$5 million Umphrey gift sends center skyward

Tweed talks Texan Diners dish
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. 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 36 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
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 U.L. 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 $627,000 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 H. Ling-wel Chu and Tao H. on K of the industrial engineering department and Jerry L.in civil engineering.

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.

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 H. 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.

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 Reed, Jennifer Daniel and Valentin Andreescu, is focusing on finding new theoretical models for the upcoming generation of computers. The late Alec Matheson was group leader.

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Texas Academy hosts Pulitzer Prize winner

Newman Eric Niewhouw spoke with students of the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities recently. Niewhouw, 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 Niewhouw and Franz Wright, and educators such as Rabbi Edward Ronin in Jerusalem.

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. This competition, hosted by Texas A&M-Kingsville Oct. 14, involved 15 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 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.

Hunt continues executive series

Clayton Lau III ’69, president of Houston Dynamic 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 2000, 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.

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.

“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.

“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.

Indian students celebrate Republic Day

Being half a world away from home can make saying connected with ones 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 holding the colors of India for the day, then shared 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.

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 AIBC News, appearing monthly on “Good Morning America” and a segment of “World News Tonight” called “Freakonomics Friday.”

ExxonMobil enhances engineering

ExxonMobil Corp. awarded $11,000 in grants to four engineering departments at Lamar as part of its national program that gives 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 civil engineering, $2,000 to electrical engineering and $1,000 to mechanical 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.
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 one should ever cease to learn. It is bookshelves reflected that philosophy and, his wife, Leah Greenberg, has not only preserved 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 hisUndewood typewriter, turntable and speakers to the library.

“The collection includes books on composition, literature, history, books and reading, poetry, Greek drama, Judaism and religion, travel, cookbook, mathematics, biography and wit and humor, among other genres. Many of the books, especially the first editions that include Alice’s Wanderland, William Cathe, a Mirror, and Bedtime’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 Caxton with Ban Azpil, a 1930 edition of Cyrano de Bergerac, a 1925 edition of Mr. Dallaway by Virginia Woolf and a 1949 edition of Proust in the Wildness: 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.

Bonnie Sallets, Larry Ball, Barry Ball and Brenda Wishnawi wanted to honor their parents’ strong desire for their children to receive a college education. Bernice and Harry Ball grew up in a time when such opportunity was rare, but each of their four children graduated from Lamar in different disciplines and for 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,” Bernice Ball said.

They established the Bernice and Harry Ball 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.”

Six students of Marion W. and E.G. Edson, Jr. have established the Marion W. and E.G. Edson, Jr. Memorial Scholarship in Music. An artist and musician, Marion 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 Huntean Corp.,serves Jefferson County operation, attributes a solid career beginning to his mentor Dean Jack Hooper 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.

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 laugh, smile 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.

The collection includes books on composition, literature, history, books and reading, poetry, Greek drama, Judaism and religion, travel, cookbook, mathematics, biography and wit and humor, among other genres. Many of the books, especially the first editions that include Alice’s Wanderland, William Cathe, a Mirror, and Bedtime’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 Caxton with Ban Azpil, a 1930 edition of Cyrano de Bergerac, a 1925 edition of Mr. Dallaway by Virginia Woolf and a 1949 edition of Proust in the Wildness: 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.

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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, Texas. “Coming from New Hampshire to Kingsville, it was culture shock,” he said. After his military tour, Scott returned to Keen, N.H., to attend school on the GI Bill, he said, and worked his way through as a radio personality for... During his stint in radio, Scott worked with some of the best. “I actually worked for old Gordon Baxter,” he said, and... Scott earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration at Lamar University, rather than Lamar Tech. At age 23, he was working a full-time radio job while taking classes. After graduation, Scott started school at Lamar the first year it was known as Lamar University. In 1970, he met Zady, and started a family. After years of living around the state and giving him a love of Texas. 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.

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. Study in interviews ended up in the book, with a foreword 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.”

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.

“What is Texas?” The idea was sparked several years ago when he was at the dinner table with his wife, Zady, and his son, Tyler. “I talked to old pioneers, and even an old tanker-truck driver. That was one of the greatest joys of this book.”

The 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. He 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.”

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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).”

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. Texans has personality, and, in a way, it’s still its own country. For many people, we are Texans first,” Scott said. And Texas natives 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 will be on sale. The book has been selected the Alamo's Book of the Month.

“Tweed Scott

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

—I BELIEVE TEXANS ARE BORN WITH AN EXTRA GENE. I BELIEVE THERE IS A T CHROMOSOME.”
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... students load up for the next study round, and off-campus groupies can choose a power lunch without blowing a lot of cash.

**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 plates lunch cravings. The grill flips classic burgers and fries. Fajitas size at the Mexican station, while stir-frys and to mein get the high-five. The sweet variety of deserts sate the choice cake-and-brownie crowd. And weekend brunch begins with omelettes and kid-friendly choices, eggs your way, muffins and French toast and progresses to classic burgers and dogs with Tex-Mex twist along the way.

**DÉCOR**
- With cool interior and soaring ceilings, the “airy, bistro” atmosphere beckons. From traditional table and chair, to banquet 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.

**SURVEY SAYS**

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 prices right and the portions are up to you... can't get better than that.”

Tommy Vance
Owner, Vernon Consulting & Public Relations

“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... students load up for the next study round, and off-campus groupies can choose a power lunch without blowing a lot of cash.”

Dr. Joseph Carlucci
Conductor emeritus of the Symphony of Southeast Texas and retired professor of music

“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 meant to know you could. There's not a rigid line to get into and that gives you a slightly 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, psychically and distantly. I’ve never had so many needs satisfied in one place.”

Letha Hensley
Sophomore, political science, Houston

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

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 an amalgamated 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

“Their fare is very good and they have a great variety of food. I like it very much.”

Kelly M. Smith
Vice President, Capitol One Bank

“Chef Ricardo Saldana...”

Cardinal Dining Hall

by Cynthia Hicks

CARDINAL CADENCE | March - May 2006

CARDINAL CADENCE | March - May 2006
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.

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, football, 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.”

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 students who 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.
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 remnants 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) 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 Councilwomen 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 Armes, from left in foreground, and Barbi Otto, administrative assistant in the mayor’s office, dine with Stephen Golden, president 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, City Councilwoman Bobbie Armes, Mayor Pro Tem Assistant Samuel 30 and Councilwoman Bobbie’s advisor, Patricia ’94. The Lamar Brass Quintet provided music for the City Hall celebration.

(E) Brynn Centers, a sophomore from New Orleans, serves up strawberries covered with chocolate to Shaquita Green, a freshman from Houston, during Food Fest 2006. Students held the event to raise money for Rotaract, a student community service organization 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 ’80 and Councilwomen Bobbie (Jackson) Patterson ’76 and Charmaine (Doblin) Hippolite 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.

(M) Thomas Felix shoots a slam dunk in the Cardinal Homecoming match-up against Northeastern Louisiana. Despite an 89-79 loss, the Cards advanced to the Southland Conference tournament.

(N) Cardinal Alan Daniels fouls off a Northeastern Lion’s defensive move in Homecoming hoops action March 3.

(O) Members of Lamar’s honors Student Association saw red when professor Donna Birdwell, director of the honors program, made good on her promise she would dye her hair red and reup it if the association won the spirit award at the Homecoming basketball game. With her in spring association president Stephanie Palay, in a running repair from Angleton, who repeats: “Dr. Birdwell told me later she thought it was a ‘pretty safe bet.’ She was wrong.”

(P) Lamar University crowned Julie Wenah of Houston as its 2006 Homecoming queen on the Montagne Center court during halftime. The Shelbysville High School graduate was nominated by the Pharmacology International League of Students and serves as president of the organization. Her king, Geny Vincentia of Cameron, an Oak Ridge High School graduate, was nominated by the Christian fraternity of Gamma Phi Delta. Both students are seniors at Lamar.
Alpha Tau Omega brothers Richard Carlock ‘74, David Gadzuric ‘75 and Bud Messori ‘73 met for the Greek Alumni Reunion Tailgate Party at the Montagne Center.

Charlie Alberto ‘76, gathers with friends Terry Aronov, Floyd Lueckey ‘77 and Sun Follese ‘72 joined other Beaumont area alumni for the Red, White and You Kickoff Field ‘27 at Poblanos Grill in Beaumont, beginning the week-long Homecoming celebration.


Phi Delta Theta reminisce and make new memories: from left, Keith Henke ‘91, Tanya Cavness, Rodney Cavness, Dan Kroesch ‘90 and Kemp Newman ‘90.


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.

The Red, White & You Prize Patrol visited the homecoming kickoff reception: an impressive contingent of LU alumni showed their pride at the Montagne Center.

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

The Prize Patrol found alumni ready for their closeup at Entre Computer Center in Beaumont.

Alumni at the Port of Beaumont welcome the Prize Patrol.

Seventy-sixers enjoy tasty cuisine in Lamar’s new dining hall during the Class of 1956 Reunion Luncheon, Colleen McDonald Marks ’56, Ann Borden Jones ‘56, Al Henderson ‘56, Jerry Jones ‘56 and Bobby Marks ‘56.

Alumni at the Port of Beaumont welcome the Prize Patrol.

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

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Alumni at the Port of Beaumont welcome the Prize Patrol.

Celebration on the Quadrangle. Under Mirabeau’s gaze, alumni dance to the beat of Homecoming 2006.

Alpha Delta Pi sisters from near and far gathered for Reunion.
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, mockingbirds and the occasional armadillo ... there’s plenty to see on this windshield tour of Star Canyon Ranch, a piece of Central Texas paradise.

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

“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.”

“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.’”

“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 volunteer and community volunteer. Many organizations have become the fortunate focus of her volunteer efforts.”
Bill also travels frequently to New York to serve on the board of MITRE Corp., a company with leading-edge programs in motion control systems for aerospace, flow control systems in industrial applications, and values for nuclear submarines, aircraft carriers, the nuclear power generation industry as well as petrochemical and other processing industries. The company’s customer focus is advanced metal treatment, laser peening, which uses a high-energy laser to induce residual compressive stresses, and nanotechnology, a major hurdle in the development of materials for advanced components.

Bill also holds his master’s degree in landscape architecture from Harvard University. His planter’s palette includes native plants such as mountain laurel and Nolina Texana, as well as scores of more commonly used landscaping plants. “I love working with plants and is very creative,” Mary said.

Curtiss-Wright did about $1.2 billion in terms of sales last year,” Bill said.

The Mitchells’ previous home was xericaped - landscaping that conserves water and protects the environment – and the new landscape is no different. "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." 

"I have worked all over the U.S. with people with degrees from MITRE Corp., and the Royal Crown Cola Co.,” said Robson. “I guess that’s what led me to 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&M University. He moved 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.

Over the next three years, he was steadily promoted from Cabell’s management from Texas A&I University. Lipton promoted him to unit sales manager in 1979, and he moved to Charlotte, then to Dallas, then to Birmingham. Robson was soon recruited by The Southland Corp. to be general manager of Oak Farms Dairy in Houston.

Robson is the 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 35,000 Wisconsin dairy farms flow more than 22 billion pounds of milk, making the dairy market the largest segment of the state economy.

In a nation where per-capita annual cheese consumption is projected to grow from 33 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 we do in 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."

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 and field and with a social outlet. “We could party with the best of them, but we were also successful in sports and other Greek activities.”

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.”

"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.”

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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.”

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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 were downed. Potential sample trees, primarily pines, but also oak and other species, soon covered more than two acres of Collier Ferry Park in north Beaumont.

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 rigor, 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 bear 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.”

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 its importance, but it drives home the importance in gauging climate change and it points out something Southeast Texans understand — the climate with plentiful rainfall, warm weather and mild winters is ideal for growing things.

It is this growth, or rather regrowth, 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, with representatives of the National Park Service, has set aside several plots in the Big Thicket Forest for 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 to monitor the location of plots over decades. “This kind of study lets us address a lot of theory on species composition and diversity and the trajectory those species take over 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.
Steve Roccaforte ’99, 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. Cardinal 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.”

— BILLY TUBBS

“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 Telko, Roccaforte is one of the 25 hardest-working coaches in the nation as well as one of the top 15 recruiters in the country.

“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 (Ohio State, 333; Temple, 156 and Lamar 132). 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.

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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 Cardinal basketball coach in March 2003 while continuing as the director of athletics.

In 31 years of coaching, Tubbs compiled an admirable 643-340 (.653) career record, including a 121-89 record in seven years at Lamar. He guided 13 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 (Ohio State, 333; Temple, 156 and Lamar 132). 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 Southland Conference Tournament before losing to top-seeded Northwestern State in the semifinals.

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

“New LU coach fulfills lifelong hoops dream

by Daucy Crizer

Tubbs didn’t have to look far and didn’t waste any time in announcing his replacement. Cardinal Assistant Coach Steve Roccaforte was essentially hand-picked by Tubbs three years earlier to become the Cardinals’ next basketball coach.

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March - May 2006
CARDINAL CADENCE
28

Children under age five will be admitted free.
Current Lamar students with valid ID cards and $5 – Youth (Age 5-12).
$7 – General Admission
$9 – Reserved

Single Game
$8 – Youth (Age 5-12)
$14 – General Admission

Single Day Passes
All-Session Pass
$20 – General Admission Youth (Age 5-12)
$30 – General Admission All-Session Pass
$40 – Reserved All-Session Pass

Nilsson is the second-straight freshman to capture the individual
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.”

Vincent-Beck Stadium
“I hit a rough spot around the 11th and 12th holes where I went 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 didn’t realize until around the 16th or 17th hole that I had a 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.

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 win-
ning the distance medley, and posting impressive finishes in the 5,000-meter run.
The DMR team of Jacqueline John, Adrianne Johnson, Clerc Koenck and Amanda King scooted 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, finish-
ing in 17:13.43, while freshman Stacey Monteau and senior Natasha Williams finished in fifth and sixth place.

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ing the distance medley, and posting impressive finishes in the 5,000-meter run.

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.

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Caught in a riot, reporters no longer a “dispassionate observer”

By Mary Sanchez

Journalists tout themselves as dispassionate observers – seasoned professionals uniquely able to chronicled society’s triumphs and ills. Try that posture during a riot.

Clyde H. 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. Nine Ne Za-Zis angered because their march was canceled, andagitiated citizens throwing rocks. “It’s a situation like that, it’s tough to remain the reporter,” Huges 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. “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. I was something close to an officer of law that they could pick up on until it was too late. They figured, ‘Well, call off the march and police will go home,’ but what they found was a large group of people who found a new area in the force that was protecting the Nazis,” Huges 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 back’ was tremendous. It was something that was going on. It was the turning point in our society,” Hughes said. “I really felt proud to be a Blade reporter that day.”

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.

Fawer 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 Ne Za-Za riot, but it was too late.

Eventually, more than 220 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 feel proud to be a Blade reporter that day.”

Class Notes

50s

Ben A. Appleby, ’60, B.S. geology, 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. John E. Corrent, ’67, B.S. management, is a retired sales manager for Weyerhaeuser Co. and lives in Pottsboro.

Edward R. Streetman, ’70, B.B.A. marketing, was recently elected to serve on the State Bar of Texas. He serves on the board of directors for the Texas Bar Foundation, and is a past national treasurer.

Tim Heckler, ’70, B.S. government, was recently elected to serve on the State Bar of Texas. He serves on the board of directors for the Texas Bar Foundation, and is a past national treasurer.

Don Hannegan, ’73, B.S. accounting, recently retired and now lives in Sugar Land. He is still active in the tennis world as a top coach and director, as well as being a professional tennis coach.

Charles A. Barrow, ’71, B.S. government, is a administrative assistant for the Country Club of Virginia. He is also active in the tennis world as a top coach and director, as well as being a professional tennis coach.

90s

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

Visit us online at:
CardinalCaden.com
Email: classnotes@cardinalcadence.com
(419) 822-0257

50s

Beaumont Enterprise

neutenant, managing editor and sports editor and a reporter at the University Press 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 Memorial near Flagstaff, Ariz. He lives in Austin, Fla., with his wife, Melinda (Thornton) ’79, a B.S. medical technology, who is retired.

Diane (Nelson) Mason, ’80, B.S. elementary education, lives in Rome, N.Y., with her husband, James, 77, B.S. government. She earned an M.Ed. from the University of Texas at Tyler and is a part-time instructor in kindergarten. She is also active in the tennis world as a top coach and director, as well as being a professional tennis coach.

Patricia (Winfield) Fertitta, ’80, B.S. management, is retired sales manager for VESCO Paper Co. and lives in Portola Valley. She is also active in the tennis world as a top coach and director, as well as being a professional tennis coach.

Charles H. Danley, ’84, B.S. mechanical engineering, is retired from Lockheed Martin and lives in Fort Worth with his wife, Blanche.

Robert J. (Mouton) (Mouton) ’55, cert. secretarial science, is retired and an artist who works in colored pencil, oil and acrylic. He lives in Goodyear, Ariz., with his wife, Charla.”

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March - May 2006

**CARDINAL CADENCE**

32, manager for Groth Corp. in Stafford. He and his wife, Renée, live in The Woodlands. ’75, B.A. government, is sales manager for Brinkman & Company in Jonesboro, Ark. ’74, B.A. accounting, is controller for the Bank of South Carolina in Charleston, S.C.

**Michael A. Colie**

’64, B.A. government, tenure is now almost triple the average 7.2-years a city manager spends in one town. The city’s new $23 million West Planorecreation 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 Dyar said. *If we had not had turnover, Plano may not have turned out as well as it has. It’s a unique thing to have anyone the city manager stay for so long and accomplish so much.*

Muehlenbeck’s guide Planos during its remarkable growth, keeping stability and setting a high standards for the staffs conduct, ethics and quality. Dyar said.

**Plano City Manager Tom Muehlenbeck ’64, B.A. political science, tenure is now almost triple the average 7.2-years a city manager spends in one town.**

**$23 million facility named for Muehlenbeck**

The City of Plano recently dedicated its new West Planorecreation center, named in honor of Plano City Manager Tom Muehlenbeck ’64, B.A. political science, the city’s manager for 22 years. The $23 million facility will provide a variety of recreation and community programs for Plano residents.

**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 focus 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 the 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 1976 and served on Gov. Mark White’s Texas Technology Initiative 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 Samsung, which resulted in the South Korean chip maker’s decision to build a second plant in Austin.

**Tech leader named Austinite of the Year**

**Mary Elizabeth (Fay) Richter ’65, B.S. elementary education, lives in Plano with her husband, Mark. ’94, B.A. criminal justice, lives in Farmersville.**

*Richard ’62, B.A. English, senior copy editor for the Beaumont Enterprise, was named Counselor of the Year by the Texas School Principals Association as the 2005 Charles Neil Journalism Award winner.*

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Robert Nichols ’68, B.S. industrial engineering, won a four-year 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 Regional Transportation Planning Agency promoted to corporate marketing manager for the Frisco Rough Riders Texas League baseball team in August. He lives in Frisco.

Demetria A. Griffin ’97, B.S. criminal justice, is a case manager coordinator for Families Under Urban and Social Attack in Houston, where she lives. She married in November 2005.

Jennifer (Leonard) Smith ’00, M.A. history, evacuated before Hurricane Katrina and attended and graduated from the University of New Orleans. She is currently employed at the Texas A&M University-Commerce Development Services office, where she lives.

Raghavendra C. Ballal ’99, B.S. biology, ’00, B.A. applied arts and sciences, 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. She lives there with her fiancé, Ryan McNamara. The couple plans an August wedding in La Jolla, Calif.

Keisha L. David ’00, M.A. history, evacuated before Hurricane Katrina and attended and graduated from the University of New Orleans. She is currently employed at the Texas A&M University-Commerce Development Services office, where she lives.

Korey P. Kimball ’93, B.S. psychology, is a case manager for Southern Maryland Community Network in Prince Frederick, Md. She and her husband, Larry, live in Orange.

Monique D. Talbot ’03, B.S. nursing, graduated from the University of New Orleans in 2005 and is currently employed at the University of New Orleans. She is currently employed at the Texas A&M University-Commerce Development Services office, where she lives.
We will miss...
degree program at Lamar. new bachelor of science catalyst for developing the newest majors. In many of Lamar University’s 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 curricu- lum 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 success- ful 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 compatible 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 skilled in assem- biling data and results into a coherent solution to a problem.”

Lamar will train forensic students in the application of mod- ern 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- face of an object down to 10 angstroms — small enough to recog- nize the presence of individual atoms or molecules on virtually any surface. “We’re talking about analyzing a single line of a finger- print, 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 propos- al to the National Science Foundation that would provide funding for the pur- chase of additional cutting-edge scientific equipment, individuals 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 gradu- ation. 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 Upsala, 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 mon- itoring 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 $19 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 eliciting knowledge from the minutest bit of matter, you likely find him astride one of the quarter horses he and his wife, Bev, raise. “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 sensi- bilities are just as strong as her grandfather’s.
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, a retired Lamar music professor and conductor emeritus of the Symphony of Southeast Texas, the couple turned their two-car garage into a studio. It turned out to be a treasure trove. As fellow painter Frank Gariotti 169 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, watercolors, etchings and prints. “We had no idea of the diversity of her work, how prolific she was,” Gariotti 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.”

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One of the 300 works found in Wilson’s garage was a nude portrait of IBM co-founder Thomas J. Watson, Sr., painted by Paul Manes. A retired IBM executive, Manes is known for capitalizing his fortune to support the arts. He has been a frequent guest artist at Lamar, where he conducted the Symphony of Southeast Texas last spring.

On the Line: The Creation of a Chorus Line

During her Lamar visit, Lee signed copies of her book “A Chorus Line” – coming off the Broadway stage for the first time in 2001 – and hosted a lecture and master dance class Feb. 24 and 25 at Lamar. The event was part of Lamarissimo! Month, a celebration of the performing and visual arts at Lamar. The month-long celebration is sponsored by the Lamar Arts Council and the Division of University Advancement.

Lee, a physician, self-taught scholar and best-selling author, discussed her theory that great revolutions in science parallel great leaps in artistic expression during a discussion before the concert, then conducted the band in a performance designed to spark interest in America’s history, culture and civil rights activist Rosa Parks at a concert Feb. 9 at First United Methodist Church. The concert, whose theme was “We Shall Overcome” and tied the artist’s life together with a refrain of the melody of “We Shall Overcome,” was the last in the 17th Annual Lamarissimo! organization’s Music and the Arts series.

The festival gives fledgling filmmakers the opportunity to meet Hollywood insiders and professionals involved in all aspects of film-making, 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.

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“Fantasia,” which he and his wife, Ethel Miao, 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 deities to her father, who died in 2000.

The collection, said poet Phil Huy, “contains the best series of poems about a father that I have ever read.” Her third collection, *Theward of the Wind*, is forthcoming.

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

His father’s talents, she noted, were not limited to the classroom. He built a boat, for example, as well as a beach house.

“I 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 histories gleaned from more than 100 descants 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

CATALINA CASTILLON

Professor R.S. “Sam” Gwynn

March - May 2006

CARDINAL CADENCE
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 Orange 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 Gates Scholar.

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