E. Douglas in the early 1900s.

New wood growth from the cambium layer between the old wood and the bark varies with the conditions of the season. The contrast between end-of-season cells and the next year's new cells is enough to establish a ring, making counting possible.

Researchers from a variety of disciplines have taken Douglas' early work and expounded on it with new scientific rigors, making trees tell tales of long ago.

Beaumont's fabled Compton Oak — a massive oak in the city's west end felled by Hurricane Rita — was thought to be around 270 years old. Jordan was able to retrieve slices of the tree's trunk.

"When the researchers first saw them they said 'Wow, look at the size of those!'" Jordan said. "Then, as soon as they got close, they said 'Look at the size of those rings.' They were as thick as your thumb."

"Part of what I do as a scientist is study the chronology of events: universe events and geologic events."

— JIM JORDAN



JAMES SPEER



Three groups independently dated the tree to 1924, making it only 81 years old. "So clearly, the age of that tree was a myth, one perpetuated from a newspaper article published in the 1970s that described the tree as being 240 years old," Jordan said.

That doesn't diminish the tree's beauty or importance, but it does limit its value in revealing climate change, and it points out something Southeast Texans understand — this climate with plentiful rainfall, warm weather and mild winters is ideal for growing things.

It is this growth, or rather re-growth, that has attracted the attention of Charles Lafon and Andrew Millington, two geographers from Texas A&M who are interested in disturbance ecology. The pair met with representatives of the National Park Service to set aside research plots within the Big Thicket Preserve for a long-term study to establish how forests change after a hurricane event.

"Forest that has been shady is now flooded with light, and shrubs, tree seedlings and saplings can now grow

much more rapidly. These species will also benefit from more nutrients and rainfall than before," Lafon said. "Also, some species can begin reproducing that couldn't before." That includes invasive species, he said.

The pair has set up plots using GPS signals and will monitor the locations over decades. "This kind of study lets us address a lot of theory on species composition and diversity and the trajectory those take over time after a disturbance," Lafon said.

Another proposed study will investigate the patterns of damage to vegetation over distance, terrain and forest type using satellite images and aerial photography, Lafon said.

There is opportunity for participation by Lamar University students in this research, Jordan said.

The effects of Rita on the ecology of Southeast Texas and the opportunity to learn from it will be the topic of scientific collaboration and discussions for years to come.



BRIAN COX

PHOTOS BY CHRIS CASTILLO, BRIAN SATTLER, DAVE TAYLOR



# Roc on

## New LU coach fulfills lifelong hoops dream

by Daucy Crizer

Steve Roccaforte '89, who has served the last three seasons on Billy Tubbs' coaching staff and was the program's recruiting coordinator, has become Lamar University's ninth head coach since LU became a four-year institution in 1951.

One day after stepping down as head coach to focus his energy on the director of athletics post, Billy Tubbs didn't have to look far and didn't waste any time in announcing his replacement. Cards Assistant Coach Steve Roccaforte was essentially hand-picked by Tubbs three years earlier to become the Cardinals' next basketball coach.

"Steve knows the tradition and has a genuine passion for Lamar basketball because he grew up with it," Tubbs said in introducing Roccaforte March 21. "I believe he has a great future and will continue to take Lamar basketball to our expectation level of where the program should be on a yearly basis."

Roccaforte brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the job. He was listed as one of the top four assistant coaches ready to take over their own program according to Dan Wetzel of CBS Sportsline.com and was voted the seventh-best assistant coach in the country by Basketball Times for the 2002-03 season. As reported by recruiting analyst Dave Telep, Roccaforte is one of the 25 hardest-working coaches in the nation as well as one of the top 15 recruiters in the country.

**"Steve knows the tradition and has a genuine passion for Lamar basketball because he grew up with it."**

— BILLY TUBBS

"This is an unbelievable day for me, and I would like to thank Dr. (James) Simmons, Coach Tubbs and Mr. (Paul) Zeek for their role in giving me this opportunity," Roccaforte said. "This is the job I've always coveted. I went to every Lamar game I could growing up. I'm

just really excited and look forward to continuing the proud tradition of Lamar basketball.

"I believe we have a solid foundation already in place to build upon. I'll continue to work hard in recruiting the best possible student-athletes so we can contend for a conference championship on a yearly basis. Our goal is to win conference championships. We not only want to make NCAA Tournament

appearances, but win a game or two once we get there. I believe that is a realistic goal for this program and is one we will strive to attain."

Roccaforte has worked for several high-profile coaches as an assistant and was quick to give credit to each one of them in advancing his career to the point of becoming a head coach. He plans to draw on the experiences each has provided him as he embarks on his own head-coaching career.

"It's been a great honor and a tremendous experience in working for coach Tubbs the last three years," Roccaforte said. "I've been fortunate to observe him and how he handles everything from relationships with players to officials. I definitely feel I have grown as



a coach and a person and am better equipped to become a head coach.

"I've been fortunate to work for some great head coaches in John Calipari (Memphis), Steve McClain (Wyoming) and Perry Clark (Tulane). They have all contributed in some way in helping me get to this point. They all gave me the opportunity to learn how to work in this business and become a better coach."

During his career, Roccaforte recruited such players as Dajuan Wagner (Cleveland Cavaliers), Qyntel Woods (Portland Trailblazers), Amare Stoudemire (Phoenix Suns) and Kendrick Perkins (Boston Celtics).

In three years at Memphis, Roccaforte helped the Tigers advance to the NIT final four in 2001, won the NIT championship in 2002 and advanced to the NCAA Tournament in 2003 for the first time in seven years.

Prior to his time at Memphis, Roccaforte spent two seasons as an assistant coach on the Wyoming staff (1998-2000). The Cowboys were 37-22 during his tenure, which included a trip to the NIT.

Before heading to Wyoming, Roccaforte worked at Tulane, where he coordinated the Green Wave's recruiting activities. During his four years at



**"Our goal is to win conference championships."**

— STEVE ROCCAFORTE

Tulane, the Wave posted three consecutive 20-win seasons (1994-98). The Green Wave advanced to the NCAA Tournament Second Round in 1995, the NIT Final Four in 1996 and a second NIT appearance in 1997.

Prior to coaching stints at Tulane, and Wyoming, Roccaforte was an assistant coach at Centenary College for five seasons (1989-94). Centenary won its first TAAC regular-season championship during his tenure.

Having built a reputation nationally as one of the best recruiters in the country and a fine on-the-court coach, Roccaforte returned to his alma mater in June 2003. He prepped at Port Arthur Thomas Jefferson High School and served as a student assistant three years while earning a bachelor of applied arts and sciences degree in 1989.

Roccaforte, 40, and his wife, Tina, have a daughter, Victoria Elise, 9, and a son, Lucien Anthony, 6.



## Tubbs to focus energy as AD

After serving in the dual role of director of athletics and men's basketball coach for the past three years, Billy Tubbs will focus his attention on the role of athletics director. He announced he was stepping down as men's basketball coach on March 20 and hired assistant coach Steve Roccaforte as his replacement a day later.

Tubbs, whose return to his alma mater in May 2002 delighted Lamar fans, took over as the Cardinals' basketball coach in March 2003 while continuing as the director of athletics.

In 31 years of coaching, Tubbs compiled an admirable 641-340 (.653) career record, including a 121-89 record in seven years at Lamar. He guided 12 teams to NCAA Tournament appearances, six National Invitation Tournament appearances, eight conference championships, three conference tournament championships and 18 20-win seasons. His 641 wins rank 34th all-time in NCAA history.

"I enjoyed coaching at Lamar the past three years and appreciate the hard work the players put in to making the program better," Tubbs said. "I really appreciated the support from the alumni and fans. I am confident that the program will continue to move forward.

"This will allow me to get back to doing the job (athletics director) I came back to Lamar to do in the first place."

Tubbs achieved many milestones during his coaching career. During his second stint at Lamar, he became the ninth coach in NCAA history to record 100 wins at three different schools (Oklahoma 333, TCU 156 and Lamar 121). He became the 28th coach in NCAA Division I history to record 600 wins in Lamar's 79-67 win over Texas Southern during the 2003-04 season.

Having built a reputation of rebuilding programs, Tubbs turned around the Cardinals program in just his second year back on the sidelines. He guided Lamar to an 18-11 record, a seven-game improvement from the previous season. The Cardinals won at Texas-San Antonio in the first round of the Southland Conference Tournament before losing to top-seeded Northwestern State in the semifinals.

Lamar posted a 17-14 record this season. The Cardinals won at Southeastern Louisiana in the first round of the SLC Tournament before having their season end at the hands of the top-seeded Demons for the second-straight season.

— DC

# Lady Cardinals claim second-straight title

Therese Nilsson comes from six strokes back to capture individual title



◀ Brian White with the team.

Trailing by six strokes after day one of the Southland Conference women's golf tournament, the Lamar Lady Cardinals used dominant performances on days two and three to capture their second consecutive SLC golf title at the Club of Kingwood Forest Course.

Behind the solid play of freshman Therese Nilsson, the Lady Cardinals, caught fire during the final two rounds, shooting 15 strokes better than their opening 322 each day. Lamar went on to post a 21-stroke team victory, the largest margin in tournament history.

The Lady Cards, who trailed McNeese by six strokes after the first round, shot back-to-back rounds of 307 to pull away from the field for a 54-hole total of 322-307-307-936. Texas State finished in second place at 957, while Louisiana-Monroe and McNeese tied for third at 967.

Nilsson, a freshman from Sweden, fired a final-round 74 to capture the individual crown after beginning the day six strokes down to win top honors. Nilsson, who shot 78-75-74-227 for the tournament, edged out UTSA's Laura Baker and Texas State's Jennifer Crawford, who finished tied for second with a 228.

"I didn't realize until around the 16th or 17th hole that I had a chance of winning," Nilsson said. "I hadn't been paying too much attention to the scorecard; I just knew I was hitting the ball really well."

"I hit a rough spot around the 11th and 12th holes where I went bogey-bogey, but I recovered with a birdie at 13 and started to play a lot better down the stretch. I made a bad bogey on 18, but it didn't end up making a difference."

Nilsson is the second-straight freshman to capture the individual title for Lamar. Last year, Hillary Zeigler won top honors while leading the Cardinals to the title.

"Getting the individual championship is nice, but it's even better

to win it all as a team," Nilsson said. "The first day, we didn't play very well, and we were behind.

After the first day though, we really came together and played like a team."

Zeigler, a sophomore from Livingston, finished in fifth place after shooting a final-round 77 to move into the Top 5. For the tournament, she shot 84-74-77-235. Jennifer Anders, a senior from Beaumont, moved from 11th to a tie for sixth place with a final-round 76. For the tournament she shot 83-78-76-237.

Christa Gunn, a senior from Killeen, posted her third-straight round of 80 to finish in 12th place at 80-80-80-240. Channing Norton, a freshman from Cleveland, jumped from 25th to 20th with a final round 81, finishing at 81-90-81-252.

Lady Cardinal coach Brian White said he was proud of the team and especially happy for the seniors because they were able to finish the season on top.

"Coming into the tournament, I felt we had the best team," he said. "We didn't play like we were supposed to on Monday, but on days two and three, we put it together and did play the way we were supposed to. I'm proud of Therese for the way she came back from six strokes back, and I'm really excited for our seniors that they got to finish on a positive note."

Lamar has won three of the six SLC Championship titles (2006, 2005, 2003).

— DL



# Distance runners set up strong finish

Lady Cardinals run to top five at championship

Behind a dominant effort by their distance runners, the Lamar University women's track team completed the 2006 Southland Conference Indoor Track Championship in fine fashion, bringing home a fourth-place finish with 90 points.

The Lady Cardinals made their mark early in the February meet, closing out day one with a flurry of activity in the distance races. Nearing the completion of the first day, Lamar made a bold statement by winning the distance medley, and posting impressive finishes in the 5,000-meter run.

The DMR team of Jacqueline John, Adrienne Johnson, Clerc Koenck and Amanda King scorched the field in the distance medley, running a 12:02.15. The group finished 16 seconds ahead of second-place finisher Texas-San Antonio, and gave LU its first championship of the 2006 meet.

Sophomore Renee Graham then took second place in the 5,000-meter run, finishing in 17:13.43, while freshman Stacey Monteau and senior Natasha Williams finished in fifth and sixth place.

On day two, the Cardinal women wasted no time getting into the action, collecting a conference championship in the first race of the day.

King quickly staked claim to her second title of the meet, winning the women's mile by running with a 4:57.19. King's time was just a second better than that of Lady Cardinal teammate Koenck who took



second place. Jacqueline John nearly gave Lamar a clean sweep of the top three spots, but was barely edged out by Yuliya Stashkiv of Texas State, trailing her by just three hundredths of a second.

In the 3,000-meter run, the Lady Cardinals again came up big, led by Graham, who took first place with a time of 9:48.69. Koenck finished in third place in 9:57.58, King grabbed fifth place, and Stacey Monteau took seventh place.

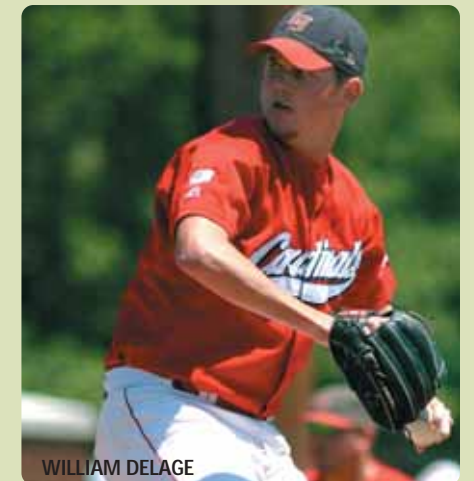
John and Williams also ran well in the 3,000-meter run, finishing in ninth and 10th place. Lamar placed six runners in the Top 10 of the 3,000.

To go along with the outstanding distance performances, the Lady Cardinals also received solid contributions from the middle-distance runners and sprinters.

Chinelo Nwobu, finishing in 24.93 seconds, took third place in the women's 200-meter dash in a closely contested race that saw just four one hundredths of a second separate first and third place. Nwobu and Toni Sylvester took sixth and seventh place in the 400, finishing in 56.92 and 58.43 respectively.

Amber Prather took fourth place in the 800-meter run, finishing just one-hundredth of a second behind Margeaux Fisher of Northwestern State. Fisher ran a 2:18.08, barely edging Prather who ran a 2:18.09.

— DL



# Fire in the diamond

Cards keep singeing opponents

Lamar got off to a tremendous start in Southland Conference play. The Cardinals won 15 of their first 18 games to take over first place in the conference standings. Lamar won its first six conference series, including sweeping three straight for the first time since the 1987 season. Lamar is the top-hitting team in the SLC with a .314 team batting average and is the top-pitching team with a 3.44 team earned run average. Junior Ryan Baker and senior C.J. Ebarb have both won SLC Hitter of the Week honors this season, and senior William Delage has twice earned SLC Pitcher of the Week honors.

## 2006 Southland Conference Baseball Tournament

May 24-27, 2006

Vincent-Beck Stadium

### TICKET INFORMATION:

\$40 – Reserved All-Session Pass

\$30 – General Admission All-Session Pass

\$20 – General Admission Youth (Age 5-12) All-Session Pass

### Single Day Passes

\$17 – Reserved

\$14 – General Admission

\$8 – Youth (Age 5-12)

### Single Game

\$9 – Reserved

\$7 – General Admission

\$5 – Youth (Age 5-12).

Current Lamar students with valid ID cards and children under age five will be admitted free.

# Caught in a riot, reporter's no longer a "dispassionate observer"

By Mary Sanchez



Journalists tout themselves as dispassionate observers – seasoned professionals uniquely able to chronicle society's triumphs and ills. Try that

posture during a riot.

Clyde Hughes of The Toledo Blade did and found the experience among the most challenging of his career. The scene involved Toledo police lobbing tear gas and wooden pellets, Neo Nazis angered because their march was canceled, and agitated citizens throwing rocks. "In a situation like that, it's tough to remain the reporter," Hughes commented later.

So he didn't.

Hughes adopted personas as the story unfolded. First and foremost, he was a reporter – as his later pieces show. But during the October riot, Hughes also became an older black man who attempted in vain to dissuade younger black people from burning down a local business.

He was an alarmed colleague who saw a photographer attacked for her cameras. He was a good citizen who turned other drivers away from the dangerous area. And, he was a man watching out for his own safety.

"In 22 years of being in the business,

there is nothing else that I can compare it to," said Hughes, urban affairs reporter for The Blade. The riot occurred after the National Socialist Movement announced it would march in North Toledo. The group believed black gang members had been harassing white residents.

Fewer than two dozen Nazis showed up. But the number of local citizens – some simply curious, others planning counter-protests—swelled from 200 to 500 people within an hour. Police canceled the Neo-Nazi protest, but it was too late.

"There is a lot of bad history between African-American males and the police in North Toledo, and they thought it was better to fight the police than the Nazis anyway. It was something I don't think the police picked up on until it was too late. They figured, 'We'll call off the march and people will go home,' but what they found was a large group of people who found a new enemy in the force that was protecting the Nazis. Hughes said.

"Now, we know that the police needed to be out there, and the Nazis needed this protection, but the symbolism of a mostly white police force protecting a handful of Nazis screaming 'white power' and 'n----- go

home' just inflamed the crowd.' "

The crowd began picking up rocks and throwing them at police and any cars entering the area.

"It was one of those situations where you have instincts as a reporter, and instincts as a human being," Hughes said. "There are times when you are not thinking of stories, you are thinking of people's safety."

Hughes began warning approaching drivers.

"We would tell them to turn around. 'You do not want to come through here,' " he said. "The worst part of it was seeing our photographer, Jetta Fraser, a member of our local National Association of Black Journalists chapter, assaulted by two punks; [they] couldn't have been more than 15 years old. They both grabbed her by the arms, and pulled in opposite directions trying to take her cameras."

Eventually, more than 120 people were arrested for rioting, and the cost to taxpayers has been estimated to be at least \$336,000 in overtime, vehicle damage and other expenses.

"All of my colleagues really did a tremendous job that day under some very trying circumstances," Hughes said. "I really felt proud to be a Blade reporter that day."

Editor's note: Clyde Hughes '84 was *University Press* managing editor and sports editor and a reporter at the *Beaumont Enterprise* before joining the staff of *The Toledo Blade* in 1989. This edited version of the article, originally posted on the Poynter website, is reprinted with permission of the Poynter Institute, one of the country's premier professional development schools for journalists.

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or call (409) 880-8421.

## 50s

**Ben A. Appleby** '56, B.B.A. economics, earned a master's degree in management from Claremont Graduate School in California in 1985. He retired as vice president of corporate development at JLG Industries in McConnellsburg, Pa., in 2000 and lives in Spring Branch.

**William G. Cupit** '56, B.S. music, is retired and an artist who works in colored pencil, oil and acrylic. He lives in Goodyear, Ariz., with his wife, **Charla (Mouton)** '55, certif. secretarial science. They celebrated their 50th anniversary in August with their children on a Caribbean cruise.

**Theta (Watt) Jackson** '56, B.S. home economics, lives in Conroe with her husband, Robert, who attended Lamar, then earned a bachelor of business administration from the University of Texas and an M.B.A. from the University of Illinois. He is retired.

## 60s

**Joe W. Wilson** '60, B.S. geology, retired from Hood Packaging Co. in Tyler in 2002 after 42 years of service. He volunteered with the National Park Service at White Sands National Monument in New Mexico and Wupatki National Monument in Arizona and has worked

in the visitor center at the Crazy Horse Memorial near Custer, S.D. for the last two summers. He lives in Tyler with his wife, Judy.

CEO of the United States Professional Tennis Association **Tim Heckler** '63, pre-dental, was inducted into the Texas Tennis Hall of Fame last October. He was a top junior tennis player in South Africa before being recruited to play at Lamar from 1959 to 1963. The team remained unbeaten during his four years at Lamar. He played Wimbledon and the U.S. Open and was ranked as high as 54th in the U.S. in 1973.

**Robert L. Pope** '63, B.B.A. management, retired as director of human resources from Sara Lee/Earthgrains in 2002 after 35 years in the human resources field. He and his wife, Jane, live in Spring.

**William A. Donaldson** '64, B.B.A. management, is a retired sales manager for Weyerhaeuser Co. and lives in Pottsboro.

**Delmar R. Fussell** '64, B.S. mechanical engineering, is retired from Lockheed Martin and lives in Fort Worth with his wife, Blanche.

**Don Hannegan** '64, B.S. industrial engineering, is functional director of managed pressure drilling technology at Weatherford International and lives in Fort Smith, Ark.

**Sandra (Bloch) Merrell** '64, B.S. elementary education, is content mastery teacher for Tomball school district. She lives in Houston and has two children and two grandchildren.

**Charles A. Barrow** '65, B.S. chemical engineering, is a consulting process research engineer with ExxonMobil in Baton Rouge. He has worked for Alcoa, Engelhard, Ormet and Kaiser Aluminum. He and his wife, Faye, have a married son and daughter, three granddaughters and a new grandson.

**Edward R. Streetman** '66, B.S. chemical engineering, is retired and lives in Prescott, Ariz., with his wife, Pamela, also retired.

**Vic Wesley** '66, B.A. psychology, earned a master of science in social work and is a licensed master social worker in Texas. He lives in Hurst.

**Richard W. Villiva** '67, B.S. industrial engineering, '81, M.B.A. business administration, is owner of VESCO

Data in Dyersburg, Tenn., where he lives with his wife, Billie, who teaches with Dyersburg City Schools.

**Wayne L. Armstrong Jr.** '68, B.S. electrical engineering, earned his M.B.A. from Rollins College in 1971 and is vice president of Micro Systems in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. He lives in Navarre, Fla., with his wife, **Patricia (Thompson)** '70, B.S. medical technology, who is retired.

**Deana (Denbo) Bozarth** '68, B.S. elementary education, lives in Roswell, N.M., with her husband, **James** '67, B.S. government. He earned a law degree from the University of Texas Law School and is a partner in Hinkle, Hensley, Shanor & Martin law firm. They have three daughters and one grandchild.

**Patricia (Kimbrough) Cooper** '68, is a teacher with Rutherford County Schools in Murfreesboro, Tenn., where she lives.



**Dominic E. Dutton** '68, B.S. government, was recently elected to serve on the State Bar of New Mexico's board of bar commissioners. The Board is elected

from throughout the state and governs the more than 7,500 members of the State Bar. Dutton represents the Sixth Bar Commissioner District. He earned a law degree from Bates College of Law and graduated from the John F. Kennedy School's Senior Executive Fellows Program at Harvard University. He serves as the western states director on the North American Gaming Regulators Association's board of directors, and in 2003, was appointed to the attorney position on the New Mexico Gaming Control Board. He lives in Ruidoso, N.M., with his wife, Ladonnah.

**Rosemary Laidacker** '69, B.A. mathematics, is a geophysicist with Greystone Oil and Gas in Houston, where she lives.

**William Thomson** '69, B.S. civil engineering, earned a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1972. He retired after 31 years with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Dallas and Washington, D.C. He currently works part-time as a substitute teacher in

Arlington, Va., where he lives with his wife, Joan, a retired EPA scientist.

## 70s

**Davis Caskey** '70, B.S. biology, '71, M.S. biology, is managing director and vice president of Pharmaceutical Operations for ECR Pharmaceuticals in Richmond, Va. He lives there with his wife, **Bana (Weems)** '70, B.S. elementary education, who is an administrative assistant for the Country Club of Virginia.

**Kent Edwards** '70, B.B.A. marketing, earned an M.B.A. from the University of Houston and is senior vice president of human resources with Funding America in Houston. With 25 years of corporate-level human resources experience, he has also served as senior vice president of human resources for Aegis Mortgage Corp. and as a consultant for Houston-based PRISEM Consulting Group. He holds certification as a human resources professional. He and his wife, Julia, live in Houston.

**Terry R. Brown** '71, B.S. government, is owner of T. Ross Brown & Associates in Spring, where he and his wife, Gay, live.

**Ivy Corley** '71, B.B.A. accounting, recently sold his company, Houston-based Strategic Materials, to Willis Stein & Partners LP. Strategic Materials, one of the nation's largest glass recyclers, employs 990 people. He lives in Houston with his wife, Doris.

**David W. Evans** '71, B.B.A. general business, earned certification as a chartered life underwriter in 1980 and as a chartered financial consultant in 1986. He has lived in Shreveport, La., for 25 years with his wife, Gale, and owns Evans Financial Group, a firm that specializes in financial planning and employee benefits.

**John E. Corrent** '72, B.S. oceanographic technology, is president of Bronte Consulting LLC in Sandy, Utah, where he lives.

**Jan (Winfield) Fertitta** '72, B.S. elementary education, '80, M.Ed. supervision, is a teacher with Annunciation Orthodox School in Houston, where she lives.

**John P. Jordan** '72, B.S. industrial engineering, is general manager at Enventure Global Technology in Houston, where he and his wife, Mariko, live.

## \$23 million facility named for Muehlenbeck

Plano City Manager Tom Muehlenbeck's '64, B.A. political science, tenure is now almost triple the average 7.2-years a city manager spends in one city, according to statistics from the International City/County Management Association. For 19 years, he has been the man at the helm of a city that grew from about 100,000 people when he joined the city staff in 1987 to more than 250,000 today. The city's new \$23 million West Plano recreation center on the grounds of Windhaven Park has been named in his honor.

"I can't think of anyone who has done more for Plano," former councilman Phil Dyer said. "If we had had turnover, Plano may not have turned out as well as it has. It's a unique thing to have arguably the best city manager in the country stay for so long and accomplish so much."

Muehlenbeck helped guide Plano during its remarkable growth, keeping stability and setting a high standards for the staff's conduct, ethics and quality, Dyer said.



BRIAN SATTLER

**Brenda (Love) Harrison** '73, B.S. elementary education, was recently named Teacher of the Year at Blanton Elementary School in Dallas. She lives in Mesquite with her daughter, Rona.

**Deborah (Guidi) Lee** '73, B.S. home economics, is a teacher at Lee High School in Houston, where she and her husband, David, a communications technician at Dow Chemical, live.

**Stephen C. Howard** '74, B.A. government, earned a law degree from Bates School of Law in 1977 and owns his own practice in Orange, where he lives.

**Robert K. Cuddy** '75, B.S. physical education, is an air traffic control specialist for the Federal Aviation Administration in Wichita, Kan., where he lives.

**Donald Porter** '75, B.S. electrical engineering, is self-employed and lives in Porter.

**Mark Thomas** '75, B.A. government, is sales manager for Groth Corp. in Stafford. He and his wife, Renée, live in The Woodlands.

**Beth (Scales) Balsam** '76, B.S. art education, is a master's candidate in theology at St. Mary's University, where she qualified for Who's Who. Her husband, **Charlie** '74, B.A. sociology, is coordinator of Adult and Family Education for St. Louis Parish in Austin and has also been working as a project consultant for Jason's Deli Inc. Their daughter, Sarah, is a student at Stephen F. Austin State University, and their son, Luke, is a sophomore in high school. They have lived in Austin for 11 years.

**Larry L. Taylor** '76, B.S. biology, is project director of Agility Healthcare Solutions. He and his wife, Shirley, live in Leander.

**Rhonda (Cole) Shannon** '78, B.S. medical technology, is chief of staff for St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston. She also serves as chief of pathology and has been a member of the medical staff since 1989. She earned her medical degree from the University of Texas Medical School in Houston, which she serves as clinical

associate professor of pathology and laboratory medicine. She is also adjunct associate professor in the department of pathology at Baylor College of Medicine. She lives in Houston with her husband, **Ted** '79, B.B.A. management, who is manager at Houston Industries.

**Lori (Hood) Hold** '79, A.A.S. dental hygiene, is a dental hygienist for Dr. Neeley-Nemeth. She and her husband, David, who is president of Silicon Services, live in Austin.

**Cynthia (Matthews) Lyons** '79, B.S. elementary education, '85, M.E. elementary education, is a teacher in Beaumont. She lives in Sour Lake with her husband, **Jerry** '91, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, who is chief of communications for Beaumont Fire/Rescue.

**Harold C. Moore** '79, B.S. industrial technology, '81, M.S. engineering science, is an engineer for Brazos Electric Cooperative. He lives in Lipan with his wife, Linda, who manages their ranch with 49 Black Angus cows.

**Manuel Moreno Jr.** '79, B.S. communication, is head tennis coach at J. Frank Dobie High School in Pasadena. He is a former Lamar tennis player and was a graduate assistant coach from 1976 to 1980. He was honored as Texas Tennis Coaches Association's 2005 Class 5A Coach of the Year. In his 22nd year coaching, he and his wife, Rebecca, live in Galveston.

## 80s

**Dr. Joel L. Smith** '80, pre-dental, has received the Dental Society of Southeast Texas nomination for the Texas Academy of General Dentistry's 2005 Dentist of the Year Award, one of 15 dentists nominated. It is considered the most prestigious honor a Texas dentist can earn. He earned his doctorate in dental surgery from the University of Texas Health Science Center-San Antonio.

**Jerry R. Spray** '80, B.S. industrial technology, lives in Palmyra, Va., with his wife, **Donna (Paul)** '79, B.A. sociology.

**Deborah C. Talbert** '80, B.B.A. marketing, is system administrator for Anadarko Petroleum in Spring and lives in Houston.

**Greg Fontenot** '82, B.B.A. management, is senior vice president and director of human resources for Federal Home Loan

Bank of San Francisco. He began his career with the bank as assistant vice president for compensation and benefits in March 1996. Before then, he was director of compensation and benefits for CompuCom Systems Inc. based in Dallas. Fontenot holds the senior professional in human resources designation from the Human Resources Certification Institute-Society for Human Resources Management. He lives in San Francisco.

**Kathy (Searle) Gonzales** '82, B.S. psychology, '85, B.S. physical therapy, is a sports medicine physical therapist and lives in Phoenix, Ariz., with her husband, Florentino, who is a CPA.

**Cheryl (Stackhouse) Neese** '83, A.A.S. nursing, is a registered nurse at the Spartanburg Regional Medical Center in South Carolina, where she lives.

**Rena Clark** '84, B.S. mechanical engineering, earned an M.B.A. from Harvard and recently joined the New England Patriots as vice president of community affairs and corporate philanthropy. She has more than 17 years of corporate managerial experience in both the for-profit and non-profit sectors and has operated two middle-market-sized manufacturing companies. She also participates in a variety of community organizations and serves on the boards of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Junior Achievement of Northern New England and the Harvard Business School African-American Alumni Association. She lives in Jamaica, Mass.

**Gary D. Miller** '84, B.S. electrical engineering, is division manager of QSE Power Marketing at Bryan Texas Utilities. He and his wife, Sandra, live in College Station.

**Kevin L. Prescott** '84, B.B.A. marketing, is project manager for AT&T and lives in Frisco with his wife, Thereasa.

**Troy Fontenote** '85, B.B.A. marketing, was recently promoted to vice president of sales for South and Central Texas with the Principal Financial Group in Houston. He and his wife, Julia, live in Missouri City.

**Lucie (Aldridge) Fralicks** '85, B.S. music, '87, B.A. psychology, is an advertising account manager for Prism Media Group in Carrollton. She lives in Lantana with her husband, Kevin, who is director of athletic development for the University of North Texas.



BRIAN SATTLER

## Tech leader named Austinite of the Year

Pike Powers '62, B.A. government, who worked for nearly 30 years to help turn Austin and Texas into major technology centers, has been named Austinite of the Year.

"The face of the Austin region would look much different than it does today if it weren't for the persistence and dedication of Pike Powers," said 2005 Chamber of Commerce Chair Kirk Watson in a press release. "Over the years, Powers has worked to improve and grow our region's high tech community and economy. I look forward to honoring him for all he has done for the business community."

Powers opened Fulbright & Jaworski's Austin office in 1978 and served on Gov. Mark White's Science and Technology Council and Gov. Rick Perry's Science and Bio-technology Council. He is credited with helping attract and retain innovative businesses in this region.

He was a leader in creating the Texas Technology Initiative, established in 2002 as a collaborative effort between the government, academia and private industry. Most recently, he was deeply involved in the city's effort to recruit Samsung, which resulted in the South Korean chip maker's decision to build a second plant in Austin.

**Medrick Lee** '85, A.A.S., occupational safety and health, is safety coordinator for ExxonMobil Chemical in Beaumont, where he lives.

**Keith F. Giblin** '86, B.S. physics, is magistrate judge for the U.S. District Courts, Eastern District of Texas, in Beaumont, where he lives with his wife, **Joyce (Honeycutt)** '80, B.S. nursing.

**Lance Kocherhans** '86, B.S. biology, is account executive of Abbott Diagnostics Division in South Jordan, Utah. He lives there with his wife, Jill, who is director of demonstrator support at StampinUp.

**Guy D. Miller** '86, B.S. computer science, is a partner at GR Consulting LLC in Jenkintown, Pa. He and his wife, Jayne, live in Rydal.

**John W. Via** '86, M.A. English, earned his doctorate in English from Southern Methodist University in 2002 and is vice president and general manager of Alcon Manufacturing in Fort Worth, where he lives.

**Tracy L. Cormier** '87, B.B.A. general business, is director of fiscal service for the Buena Vista Charter Township in Saginaw, Minn. He lives there with his wife, Ramona; daughter, Clarissa; and son, Tracy.

**Tony R. Stelly** '87, B.B.A. marketing, is a lieutenant colonel with the Army and has been stationed in Kaiserslautern, Germany, with the 21st Theater Support Command since June 2005. His wife, Collette, and children, Kirsten and Christopher, live there with him.

**Daryl S. Gray** '88, B.S. communication, is director of marketing and advertising for Brent Coon and Associates in Beaumont. He and his wife, Dana, live in Nederland.

**Prochanev A. White** '89, B.S. elementary education, is curriculum coordinator for Beaumont school district, where she lives.

## 90s

**Everette "Bo" Alfred** '90, B.S. criminal justice, is county commissioner for Precinct 4 of Jefferson County. The Beaumont branch of the National Association of University Women honored him with the Martin Luther King Humanitarian Award in February. He has also served on the Rural Crime Task Force, where he helped implement the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Naomi. They have three children,

Ebony, Margaret and Joshua.

**Scott M. Deppe** '90, M.Ed. music education, is band director at Klein High School and lives in Spring with his wife, Lisa.

**Michael J. Kunst** '90, B.A. history, recently returned home from Iraq, where he served as captain for the Texas Army National Guard. Prior to being deployed, he was funeral director in charge at Dorman Funeral Home in Orange. He lives in Vidor with his wife, Jill.

**Charlie R. Sassine Jr.** '90, B.S. biology, is project manager for Severn Trent Laboratories in Corpus Christi, where he lives.

**Paul T. Sorrell** '90, B.B.A. marketing, is a sales representative for Nitromed and lives in Lumberton.

**Fawn (Poole) Welborn** '90, B.S. nursing, is administrator of Convenient Home Health Care in Beaumont and lives in Vidor.

**Jay Bernard** '91, B.S. communication, is program director of mornings for KAYD Radio. He and his wife, Jennifer, live in Nederland.

**Mary Elizabeth (Myers) Richter** '91, B.S. elementary education, lives in Silsbee with her husband, **Mark** '94, B.A. criminal justice.

**Rick Williams** '91, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, earned his law degree from South Texas College of Law and was appointed interim judge for the 279th District Court in January. He was executive director for the Nederland Economic Development Corp. before assuming the bench and has served with a number of other civic organizations, including as chairman of the Jefferson County Chambers of Commerce Legislative Response Team and on the board of directors for Partnership of Southeast Texas. He lives in Nederland with his wife, **Amy (Saide)** '93, B.S. interdisciplinary studies. They have two children and three grandchildren.

**Michael X. Chie** '92, M.E. civil engineering, is a program controls engineer for The Seville Group in Richmond, Calif., and lives in San Francisco.

**Donald A. Jeffcoat** '92, B.S. electrical engineering, is retired from BASF where he worked as an environmental engineer. He lives in Nederland with his wife, **Susan (Swendig)** '83, B.S. mechanical engineering, '95, B.A. physics. She is a teacher at Port Neches-Groves High School.

**Vic Odegar** '93, B.A. English, senior copy editor for the Beaumont Enterprise, was awarded the 2005 John Murphy Award for Excellence in Copy Editing in March by the Texas Daily Newspaper Association. It was the second time he has received the award. He began working at the Enterprise in 1994 and has since earned numerous awards, including 2003 headline writer of the year for newspapers with 50,001-100,000 circulation from the American Copy Editors Society. He lives in Beaumont.

**Chris Reichard** '93, A.A.S. computer drafting, '97, B.S. mechanical engineering, is president and co-owner of Biomatix Systems, an aquatic automation and technology company in Houston, where he lives.

**Rochelle (Bottley) Anderson** '94, B.S. criminal justice, lives in Charlotte, N.C., with her husband, Keith.

**Jodi (Brockhouse) Chambers** '94, B.B.A. accounting, is director of finance for SMG and Ford Park in Beaumont, where she lives.

**Delene (Hoffpauir) DelaRosa** '94, B.A. English, is director of the Quitman Public Library and lives in Mineola.

**Delbert P. LeBlanc** '94, B.S. psychology, earned his master of education degree in leadership from Sam Houston State University in 2002 and is assistant principal with Spring school district. He lives there with his wife, **Shelli (Kattawar)** '93, B.S. music education, who also earned her master of education degree in school administration from Sam Houston State University. She is an assistant principal in the Conroe school district.

**Gregory L. LeBlanc** '94, B.B.A. accounting, is senior tax manager for Wagner, Eubank & Nichols LLP in Dallas. He and his wife, Rachel, live in Plano.

**Jeness M. Sherrell** '94, B.S. psychology, is a case manager coordinator for Families Under Urban and Social Attack in Houston, where she lives.

**Alisa (May) Binaglia** '95, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '99, M.Ed. school administration, is a stay-at-home mom after working as a teacher at Vidor Elementary. She and her husband, **Scott** '95, B.S. electrical engineering, a senior project engineer with Valero, have two daughters, Laiken and Avery, and a son, Carter Alan, born April 11. The family lives in Vidor.

**Lauren C. Stevens** '95, B.S. sociology, is a paralegal for the Apache Corp. in Houston, where she lives.

**Manuel A. Aragon** '96, B.S. communication, M.B.A. business administration, is a financial planner for Prudential Financial in Houston. He lives in Humble with his wife, Monica, and their 3-year-old daughter, Ana Sofia. They expect their second child in May.

**Jennifer E. Bensky** '96, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is an instructional technologist for FlightSafety International in Orlando, Fla., where she lives.

**Keisha L. David** '96, B.A. criminal justice, is an employment compliance officer for Texas Southern University in Houston, where she lives.

**Jennifer (Leonard) Smith** '96, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, and her husband, **Kirk** '93, B.B.A. finance, live in Beaumont. Kirk is vice president of private banking for Hibernia National Bank.

**Lila (Creamer) Stevens** '96, B.S. pre-nursing, '01, B.A. psychology, is a legal assistant at Reaud, Morgan and Quinn in

Beaumont. She lives there with her husband, Mark. The couple wed last June.

**Anthony J. Gutierrez** '97, B.S. mechanical engineering, lives in San Antonio with his wife, **Jennifer (Gilland)** '97, M.S. audiology, '98, M.S. speech pathology.

**Jay S. McCraw** '97, B.S. kinesiology, '00, M.S. kinesiology, works for CUNA Mutual Group and lives in San Antonio with his wife, **Gladys (Thomas)** '90, B.S. elementary education.

**Jan Scofield** '97, B.G.S. liberal arts, is managing director of technology for Franklin Bank Corp., having worked as vice president of e-commerce at Bank United in Houston. Before joining Bank United, she worked as IT manager for Electronic Commerce Resource Center, whose focus was to build and support eCommerce systems for the Department of Defense. She was awarded the Air Combat Command Achievement Award for creating and implementing an Internet system that decreased procurement cycle-time. She lives in Baytown.

**Miranda (Fortune) Walker** '97, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is a teacher for Hardin-Jefferson school district and lives in Beaumont with her husband, **Morgan** '96, B.B.A. marketing, who is the owner of Southeast Texas Baseball Academy. They have a son, Easton, 3, and expect another child this summer.

**Jesus R. Castro** '98, B.S. criminal justice, is a business consultant at Rendon Law Firm in Nederland. He and his wife, Elsa, live in Port Arthur.



## Nichols gets GOP bid for state senator

Robert Nichols '68, B.S. industrial engineering, won a four-way Republican primary race to become the GOP nominee for State Senate District 3 with 54.2 percent of the vote. The seat was left vacant when current state Sen. Todd Staples ran unopposed as Texas agriculture commissioner. Nichols will not have a Democratic opponent in November.

Nichols is a former member of the Texas Transportation Commission. Recently, the East Texas Council of Governments honored Nichols with its Annual Special Awards program recognizing individuals and organizations who make a difference in the community, the East Texas region and the ETCOG organization. Nichols received the Regional Statesmanship Award. He lives in Jacksonville.

**Megan Jasper** '98, B.B.A. management information systems, is a senior quality business analyst for Nokia Mobile Phones in San Diego, Calif. She lives there with her fiancé, Ryan McNamara. The couple plans an August wedding in La Jolla, Calif.

**Kannan Ramakrishnan** '98, M.E.S. mechanical engineering, '01, D.E., mechanical engineering, earned an M.B.A. from the University of Houston in 2005. He is a design engineer for GEMCO and lives in Victoria.

**Jason P. Viator** '98, B.B.A. management information systems, is a strategic applications manager for Wal-Mart in Bentonville, Ark. He expects to graduate in May with a master's degree in management information systems from the University of Arkansas. He lives in Centerton, Ark.

**Raghavendra C. Ballal** '99, M.S. environmental engineering, is an engineer at Shaw Environmental Inc. in Sacramento, Calif., where he lives.

**Rachel (Williams) Holt** '99, B.S. biology, earned her medical degree from the University of Texas Medical School in Houston. She began her residency at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, N.C. in July 2005. She lives there with her husband, **Paul Holt** '01, B.B.A. marketing, who is a branch manager at RBC Centura Bank.

**Binh C. Nguyen** '99, B.A. management information systems, is programmer and developer for Conn's Ltd. in Beaumont, where he lives.

**Debra (Peveto) Revels** '99, B.S. communication, is property manager for Goodwin Management in Austin and lives in Pflugerville with her husband, James. She is now managing 15 homeowners associations with more than 3,000 homes in Travis and Williamson counties.

**John T. Salles** '99, B.M. music, teaches choir in the Dallas school district, where he lives. He married April 22.

## 00s

**Staci (Wigley) Dawson** '00, B.S. criminal justice, is a case manager for Southern Maryland Community Network in Prince Frederick, Md. She and her husband, Larry, live in California, Md.

**Sumer (Kattawar) Inman** '00, B.B.A. management information systems, is an internal audit manager for W-H Energy Services in Houston and lives in Cypress.

**Gina (Hodges) Martin** '00, B.S., '02, M.S. theatre, taught for five years before deciding to home-school her children, Franklin and Xander. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, A.J., who graduated from the fire-training academy in 2003.

**Terry L. Rioux** '00, M.A. history, evacuated from her home in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina hit. She relocated to Beaumont, where she is now a lecturer at Lamar.

**Gary Calcote** '01, B.B.A. management information systems, is an underwriter for Kemper Auto and Home in Dallas and lives in Richardson with his wife,

Adrienne and son, Garrison. He also has two sons, Cameron and Kendall, who live in Port Arthur.

**William M. Curl** '01, B.A. history, graduated in 2005 from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary with a master's degree in divinity and is associate minister at First Baptist Church in McKinney, where he lives.

**Sairam V. Eddanapudi** '01, M.S. civil engineering, is a staff engineer for Professional Service Industries in Shreveport, La., where he lives.

**Korey P. Kimball** '01, B.B.A. finance, is special projects manager for The Bayou Companies LLC in New Iberia, La., where he lives.

**Mohammad Abu Nasir** '01, M.S. civil engineering, is project manager for Kimley-Horn and Associates in Miami Beach, Fla., where he lives with his wife, Sadia.

**Shannon Richter** '01, B.B.A. accounting, is a special agent with the Internal Revenue Service. She lives in Fort Worth.

**Tammy (Smith) Robles** '01, B.S. criminal justice, is a senior officer for the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Devans, Mass. She lives there with her husband, who is a nurse manager and the primary hostage negotiator for the Federal Bureau of Prisons Regional Team.

**Mary (Fisher) Williams** '02, M.E. secondary education, teaches ninth- and tenth-grade English Language Arts in Kodiak, Alaska, where she lives with her husband, Kevin.

**Tammy L. Humphrey** '02, B.S. computer science, is a gold technical support specialist for Dell, Inc. in Round Rock. He lives in Austin with his wife, **L'Oreal (Goodwin)** '97, A.A.S. nursing.

**Dottie (McIntyre) LeBlanc** '02, B.S. communication, is a respiratory sales specialist for Adams Respiratory Therapeutics and lives in Spanish Fort, Ala. She married her husband, Matthew, in November 2005 and was recently nominated for a trainer position inside the company, which is based in New Jersey.

**Richard W. Murphy** '02, B.S. geology, is a geologist for Acme Brick Company in Denton, where he lives with his wife, **Shana (Evans)** '99, B.S. interdisciplinary studies.

**Andrea (Clawson) Rogers** '02, B.S. communication, is executive assistant to the director of sales and marketing of Grand

## Watercolors capture complexity

Watercolor paintings by Mary Welborn '70, B.F.A. graphic design, were featured in *Mary Welborn: New Botanicals*, on display Feb. 25-April 22 at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin. "The watercolor series is designed to heighten awareness of the value of native flora and the role it plays in our complex ecosystems," Welborn says. She lives and has her studio in the Hill Country town of Burnet. A lifelong painter, Welborn has attained management status at some of the top advertising agencies in the U.S. Her work is included in prestigious corporate, governmental and private collections, including The Smithsonian Institution and U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., and the Jack Brooks Federal Courthouse in Beaumont.



Hyatt DFW in Dallas. She lives in Euless with her husband, **Daric** '05, B.S. communication, who is an animal control officer for Bedford.

**Mary Shockley** '02, M.Ed. counseling and development, teaches at Eastlake High School in Sammamish, Wash., and has started her own Equine Assisted Therapy practice. She lives in Gold Bar, Wash.

**Leena L. Waghmare** '02, M.E. electrical engineering, is an assistant manager for Iflex Solutions and lives in Mumbai, India.

**Ryan R. Byrne** '03, B.B.A. marketing, was promoted to corporate marketing manager for the Frisco Rough Riders Texas League baseball team in August. He lives in Frisco.

**Marjorie C. Christian** '03, B.B.A. management information systems, is a sales counselor for Coventry Homes and lives in Houston.

**Lindsay Feagin** '03, B.B.A. general business, is season sales account representative for the Houston Rockets and lives in Houston.

**Christy (Wright) Justice** '03, B.S. nursing, is a registered nurse at Methodist Hospital in Houston and lives in Missouri City with her husband, Richard.

**Nicole (Madden) Lewis** '03, B.S. chemical engineering, is a process engineer for Lyondell Chemical Co. in Pasadena. She lives in Liberty with her husband, **Jacob** '03, B.S. psychology, who is a teacher for the Cleveland school district.

**Mary (Pittman) Russell** '03, B.S. communication, is an office coordinator for Ajilon Professional Staffing in Austin. She lives there with her husband, **Philip** '00, B.A. management information systems, who is a group operations manager for

Enterprise Rent A Car. The couple was married in November 2005.

**Justin C. Sanchez** '03, B.S. sociology, is development coordinator for the Resource Center of Dallas, where he lives.

**Tara Thomas** '03, B.A. criminal justice, received her police officer's license in 2004 from Angelina Police Academy and is the communications and transport division sergeant at the Nacogdoches County sheriff's office. She began her career as a dispatcher in 2002.

**Nathan Whitman** '03, B.S. geology, is a measurement while drilling (MWD) engineer for Baker Hughes Inteq. He lives in Broussard, La., with his wife, **Adrienne (King)** '02, B.A. history.

**Mauli (Jhaveri) Desai** '04, B.S. computer and information science, is a programmer analyst for West Coast Property Consultants in San Diego, Calif., where she lives with her husband, **Bimal** '01, M.S. computer science. He is a software developer for the Learnsoft Corp. in San Diego.

**Demetria A. Griffin** '04, B.S. criminal justice, is a probation officer for Harris County and lives in Houston.

**Mary Kay Hicks** '04, B.S. criminal justice, is a self-employed flood adjuster for D Hicks Adjusting in Liberty. She worked Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Tammy. She lives in Liberty with her husband, **Darrell**, who is also a flood adjuster.

**Phyllis (Young) Hunter** '04, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a nurse at the Physician's Network Association in Beaumont. She lives there with her husband, **Melvin**. Her daughter, **Monique Grace** '01, B.B.A. management information systems, is human resources director at a retirement community in Houston.

**Joshua L. Leger** '04, B.M. music, is resident director for American Campus Communities in Beaumont, where he lives.

**Vernon D. Myers** '04, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is quality manager for Air Liquide America in La Porte and lives in Baytown with his wife, Deborah.

**Sabrina (Brown) Randle** '04, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, recently published her first book, *Jesus Has a Cousin: You Have to Meet Him*, which explores the life of John the Baptist and the role repentance plays in Christian salvation. Randle is a federal grant reviewer, grant workshop facilitator, screenwriter and author. She and her husband, **Cardell**, live in Orange.

**Don S. Solis** '04, B.B.A. business management, is a management analyst for the city of Houston, where he has lived since June 2005.

**Becky (Vickery) Thomason** '04, B.S. criminal justice, '05, M.S. applied criminology, is an auditor for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Huntsville, where she lives.

**Jeremy P. Tomlin** '04, B.S. political science, is a primary care representative for King Pharmaceuticals in McAllen, where he lives.

**Sumeer Chopra** '05, B.S. chemical engineering, is a process engineer for Ineos Olefins USA in Alvin. He lives in Manvel with his wife, **Wendy**, who is senior operations engineer for Lyondell Equistar.

**Laura (Ellis) Inglish** '05, B.M. music. She and **Chadd** married in January. They live in Houston.

**Magon (Hardin) Loring** '05, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, has begun graduate school in business and teacher certification classes. She lives in

## We will miss...

Beaumont with her husband, Aaron, who is assistant general manager at Books-A-Million in Parkdale Mall.

**Jason K. Lynch** '05, B.B.A. marketing, works construction for Trinity Industries and lives in Dallas.

**Natasha Rone** '05, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches fifth-grade TAKS at C.O. Wilson Middle School in Nederland, where she lives.

**Peter E. Skarp** '05, M.S. deaf education and deaf studies, is an elementary teacher at the Maryland School for the Deaf in Columbia, Md., and lives in Woodbine.

**Rosa M. Thomas** '05, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, retired as a personnel generalist for the city of Beaumont. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Connie.



In her role as honors advisor for Texas Woman's University's Honors Scholar Program, Beth Yelverton '04, B.B.A. marketing, took a recent study trip with program students to Greece, visiting Rome and Athens and stopping for a breather at the amphitheater ruins in Delphi. Yelverton advises students on their degree plans and teaches University 1011, a freshman orientation and preparatory class. In between her work with the program and ballroom dancing classes, she plans to begin pursuit of an M.B.A. this fall. She lives in Lewisville.

## Alumni

**A.O. Willey Jr.** '48, A.A. general studies, died Jan. 4, 2006. A Beaumont native and World War II Navy veteran, he retired as an electrical consultant for DuPont Construction after a 44-year career. Survivors include his wife, Charlene, and sons, Van and Mark.

**Stephen J. Rosenthal** '55, B.S. mechanical engineering, died Dec. 19, 2005. He served the Navy in the South Pacific during World War II and was project manager at Carter Burgess. He lived in Fort Worth, where he was a member of the Beth-El Congregation. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy, and daughter, Cynthia Hodgkins.

**Thomas P. Gould** '59, B.S. geology, died Oct. 15, 2005. He retired as supervisor of the Utilities Dept. at Georgia Pacific Papermill in Monticello, Miss., after more than 40 years in the industry. He enjoyed collecting and repairing antique clocks and doted on his grandchildren, teaching them to fish and hunt. Survivors include his wife, Peggy; daughters, Melissa, Kathryn and Rebecca; and five grandchildren.

**Theresa (Bertin) Michaelides** '60, B.S. biology, died Jan. 11, 2006. She attended the Charity Hospital School of Nursing in New Orleans, La., and pursued graduate studies at the University of Georgia. She lived in Groves. Survivors include her daughter, Ariadne Fitzgerald.

**Mike W. Ford** '61, B.S. chemistry, died Jan. 12, 2006. Born in Abbingdon, Pa., he lived in Silsbee and was the owner of V&M Catering. Survivors include his wife, Raelene; son, Janaka; and daughter, Katherine Kauzlarich.

**Annie (McCauley) Wilson** '61, certif. vocational nursing, died Jan. 14, 2006. She retired as a licensed vocational nurse and lived in Lumberton. Survivors include her daughter, Rebecca Kittell.

**Dorothy (Stauts) Hybarger** '63, B.S. elementary education, died Dec. 30, 2005. Born in Waco, she lived in Houston and loved to dance, white-

water raft and hot-air balloon. Survivors include her son, Charles, and daughters, Nancy Lidett '68, B.S. elementary education, and Dianne Suddeth '64, B.S. elementary education.

**Marie (Boudreaux) Chapman** '65, B.S. elementary education, died Dec. 29, 2005. She lived in Kirbyville and taught in the school district for 18 years. Survivors include her husband, Donald '77, B.S. mechanical engineering; sons, Wiley and Ronald Chapman '77, B.S. civil engineering; and daughter, Beverly Hall '71, B.S. elementary education, M.Ed. supervision.

**John B. Cole** '65, B.A. economics, B.B.A. general business, died Dec. 23, 2005. He lived in Beaumont and owned Insurance Concepts. Survivors include his wife, Lynn.

**Robert L. Jancik** '65, B.S. graphic design, died Dec. 23, 2005. He was an All-America football player at Lamar and went on to be a Houston Oilers defensive back. He was a graduate of the Houston Police Academy No. 37 and retired as a detective sergeant. Survivors include his wife, Judith; daughters, Selaura Evans and Connie Whitlock; son, Lewis; and two grandchildren.

**James A. Talbot** '66, B.B.A. general business, died Dec. 22, 2005. He was a board member of Amarillo Community Federal Credit Union; served as president of Potter-Randall Child Protective Services, where he helped start the jury duty funding program; and was president of the board of directors for Goodwill Industries. Survivors include his wife, Leah; mother, Mary; son, Jay; and daughters, Becky Miller and Toni Talbot.

**Cherrie (Looney) Byerly** '67, B.S. graphic design, died Jan. 13, 2006. She lived in Baytown and was director of traditional advertising for Gordon's Jewelers. Survivors include her daughter, Sunnie Klauss, who lives in Houston.

**Marion (Starr) Robison** '68, B.S. home economics, died Jan. 2, 2006. She was a retired teacher for YES College Preparatory School and lived

in Pasadena. Survivors include her daughter, Leigh Anne.

**Edna (Kirskey) Cole** '69, certif. vocational nursing, died Jan. 1, 2006. She lived in Beaumont and was a nurse for more than 30 years. Survivors include her husband, Eddie, and sons, Rodney and Roy.

**Thomas B. Case** '70, A.A.S. drafting technology, died Jan. 13, 2006. He served the Air Force and the Air Force Reserves for 10 years, achieving the rank of staff sergeant. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. He retired from Texaco. Survivors include his wife, Patricia, and daughters, Leslie Case and Suzanne Little.

**Florence (Harney) Hunter** '70, B.A. English, '72, M.A. English, died Dec. 20, 2005. Born in Boston, Mass., she was a 55-year-old undergraduate and graduated magna cum laude. She began teaching English at age 59 at Charlton-Pollard High School and then at Beaumont-CP High School until she retired at age 70. She wrote and published three books and shorter historical works and edited a church newsletter after her retirement. Survivors include her daughter, Nancy Miles and grandsons, Wyman and Raymond Miles.

**Rebecca (Moore) Lucas** '71, B.S. secondary education, '88, M.Ed. school administration, died Dec. 4, 2005. A retired teacher, she was a member of Oak Knoll Baptist Church in Fort Worth, where she lived. She was active in choir and music ministry, was a Sunday School director, and participated in mission work. Survivors include her husband, Thomas; her mother, Betty Moore; daughters, Wendy Castille and Jamie Hinson; and three grandchildren.

**Melanie (Webster) Robbins** '73, B.B.A. marketing, died Dec. 11, 2005. She was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Groves and served as president of Man-URep LP and as co-owner with her husband. She was also an artist, painting, sewing and designing decorative items for the home. She lived in Dayton. Survivors include her husband, David; son, Christopher;

daughters, Lindsay and Lauren; sister, Robin Franklin; and parents, Dolores and W.O. Webster.

**Melvin Rivers** '74, A.A.S. refrigerator and air conditioning technology, died Jan. 5, 2006. He served with the Army during the Korean Conflict as a postal clerk and was a retired gas tester for ARCO Oil and Gas Co. He lived in Silsbee and was a member of Woodrow Baptist Church, where he served as deacon. Survivors include his wife, Josephine.

**Douglas S. Barranger** '77, B.S. speech, died Dec. 27, 2005. A 23-year clergyman, he lived in Dearborn, Mich., and was a senior minister for First Presbyterian Church. He earned his master's degree in divinity from Princeton University and a doctorate in systematic theology from King's College in Aberdeen, Scotland. He was an avid golfer. Survivors include his wife, Donna and their son, Nathan.

**Ronnie L. Pitre** '77, A.A.S. industrial electronics technology, died Dec. 19, 2005. He lived in Beaumont. Survivors include his wife, Debra, and daughters, Danielle and DeRonda.

**Bonnie (Wilson) Downing** '79, B.S. elementary education, died Jan. 3, 2006. She was retired, was a member of the Woodland Baptist Church in Beaumont and worked in the church library. Born in Woodville, she lived in Beaumont. Survivors include her husband, Joseph, and sons, Richard, Joseph and Larry.

**Clarence Jackson** '80, M.Ed. school administration, died Feb. 22, 2006. He was chairman of the board of directors of Beaumont Area Educators Federal Credit Union for 13 years and lived in Beaumont. He was a retired administrator and teacher with the Beaumont school district.

**Leslie C. Broussard** '95, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, died Dec. 2, 2005. She began her career in service at local nursing homes. Survivors include her children, Christopher Lloyd and Tausha Marie Sias; mother, JoAnn Broussard; and sister, Monice Folarin.

**Aaron M. Goodman** '00, B.S. political science, died Feb. 23, 2006. A life-long resident of Vidor, he was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity and Save Our Sons. Survivors include his parents, Randy and Anita Goodman, and sister, Megan Goodman.

## Faculty, Staff and Friends

**Richmond O. Bennett**, retired professor of accounting, died Dec. 13, 2005. He served as a naval pilot and instructor in World War II. In 1957, he was one of the first 10 people to earn an accounting doctorate from the University of Texas. He was controller of the budget staff at General Dynamics Corp. in Fort Worth before his Lamar tenure. Survivors include his son, Richmond, and daughter, Vicki Lynn Timmons.

**Don L. Coleman**, who was a charter board member of Friends of the Arts, died Dec. 23, 2005. Born in Boston, Mass., he served in the Coast Guard and as a sergeant in the Army in Japan after the Japanese surrender in World War II. He graduated from the University of Alabama. He lived in Beaumont and retired from Crawford and Co. after a 35-year career as an insurance adjuster. Survivors include his wife, Celia; son, Alan; daughter, Michelle Stone; and five grandchildren.

**Vernon Glass** died Dec. 3, 2005. He was Lamar's football coach from 1963 to 1975, when he posted a career record of 63-68-1 and guided the Cardinals to four Southland Conference Championships, as well as the Pecan Bowl. Glass's best season at Lamar was in 1974 when the Cardinals posted an 8-2 record. He was named SLC Coach of the Year in 1970 and 1974. He began his coaching career at Del Mar Junior College in 1956 and was an assistant coach at Baylor from 1960-62 before succeeding J.B. Higgins at Lamar in 1963.

**Thelma Vinson Harlow**, 101, of Groves, died April 1, 2006. Born in Vinson, Okla., she graduated from the Simpson School of Nursing and practiced in the San Antonio area for several years until she married Lt. Marvin Harlow, and the couple

moved to Port Arthur in 1929. Her daughter, Lila, and son-in-law, Hunter Henry, established the Thelma Harlow Scholarship in Nursing in 1994. Survivors include her daughter, Lila Henry of San Marcos; sons, Marvin Harlow Jr. of Los Alamos, New Mexico, and Robert (Kayo) of Port Neches; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

**Alec L. Matheson**, professor of mathematics, died April 5, 2006. A native of Aberdeen, Wash., and a resident of Beaumont for more than 20 years, he was a U.S. Army veteran, having served in the Vietnam War, where he was awarded a Vietnam Campaign Medal, a Vietnam Service Medal and Bronze Star. He published more than 30 research papers and assisted with many others. He earned his bachelor's degree in 1968 from the University of Washington and his doctoral degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1976. Survivors include his sister, Marcia Lafferty, and brothers, Bruce, Leigh and Scott.

**Tom Mulvaney**, former instructor of family law at Lamar University, died Nov. 20, 2005. He earned his law degree from Bates College of Law. He began his legal career as an assistant district attorney for Jefferson County. In 1998, he was elected Judge of the 279th State District Court, where he served until the time of his death. He was past president of the Jefferson County Bar Association. Survivors include his wife of 21 years, Toni; son, Daniel; and daughters, Katy and Erin.

**Charles A. Partin**, retired professor of economics, died Jan. 3, 2006. He attended the University of Chicago and earned a doctorate from the University of Texas. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and chaired the economics department from 1966 to 1983. He lived in Beaumont.

**Robert B. Satterfield**, retired professor of U.S. history, died Dec. 13, 2005. Born in Blackwater, Va., he served in the Army during World War II and was awarded a Purple Heart and

Silver Star. He graduated from Vanderbilt University and earned his doctorate in American history from John Hopkins University. He lived in Beaumont and worked for Lamar from 1963 to 1989. Survivors include his wife, Jane; son, Robert; and daughters, Deborah Nixon and Janice Smith '76, B.B.A. accounting.

**William H. Stanley**, retired professor of education, died Nov. 14, 2005. He served as principal in Dublin, Eastland, Killeen and Dallas before becoming dean of instruction at El Centro Junior College. He received a post-doctoral scholarship from the Kellogg Foundation to UCLA and became assistant superintendent for Alamo Heights school district in San Antonio before accepting a position at Lamar. Survivors include his son, Bill; daughters, Cathy Berger and Leslie Stevens; and two grandsons.

**Frank M. Tiller** died Jan 3, 2006. He directed the development of engineering at Lamar State College of Technology and became the first dean of the College of Engineering. In 1955, he moved to the University of Houston to spend more than 45 years in teaching, research and international affairs. Survivors include his daughter, Fay Bryan; son, Richard Tiller; and two grandchildren.

**Raymond D. Williamson**, former instructor of police training at the Lamar University Regional Police Academy, died Nov. 30, 2005. One-time captain of the Beaumont Police Department, served in numerous elected positions in police employee organizations and received the Combined Law Enforcement Officers Associations of Texas' Ludwig Braud Memorial Award for Dedication, Loyalty and Personal Sacrifice on behalf of the Police Labor Movement. He retired in 1985. Survivors include his wife of 44 years, Laverne; sons, Raymond and Lonnie; daughters, Angie Fontenot, Denise Shandy; and 10 grandchildren.

## CURIOUS, CLEVER CHEMISTRY

Wayne Rabalais  
guides new forensic  
chemistry program

by Brian Sattler

**Wanted: Curious, clever thinkers for demanding new major in forensic chemistry. Or, so could read the classified for one of Lamar University's newest majors. In many ways, Wayne Rabalais is the catalyst for developing the new bachelor of science degree program at Lamar.**

Several members of Lamar's chemistry faculty were already toying with the idea before Rabalais joined the university in 2004 as distinguished professor of chemistry after 28 years on the faculty at the University of Houston. He, too, had considered forensic chemistry a good fit for Lamar's faculty and the needs of the region and the state.

"Forensic training will help alleviate the shortage of trained forensic experts in Texas and surrounding states," he said. With more than 103 years of teaching and research experience, Lamar's chemistry faculty was up to the challenge. The faculty involved includes a physical chemist, a biochemist-molecular biologist, an inorganic-analytical chemist, an organic chemist-microbiologist and a criminal jurist.

Rabalais' hire proved the means to get the project moving. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the major in early 2005. The first upper-division courses in the major will be taught in fall 2007, but the faculty is hard at work acquiring equipment, supplies and additional expertise to create a program of excellence.

Already, two new lecture and laboratory courses are being developed, one an introduction to forensic science and the other a very rigorous forensic

chemistry course that emphasizes the latest problem-based learning methods and new analytical microscopy techniques. The curriculum focuses on evaluation and interpretation of forensic evidence, chemistry laboratory and instrumental analysis, and crime scene management, Rabalais said.

The demanding 127-hour curriculum combines numerous chemistry, biology and criminal justice courses. Approved by the National Forensics Association, it is modeled after a highly successful program at West Virginia University, Rabalais said.

"We have seen a lot of interest," Rabalais said. Interest will develop further, he believes, as the university actively promotes the new major. To build interest, the department plans teacher workshops and a one-week summer "forensics camp," offering simple experiments similar to those used in law enforcement with the goal of inspiring students in sixth to eighth grades to pursue careers in the field.

Rabalais anticipates acceptance into the program will become competitive as laboratory space limits the major to about 25 students. That will drive up the quality of students entering the program, and that's a good thing, he said. "It's not as easy as CSI."

"Our goal is to train students to be accomplished scientists and investigators," he said. "Our program is designed to help students become curious investigators who are skillful in assembling data and results into a coherent solution to a problem."

Lamar will train forensic students in the application of modern instrumentation, techniques and methods, as well as ethical behavior. In addition to tried-and-true forensic techniques, Lamar's researchers will seek to develop new forensic laboratory techniques and experiments that employ such cutting-edge technology as atomic force microscopy (AFM), Fourier transform infrared microscopy, and attenuated total reflectance microscopy.

Lamar's Quesant Qscope AFM is capable of charting the sur-

**"Our goal is to train students to be accomplished scientists and investigators."**

— WAYNE RABALAIS

face of an object down to 10 angstroms — small enough to recognize the presence of individual atoms or molecules on virtually any surface. "We're talking about analyzing a single line of a fingerprint, or just a part of that line," Rabalais said. The technique opens up yet-un-thought-of-possibilities in forensics, he said.

The next room in the suite houses the department's Fourier transform infrared microscope that is able to identify molecular structures through their vibration frequencies. Though it lacks the atomic-level precision of the AFM, at 1-micron resolution, the tool adds new depth to analysis when the two are used in concert. The third piece in Rabalais' analytical orchestra is the attenuated total reflectance microscope that uses infrared radiation to analyze opaque or thick materials.

The trio of instruments is a good beginning, but Rabalais intends to build further capability into the program. Already, the faculty has drafted a proposal to the National Science Foundation that would provide funding for the purchase of additional cutting-edge scientific equipment, incidentals and supplies.

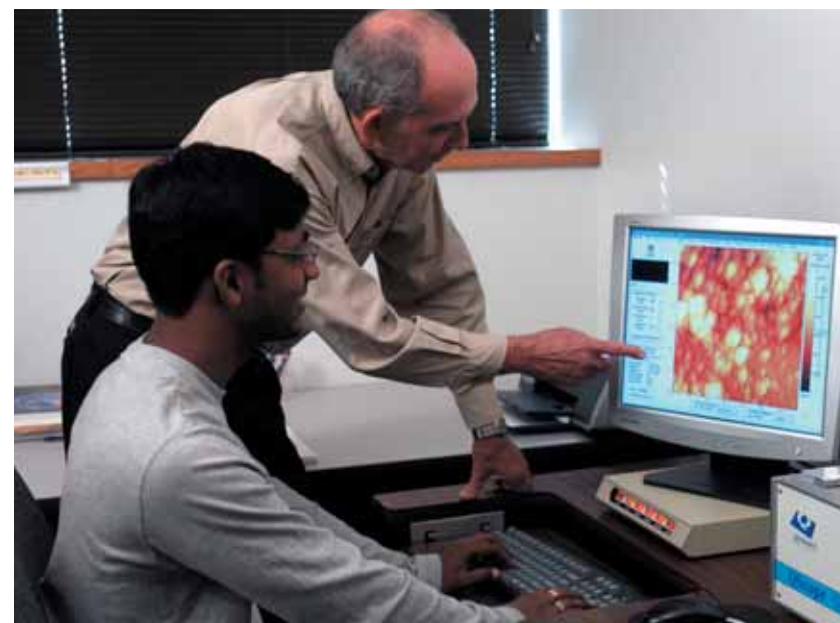
To tap into experience in the field, Lamar's chemistry faculty is creating a network of external advisors and contacts to provide students with numerous employment opportunities upon graduation. For seniors, practical experience can be gained through internships. The local Jefferson County Crime Laboratory has agreed to sponsor internships, Rabalais said.

Rabalais, who holds a Ph.D. from Louisiana State University and was a NATO postdoctoral fellow at the University of Upsalla, Sweden, describes Lamar's chemistry faculty as "very eager, smart and capable."

"You don't want to let that enthusiasm down," he said. "You want to keep it high and keep it going." Helping younger faculty build their own legacies of success is the goal, and mentoring by older, more experienced faculty in the development of grants and proposals is vital. Rabalais, who credits his success in part to good mentoring by senior faculty in his early career, has attracted more than \$9 million in external support for his research, holds several patents and is a frequent contributor to industry in a variety of fields.

When you don't find Rabalais guiding a grant proposal or extracting knowledge from the minutest bit of matter, you likely find him astride one of the quarter horses he and his wife, Becky, own. "I'm basically a country boy who likes being outside and likes horses," Rabalais said of his Cajun roots and upbringing in central Louisiana. That temperament factored into his decision to leave behind big-city congestion for Lumberton and a little peace and quiet.

With a new home amid the pines, a stocked fish pond and a few acres for equestrian pursuits, Rabalais enjoys spending time with his 11-year-old granddaughter, whose growing horse sensibilities are just as strong as her grandfather's.



## An artful legacy

Joseph Carlucci, Lynne Lokensgard, Alexis McCarthy and Frank Gerrietts, from left. McCarthy is director of the Beaumont Art League, which hosted the auction and reception.



a retired Lamar music professor and conductor emeritus of the Symphony of Southeast Texas, the couple turned her two-car garage into a studio. It turned out to be a treasure trove.

As fellow painter Frank Gerrietts '69 cleaned out the studio, he found more than 300 pieces, stored in crates, portfolios and plastic bags. The original works ranged from traditional to abstract and included oils, acrylics,

The art of Peggy Wilson '85 is leaving an enduring legacy for Southeast Texas art lovers and Lamar students.

Wilson was an award-winning artist, held in high esteem, widely exhibited and universally admired. Lamar art history professor Lynne Lokensgard compares some of her works to those of Claude Monet and Mark Rothko, contrasting in their style and subject matter. "She worked in the Impressionist style, in abstract. So many of her works stand out," Lokensgard said.

But only after the artist's death in November 2005 did the artistic community realize the full extent of her life's work.

In 1994, when Wilson married Joseph Carlucci,

watercolors, etchings and prints.

"We had no idea of the diversity of her work, how prolific she was," Gerrietts said.

Her family decided to auction the art to benefit the Beaumont Art League and help establish a scholarship in Wilson's memory for Lamar art students. The memorial auction and reception was Jan. 21.

Contributions may be sent to the Peggy Wilson Scholarship, Lamar University Foundation, P.O. Box 11500, Beaumont, Texas 77710.

Wilson received an

art degree in 1948, then, years after moving to Beaumont, earned a second degree, in studio art, at Lamar. "She never stopped her pursuit of knowledge," Lokensgard said. "She always wanted to master something new."

**"She never stopped her pursuit of knowledge, she always wanted to master something new."**

— LYNNE LOKENSGARD

## Dance diva



Baayork Lee, an award-winning Broadway director, choreographer, dancer and author, presented a lecture and master dance class Feb. 24 and 25 at Lamar.

Lee is best known for originating the role of Connie in Broadway's longest-running musical, *A Chorus Line*. She will choreograph the revival of *A Chorus Line* opening on Broadway in September.

During her Lamar visit, Lee signed copies of her book *On the Line: The Creation of a Chorus Line*, with proceeds supporting HIV/AIDS education.

"Bringing someone with Baayork Lee's professional experience and stature to Lamar was a wonderful opportunity for our students," says Harriet Lihs, associate professor of dance. Lihs didn't have to work too hard to convince Lee to visit Lamar. She and Lee were friends and classmates at New York's High School of Performing Arts.



## Film fest sets stage for fall

Organizers of the Spindletop/Lamar University Film Festival have rescheduled the festival from April to November 10-12.

"By moving our festival to November, we will be at the beginning of the film festival season rather than the end," said festival advisor O'Brien Stanley. "Spindletop is known for our emphasis on the professional development of young filmmakers, so we hope this new time slot will make our event more accessible."

The festival gives fledgling filmmakers the opportunity to meet Hollywood insiders and professionals involved in all aspects of filmmaking, from directing to music composition.

The deadline for submission to the film competition portion of the festival is May 31. Submission guidelines are available by calling (409) 880-7222 or visiting [www.spinfest.org](http://www.spinfest.org).

## ArtsNotes

Works by New York artist **Paul Manes** '72, '82, who grew up in Beaumont, will be on exhibit through July 16 at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas. *Paul Manes: The Big Big Picture Show* is Manes' first solo exhibit in Beaumont since 1992. Since growing up in Beaumont, where, he says, he learned to love art, Manes has become a much-admired artist, exhibiting in galleries and museums from Milan to Houston . . . **Michael Rathbun**, an artist known for capturing big ideas with big sculptures, discussed his work in a lecture Feb. 16 in the Dishman Art Museum. Many of Rathbun's wood installations are so massive they are entitled only by their longitudinal and latitudinal coordinates. Critics have likened experiencing his boat-like pieces as simultaneously invoking a great sense of lifelong voyage and pinpointing one's place in the universe. Rathbun teaches art at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Ore. . . . **Leonard Shlain**, a physician, self-taught scholar and best-selling author, discussed his theory that great revolutions in science parallel great leaps in artistic expression during a lecture March 7 at the Dishman Art Museum. Shlain is the author of *Art and Physics: Parallel Visions in Space, Time and Light*, published in 1991 and now used as a textbook in art schools and universities. Its best-seller status has catapulted Shlain onto the lecture circuit. A laparoscopic surgeon, he is chairman of his department at California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco . . . Paintings by art department chair **Donna Meeks** and 22 of her students were on display March 11-31 at the Beaumont Art League. The exhibit, *22 plus 1 = Paint*, showcased work of graduate and undergraduate art students in styles ranging from abstract to representational . . . Big-band favorites from 1930 to the present were on the program Feb. 3 when the Lamar Jazz Band went on the road for a concert at St. John's Episcopal Church in Silsbee. **Wayne Dyess**, Lamar's director of jazz studies, hosted a discussion before the concert, then conducted the band in a performance designed to spark interest in America's quintessential art form . . . Lamar's Wind Ensemble paid homage to composers Gustav Holst and Alfred Reed and civil rights activist Rosa Parks at a concert Feb. 9 at First United Methodist Church. The concert, whose theme was *Tributes*, closed with *A Movement for Rosa*, a musical biography of Parks' life tied together with a refrain of the melody of *We Shall Overcome*. Parks' recent death and the observance of Black History Month made this a fitting finale, said **Bradley Kent**, director of bands . . . The Lamar Dance Company presented a program ranging from classical ballet and folk dance to modern and hip hop at its spring concert March 28 in the Jefferson Theatre. **Lou Arrington**, instructor of dance, directed the performance, choreographed by faculty members and dance students.



Debra Greschner charms the audience at the *Lamarissimo!* faculty artists concert with a romantic medley from the classic *Oklahoma* – perfect entertainment for the Valentine's Day performance.

Jazz legend Bill Holman provides commentary on his compositions and arrangements while serving as guest conductor for the *Lamarissimo!* Jazz Band concert. Holman is an award-winning musician, conductor, composer and arranger who has influenced the history of jazz for more than half a century. Lamar alumnus Gary Weldon '74, on trumpet, flugelhorn and harmonica, and veteran saxman Bob Thomas were guest artists.



Members of the Lamar Brass Quintet kick up their heels during a lively rendition of favorites from *Chicago* at the Feb. 14 faculty artists concert. From left are faculty artists Robert Culbertson, Wayne Dyess, Russ Schultz and Raul Ornelas and Amber Martell, a student from Dayton.

Members of the Lamar Jazz Band's saxophone section set the stage for swing at the *Lamarissimo!* concert March 7 in the Jefferson Theatre. From left are Robert Hallam of Jasper; Kara Phillips, Vidor; Monica Schmidt, Nederland; Jona Gilchrist, Little Cypress-Mauriceville; and George Gidley, Stafford.



## Coming home

Professor R.S. "Sam" Gwynn and Jeanne Emmons



Poet Jeanne Emmons -68 proved you can come home again. On the Lamar campus, where her father, Winfred S. Emmons Jr.,



taught English more than 30 years and less than two blocks from her childhood home, Emmons inspired and challenged a capacity audience as she read from her work.

A display of memorabilia stood in front of the lectern: Dr Emmons in his campus office, a Buddha from his collection, the cap from academic regalia he gave his daughter when he retired and a program

"Fantasia," which he and his wife, Ethel Mae, saw on their wedding day in 1942. She read poems from her latest collection, *Baseball Nights* and *DDT*, published in 2005, many of them about growing up in Southeast Texas or elegies to her father, who died in 2000.

The collection, said poet Phil Hey, "contains the best series of poems about a father that I have ever read." Her third collection, *The Glove of the World*, is forthcoming.

Emmons teaches English at Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, Iowa, and edits the *Briar Cliff Review*.

Her father's talents, she noted, were not limited to the classroom: He built a boat, for example, as well as a beach house. "He was uncompromising," she said. "He was a hero and a dragon to me."

## Out of the shadows

Thomas Reid '93, '02, adjunct instructor of history, has published the first contemporary history of the 13th Texas Cavalry and its role in defeating Union attacks aimed at Texas.

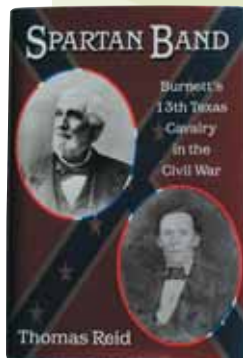
In *Spartan Band: Burnett's 13th Texas Cavalry in the Civil War*, Reid traces the history of the unit, drawn from 11 counties in East Texas.

"The hard-marching, hard-fighting soldiers of the 13th Texas Cavalry helped make Walker's Greyhound Division famous, and their story comes to life through Thomas Reid's exhaustive research and entertaining writing style," said Terry

L. Jones, author of *Lee's Tigers*. "This book should serve as a model for Civil War regimental histories."

Reid researched letters, diaries and oral history gleaned from more than 100 descendants of the soldiers.

The Walter Prescott Webb Society awarded Reid first prize for historical research in 1992. Formerly an employee of the Department of the Army, he served six years on active duty and 16 in the Army Reserve. He lives in Woodville.



## Latin-American perspective

In the spring of 2003, Catalina Castillon '94 attended a graduate seminar on Latin America and globalization at the University of Houston. The seminar attracted doctoral students and professors from Europe, Latin America and the United States. From that interaction, an idea for a book was born.

The book, *Estudios Culturales y Cuestiones Globales: Latinoamerica en la coyuntura transnacional*, is about cultural studies and globalization, with a focus on Latin America. The book is in Spanish and has been distributed in several Latin-American countries and the U.S.

Castillon, instructor of English and modern languages at Lamar, co-edited the book with Cristian Santibanez and Marc Zimmerman, an internationally known scholar of cultural studies.

"We try to respond to Western ideas from a Latin American perspective and give answers to modern questions," she said, "considering the social, economic, political and technological implications of a fast-changing 21st-century world."



CATALINA CASTILLON

## cadences



Delta Zetas Mary Miller Gilbert '70 and Paula Tate O'Neal '69, '79, both facing.

"It was the best of time . . . it was the worst of times . . ." No, it's not a novel, but it best describes my remembrances of my time at Lamar State College of Technology, a.k.a. Lamar University.

It was the mid/late '60s—the dark ages for many current students at Lamar—and I remember walking across campus (at that time a vacant field) returning from the library (now home to the School of Business) to Gentry Hall, the sorority dorm, (now part of LIT). It was dark . . . the only light came from the refinery across Port Arthur Road (now Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway . . . nothing stays the same . . .) and it was cold. The tears were flowing down my cheeks. I felt so alone. My parents had moved from Beaumont, my fiancée was serving in Vietnam, and school was hard. Second-year German was killing me.

But ahead of me was "my goal." Gentry Hall A Wing, the Delta Zeta wing, was rapidly getting closer. I knew that once I stepped into that door I would be warmed by the smells, sounds and sights that would greet me—sisters . . . as an only child, the only ones I would ever have. They would be there to welcome me, cheer me and love me. No

matter how difficult it was to live with 40 to 50 other females—I was the dorm counselor, and that made matters even worse— they were family to me . . . always there when I needed them.

As I think about those days, so many memories flood through my old and weary brain. The fondest I would like to share. It was on one of those cold and weary days right before the Christmas holidays (Our semester did not end until January. We had to come back from the holidays and face finals! Boo!!) Remember . . . my fiancée was in Vietnam. Late one night, the telephone rang in the office (no after-hours calls came into our rooms, and we had no cell phones . . . times have changed!) I ran to answer the phone, and it was my fiancée calling from California . . . he had gotten leave and was headed home. Others in the dorm had heard the call and had spread the word. When I came out of the office, there stood all my sorority sisters in the p.j.s, curlers and whatever else with lighted candles singing "I'll Be Home for Christmas!" I will never forget.

And I will never forget "the best of times/the worst of times." So many memories, so many friendships, so many wonderful experiences . . . Thank you, Lamar, and all my wonderful sisters!



Paula O'Neal '69, '79  
Then: Political science major  
Now: Director, Some Other Place,  
an ecumenical mission

# Gates Millennium Scholars tap LU as top college choice

Three Lamar University engineering students are among an elite group who hold the title of Gates Millennium Scholars. The award, which includes a full scholarship, is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and is given to only 1,000 students annually in the United States.

The college juniors are Nikita Brown, a graduate of Ozen High School; Wil-Johneen Ardoin, a valedictorian of the Eagle Academy; and Kerry Mike, a graduate of Houston's Northshore High School. Brown and Mike are studying electrical engineering, while Ardoin is studying civil engineering.

"I feel very lucky," Brown said. "It's not many people who can say they are Gates Millennium Scholars."

The Gates Foundation established the scholarship in 1999 to provide minority students an opportunity to complete an undergraduate college education. The three attended a leadership training conference in California funded through the scholarship.

"It was a great experience," Brown said. "It prepared me for college."

Brown said Lamar University was always her top choice. She was looking for a college that offered small class sizes and a good student-to-teacher ratio. Brown said she found that at Lamar.

Mike considered attending Howard and Morehouse, both historically African-American universities. A Lamar recruiter

visited his high school, and he later attended an open house at Lamar. He was hooked when he learned about the school's outstanding engineering programs, he said.

Ardoin was attracted by Lamar's engineering programs and its location. "My family is here and my church home is here. Lamar was my first choice."

Professors take time to get to know their students and make them feel at ease, she said. "When they see you in the hall, they call you by name."

Brown, a member of the National Society of Black

Engineers and the Black Student Association, said her mother, Margaret Brown, earned her business degree from Lamar. Her father, Joseph, is an electrician at an Orange refinery. Since her youth, she has been interested in electricity and decided on electrical engineering as a major.

Mike, a fullback on his high school football team for four years, focused on athletics until a teacher got him interested in computers. "I went from jock to dot – from football player to computer geek," he said.

Ardoin is a member of the Society of Women Engineers, the National Society of Black Engineers, the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the National Honor Society.

The 2003 high school graduates had to complete an extensive application to be considered for program. The application included several essay questions and required them to submit letters of recommendation.

Brown was unsure how her application would stack up. "The Bill Gates scholarship is so big. I thought my chance of getting it was slim to none."

Mike said he didn't "sugar coat" his responses. "I was very surprised. I didn't think I was going to get it."

Ardoin, whose father, Wilbert Ardoin, is the pastor of Word of Faith Full Gospel Church

International in Beaumont, said she was overwhelmed when she was named a



NIKITA BROWN

WIL-JOHNEN ARDOIN



KERRY MIKE

**"I feel very lucky, It's not many people who can say they are Gates Millennium Scholars."**

— NIKITA BROWN

Gates Scholar.

"My mom and I opened the letter together. We both started to cry," Ardoin said.

— CC