Now is the time to invest in Lamar, invest in our students, invest in the future of Southeast Texas…

Trip of a lifetime

Elisabeth Maxwell spent a life-changing summer in South Africa as Lamar University’s David J. Beck Fellow for 2011. The junior biology major from Beaumont worked for almost three months as an intern with the South African Shark Conservancy in Hermanus, South Africa.

One of the highlights of Maxwell’s summer project was cage-diving with great white sharks. On her blog, she described the creatures as “magnificent! It was one of the best 20 minutes of my life!” She also snorkled to catch small pajama sharks and puffadder shysharks and designed her own research project to explore the effects of magnetic fields on demersal sharks, working closely with scientists at the South African National Space Agency Magnetic Observatory nearby.

“I learned how to take what I already know and utilize it in a practical sense,” Maxwell said. “There were so many different things that I got to experience. It wasn’t just on a research level or an academic level but getting to know the culture itself.”

Maxwell expects the experience to prove invaluable as she works toward her goal of obtaining a doctoral degree and pursuing a career as a marine biologist. The opportunity would not have been possible for her without the David J. Beck Fellowship. Lamar University’s most prestigious undergraduate award, the fellowship provides a full academic scholarship covering all tuition, fees, books and on-campus room and board for one year along with up to $10,000 for a summer project of the student’s choosing. The program was made possible by a generous gift to LU’s Investing in the Future Campaign by distinguished alumnus David J. Beck ’61, founding partner of a premier Houston-based law firm.

Maxwell credits the fellowship with providing more than just financial assistance. “The support I received from people here at Lamar gave me the incentive and confidence to apply for an international internship, knowing I had that support made me feel comfortable to say, ‘I can do this.’”—BG
With Cardinal Pride,

has more than 4,000 graduates. The new entrepreneurship lecture series by Michael Weinert, creation of a state-of-the-art financial center on campus through a gift from Craig and Judy Fecl, and a wonderful gift from Charline and Robin Dauphin to benefit athletics at Lamar. These gifts, and so many more, are making a real difference in the life of the university.

2011 has been another great year. While the $15 million cut in state appropriations has brought significant challenges, we remain focused on our core missions of education and research. We are seeing successes, not only in enrollment, which set another all-time record at Lamar this fall, but also in student accomplishment, research and scholarship.

To further enrollment growth and to improve student success, we created a Strategic Enrollment Management division to better serve students from the time they begin considering Lamar as their college choice to the time they receive their diplomas. Already this group is making changes that streamline our services and improve our responsiveness to students’ needs.

This fall, Harley Myler, chair of the Phillip M. Drayer Department of Electrical Engineering, unveiled the university’s first-ever licensing agreement with a commercial company to market and sell a patent-pending device. We are looking forward to many more partnerships in the future.

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Legacy Society

Learn about the planned giving options that are right for you by visiting the Lamar University Foundation link at advancement.lamar.edu.

Planned gifts are a terrific tool through which Lamar University alumni and friends can provide a lasting benefit to LU students, and they can offer donors stable and tax-saving estate planning options. There is a potentially bewildering array of planned giving options available. Deciding what is best can be a real challenge, especially in the shifting sea of rules and regulations. To help you, and your financial advisor, in planning your estate, LU has partnered with the Sharpe Group of Memphis, Tenn., to provide up-to-date information on the web, making the latest guidance accessible as tax laws are anticipated to change in 2013. You can find this information online by visiting advancement.lamar.edu and following the Lamar University Foundation link.

For more information about planned giving options, please contact Floyd McSpadden, Director of Planned Giving, at (409) 880-8422 or floyd.mcspadden@lamar.edu.

Legacy Society Roster

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Aldredge
Mr. David J. Beck
Ms. Joan E. Brenizer*
Mrs. Beatrice R. Buller*
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis E. Carl
Dr. Joseph B. Carlucci
Mr. Morris S. Cloninger*
Dr. Jane and Mr. Horace Davidson
Dr. Irving O. Dawson*
Mr. and Mrs. George A. Dishman, Jr.
Mr. Keith Dorman
Mr. and Mrs. Phil Drayer
Mr. and Mrs. Milton J. Dunnam
Mr. and Mrs. Byron F. Dyer, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Flaherty
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Frank
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Frank
Dr. and Mrs. Jack M. Gill
Mr. Rex Goode*
Mrs. Ruth K. Goode*
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Mr. Wilbur A. Hebert*
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Dr. and Mrs. James L. Thomas
Dr. R. Blaine Thomas*
Mr. Harry L. Thompson*
Mrs. Pirocka B. Tubbs*
Mr. Homer L. Wallis*
Mr. Michael G. Weinert
Mrs. Sue S. Weisenfelder
Mr. and Mrs. Rudy C. Williams

* Deceased
PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The MAINE E. GORDON PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN NURSING was established by her daughter and son-in-law, Barbara and Alan McNeill. Maine served as a volunteer at Baptist Hospital for 30 years, assisting and understanding the important work of the nurses employed there. She loved to sing in her church choir and at community events and received voice lessons from Lamar University Alumna in private law practice in her hometown. Anna Lee McNeill, who earned her B.S. in education from Lamar in 1968, taught elementary school in Texas and is a member of the United Methodist Church.

Joseph Baj served as faculty in the mathematics department at Lamar for 33 years, including as faculty advisor to Pi Mu Epsilon mathematics honor society and the mathematics club.

Sohelia and John Smith, who worked together in Sohelia’s firm in Beaumont. Sohelia manages the daily operations of the business while Sina designs structures, bringing dynamic, high-profile entrepreneurs to campus to lecture in entrepreneurship and to reach their true potential. Weinert has served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army and U.S. Coast Guard for more than 30 years.

Through provisions in her will, Sharon (Smith) McCall ’83 will establish the SHARON K. MCCABE SCHOLARSHIP IN ARTS, an endowment that will support the arts and culture on the Lamar campus.

For more information about endowment fund opportunities, contact the Lamar University Foundation at (409) 880-2117.
My Dream

After I graduated from high school in Port Arthur, I went to welding school at night and worked as a welder during the day to save money for college. After eight months, I scoured full-time at Tyler Junior College, but the money didn’t stretch as far as I had hoped. After two semesters, I came back home to work as a welder while going to school part time at Lamar State College–Port Arthur. Eventually, I changed my goal from becoming a certified welding inspector to using my knack for business. I completed my associate’s degree in Port Arthur and then transferred to Lamar University.

With the encouragement of Ann Watkins, chair of the Department of Accounting and Business Law, I decided to major in accounting. But I still needed money to pay for college and started a new job as a corrections officer. In my first fall semester at Lamar University, I had what I called 25-hour Fridays. I would go to class all morning, grab a quick lunch in the dining hall, then go by my dorm room to change into my uniform to report for work. Near the end of my eight-hour shift, I usually get notice that I had to work eight hours of overtime. I got back to my dorm room about 3:30 a.m. on Saturdays.

Thanks to two Lamar University scholarships and an on-campus job, I was able to give up my corrections officer job in Spring 2011 and focus on my studies. I'm so grateful to the people who have made contributions to help me not just financially but personally. These scholarships feel like a reward for my past hard work and have given me incentive to continue to make good grades and achieve my dreams.

I spent the summer in a paid internship at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Houston working with a wonderful mentor and Lamar University graduate Todd Hoffman. I’ve signed a contract to work there full time after completing my bachelor’s and master’s degrees here at Lamar.

My accomplishments feel like a partnership with the people who are willing to give to help students like me. It’s inspired me to want to give back to someone else when I become a successful professional.

I hope you find Fred's story as inspiring as I have. Like so many of our students, he has incredible dedication and passion to pursue his dreams, but getting there requires financial support to cover the cost of higher education.

The alumni and friends of Lamar University share in Fred’s achievement. For many students, our help provides resources without which their journey would be significantly prolonged or, in some cases, simply impossible. Their journey to graduation—and to a lifetime of achievements—as made possible by your generosity.

With your help, deserving students have access to scholarships and nationally recognized academic programs. Your gift affords them access to an outstanding university education where they learn from exceptional faculty members and build a firm foundation for a lifetime of success.

Your thoughtful support is needed more than ever as we face the challenges brought about by deep cuts in state funding. We are committed to careful use of every dollar and dedicated to delivering the highest possible quality in instruction and service for our students. Your support will help keep the dream alive for the next generation of Lamar students.

While it only takes a few moments of your time, your contributions will make a lifetime difference for students like Fred.

Thank you for helping make dreams come true.

With Cardinal Pride,

James M. Simmons, President

P.S. Please send your gift today or visit our website for more information, lamarcadence.advancement@lamar.edu, to make your gift online, while it is on your mind. Your gift, whatever the size, will help our students today and in the future.

Lamar University Advancement
Box 10011
Beaumont, TX 77710
(409) 880-8422
Forever fan and friend

by Beth Gallapny

C harline Dauphin is living proof that the Lamar University community goes beyond its employees, students and alumni. With a $2 million gift to Lamar’s Investing in the Future comprehensive campaign, the Dauphin family showed that support for Lamar University is strong even among Southeast Texans who did not attend the university. The Silsbee family’s gift brought the campaign total to $88 million when it was announced.

Lamar University President James Simmons dedicated the Dauphin Athletic Complex on campus during Homecoming Week to recognize the gift from Charline and Robin Dauphin and in memory of Sidney “Chief” Dauphin.

“When I became president, I said the whole theme of my presidency is ‘Building Strength Through Community.’ This is a great example of that strength,” Simmons said at the dedication ceremony. “We’ve gathered to commemorate a wonderful gift from someone who did not go to Lamar University but lives in this community. That makes it very special to us.”

Charline Dauphin, who attended the dedication with her daughter Robin Dauphin, said she loves her association with Lamar and her friendships with Simmons and head football Coach Ray Woodard.

“I think the support Lamar is getting is just phenomenal now. I didn’t know it at the time, but I was looking for some mentoring. He took an interest in not just sports, but in everything from dental hygiene to how you dressed,” Windham said. “He was an important figure at that time in town.”

Windham remembers being impressed with Charline even then. “She was quite a lady for rural Silsbee. She stood out. She always dressed nice and looked nice, and Chief was very much a man and a gentleman. They made quite an impressive couple.”

Lamar Chief moved from coaching to starting a business with Charline. The progression seemed natural, in Windham’s opinion, because coaching and business utilize so many of the same skills—organization, strategic thinking, making and following a game plan.

The Dauphins’ business, Texas Home Health, proved a financial success and allowed them to help countless families care for their loved ones at home. Charline had recognized the need for such a business when a family member needed in-home healthcare. When she sold the business after Chief’s death, it had more than 12,000 employees and more than 80 offices across Texas.

In addition to contributing to Lamar University, the Dauphin family has generously supported charities to help those touched by cancer, including the Charline and Sidney “Chief” Dauphin Cancer Screening and Prevention Center in Beaumont. Charline Dauphin also has worked with the Julie Rogers “Gift of Life” Program and served on the Board of Visitors for MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

This latest gift to Lamar University came as no surprise to those who know the family’s generous spirit.

“I think Chief would be exceptionally proud of Charline. She has always been so generous with the community in various endeavors, including health care, athletics and education,” Windham said. “I was not surprised but as always very impressed with how she conducts herself and what she does for the community.”

Any gift to Lamar University is appreciated, Woodard said, “but the thing that makes this very special to me is that it’s coming from a dear friend of mine and my family’s.”

The Dauphin Athletic Complex plays an important role in the success of all LU athletics programs by providing everything student athletes need to be successful both on and off the field. The state-of-the-art facility opened in August 2010 in preparation for the return of football. It serves as the southern anchor for a group of signature Lamar University venues that includes the Morgan Suites in the Moon Tagrove Center and Provost Umphrey Stadium with W.S. “Bud” Leonard Field and the Dan E. and Sandra A. Smith Press Box. A $4,000-square-foot gem, the Dauphin Athletic Complex features a stunning atrium that sets the tone for the modern facilities, which include a sports medicine facility for treating and preventing injuries, players’ lounges, academic center, strength and conditioning center, locker rooms for LU Football and visiting teams, meeting rooms and an auditorium. Football recruits and visitors alike have been awed since touring the complex with Junior Athletics Director Matt Warthen.

“The dedication of the Dauphin Athletic Complex, the Dauphin name will forever be associated with Lamar University,” President James Simmons said. “What a wonderful legacy for a family that has given so much to this community.”
In this issue...

Inspiriting the spirit of entrepreneurship
Business alumnus Michael Weinert endows lecture series

Michael Weinert '07, '09, is passionate about the role that individual potential plays in America's economic system and is putting that belief into action by creating new opportunities for business students at Lamar University. Thanks to his generosity, future students will be inspired to create new enterprises. Weinert, who holds two graduate degrees from Lamar, established The Michael G. Weinert Entrepreneurship Lecture Series Endowment to provide funds to bring dynamic, high-profile entrepreneurs to the university for lectures in entrepreneurship. “His gift is a recognition of his passion and how we can foster it at Lamar University,” said Henry Venta, dean of the College of Business.

A decorated military officer with more than three decades of service in the U.S. Army and U.S. Coast Guard, Weinert has logged more than 2,200 flight hours in several types of helicopters and holds a commercial instrument-rotor-wing license. In his civilian career, he holds real estate sales and brokers’ licenses and is licensed by the National Association of Securities Dealers.

Weinert created the endowment “to inspire LU students to embrace the spirit of entrepreneurship and to reach their true potential in life” with an initial gift of $200,000 and a commitment to bring the total endowment to $500,000. The dean will use the proceeds generated by the endowment to bring nationally recognized speakers to campus.

A sixth-generation Texas, Weinert, the son of career Army officer Col. Charles Weinert, lived throughout the United States and abroad during his formative years. His mother, Dolores Belton, is a descendant of Samuel and Celia McCrary; settlers of Stephen F. Austin’s colony. She was also the great-great granddaughter of Theodore Lee, who served in the Texas Army at the Battle of San Jacinto.

Weinert graduated with a degree in management from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1979 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Army after completing the Army ROTC program at UTA. Weinert and Army Airborne training. He graduated first in his class from the Transportation Corps Officer Basic Course, then attended and graduated from the Army’s Flight School, the Aircraft Maintenance Officer’s Course and the Maintenance Test Pilot Course for OH-58 Kiowa helicopters. He served with the Army’s Air Cavalry in Korea for one year and then served several years with the 101st Airborne Division at Ft. Campbell, Ky.

After receiving a direct commission in the Coast Guard in 1984, Weinert began flying search and rescue missions from Corpus Christi and later transferred to New Jersey. Initially he flew Sikorsky HH-52 amphibious helicopters, but soon began flying the Coast Guard’s newer Eurocopter HH-65 Dolphin helicopters.

In 1988, Weinert left active duty and returned to the Dallas-Fort Worth area where he worked for the Department of Housing and Urban Development and other employers while continuing to serve in the Coast Guard Reserve in Corpus Christi. In 2000, he began flying helicopters to oil and gas fields in the Gulf of Mexico. One week after the Sept. 11 attacks, he was recalled to active duty by the Coast Guard. He transferred to the Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit in Port Arthur in July 2002 and began attending evening classes at Lamar University.

A dedicated student, Weinert earned a master of public administration from LU in 2007, then continued his education, earning an M.B.A. from Lamar in 2009. While attending Lamar, Weinert was inducted into Phi Kappa Phi national honor society, Beta Gamma Sigma international business honor society and Pi Sigma Alpha national political science honor society.

“Appropriate role models are most important in helping students find their path in life,” Venta said. “Mike’s gift will enable the College of Business to bring to campus outstanding entrepreneurs so that future generations of Lamar University students can truly see the importance that entrepreneurship can play in our economy and in their personal lives.” —BKS
Westgate earns elite honor

by Louise Wood

In recognition of his dedication to the teaching profession and his outstanding academic, scientific and scholarly achievements, Lamar University’s James Westgate joins an elite group of educators as a 2011 Piper Professor.

Westgate, university professor of earth and space sciences, is one of 10 faculty members in Texas to be honored by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation—and the 12th Lamar faculty member to receive the honor since the program began in 1958. President James Simmons presented him with the $5,000 honorarium, certificate of merit and gold commemorative pen that accompany the honor. The Piper Foundation presents the awards annually for superior teaching. Westgate is the first Lamar University faculty member to be so honored since 2004.

From Mount St. Helens, Yellowstone National Park and the Big Bend of Texas to the Chihuahuan Desert and Panama, Westgate has brought learning to life through real-world situations. He is recognized as one of the most prolific science educators in Texas and beyond, said Jim Jordan, chair of the Department of Earth and Space Sciences.

Since 2001, Westgate has served as science advisor and associate director of the JASON Alliance of Southeast Texas, which each year attracts an average of 8,000 fourth- through eighth-graders and 200 science teachers to the Lamar campus.

“He has excelled as a teacher-scholar, researcher and a person of service to his disciplines of geology, paleontology and earth science,” Jordan said. “Among his contributions to science education, he became a teacher of teachers, resulting in more certified teachers in the discipline of earth science than at any other state university.”

“It is a great honor to receive the Piper Professor Award,” Westgate said. “I think one of the most significant aspects of being given the award is that it acknowledges my philosophy about the importance of students learning through doing, whether that means excavating 40 million-year-old fossils in the Utah desert, or canoeing through Neches River cypress swamps. Science is a verb, because it is a process, and it should be taught that way, and not as a list of vocabulary words . . . The other great thing about earning the Piper Professor Award is that it acknowledges the impact and significance of programs like the JASON Project and the Teaching Environmental Science Institute. Just as the best scientific research today happens through collaborative efforts, the same applies to science education—it works best as a team effort.”

In January, for example, a team of meteorologists from the National Weather Service office in Lake Charles, La., built a 6-foot-tall volcano for this year’s JASON Project Operation Tectonic Fury event at LU. “They commuted from Lake Charles to LU for 12 days, so more than 9,100 fourths-through-eighthers could see Mount Jason erupt in the auditorium everyday,” Westgate said.

Westgate has earned the university’s top honors: University Professor in 2008, University Scholar in 2003 and Distinguished Faculty Lecturer in 1999. He is a three-time recipient of Teaching Excellence Awards at Lamar. He has garnered more than $1 million in science education and research grants, which have provided unique learning opportunities for countless students of all ages, Jordan said.

Educators often ask to join him on his geological digs in the summer, said Roseanne Minix-Wilkins, secondary science coordinator at the Region 5 Education Service Center.

“I don’t know of many people who would volunteer to stay in the desert for a couple of weeks digging for fossils.” Minix-Wilkins also points to his work with the JASON Project. “It is because of his tireless efforts and dedication to educate our youth in the area that JASON Southeast Texas has recently been asked to model its training for National Geographic,” she said.

Westgate has taught for 35 years at the college level, 21 of them at Lamar. He earned his bachelor of science in geology in 1975 from the College of William and Mary; master of science in geology in 1978 from the University of Nebraska, master of science in biology in 1983 from Missouri State University and doctor of philosophy in geological sciences in 1988 from the University of Texas.

The Texas Academy of Sciences, which he served as president, honored him in 2008 with its outstanding service award. He is a research fellow in the Vertebrate Paleontology Section of the Texas Natural Science Center at the University of Texas. Except for a two-year hiatus, Westgate has continuously served since 1990 as an officer of the Lamar Chapter of Sigma Xi, The International Scientific Research Society.

“Jim Westgate has made outstanding contributions to science, teaching science and his discipline, earning him state, national and international respect from the scientific community,” Jordan said. “Outside of his discipline, the respect that Jim Westgate has garnered on all levels is directly the result of his own belief in the university and larger communities and his desire to serve those communities. His record of achievement is remarkable, but, moreover, ongoing.”

Dr. Westgate is one university scientist who has so much passion for his science content that he feels the need to help others develop that same understanding and passion . . . It is impossible to be around him and not catch his enthusiasm.

– PATSY MAGEE, pre-K-12 science supervisor, Beaumont school district
Making physics real

by Louise Wood

A child, George Irwin wanted to be a paleontologist when he grew up, and in college he set out to be an electrical engineer. Instead, he became a physicist and educator—much to the benefit of the Lamar University students he has taught and mentored over the past 15 years in the lab and on reduced-gravity aircraft.

The Distinguished Faculty Lecture Series, sponsored by ExxonMobil and hosted by the Lamar Faculty Senate, celebrated its 25th anniversary Nov. 7 with Irwin’s lecture, "Nuclear Education in the Nuclear Age." A Lamar faculty member since 1997, Irwin is an associate professor and interim program director in the Department of Physics, as well as radiation safety officer for the university.

“Nuclear physics is an area of science with great importance in the world today,” Irwin said. “From nuclear weapons aimed at destroying entire cities to nuclear medicine aimed at destroying cancer cells, nuclear physics invokes some of our deepest fears and highest hopes for the future.”

His lecture covered basic concepts of physics, employing show-and-tell, on-stage experiments and humor. Irwin shared more than 28 years of professional experience—from working as a scientist at the Idaho National Laboratory to teaching Lamar students about gamma ray spectroscopy in his physics lab and leading teams of students in NASA’s zero-gravity flight education program.

Dr. Irwin is known as one of Lamar University’s top lecturers,” two previous Distinguished Faculty Lectures—Jim Jordan and Jim Westgate—said in nominating him for the honor. “His professional skills are at their best in the laboratory, where he encourages his students to find answers to scientific questions using hands-on, inquiry-based exploration and learning.”

Jordan is chair and professor, and Westgate is university professor, both of earth and space sciences. Irwin was a "star" in last year’s JASON Project video “infinite potential,” viewed on the Laboratory’s hall that students, faculty members, three instructors and three support-staff members.

“I’ve had a blast during those years,” Irwin said. “For the most part, I’ve enjoyed the support I needed to pursue my career and to pursue my interests.”

One of Irwin’s passions is to take old equipment and make it work. “That’s why you look around my lab and see a lot of old stuff, because we don’t throw anything away. We save everything, it seems, for decades.”

One example is an X-ray machine used for crystal diffraction—an apparatus that is at least 30 years old and probably older. “It has the cutest little X-ray tube,” Irwin said. “I’ve found that this thing as a cabinet, and it didn’t work. It sat for five years. A few years ago, I took it out, messed with a little bit with a student, and, what do you know, it worked.”

He added: “You can still buy the exact same thing—the same model. It’s about a $30,000 item. I took what was mostly junk and repurposed it into functioning equipment.”

A highlight of Irwin’s Lamar career has been joining Jordan in leading teams of students on experiments aboard NASA’s reduced-gravity aircraft, known as the “lightweight wonder,” at Ellington Air Field in Houston.

Several of NASA’s projects have been a lot of fun,” he said. “They’ve been a lot of work for both the students and the faculty, but the rewards have been great.”

And, Irwin said, “We’ve done some interesting experiments. The most recent one had to do with what happens in an orbiting laboratory like the international space station if you have a spill. Water floats around in droplets, and it can get into the electronics, the machinery, and that can be very bad. So the question arises: How can you possibly clean that up?”

“There are lots of ways of doing it, but our way was novel and had to do with using a high-voltage electrostatic generator—a Van de Graaff—which we use for demonstrations. We get students to charge up to 100,000 volts or so and have their hand stand on end and things like that. The same device, it turns out, we demonstrated, will attract floating droplets of water by polarizing them and drawing the droplets in by the electrostatic field gradient.”

Irwin hopes to take the experiment to its next stage and develop it an “spill-cleanup gizmo” based on a safe way of making high voltage at low current. “We think that might have some actual applications, possibly on a future space station experiment,” Irwin said.

Another experiment—also with potential applications—focused on tether recoil. “We had a tethered payload, like one coming off the space shuttle or some other tethered satellite,” Irwin said. “With the tension, the question arises of what happens if it snags and recoils and tangled up the other end. If that other end is a manned spacecraft, that poses a serious issue. So one of our experiments had to do with how can we quantify that recoil and what can be done to mitigate it.”

When he was a scientist at the Idaho National Laboratory, Irwin worked on one project that involved monitoring nuclear reactor for plutonium and another using gamma rays in the cooling pool of a reactor used to store spent fuel rods to excite meta-stable nuclear levels called isomers in indium and cadmium samples.

And, Irwin said, “One of the most interesting things I ever did goes back to my doctoral dissertation at Idaho State, having to do with spectroscopy of magnetic materials called spin glasses, which occur at extremely low, cryogenic temperatures.”

“I’m not saying it was earth-shaking or anything like that, but it was my little, narrow slice of research I consider to be important,” Irwin said. “I don’t know that anybody’s pursued it elsewhere. In fact, one of my goals at Lamar is to prepare my lab with a cryogenic unit and get a new radiation source, so I can pick up on that research.”

A native of Holland, Ohio, and current resident of Nederland, Irwin earned a bachelor’s of science in physics from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland and a master’s of science and doctor of philosophy from The Ohio University. Irwin’s daughter, Sarah Rosi, 19, is a Nederland High School graduate and Lamar student.

Among Irwin’s interests outside the classroom and lab is his 1961 Buick LaSable, which he acquired a decade ago. He enjoys relaxing with his aquariums, tending to houseplants, wood-carving, drawing and playing pool.

From Jim Jordan’s standpoint, Irwin needed not go off campus to have fun. The two have worked together on reduced-gravity flights since 1998, as well as on other projects to enhance the physics and geology departments.

They often shop for parts and supplies in hardware, sports and toy stores. “In the toy department of Walmart, I remember once he said, ‘It’s all physics.’ He’ll see an item and say, ‘This is cool, this is super cool.’ He’s just like a kid in a toy store. One of the biggest joys I’ve ever had was shopping with George.”

Jordan added: “If you’re in his lab—where I’ve been in quite a bit—it’s full of toys—things he would regard as toys, things that bring joy to him. I think it’s really telling about George the fun he has with the things he does.”
by Louise Wood

I love Lamar because of its students, because it embraces the teacher/scholar model, because it values diversity, because it supports undergraduate research, because it is a place where one person can make a difference.

—PEGGY DOERSCHUK

Chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery and the Computer Science Women++ Organization. Awards and recognitions include a University Merit Award and the Andrew Green Performance Award for Outstanding Research and Teaching. She and her colleagues have obtained almost $2 million in external support from such prestigious sources as the U.S. Army, National Science Foundation, NASA and ExxonMobil.

Doerschuk began her career as president of the student chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery, and the Computer Science Women++ Organization. Awards and recognitions include a University Merit Award and the Andrew Green Performance Award for Outstanding Research and Teaching. She and her colleagues have obtained almost $2 million in external support from such prestigious sources as the U.S. Army, National Science Foundation, NASA and ExxonMobil.

Doerschuk's career took a significant turn when she started designing a series of mentoring, retention and outreach programs in 2002. The first was Wired (Women In Research Development Programs), funded by a grant from the Texas Workforce Development Grant and several grants from ExxonMobil. Wired graduates are now in computing careers in Beaumont, Houston, Austin, California, Washington and elsewhere, working for companies that include Intel, Microsoft and contractors for Boeing and ExxonMobil.

That success helped Doerschuk and her colleagues receive a National Science Foundation grant for $490,000 to support INSPIRED (Increasing Student Participation In Research Development Programs). Fifteen undergraduate females and underrepresented minorities have participated in the program, she said. "We have retained more than 70 percent of them, and all of our graduates have transitioned to careers or advanced study," she said. The INSPIRED team has reached about 2,000 students, including more than 200 middle- and high-school students in academies taught by INSPIRED undergraduates.

"It takes a village to make this grant succeed," she said. "Our team of students and faculty have touched on a thousand students, educators and community leaders in outreach in our first two years," Doerschuk said. "Our work with these students is the most gratifying thing I have ever done. Many of them are low-income, first-generation students. Many of them don't have a roadmap to success. They are here to make a better life for themselves and their families."

"They are very humble, very respectful, good kids. A little guidance can go a long way in helping those students. The most satisfying experience of my career has been seeing them grow into fine young men and women who work together as a family and reach out to help others."

Peggy Doerschuk, with her mother, Jeannette Israel
President James Simmons, join Don Lyle ’06 and Dean Jack Hopper to celebrate the naming of the Don Lyle Conference Room in the Cherry Engineering Building in honor of the Lyles’ generous campaign gifts to engineering.

President James Simmons, presents a resolution to Phil ‘67, and Karen Drayer in recognition of their longtime support of Lamar University. Drayer serves on the College of Engineering advisory council, the Lamar University Foundation board of trustees and the Investing in the Future campaign cabinet. The Phillip M. Drayer Department of Electrical Engineering is named in his honor.

Lamar University received the Beautify Beaumont Award from the Magnolia Garden Club. Gregg Lassen, vice president for finance and administration, and his wife, Jackie, accepted the award from Kit (Howell) Ohmstede ’82, who presided as chair of the keynoting duties during August commencement.

Former NASA astronaut Bernard Harris visited students attending the ExxonMobil Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp at the Shangri La Botanical Gardens in Orange. Dr. Harris is a personal partner and special presenter for the two-week, residential camp held at Lamar. It offers innovative programs in science, technology, engineering and math, while also fostering leadership and citizenship.

President James Simmons, IU chancellor and Student Government Association President Andrew Coggins of IU New Admissions in Beaumont City Court Oct. 18 to receive a proclamation and promote “The New Old” and Hoosier pride.

President James Simmons, left, and Coach Ray Woodard thank Charline Dauphin and her daughter, Robin, for their generous gifts to Cardinal athletics. The Dauphin Athletics Complex is named in honor of their family.

Alumni and friends attended Lamar’s Friends of the Arts in Great Ball, the major annual fundraiser for the College of Fine Arts and Communication.

1. President James Simmons, left, First Lady Susan (Williams) Simmons ’81, Michelle (Vernick) Smith ’88 and Mitch Smith. 2.Bob Natrass ’71, left, Melody (Hollis) ’71 and Pat Penauski ’71. 3. Marion Armstrong, Fred Simon. 4. Judy and James Black. 5. John Alexander ’69, Paul Maves ’72, ’73.

Lamar University received the Beautiful Beaumont Award from the Magnolia Garden Club. Gregg Lassen, vice president for finance and administration, and his wife, Jackie, accepted the award from Kit (Howell) Ohmstede ’82, center.

Stephen Oishi, present president for academic affairs, MS, and Victor Zaloom, interim dean of the College of Graduate Studies, gave the keynote address.

From left, assistant professors Chang-Yu Chang, sociology, and James Curry and Xinyu Liu, industrial engineering, earned 2011 University Merit Awards in recognition of outstanding performance in the classroom.

Friends and family of the late Claude Monroe came to campus for the dedication of Monroe Hall in honor of the former business faculty member.

The Texas State University System appointed Bill Scott ’70, joined with his wife, Gay (Duckworth) ’80, to the board of regents for a term to expire in 2013. Scott is chairman and CEO of Trans-Globals Solutions. He is also a volunteer with several on the campus cabinet and College of Business board of advisors.

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Lamar recognized as top graduate degree producer for minorities

Lamar University is among the nation’s Top 100 universities to confer graduate degrees to minority students in 2009-2010, a recent study found. The magazine Diverse: Issues in Higher Education recently released its annual “Top 100 Bachelor’s Degrees Conferring” report, and Lamar ranked in the Top 100 in numerous categories (www.diverseeducation.com/top100).

With all academic disciplines combined, the university ranked 21st in the number of graduate degrees awarded to minority students with 712 degrees granted in 2009-2010, the report said.

Lamar leads nation in graduate education degrees to Hispanics

Lamar University led the nation in the number of graduate degrees in education awarded to Hispanics during 2010.

The university awarded degrees to 342 Hispanics during the year, according to The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education, a national magazine dedicated to exploring issues related to Hispanics in higher education.

“This is clearly good news for Lamar University because we have identified and captured a demographic slice of the state that previously has not been available to Lamar University. It includes areas of large populations of Hispanic graduate students, particularly those who are certified teachers and school administrators in districts with which we partner,” said Kevin Smith, Lamar’s senior associate provost. “It is great news.”

“Because of the accessibility and the affordability of the program, this has been a hugely successful option. Lamar is a school of choice in online graduate education,” Smith said.

Since 2007, Lamar has conferred more than 4,500 graduate degrees in education. “We’re proud of the fact we were people-first, so to speak, in online education for students in Texas,” said Jason Minon, assistant dean for academic partnerships and outreach in the College of Education and Human Development. “We push to incorporate all areas of large populations of Hispanic graduate students, particularly those who are certified teachers and school administrators in districts with which we partner.”

Instead of their coming to the college, “As a matter of fact, we are in Texas,” Mixon said. “We push to incorporate all areas of large populations of Hispanic graduate students, particularly those who are certified teachers and school administrators in districts with which we partner.”

“We must focus on retention and graduation.”

Good news everywhere even as Lamar faces $15.4 million in cuts

While maintaining academic standards, LU must ensure that students get through the maze of issues they face and provide them with the information and support they need to succeed, Simmons said in his annual “state-of-the-university” address. Because of an 18 percent reduction in its state appropriation, Lamar must cut $15.4 million over the next two years. Measures to accomplish this include a freeze on vacant positions, restructuring of some offices, holding the line on class sizes, more energy efficiency and other steps to “tighten our belts.”

But, Simmons said, “In spite of state budget woes, good news is everywhere,” citing Lamar’s recognition as a Carnegie Classification of Doctoral Research University. Lamar awards more master’s degrees in chemical engineering and education than any university in the nation. And, thanks to the generosity of friends and supporters, LU has surpassed the $95 million mark, prompting the Investing in the Future campaign cabinet to increase the goal to $125 million. The campaign continues through 2013.

Lamar will prosper

“Lamar will not only survive this downturn, but I pledge that we will prosper during it,” he said, because of enrollment as well as student success, outstanding faculty and staff and support from friends and alumni.

Lamar continues to add courses and programs. The university enrolled its first group of students this fall pursuing the online doctorate in education and also offers a new online master of education in counseling. A new online RN-to-BSN program began in October.

“You can see why I say Lamar will prosper even during these difficult economic times,” Simmons said.

Strategies for student success, Simmons said, begin with identifying, recruiting, engaging, educating, supporting, retaining and graduating students who will become “pride Lamar alumni.”

After careful study and consultation, he said, the university has moved to an approach based on strategic enrollment management.

“ Gone are the days of sending students to many different offices to complete the process of enrollment. Instead, we are developing a simplified ‘one-stop’ enrollment process that puts a priority on service,” Simmons said. “All facets of student success are our concern, and it is essential that every one of us work together to make a difference.”

LU selects Goodrich to head university police

Lamar University has hired Jason Goodrich, a 16-year law enforcement veteran, as chief of police, succeeding Dale Fontenot, who served LU for more than 40 years as chief. Lamar University has also hired Randy Martin to serve as assistant chief. The two bring complementary skills to the department. Goodrich brings a wealth of university policing experience, having served as a captain at Vanderbilt University and several other campuses. Martin brings civic police force experience that will further strengthen the department.

“Together, the two are an excellent match that will further build on the university’s commitment to provide a safe, secure learning and living environment for students, faculty, staff and visitors,” said Gregg Lassen, vice president for finance and operations.

New Strategic Enrollment Management Division to improve student success

With the creation of a new Division of Strategic Enrollment Management, Lamar University is working to better serve students from the time they begin considering LU as their college choice until they leave as successful graduates.

Sherry Benot, associate vice president, leads the division. Benot previously served as Lamar University’s registrar. Her team includes admissions, campus relations and tours, enrollment marketing, enrollment research, financial assistance, records, recruitment and scholarship. The division also is working closely with all academic departments, retention, student advising, student affairs and integrated marketing.

“We are working to improve our processes to make sure we anticipate students’ needs and give them the most concise, informative, accurate response possible from us quickly,” Benot said.

LU sets record enrollment

Lamar University has set another all-time enrollment record. Official figures for the fall 2011 semester taken on the 20th class day show Lamar has set the highest enrollment in the university’s 88-year history.

More specifically, Lamar’s headcount is a 14,522, up 1.0 percent over last fall’s record enrollment of 14,388. Semester credit hours totaled 141,748, up 0.6 percent over last fall’s 140,904.

The increase in headcount and semester credit hours comes despite the sour economy, increase in tuition and cut in state appropriations, said Kevin Smith, senior associate provost at Lamar. Among factors Smith credits are new online degree programs, including the online master of education in counseling and the new online doctorate in education. Also, the university’s new ROOTS entry program allows some first-time-in-college students to earn their way to regular admission, Smith said.

Strong scholarship support continues to be key in helping many students realize their goals of a college degree. “Many alumni and friends generously contributed scholarships that allow students to continue their matriculation in these hard times,” Smith said. “Their support is vital.”
One Lamar administers $134,000 in ExxonMobil matching gifts

ExxonMobil employees who are alumni of Lamar University, or whose family members attend or have attended Lamar, made good use of the company’s generous three-to-one matching gift program in 2010. Duland Rosso, ExxonMobil Beaumont Refinery plant manager, and Rob Tidett, Beaumont Chemical Plant site manager, presented Lamar University President James Simmons with a matching gift check of $134,470.

Students, alumni and employees of Lamar University now have another convenient way to stay connected to campus. LamarMobile, a versatile application for smart phones and other mobile devices, is now widely available at no charge.

The MBA program earns “Global 100” ranking

The Aspen Institute’s “Global 100” ranking is for the Top 100 MBA programs integrating social and environmental stewardship. This is the third consecutive time Lamar’s program has received this honor, with the latest biennial rankings being published in the 2011-2012 edition of the Institute’s Beyond Boardroom Project. Lamar University is one of only 67 U.S. schools and one of only five Texas universities selected for inclusion in the “Global 100,” with UT Austin, TCU, UT Dallas and Rice.

Connecting is easy with LamarMobile

New department focuses on counseling

The College of Education and Human Development has created the Department of Counseling and Special Populations to offer undergraduate and graduate programs that lead to master of education degrees in special education and in counseling and development with two tracks—community or school counseling.

The master’s program in school counseling has grown exponentially since going online and now has more than 715 students from across Texas and other states, said Carolyn Crawford, interim chair of the new department.

Educational leadership has grown so much throughout the years that the faculty felt developing a new department was necessary. The Department of Educational Leadership, of which counseling and special populations was initially a part, had become so populated that splitting the counseling curriculum off into its own department allows students a more concentrated curriculum in that area. Faculty have developed courses that are rich in best practices and utilize activities that apply to real-world experiences.

Along with the master of education degrees offered, students can also receive a bachelor of science, bachelor of arts, or professional certificate. The new department offers certifications for educational diagnosticians, professional school counselor, as well as special education. All are offered with the option for an endorsement in gifted education.

In addition to the traditional on-campus classes available, a 36-hour master’s degree in professional school counseling degree is offered online. The course can be completed in 18 months. More information about degree opportunities is available by contacting the department at (409) 880-8978.

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System honors Ku-yen Li as new regents’ professor

The Texas State University System has named Ku-yen Li, professor of chemical engineering, as a regents’ professor.

The honor is conferred on professors who demonstrate excellence and exemplary achievement in teaching, research and publication and service.

As a professor in the Dan F. Smith Department of Chemical Engineering, Li has served Lamar University since 1978.

“His touch of excellence is apparent throughout the chemical engineering program—at the courses he has taught, the leadership he has provided, the faculty he has hired, the research he has conducted, the relations he has cultivated with industry and, in big ways and small, the students he has educated,” said Stephen Doblin, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Li was department chair for seven years, led the effort to gain Lamar’s only Ph.D. program, worked tirelessly to maintain accreditation from ABET Inc. (formerly the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology) and guided Lamar’s master’s program to national prominence. Li and his fellow investigators have received more than $2.6 million in external funding for 20 projects.

Lamar University receives more than $134,000 in ExxonMobil matching gifts

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At the podium

Business guest Pearson shared new media experience
Bob Pearson, chief technology and media officer for WCIG, a global communications company, spoke at the College of Business’
Econ/Mobil Executive in Residence this past spring. He is the author of PR: Commerce: How Companies and Customers are Transforming
Business Together. Pearson shared his unique combination of social media, marketing and communications skills acquired in nearly 25
years at three Fortune 500 companies and a major consultancy.

Phi Kappa Phi lecture focuses on Russian avant garde
The Phi Kappa Phi chapter brought Elena
Ivanova, chief curator of the Museum of Art, to campus in September to speak on “Text, Sound, Image: The Russian Avant-
Garde Book.” The presentation was the first in what is planned as an annual series, said Kevin Dodson, chapter president of Phi
Kappa Phi national honor society.

TALH Lecture Series explores Texas
The Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities lecture series on “The Future of Texas” welcomed Char
Miller, W.M. Keck professor of environmental analysis at Pomona College, who spoke about “Why the Suburban is the State Car of Texas,”
and Amadno Alonso, associate professor of history at Texas A&M University. Alonso spoke on “The Rise of Hispanic Texas” as part of
the series that concluded with a presentation by Joe Nick Patoski, noted author and former staff writer at Texas Monthly, on “Why
Texans are Texans: An Introduction to Texan Identity.”

Engineering hosts environmental workshops
The Department of Civil Engineering hosted the Eckenfelder
Lecture Series, named for William Eckenfelder, deeded the “godfa-
thet” of industrial wastewater management. The series included lec-
tures on energy and the environment, control of air emissions from oil refining, and oxidation and process control in activated sludge
processes. Known internationally as a pioneer in the field of water
treatment and a leading authority in industrial wastewater manage-
ment, Eckenfelder is honored by the Eckenfelder Lecture Series
Foundation, a trust to promote the continuation and expansion of
his teachings initiated by his colleagues and the American Academy of Environmental Engineers.

Golas gives entrepreneurship lecture
Tipton Golias ’92, founder, president and
CEO of Helena Laboratories Corp., spoke to students as part of the
Entrepreneurship Lecture Series sponsored by Econ/Mobil.
Sept. 20. “As a very successful entre-
preneur, Tipton Golias’ experience encourages the growing number of students thinking about including entre-
preneurship as part of their careers,” said
Enrique “Henry” Vents, dean of the College of Business. Founded in
1967 by Tipton and Ann Golias, Helena Laboratories is the premier manufacturer of point-of-care hemostasis products for plantlet function
testing, whole blood hemostasis and activated clotting time as well as occult blood products. Helena Labs, along with Helena
Plastics in California and the oil company in Houston are approaching
$100 million in annual sales. In addition, Health Diagnostics
Laboratory in Richmond, Va., has made $200 million. In 2009, Golias received the Van Slyke Award, the highest award available in
the field of clinical chemistry. This year, Golias received the Pacific
Biometric Research Award from the American Association for
Clinical Chemistry. Helena Laboratories has been responsible for
introducing many analyses and techniques to medical laboratories
across the world. With hundreds of laboratory products and more than 200 registered patents, Helena continues to be a market leader
in the development of new diagnostic tests.

Sigma Xi hosts climate expert
Bette Otto-Bliesner, a climate expert with the American
Meteorological Society, spoke about what the earth’s past can tell us
about the possible results of climate change during a public lecture
this past spring hosted by the Lamar University chapter of Sigma Xi,
the Scientific Research Society.

MBA students join elite international competition
The College of Business was one of 25 business schools around the world chosen to participate in this year’s Aspen Institute 2011
Business and Society International MBA Case Competition.
Sixteen Lamar MBA students, competing on five teams, were
among more than 1,000 business students worldwide examining
and responding to a new case study of Trina Solar, a company based
in China. After receiving the case study, teams had 72 hours to
prepare a written response exploring sustainable growth taking into
consideration environmental, social, ethical and political concerns.

Members of LU’s winning team were Lenny Caballero of
The winning entry was chosen by members of the College of
Business Board of Advisors, representatives of area businesses and
faculty members based on written papers and brief presentations.
Lamar’s winning paper advanced to round two, in which campus
winners from all 25 schools were narrowed to five finalist teams.

“It’s an excellent opportunity for our students,” said Brad
Mayer, College of Business associate dean. “The Aspen
Competition was the culmination of everything these students had
learned from all their MBA classes. It’s the best learning experience
you can get—setting forth a strategy and backing up that strategy
with sound analysis.”

Construction management students improve Beaumont’s Collier’s Ferry Park
About 30 Reese Construction Management Program students
constructed picnic tables and benches to enhance the Collier’s Ferry
Park in Beaumont as their spring community service project.

“This is the second year the program collaborated with
the Beaumont Parks and Recreation Department, who provided the
funding and material for this project. In addition to construction,
the students’ responsibilities include design, scheduling and cost
estimation.”

Construction is among the largest industries in the United
States and starting salaries of construction managers are among
the highest,” said Steve McCrary, director of the program.

“Because construction is a broad field, covering residential,
commercial, heavy/highway, and industrial/plant projects, the
opportunities in the industry are as varied as our students’
interests.” Through the courses offered at Lamar and an intensive
internship program, employers can be assured that graduates
have a variety of important skills needed in the industry. More
information about the Reese Construction Management Program is
available by contacting Steve McCrary at (409) 880-8916.

LU announces first-ever patent
Lamar University has announced its first licensing agreement with
a company to market and sell a university-developed emergency alert system
placed inside passenger vehicles. The patent-pending device will significantly
increase safety for first responders as well as Texas drivers and passengers.

The innovative transmitter/receiver system more effectively alerts
passenger vehicles when an emergency vehicle is approaching. The system
prototypes carry both visual and audio alerts and fits on vehicle
windshields.

The technology was developed by professor Harley Myler, chair of
the Phillip M. Drayer Department of Electrical Engineering, at the suggestion
of William “Bo” Kelley Jr., president of Kelley Emergency Alert Systems
(KEAS). The patent application was submitted by Myler and published
Oct. 13, and the technology is now being licensed to KEAS in partnership
with Lamar University per the agreement.

“I wanted the device to be small, inexpensive and a stand-alone unit
that would not be tied into an auto’s existing equipment. Working with
specifications and a new approach, we came up with great technology,”
Myler said. “Success is built on working collaboratively. KEAS and Bo
Kelley have been part of the process from day one. The idea sprung from
a near-collision experience Bo had. He had the foresight to do some-
ting about it, and it’s his perseverance that will help make this system a
life saver for every passenger and driver on the road.”

Bo Kelley added, “My experience was terrifying, but far too common.
Frustration on the part of drivers is slowing first responders from getting
to the emergency. Even worse, collision with passenger vehicles is the second-
highest cause of death for our emergency workers.”

“It has been a great experience working with Lamar University,” Kelley
said. “Dr. Myler and the team have been supportive throughout. You just
can’t be in a better business when you know what you do saves lives.”

The J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board has selected
Myler for a Fulbright Specialists project in Tunisia at the Higher Institute
of Engineering and Technology. He will assist engineering faculty in
improving teaching methods to include novel student project development
techniques—a focal point of Lamar’s Phillip M. Drayer Department of
Electrical Engineering.
New online doctoral program strengthens education degree offerings

The doctorate of education in educational leadership, which is now offered through a 100 percent online program, builds upon the university’s expertise in online education coupled with its status as an NCATE-accredited institution of higher learning. The program complements the university’s successful on-campus Ed.D. program. It will not impact the current on-campus program that currently enrolls 65 students and has seen a 95 percent graduation rate with more than 60 graduates to date.

The program has a ready market of applicants in the more than 4,000 graduates of Lamar’s online master of education programs. The Texas Association of School Administrators estimates that more than 70 percent of current public school superintendents will be eligible for retirement within the next five years. The doctorate is equitably designed or expected with more than 75 percent of campus principals holding a doctoral degree. The majority of central office positions, such as executive directors, assistant or associate superintendents, and superintendents require a doctorate.

LU selected as NVIDIA CUDA Teaching Center

Computer science students will have access to training in new cutting-edge computer programming techniques because Lamar University has joined an elite group of 34 universities that have become NVIDIA CUDA Teaching Centers. The new initiative resulted from a proposal by computer science professor and project director Quoc-Nam Tran.

NVIDIA CUDA Teaching Center provides the university with teaching kits, textbooks, software licenses and 26 multi-core high performance computing (HPC) devices, enabling Tran and his colleagues to integrate graphic processing techniques into the LU mainstream computing programming curriculum, training the next wave of parallel programmers to address today’s most challenging computing issues and drive the next wave of scientific discovery.

Beyond the classroom

Senior theatre major Bonnie Dupuis was among 12 students selected from a national pool of applicants to participate in the summer professional actor training program at the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, Va. At the Blackfriars Playhouse, “…through an exploration of the performance practices and staging conditions of the Renaissance, ASC training challenges actors to discover anew the time-tested ways to illuminate the plays, transform the self and transport an audience,” according to the center’s website. Dupuis is the first Lamar University student selected to participate in this prestigious event. …Chuang Zhao, a Ph.D. student in chemical engineering, won the American Institute for Chemical Engineers (AIChE) Process Development Division Student Paper Award for her manuscript, “Cyclic Scheduling for Ethylene Cracking Furnace System with Consideration of Secondary Erase Cracking.” This highly competitive student award competition, which receives nominations of students at universities throughout the world, provides the recipient with a plaque and cash award at the annual meeting in Minneapolis. Zhao’s major professor is Qiang Xia, an associate professor of chemical engineering, who is a co-author of the paper. …Scotty McWilliams, an MBA student, won fourth-place in the national essay contest of the Foundation for Enterprise Development. His entry, “Utilizing Wealth Principles to Establish a Highly Involved and Motivated Work Force,” was published in Geonomics ‘11: A Wealth Principles to Establish a Highly Involved and Motivated Work Force.”

LU adds exchange program with Chinese university

Lamar is creating opportunities for the students of the City College of Kunming University of Science and Technology in Southwestern China. Lamar has established an exchange program that allows students from Kunming to attend Lamar for a year during their college career. The program will begin in fall 2012.

System selects Brent for scholarship

After several years helping exceptional students enter Lamar University’s College of Engineering, Katrina Brent will be engineering her own future thanks to the “Grow Your Own” Scholarship awarded by The Texas State University System. Brent’s selection will provide financial assistance to complete her doctoral degree.

Brent is an adjunct instructor of business at Lamar University as well as the director of engineering marketing. She is especially proud of the 28 current engineering students she assisted who have received four-year, full scholarships from the Marabeau Scholars program.

Brent’s love for education inspired her to apply for the Grow Your Own scholarship in order to begin pursuing her doctoral in educational leadership at Lamar this fall. “A passion for learning and teaching lives inside me, and I feel inclined to pass this on to future Lamar students,” Brent said.

The Grow Your Own scholarship is offered to a nominated Texas State University System candidate who is a member of an underrepresented population with the desire to become a part of the host university faculty.

Students complete successful NASA zero-g experiments

Students experienced weightlessness as they conducted their carefully crafted experiment aboard a reduced-gravity aircraft July 12 and 13 as part of the “Grant Us Space” program of NASA’s National Space Grant Consortium. The program awarded the 12th LU team to experience weightlessness since student flights began in 1999.

“It’s a lot of hard work but it’s worth it,” said Akeya Samad, a chemical engineering major from Nederland. “Hard work and dedication lead to good things. It was also a good way to meet other students from across the country who are interested in the same things I’m interested in.”

The team’s experiment focused on the collection of water droplets and mist by electrostatic fields. Because water is essential to human space travel, a way is needed to control water droplets in reduced gravity conditions to reduce the risk, said George Irwin, assistant professor of physics and faculty supervisor for the team.

Jim Jordan, chair of the Department of Earth and Space Sciences, echoes Irwin’s enthusiasm for the team. “When I bring about our students at NASA, I say they have a calculus book in one hand and a wrench in the other. That’s the way I like to think about our students. They are hard working and they come from a background that has a strong work ethic,” Jordan said.

Gladys City launches third Thursday events

Spendtop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum, has launched a new series of programs—Wickcatter Weekends and the monthly “Gladys City Nights”—as part of a renewed effort to provide educational and entertaining programming at the museum.

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“When I first came on board, I say they have a calculus book in one hand and a wrench in the other. That’s the way I like to think about our students. They are hard working and they come from a background that has a strong work ethic,” Jordan said.

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William Vacchiano's performing and teaching through almost 70 years at Lamar has been recognized and appreciated by the university and international levels, said Saur, a Lamar faculty member since 1988. "I'm proud of his career in education," Saur said. "My career in education has been exciting and rewarding," Johnson said. "Words cannot express the gratitude and appreciation I have for this recognition," he added. "I appreciate the hard work and dedication each student has provided." And, he added, "I appreciate the hard work and dedication each student has provided."

Johnson, a lifelong music educator, entered the Phi Beta Kappa Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame at the Texas Bandmasters Association annual convention July 26 in San Antonio. The international bandmasters fraternity selected Johnson for the prestigious honor in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments as a band director, teacher and mentor. Johnson's career spanned almost 50 years in which he inspired dozens of students at Lamar and as a director. He retired Aug. 31 as Lamar's vice president for student affairs after almost 30 years at the university. Johnson joined the faculty in 1983 as assistant director of bands and director of the marching band, rising through the ranks to become director of bands, department chair and vice president.

He led Lamar bands to some of the nation's most prestigious performances — "raising the bar" for Lamar's program, one colleague said — while achieving an international reputation as a conductor and clinician. His bands at Hillbrow and Woodside high schools earned 10 consecu- tive University Interscholastic League sweepstakes awards, among other honors.

"My career in education has been exciting," Johnson said. "Words cannot express the gratitude and appreciation I have for this recognition." He emphasized the role of his family: wife, Pattie, who was his childhood sweetheart and sons, Michael '90, a professional musician in Houston, and David '93, assistant director of bands at Lamar. "My wife, Pattie, who was my childhood sweetheart, and sons, Michael '90, a professional musician in Houston, and David '93, assistant director of bands at Lamar," he added. "I appreciate the hard work and dedication each student has provided."
Musical inspiration on stage

Trumpeter Walter White, formerly with the Maynard Ferguson Big Band, graces the stage at the season-opening Lamarissimo! performance featuring the Lamar University Jazz Ensemble. White also has performed with the Woody Herman Orchestra, Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis and other groups. “It is always a thrill to hear a real pro,” said Wayne Dyess, director of jazz studies. “I wanted to give that experience and inspiration to our students.”

Simmons: ‘Signature Sinfonian’

Surrounded by fellow members of the oldest and largest music fraternity, President James Simmons accepted Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia fraternity’s highest honor in a ceremony on the Lamar campus.

Phi Mu Alpha recognized Simmons as a “Signature Sinfonian,” honoring him “for a lifetime of excellence” and as an alumni member who has achieved a high standard of accomplishment in his profession.

John Israel of St. Charles, Mo., chair of the Province Governor’s Council and a National Executive Committee member, presented him with the plaque, medallion and lapel pin that accompany the honor during the six annual Province 40 workshop of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

“To be honored by this group and to join the honorees is just kind of a dream come true,” Simmons said after accepting the award. “There could not be a higher honor for me.”

The workshop attracted Sinfonianists from five universities. Lamar’s Eta Mu Chapter and the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music hosted the event in the newly renovated Music Building. George Beverley of Beaumont serves as chapter president.

An accomplished musician on clarinet, saxophone and piano, Simmons continues an active performance career after rising through the ranks as a music educator and administrator to take office in 1999 as Lamar’s 10th president.

Lamar’s Friends of the Arts will host Le Grand Bal— a gala evening of art, fine dining, dancing and entertainment— on March 24. The black-tie event is the major annual fundraiser for the College of Fine Arts and Communication. Sandra Clark will chair the event, honoring Rocky and Chuck Mason. Call (409) 880-8137 for reservations or information . . . The Dishman Art Museum fall exhibition season featured Anandam: Mats from the Collection of Dr. A. Perkins Newsroom.

Now, the place where he taught his students to go the extra mile as they pursued excellence will pay tribute to Perkins, who died Oct. 20, 2010, at age 72. Innumerable actions, acts of The Texas State University System have authorized Lamar to name Room 200A of the Setser Student Center the Howard A. Perkins Newsroom.

“Howard Perkins played an important role in student life at Lamar University for more than three decades. His leadership and inspiration influenced Howard’s legacy.”

The family, former students and other friends of Perkins are establishing a scholarship in his memory to benefit future UP staff members. Checks payable to the Lamar University Foundation may be mailed to PO Box 11500, Lamar University, Beaumont, TX 77710, with “Howard Perkins Scholarship” in the notation.

Collaborations by MG Raffic Ahamed. "anandam," or bliss, refers to the creative process that inspires Indian artist Raffic to create his richly colorful collages. Raffic has exhibited throughout India and universally, but this is only his second exhibition in the United States . . . Summer exhibitions at the Dishman included works by Beaumont artists David and Patty Cargill .

"The King and I," presented Dec. 1-3, with proceeds benefitting the Triangle AIDS Network. He performed his one-man show titled "O.A. "Bum" Phillips" -48 was featured on a segment of "LUTV on Fox" that aired in summer 2011. KRTV-Fox 4 sports anchor James Ware "94 conducted an in-depth interview with Phillips, a Southeast Texas native who played football and attended Lamar.
Paul Rizk lays groundwork for career in medicine

Chemical engineering and physics major Paul Rizk is living the groundwork for a career in medicine. Now a Lamar University junior, Rizk has set his sights on the Mayo Clinic Medical School in Minnesota. “It may sound cliché, but I like the idea of making a difference in people’s lives,” Rizk said.

Rizk was accepted to Princeton and Lamar, but, after research of both schools and examining the tuition rates, he decided Lamar was the right choice for him. He received the prestigious four-year Mirabeau Scholars award and began his studies in biology. He soon decided to switch his major to chemical engineering and physics with a minor in mathematics in the event that he decided against medical school.

“I was looking ahead to when I have a family, and I think it will be easier to find a job with an engineering degree if I change my mind about medical school,” Rizk said. “I want to be able to provide for my family the best way possible.”

Rizk learned from his parents about the importance of providing for family and giving to others. His father lived in Egypt and supported his immediate and extended family with three jobs while attending medical school simultaneously. “I don’t know how he did it. It seems impossible to me, but he did it,” Rizk said.

His mother has been involved in several charities throughout his life and helped him link up with a pen pal from the Philippines his junior year of high school. “We still talk to each other. He is trying to go to school and help support his family. He has inspired me so much and taught me the importance of education. I think we take education for granted, and I am thankful to be in school with opportunities,” Rizk said.

Rizk is very involved on campus and in the community. He volunteers at Memorial Hermann Baptist Hospital and shadowing physicians in the emergency room during surgeries. “This is a very important part of the pre-medical process because medical schools want their students to be exposed to real medicine before they enroll. After shadowing, many students decide not to go into medicine. That is a decision medical schools would prefer be made sooner rather than later,” Rizk said.

He is also lieutenant governor of Lamar Circle K International, an organization devoted to bettering the community, serves as vice president of the Lamar University Ambassadors and is a member of the American Medical Student Association. Despite all his extracurricular activities, he still finds time to be the vice president of Lamar’s rugby club and keep his name on the President’s List for four consecutive semesters.

The longer Rizk has been here, the more he says it feels like home. “I love that Lamar has named the dorms like Campbell Hall instead of just Phase I, II and so on. Even though my family lives a few miles away in Beaumont, the dorms are starting to feel homey,” said Rizk.

When asked about the things that made him like Lamar, Rizk replied, “I love the diverse campus. I have good friends that I have known since high school, but I also have made friends that are from other countries like Ecuador. The members from my rugby team are from all over Texas. I know everyone says this, but we [Lamar] really are a melting pot.”

In addition to the Mirabeau Scholarship, he has received the Lamar Academic Challenge Scholarship and is a member of Phi Alpha Phi. Rizk plans to graduate in May 2014 and has no intention of slowing down.—EH

Nursing major Ashley Brown walks path toward helping others

A
s she slowly walks the horse around the stable and turns to look at the child in the saddle, Ashley Brown realizes helping others, especially children, has always been part of her destiny. What started as a way to accumulate required service learning hours for the Lamar University nursing program has become Brown’s own personal therapy and passion. She finds that volunteering at Stable-Spirit is rewarding not only because she loves working with children and horses, but also because it is preparing her for a career in pediatrics.

For Brown, a senior nursing major from LaMarque, volunteering is only one of the many opportunities Lamar University has offered during her time as a student.

“The children at Stable-Spirit teach me how to be a more humble and appreciative person, and I feel completely centered and I am able to relax. One of the most memorable moments that really touched me was with a bright and very loving autistic child. I had the opportunity to work with this particular child for many hippo therapy sessions, and it was simply amazing to see this child flourish. The horse and the child connected on a level that was really spectacular and truly indescribable without mentioning it. By the end of the session, the autistic child was more sensory and motor focused and able to verbalize words that were previously just sounds,” said Brown.

She works as a sidewalker at Stable-Spirit, a non-profit organization in Rose City that assists children and adults with mental and physical disabilities through horse therapy. She helps with a treatment called hippo-therapy, in which the child sits on the horse and the physical therapist instructs the child on what to do. The sidewalker provides support for the child as a horse handler loads the horse.

Brown is also involved in several nursing organizations and activities on campus. She is vice president of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing 2012 class and parliamentarian of the Lamar University chapter of the Texas Nursing Student Association.

She serves as a peer facilitator for the Caring Place in the Joanne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing where she helps other nursing students with class material in small group sessions. Helping other nursing students also benefits Brown because reviewing the material helps her retain the information as well as prepare for tests.

“When you begin nursing school, it can be very overwhelming because you don’t know what to expect, and if you don’t complete everything that you need for the program, you could fail the test. I think it’s good to have someone who has been in that situation to be able to assist new nursing students. The Caring Place is a wonderful support system for all nursing students, and I am glad I get to be a part of it,” said Brown.

She credits the nursing program for allowing her to “come out of her shell” and form close friendships with other nursing students. When she was accepted into the nursing program, she joined a “family with some pretty awesome people.”

Although she looked at several colleges, she decided to attend Lamar after she toured the nursing building where current nursing students told her how much they loved the program and that they “wouldn’t trade it for the world.” She also thought the dorms were unlike any she had seen before.

She likes the small campus atmosphere and appreciates the professors at Lamar because their doors are always open and they will gladly help students with a school-related or even personal situation. She credits her mother, a nurse, with encouraging her to work hard in school and inspiring her to help others and achieve her goals.

“My mom is my everything. She has been my cheerleader through not only my first year in the nursing program, but my whole college career,” said Brown. After graduation, Brown plans to take the nursing certification exam and enroll in a pediatric nurse practitioner program to continue on her path toward working with children. She is thankful to have received scholarships from the McDaniels Charitable Foundation, Volunteers of Christ St. Elizabeth Hospital for academics, the Pioneering Women Foundation and the Jamaican Nurses Foundation.—AL
I expect great things. I want the players to know one of the reasons I wanted this job is because of them.

—COACH PAT KNIGHT

P

at Knight says he’s a Bob Knight guy, paying homage to his coaching-legend father. But when he met the media after his announcement as Lamar’s new basketball coach, he had plenty of kudos for LU’s own legend: Billy Tubbs, then serving as special assistant to the president for athletics before his retirement Aug. 31.

“This is a great day for me,” Pat Knight told university leaders, Cardinals boosters, players, reporters and others gathered in the Cardinal Hall of Honor Room of the Montagne Center. “I’m more excited than anybody here to have an opportunity to coach at a university like this. I got in this business to start my own program, to run my own program, to build a program people can be proud of, and I have that opportunity here at Lamar.

“I can’t wait to get going. The great thing is, I’ve always been proud to say that I’m a Bob Knight guy. Now I’m also proud to say I’m a Billy Tubbs guy. I grew up admiring coaches. People had posters around this game for my whole life. I just called (Duke) Coach (Mike) Krzyzewski to let him know I got the job. There’s not a lot of guys who can do that. I kind of coach with a ghost over me, but that makes me hungry and kind of have a chip on my shoulder and want to prove myself. That’s why I’m so excited about my job. I have not proven myself yet as a head coach. I want to have that capability. They could really have something. You have a bunch of seniors. It’s fortunate for a coach taking over to have senior leadership. But seniors have to play like seniors. It’s their team; it’s their last chance; and they can’t take it for granted. You don’t want to look back on your career and say, ‘I wish I would’ve been through that situation as a coach’—when seniors have not stepped up and taken it upon themselves. They can really make a mark for themselves. They have a chance to put a stamp on this program.

Q: What led you to be interested in this program?
A: When we got to Texas (from Indiana), everyone talked about Lamar—obvi-
ously because of Coach Tubbs and what he’s done. Then when I found out more about it, you know it’s really one of the few schools in Texas that really support basketball. The fans love basketball. This is a basketball school. When Coach Tubbs got the AD job, I wrote him a letter and told him that if he ever
needed a coach, I’d love to come down here. This job has really been on my radar for a long time. When this job came open, I called my agent right away and had my sights set on this job from the get-go.

Q: Talk about your style of play. Is it similar to Coach Tubbs?
A: The first time I talked to Coach Tubbs, he was like “I’ve watched you play. I bet your dad doesn’t like how you push the ball up.” From my stand-
point, everything I’ve learned, the basis is motion offense. Really, the only dif-
ference between my dad and me—is yes, I do like to push it up.

You have to have the easy basket and a lot more ball screens. The basis is
motion offense. It’s the best way to play. You shoot it; you drive it; you screen; you post up. You see every aspect, and there’s movement on both sides of the floor. It teaches kids to
play—man to man, ball pressure. You need to be able to score points off your
defense. It’s hard to play defense, but you get lots of easy opportunities if you
play good defense. You have to get into the passing lane. You have to play
zone at times. I like the press, but only after free throws and dead balls, so it’s
not a scramble out there.

Q: What do you think will be your toughest challenge?
A: I think confidence, for one, with these players. These guys can win. There’s
enough talent on this team to do good things right away. It’s a confidence
deal. Over the past three years, there’s a lot of close games they’ve lost. They
have to get their swagger back and believe in themselves.

Q: What are the upsides and the downsides of being Bobby Knight’s son?
A: I’ve never really looked at the downside. I am Bob Knight’s son, and I’m
prout if it. I’ll always have that last name. So, I’ve always embraced it. It’s
opened doors for me. I’ve been spoiled, from the standpoint that I’ve been
around this game for my whole life. I just called (Duke) Coach (Mike)
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of have a chip on my shoulder and want to prove myself. That’s why I’m so
excited about my job. I have not proven myself yet as a head coach. I want to
do that here and build something. To me, it’s an advantage, and I’ll always use it to my advantage.

Q: Do you get critiques from him after your ball games?
A: Oh, yeah. Actually, he critiqued me not about saying too much to you guys.
He thinks I give too much information. But you have to have that, I’m not
dumb. You have a Hall of Fame coach as your father; you need to listen to him.
You need to have him around. We all steal from each other, all the good coach-
es, because there’s not just one way to do it. Players change every year, and
the game changes, and you have to be able to evolve. I appreciate the input.

Q: What will it take to bring the program back to its top level (of the late
1970s and early 1980s)?
A: These players could do it right now if they started playing defense. They have
the offensive power. Now, I have to work on their shot selection. They have
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excited about my job. I have not proven myself yet as a head coach. I want to
do that here and build something. To me, it’s an advantage, and I’ll always use it to my advantage.
Men’s golfer M.J. Daffue took home individual medalist honors at the 2011 Southland Conference Tournament from Waterchase Golf Club in Fort Worth on his way to being named the SLC Player of the Year. Currently a senior, Daffue became the 17th Lamar golfer to win individual medalist honors at the Southland Tournament as he defeated Jad Sinclair of Central Arkansas on the first playoff hole. Daffue finished with a three-round score of 4-under par.

A native of South Africa, Daffue finished his junior year with a 73.7 strokes per round scoring average. He had six Top-10 finishes on the year.


A native of Denmark, Pedersen earned First-Team All-Southland Conference honors with a 76.7 strokes per round scoring average. She finished her senior year with seven Top-20 finishes.

Golfers earn SLC medalist honors

Cardinal Cadence

December 2011

39

Holly Bruder, a coach who has established a reputation for building fledgling softball programs, has been named head softball coach. Lamar, which competed in softball from 1983 to 1987, is reviving the program starting with the 2013 season.

“I’ve always been interested in helping programs grow,” said Bruder, who was the head coach at Denison University for six seasons and Monroe State for the past four seasons before accepting the Lamar position.

“The next step is starting your own program.”

“We are very excited to have Holly join our staff,” interim Athletic Director Jason Henderson said. “After going through a national search, we believe we have found the ideal candidate to lead our women's softball program. Holly has been successful at each of her previous schools, and we feel that with her enthusiasm and drive she will continue to have success here at Lamar.”

Also coming to Lamar from Monroe State is assistant softball coach Allison Honkofsky. She was a member of Bruder’s staff for the past two seasons. “Hiring Allison was a no-brainer,” Bruder said. “She’s a tremendous recruiter and is very good at practices and game operations. We both share a passion and excitement for softball.”

While Lamar won’t play its first game until 2013, Bruder will keep busy on the high school and junior college recruiting trails and see to a myriad of other responsibilities that go with building a program from the ground floor.

Bruder has already started her homework on the Southland Conference.

“It’s a very challenging conference,” she said. “There are a number of good pitchers, and the players are quick. I think that if you work hard, you can compete.”

Softball prepares the field for 2013

S

even individual and six team records were either set or tied during Lamar University’s 2011 football season, one that produced a 4-7 record in the second year for the Cardinals to play football since 1989. J.J. Hayes led the individual assault, setting three records, including two in the season finale, a home loss to rival McNeese State. The senior split end’s final two records were his 14 receptions against McNeese and his 951 receiving yards for the season. The 14 catches were one more than the previous record of 13 set by Herbert Harris in a 1961 game against Louisiana Tech, and the 951 receiving yards (which led the Southland Conference) are 33 more than the 918 accumulated by Chris Ford of the 1989 Cardinals.

Earlier in the season, the 6-foot-3, 210-pound Hayes, who previously starred at Diboll High School and Navarro College, shattered a record produced by Walter Smith’s record of eight extra point kicks in a game with four.

Stout, a 6-1, 160-pound sophomore from West Orange-Stark, set new standards for points scored in a game with 24 and for touchdowns in a game with four.

For the second-straight season, strongside line-backer Asim Hicks, a 6-0, 210-pound senior from Newark, N.J., led the conference in tackles with 103 tackles, a total that ranked second in the Southland Conference.

Also for the second-straight year, the Cardinals led the conference in home attendance as they drew 87,965 fans for six dates in 16,000-seat Provost Umphrey Stadium for an average of 14,661 per game.

Hayes leads assault on Lamar’s football record book during 2011 season

Both DePauldrick Garrett and Justin Stout etched their names in the school record book in the season opener, a victory over Texas College that set a team record for margin of victory. Garrett, a 5-8, 190-pound junior from West Orange-Stark, set new standards for points scored in a game with four.

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For the most up-to-date news and schedule information, visit lamarcardinals.com.

LU soccer honors cap best-ever season

Eight women’s soccer players received postseason accolades after the Lady Cardinals’ most successful season in the five-year history of the program. Lamar (9-8-2 overall, 6-2-1) set school records for victories and conference wins. The Lady Cardinals placed third in the Southland Conference, their highest finish ever.

Defenders Rachelle Barry and Jennifer Torry were named to the second team of the Capital One Academic All-District 7 women’s soccer team.

Medfielder Kristin Bos, forward Lisa Hance and defender Amber Thornhill were second-team All-Southland Conference selections, while goalkeeper Jennifer Gibbs, medfielder Stefanie Mirowballi and defender Nicole Fruth were honorable mention All-Conference selections.

“I’m very happy that these girls are receiving recognition,” Lamar coach Devi Hardman said. “They were a big part of our most successful season. They are tremendous representatives of our program and Lamar University.”

Cross-country reigns with record championship

The men’s cross-country team captured its 11th Southland Conference title this fall, extending its own conference record with a dominating performance.

The Cardinals placed five runners in the Top 10 to finish with 29 points, 34 better than runner-up UTSA’s 63 points. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi was third with 91 points. Lamar has won a conference record of 11 men’s cross-country championships.

“It was a good day for us,” Coach Trey Clark said. “We ran well today.”

Matt Johnson led the Cardinals with a second-place finish, covering the eight-kilometer course in 24 minutes, 51.3 seconds, just behind Patrick Kenai of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, who won the race in 24:50.6.

Lamar’s first five finishers earned All-Conference honors for finishing in the top 10: Johnson, second; Tom Wade, fourth; Bob Albinibishe, sixth; Joe Wade, seventh; and Anthony Pequeno, 10th. Sam Stabler finished 12th, Sam Bradley, 13th, and Ryan Creech was 16th. Creech’s 16th-place finish was better than the top finisher on six teams.

Stabler was named the Southland Conference’s Freshman of the Year, while Clark was named Coach of the Year.

Johnson went on to place eighth at the NCAA South Central Regional Championships in Waco to earn a spot in the NCAA Championships in Terre Haute, Ind., competing in the championships for the second consecutive year.

The Lamar women placed third at the Southland Conference Championships, their best finish in four years.

Jennifer Gibbs

Holly Bruder

Matt Johnson

Cross-country reigns with record championship

LU soccer honors cap best-ever season

Softball prepares the field for 2013

Hayes leads assault on Lamar’s football record book during 2011 season

Seven individual and six team records were either set or tied during Lamar University’s 2011 football season, one that produced a 4-7 record in the second year for the Cardinals to play football since 1989. J.J. Hayes led the individual assault, setting three records, including two in the season finale, a home loss to rival McNeese State. The senior split end’s final two records were his 14 receptions against McNeese and his 951 receiving yards for the season. The 14 catches were one more than the previous record of 13 set by Herbert Harris in a 1961 game against Louisiana Tech, and the 951 receiving yards (which led the Southland Conference) are 33 more than the 918 accumulated by Chris Ford of the 1989 Cardinals. Earlier in the season, the 6-foot-3, 210-pound Hayes, who previously starred at Diboll High School and Navarro College, shattered a record produced by Walter Smith’s record of eight extra point kicks in a game with four. Stout, a 6-1, 160-pound sophomore from West Mesquite High School, matched former Cardinal star Walter Smith’s record of eight extra point kicks in the Texas College game. Stout went on to set the season mark with extra points with 35. For the second-straight season, strongside line-backer Asim Hicks, a 6-0, 210-pound senior from Newark, N.J., led the conference in tackles with 103 tackles, a total that ranked second in the Southland Conference. Also for the second-straight year, the Cardinals led the conference in home attendance as they drew 87,965 fans for six dates in 16,000-seat Provost Umphrey Stadium for an average of 14,661 per game. Both DePauldrick Garrett and Justin Stout etched their names in the school record book in the season opener, a victory over Texas College that set a team record for margin of victory. Garrett, a 5-8, 190-pound junior from West Orange-Stark, set new standards for points scored in a game with four. Stout, a 6-1, 160-pound sophomore from West Mesquite High School, matched former Cardinal star Walter Smith’s record of eight extra point kicks in the Texas College game. Stout went on to set the season mark with extra points with 35. For the second-straight season, strongside line-backer Asim Hicks, a 6-0, 210-pound senior from Newark, N.J., led the conference in tackles with 103 tackles, a total that ranked second in the Southland Conference. Also for the second-straight year, the Cardinals led the conference in home attendance as they drew 87,965 fans for six dates in 16,000-seat Provost Umphrey Stadium for an average of 14,661 per game.
Cardinal Adventures

The success of the first trip offered through Lamar’s new travel program—Cardinal Adventures—led to the newest opportunity—travel along Italy’s famed Amalfi Coast. The winding, 28-mile route follows dramatic coastline sprinkled with some of Italy’s most beautiful towns, ancient fishing villages and magical panoramas.

Normandy, France

Cardinal Adventures began in France, with 22 alumni and friends. Those who traveled to Normandy and Paris May 1-10 had a wonderful time and expressed their enjoyment of the itinerary, the informative and helpful guides, and the impressive amenities offered through this program, operated in partnership with AHI Travel.

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Amalfi—The Divine Coast May 31-June 7, 2012.

Alumna Holidays International (AHI) designed this European travel tour for the inquisitive traveler—intimate, behind-the-scenes, experiential and educational. Travelers fly to Naples, a lively city nestled in the shadow of Mt. Vesuvius and credited with the origin of pizza and romantic guitar. From there, you will travel to Vietri sul Mare, the first of the 13 pearls of the Amalfi Coast and famous for its ceramics, to marvel at the breadth of Italy’s extraordinary history each day and spend seven nights at the deluxe Hotel Raito.

An experienced AHI campus director will assure attentive service for the duration of your stay. Knowledgeable guides lead your excursions, and local experts present informative programs to enhance insight into the region. The extensive meal program includes seven breakfasts, three lunches and five dinners, as well as opportunities for you to take advantage of leisure time and try local cuisine independently. All gratuities for excursion guides and drivers are included.

Waterways and canals of Holland and Belgium

The April 13-21, 2012, river cruise sold out quickly. Lamar alumni and friends—47 in all—will be the largest single contingent on the ship, which holds 120 passengers. In Amsterdam, they will board the state-of-the-art MS Amadeus Brilliant (which debuted in 2011) to travel along Amsterdam’s picturesque canals, visiting the beautiful Keukenhof Gardens, the historic Hague with its world-class museums, the renowned Zeeland Coast, the medieval architecture and art of Bruges and charming Antwerp before departing for home from Brussels. One special stop includes the Floriade, the Netherlands’ horticultural exposition that occurs only once every 10 years. This promises to be another wonderful trip for a great group of Lamar alumni and friends!

2013 itineraries will be chosen soon. If there’s a country or itinerary in which you are especially interested, please contact us at alumni@lamar.edu.

“The trip was perfectly splendid from start to finish—accommodations, food, scheduling—all went flawlessly, and we enjoyed every minute of it. I also want particularly to commend our Campus Director, Enrique Trave—I lack the words to describe just how capable he was in every way.”

— Ellen (Walker) Rienstra ’62, Beaumont, TX

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— Ellen (Walker) Rienstra ’62, Beaumont, TX

“The combination of touring a beautiful and historic part of Europe; first-class/well-planned/well-executed tour programs; and a group of awesome, friendly, fun-loving Lamar Alumni made this a fantastic trip for us. We definitely hope to go on more of these alumni trips in the future. The trip was A+ all the way.”

— Susan (Terre) ’54 and Bob ’64 McLendon, Richardson, TX

“We really had a fantastic trip and enjoyed the group so much—I would not have imagined that traveling with a group would have turned out so well! A large part of the success of the trip was due to Lamar University and our Campus Director Enrique!”

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“More Cardinal Adventures are on the way. View trip photos and keep abreast of new travel opportunities through lamar.edu/CardinalAdventures.”

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Distinguished alumni
1. William Macatee Jr. and Ann Anderson, left, proudly witnessed their grandson, Bill Macatee, handling the Silver Order of & Henry Medal from the C.S. Cline Engineers’ Regiment, one of the highest recognitions given by the Army engi-
ners as well as being named as enshined in the Texas Navy. He lives in La Marque.
2. Eddie Stead, right, at the 2011 Distinguished Alumni Awards ceremony.
3. Distinguished Alumna Vernon Durden ’04, standing with her husband, Bill, and children, Bill Jr. and Judy England-Durden before receiving her honor at the 2011 Distinguished Alumni Awards ceremony.

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

Send us your news:
Write to Cadence, P.O. Box 10011, Beaumont, TX 77710, e-mail cynthia.hicks@lamar.edu or call (409) 880-8421.

40s
Jan (Patool) Hughes ’47, A.A., a general store owner, marketed a bachelor’s degree in marketing and finance from the University of Texas at Austin before beginning his career at Sun Oil Co. During his career, he traveled to more than 40 countries and lived in 13.

40s
Louis Matthews Sr. ’40, B.S., mechanical engineer, and his wife, Lorena, raised four children, all at Lamar graduate, and then went on to graduate school. They live in Beaumont.

40s
Nancy (Hunterson) Reason ’48, B.A., English, earned a master’s degree in education from North Texas State. She retired from a 47-year career in education and lived in Corpus Christi with her husband, Bruce.

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Sandra (Harris) Smith ’48, B.S., biology, and her husband, Jerry, raised four children, all four still live in Oak Cliff. They retired in 2000 and reside in Florence, Ky.

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Margaret Rice ’48, B.A., English, earned a master’s degree in education from Texas A&M University and retired as chairman of the English Department at the University of Houston. She is a retired college instructor.

50s
Jerry Brown ’50, A.A., general studies, earned a master’s degree in biology and hold management jobs in the chemical industry including director of research and development for Diamond Shamrock, vice president for Regal-Vogel Polymers and Albonite and vice president in regional manufacturing for Georgia-Pacific. He has had publications in dendrochronology and creation in electrons-deduction andbounding exchange molecules. He now owns a fishing tackle business in Gold Hill, Ore.

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John McKenzie ’50, B.S., electrical engineer, retired as chief electrical engineer for Sun Exploration and Production Co. and lives in Houston with his wife, Delores.

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Dr. Jack Monrad ’50, B.S., biology, earned a medical degree from the University of Texas Medical School in Galveston. His position with the Jack Monrad Group in Austin, where he lives with his wife, Jerry.

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Harry Trapp ’50, B.S., chemical engineering, had a 45-year career as a process engineer in Midland oil fields. His sons have their emeritus titles. His wife, Betty, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and lives in Houston.

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Judy Curry ’50, B.B.A., marketing, retired from her career as a golf professional at the Hikkok Country Club in Beeville, Texas, where she lives with her wife, Karla.

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class_notes

Bette Stead ’57 is the first woman to be inducted into the Lamar University College of Business Hall of Fame. An author and former Lamar faculty member, Stead holds a master’s degree from the University of Houston.

Bette Stead ’57 has a wonderful career as a distinguished business executive and has offered the College of Business her substantial
generation, and substantial financial support,” said Lamar University business dean Enrique “Henry” Vento. “The Hall of Fame inductees are wonderful models for the students and Bette is an outstanding example of hard work and dedication leading to success.”

Upon receiving her doctorate, Stead joined University of Houston’s faculty in the Bauer College of Business. She was named a Melcher Faculty Service Fellow for outstanding service productivity in 1992 and in 1995 received the Melcher Award for Excellence in Service. She taught UH’s first electronic commerce course.

Bette Stead ’57 was inducted into the Lamar University College of Business Hall of Fame. An author and former Lamar faculty member, Stead holds a master’s degree from the University of Houston.

The hall of fame honors alumni from the college who have made significant achievements in their careers and been an integral part of the college.
A resident of Garland, Garrett grew up in Lufkin and graduat-ed Lamar University in 1959 with a degree in electrical engineering. Lamar honored him as a Distinguished Alumnus in 2003.

Garrett’s passion for treasure hunting led him to developing a better metal detector, which resulted in a global business. The company he and his wife, Eleanor, began in 1964 with $4,000 as Garrett Electronics has grown into the world’s largest manufacturer of virtually all types of metal detector equipment, including hobbyist, law enforcement, security and military devices. It provides walk-through scanners and hand-held detection wands at airports all over the world and has furnished security equipment to all summer Olympic games and most of the winter Olympics for more than 25 years.

In 2010, the Garretts carried the Olympic torch to begin the celebration at the Vancouver Winter Olympic Games.

Garrett took his detectors into the field, spending countless hours learning how to use them effectively. This practical experimenta-tion led to refinements that, over the years, gave the Garrett systems an edge over its competition. Garrett has acquired several patents for innovative equipment and features, beginning in 1982 when Garrett Electronics was awarded the first U.S. patent for the use of a computer chip in a metal detector.

He and Eleanor established the Professor Floyd Crum Scholarship in Electrical Engineering in tribute to the professor from Lamar in 1959 with a degree in electrical engineering. He lives in Garland.

Tommy Smith ‘69, B.S. general business, is owner of Smith International Consulting and lives in Tyler with his wife, Sonya.
A record number of alumni and their families attended the first-ever Alumni Tailgate Oct. 22, enjoying a bite and some conversation before the homecoming game.

1. Alba (Nicolle) Frye '92
2. Ronnie Turner '79, Josh Gospill '04

Alumni gathered at The Tip of The Dias in April for the most-attended reception to date in the Austin area hosted by the Office of Alumni Affairs.

3. Jimmy Simmons, left, Dean Thomas '75, Janice Simmons '84, left, Jo Ann (Sellers) '74, '80, and Steve Huber

4. Roger and Sharon (Smith) McCabe '83, '89, left, Cherrie (McVey) '70 and Alan '93

5. Janice (Bennett) Trammell '85, '94, Richard Price

6. Jan (Caldwell) '83 and Dan Hallmark '65, left, Dean Enrique “Henry” Venta

7. A red tide across the community kicked off at Bistro LeMonde Oct. 17, with a bite and some conversation before the homecoming game. A record number of alumni and their families attended.

8. Kathryn Johnson Ritchel '85

9. Donna (Peterson) Bruney

10. Calvin Carrier, '88, B.S. home economics, works in administration for WinCo

11. Tanya (Mitchell) Williams

12. Ramona Parks

13. Ramona Parks '96, B.S. elementary education, is a counselor in the Beaumont school district.

14. John Vitalo ‘90, B.S. health and kinesiology, '91 M.Ed. school administration, is superintendent for the Little Cypress-Mauriceville school district.

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works for Home Depot and lives in Austin.

September issue of Probate and Property. She received the "Section Award" by the American Bar Association. She lives in Nederland.

Angela (Texada) Sterling '92, B.S. home economics, is an office administrator for the Texas Railroad Commission in Austin. She lives in Nederland.

Bridget (Blanchard) Fuselier '94, B.B.A. general business, is an office assistant for FivePoint Credit Union in Nederland. She lives in Hamshire.

Jamey Harrison '95, B.S. criminal justice, is a process engineer for LyondellBasell Industries in Nederland. He lives in Nederland.

Tanya (Harrell) Groves '97, B.S. criminal justice, is a career and college counselor for Del Mar College and lives in Port Neches.

Amanda (Franke) Eaves '96, B.S. health and kinesiology, is a nurse with Baptist Medical Group in Beaumont. She lives in Nederland.

Shanta (Brown) Boswell, '99, B.A.A. applied arts and sciences, is a business analyst for Univar Inc. She lives in Missouri City.

Morgan Moore Department of Music at Lamar University. She is an adjunct professor in the Mary B. Martin School of the Performing Arts in Beaumont. She lives in Nederland.

Jacy Thibodeaux '04, M.E.S. mechanical engineering, earned a master’s degree in marriage and family therapy from Texas A&M University. He is a counselor for the Beaumont school district. He lives in Nederland.
A wine tasting at WineStyles—owned by Kathy (Andrews) Denuel—10 in Beaumont attracted alumni and friends to savor different vintages. Beaumont attracted alumni and friends to campus on Oct. 22 and posed for photos—credit Sherry (Jones) Goth ‘77, ‘80, Frank Zummo ‘69, ‘72, and Laurie Maida, Sherry (Jones) Goth ‘77, ‘80, Frank Zummo ‘69. Former homecoming queens returned to campus on Oc. 22 and posed before the columns with First Lady Susan (Williams) Smisson ‘66.

The Class of ’61 reunited Nov. 4-5 and marveled at the changes made to campus over the past 50 years. The Class of 1961 reunited Nov. 4-5 reminiscing and joining together to cheer the Cardinals on the field once again. More than 175 cheerleaders and students from the University of Texas at San Antonio were there to give the Cardinals a standing ovation and a victory dance at the end of the game. The Class of 1961 reunion event was sponsored by the McNeese Alumni Association and McNeese Athletics.


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Susan (Williams) Simmons to savor different vintages. Beaumont attracted alumni and friends to campus on Oct. 22 and posed for photos—credit Sherry (Jones) Goth ‘77, ‘80, Frank Zummo ‘69, ‘72, and Laurie Maida, Sherry (Jones) Goth ‘77, ‘80, Frank Zummo ‘69. Former homecoming queens returned to campus on Oc. 22 and posed before the columns with First Lady Susan (Williams) Smisson ‘66.

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52

Susan (Williams) Simmons to savor different vintages. Beaumont attracted alumni and friends to campus on Oct. 22 and posed for photos—credit Sherry (Jones) Goth ‘77, ‘80, Frank Zummo ‘69, ‘72, and Laurie Maida, Sherry (Jones) Goth ‘77, ‘80, Frank Zummo ‘69. Former homecoming queens returned to campus on Oc. 22 and posed before the columns with First Lady Susan (Williams) Smisson ‘66.

The Class of ’61 reunited Nov. 4-5 and marveled at the changes made to campus over the past 50 years. The Class of 1961 reunited Nov. 4-5 reminiscing and joining together to cheer the Cardinals on the field once again. More than 175 cheerleaders and students from the University of Texas at San Antonio were there to give the Cardinals a standing ovation and a victory dance at the end of the game. The Class of 1961 reunion event was sponsored by the McNeese Alumni Association and McNeese Athletics.
The power of touch to change lives

by Beth Gallasp

Alan Coleman '80 views his abilities as a dentist as a gift from God. Two years ago, while out for a morning run, he began thinking about sharing that gift with people in need around the world. He couldn’t get the thought out of his mind. He saw it as a message from God—one he needed to focus on the patients. They saw more than 60 patients in four days, primarily providing fillings with a few extractions.

He compared conditions in the stuffy clinic to hot, sticky days in Beaumont, the Colemans worked through the United Methodist Church to arrange the Haiti trip. They joined an established group from Mount Carroll, III., that had been making trips a year for 10 years to provide medical and dental care in Juaanp, Haiti. For the October 2010 trip, the Illinois dentist scheduled to go couldn’t make it, so Alan stepped in. Julie, who teaches American history at Al Saints Episcopal School in Beaumont, took care of cleaning and sterilizing the instruments to allow Alan and a dental assistant from Illinois to focus on the patients. They saw more than 60 patients in four days, mainly extracting damaged teeth. He did one memorable root canal, and Alan got a temporary South Dakota dental license. The couple then loaded a small house that they supplied them with a small house that they provided with a few of the children they met in Haiti.

The patients kept requesting the restorative care he’s provided in Beaumont, the Colemans stand with some of the children they met in Haiti.
When Sina Nejad '80, ’81, left Iran to pursue a college degree in the U.S., he had no intention of making America his home. Revolution would change his life.

Nejad and a few of his fellow Iranians had intended to matriculate at the University of Houston, but, as fate would have it, they missed the fall registration deadline. Considering, and then rejecting, the idea of a three-month “holiday” until the next semester, the group decided instead to enroll at “a small school” 80 miles to the east of Houston and then transfer to UH in the Spring. Thus began Nejad’s adventures at Lamar University and his respect and admiration for what its engineering college had to offer.

“Lamar has been a great school,” Nejad said. “I think I took every engineering course Lamar had to offer. There were some really, really good professors back then, and there still are today. When I started working, I had absolutely no deficiencies, thanks to the superb training I had received at Lamar.”

During his time at Lamar, he returned to Iran to spend time there with his family while the school was in holiday recess. It was a time of serious civil unrest in that country, and Nejad witnessed several violent scenes of shooting, looting and burning. He was fortunate to catch the last Pan-Am flight out of Tehran and managed to get back to Texas via Istanbul, Beirut and Rome.

Nejad earned his undergraduate engineering degree at Lamar and planned to return to Iran to start his professional career. He had carefully packed and shipped all of his books and materials home in expectation of that next step, but his father’s assessment of the political situation at home led him to encourage Nejad to stay at Lamar to pursue a master’s degree to give time for the political situation to settle down.

When Nejad completed his master’s degree in structural engineering in 1981, returning to Iran was not a good option, and the U.S. economy made finding an engineering position tough. After many weeks of searching, applying and waiting, he received two calls in one night. Nejad went to work for a local full-service contractor and construction management firm where his experience fully qualified him to earn his professional engineering credentials. He became one of the few engineers to gain this status without having to work five years under the direct supervision of another engineer.

After several years with the local firm, Nejad started his own company, Sigma Engineers Inc., which handles all phases of construction of commercial and industrial buildings, foundations and structures. The bulk of Sigma’s work is for refineries and the petro-chemical industry, including particular specialties in the design of blast-resistant structures and the retrofitting of existing buildings to meet more stringent load requirements, a sophisticated and exacting process.

“Blast loads are so great and happen in such short duration that they are highly difficult to determine and to resist,” Nejad said. “You basically must design the structure to pass the load through itself using a unique design process so that lives can be saved and still keep the basic building standing.”

Sigma Engineers is expanding its influence worldwide. It has done design work for Houston-based Hunter Buildings, one of the top blast-resistant building contractors in the world. This has included projects in Kuwait, Canada and Great Britain as well as many projects in U.S. locations. Most recently, Nejad has acquired an engineering license for Canada and is working on projects for an energy operation in Northern Alberta.

Nejad has also done many projects on the Lamar campus—mostly renovation and structural stabilization work on the Mary and John Gray Library, the Dishman Art Museum, Cherry Engineering and the Speech and Hearing Building. One Sigma project that is greatly enjoyed by campus visitors and tourists is the replica of the 1901 oil derrick at Lamar’s Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum. Nejad designed the replica derrick using the well-known Trefz photographs of the Lucas Gusher. “I estimated the main in the photo to be five feet, five inches tall,” he said. From this he extrapolated the derrick’s height and the height of the plume or “rooster tail” of oil that spewed forth on that memorable day back on January 10, 1901. The replica derrick was built and erected by Mason Construction. Other notable projects with the Sigma Engineering mark are Dowlen Road Neches Credit Union, the convention and visitors building, additions to Saint Anthony Cathedral Baslica and the arches and building renovations on Crocket Street in downtown Beaumont.

Nejad is a very much a family man, and he was pleased to have wife, Sohela, present at the huge centennial celebration in January 2001 and to have his son Amir and his daughter Layla join Evelyn Lord, the centennial chairman, in putting the barometer to successfully “bring in” the well before an audience of more than 20,000 people, including former President George H.W. Bush.

“It turned out just like the photo,” Nejad said. “The whole celebration was really a magnificent feat, and blowing the gusher was the highlight.” While designing the pump and rigging wasn’t hard, he admits they got lucky on determining the correct amount of pressure to get it to blow high and to reproduce to perfection the rooster tail.

Nejad has been showered with accolades and has been named Engineer of the Year by the Society of Professional Engineers Sabine Chapter and Business Person of the Year by the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce. A member of Lamar’s College of Engineering Advisory Board, he has also served on the board of trustees of the Lamar University Foundation. He actively shows his appreciation of his new home and citizenship through his service on many boards, including CHRISTUS St. Elizabeth Hospital, Monsignor Kelly Catholic High School, United Way of Beaumont and North Jefferson County, Anzurt Honor and the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce. He is a past president of the Symphony of Southeast Texas and presides over the Planning and Zoning Commission for the City of Beaumont.

Sohela, a graduate of the University of Southern California with both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in business, manages the daily business of Sigma Engineers. Although she was not enthusiastic about her initial move to this part of the country, both she and her husband have grown to appreciate the advantages that it offers and have found it a great place to rear their family. Their children are now both college students, and Sohela and Sina have established the Amir and Layla Nejad Scholarship in Civil Engineering at Lamar in their honor.

Although the tumult of history may have played a huge role in his personal story, Nejad is always quick to point out how very much he owes to the wonderful foundation he gained at Lamar and attributes many of the good things that have come to him and his family to the first-class education he found at Lamar University.
The right direction
by Larry Acker

Some dream about graduating from college and finding a great job. Others dream of starting a business to create great jobs. Alan Johnston ’99 is one of the latter. From the time he graduated from St. Thomas High School, the third-generation Houston native envisioned himself as an entrepreneur. Lamar University helped him fulfill that ambition.

The career of this chemical engineering major has been filled with twists, turns, and a few backflips to reach his goals. He began his educational career at Texas A&M University, majoring in architecture until the death of his father during his senior year halted that pursuit.

“Quite frankly, everything changed at that moment,” said Johnston. “I needed to find a job and make some money. There was a time in my life when I wasn’t sure I would be able to complete my education.”

Circumstances like these can lead a man to do a good deal of soul-searching, and such was the case with Johnston. He landed a job at a refinery in Port Arthur, which inspired a new career decision. Johnston’s father and grandfather were both engineers. That history, coupled with the fact he had done well in chemistry courses at Texas A&M University, majoring in architecture until the death of his father during his senior year halted that pursuit.

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