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

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Building the future

1. The lofty ceiling of the Field House will let shouts of victory soar.
2. The expansive new weight room will have plenty of room for equipment to keep the Cards fighting fit.
3. The grand staircase sweeps down into the Athletic Complex lobby.
4. The future Morgan Suites offer a good view of Provost Umphrey Stadium.
5. Stacks of acoustic tile and panels in the band hall will soon find their place on the ceiling and walls.
6. The entrance to the addition to Cherry Engineering for the chemical engineering program will soon open.
7. The brighter, more open design complements new departmental offices in the Music Building that feature extensive acoustic treatments and soundproofing throughout.
8. Cardinal Village Phase 5 will soon be ready for students to call their home away from home.

A wealth of spirit

A planned gift in the form of a charitable remainder trust provided Homer and Jane Walles the opportunity to fulfill a dream in endowing the Walles Chair. Mr. Walles foresaw and planning is a perfect example of how a planned gift can fulfill a lofty aspiration to benefit Lamar University.

"He didn’t know where, he didn’t know how much, he just wanted to help Lamar. It was obvious he felt strongly about Lamar, what the university had done for him and what it meant to the community."—L.W. "Bud" Leonard

It was obvious he felt strongly about Lamar, what the university had done for him and what it meant to the community.

—L.W. "Bud" Leonard
“Lamar University played an important role in our lives, and we are honored to play a small role in making this endeavor successful,” Glen Morgan said.

“Glen Morgan’s support of Lamar athletics is a tremendous help in bringing football back to the university,” Simmons said. “We are delighted to have the Morgan name as a permanent part of the new football complex.”

“The suites will be absolutely first rate,” said Billy Tubbs ’58, special assistant for athletics/consultant to the president. “It wouldn’t be possible to build them without the Morgans’ generosity. We are very thankful for their support of Cardinal football and Lamar athletics.”

When fans come to see the Cardinals play football this fall, they will enjoy an outstanding facility. That complex includes Provost Umphrey Stadium with the Dan F. and Sandra A. Smith Press Box overlooking the W.S. “Bud” Leonard Field. At the south end of the field, the new 54,000-square-foot athletic complex will encompass the former Higgins Field House. Fans will keep track of the progress of the game on the jumbo video board made possible by Education First Federal Credit Union. South of the complex is the Coach Vernon Glass Field of Champions where Lamar’s team has been hard at work preparing for the 2010 season. Southland Conference play will begin in fall 2011.

The Morgan Suites are being built at the north end of the field in the area beneath the university’s Montagne Center Red Room.

The suites are leased for $25,000 per year with a three-year commitment, officials said. Revenue from leasing the suites will support football scholarships. Each leaseholder will receive 16 tickets to each home game and parking passes. Each suite includes a bar with four stools overlooking two tiered rows of six seats each, a total of 16 seats. The suites will open to the front and will feature motorized windows that can be lowered as desired.

The gift continues a pattern of giving by the Morgans to their alma mater. In 1984, Glen Morgan made a generous gift to establish a scholarship in his father’s name. His support came at a time when very few alumni were making such significant gifts, said Camille Mouton, vice president for advancement.

A native of Beaumont, Morgan graduated from Lamar in 1975 with a bachelor’s degree in business, then attended South Texas School of Law, earning a juris doctorate in 1978. He was admitted to the Texas bar in 1978. He is a partner at Reaud, Morgan and Quinn in Beaumont.

Teri Morgan graduated from Lamar University in 1985 with a bachelor’s in speech pathology/audiology. While in school, she was active in the Lamar music department and performed at football games in Cardinal Stadium. Teri currently serves on the board of Family Services of Southeast Texas and has served on the board of CASA.

In addition to his leadership of many organizations in his profession, Morgan served as a board member of the Lamar University Foundation and is an honorary member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers’ Local 479, Beaumont Professional Firefighters Local 399, Beaumont Police Officers Association and Texas State Building and Construction.

“The return of football after 21 years has generated incredible excitement and enthusiasm in Southeast Texas,” Simmons said. “This gift and the suites are icing on the cake.”

“Thanks to the generosity of donors like Glen Morgan, the university is making good on its commitment to a first-class football program with state-of-the-art facilities.”
Legacy Society: A new tradition  Choose how you want to be remembered

 Choose how you want to be remembered

 T

he desire to recognize individuals who have made the commitment to benefit Lamar U niversity through a will or other form of planned gift has prompted the establishment of the Lamar University Legacy Society. Love timeg Beauford resident and estate-planning attorney Floyd McSpadden directs planned giving at LU, the newest branch of the Division of University Advancement.

 McSpadden joined the development team in 2009 to discuss planned giving options and the associated tax incentive opportunities with potential donors. Planned giving will be an important component in assisting Lamar U niversity Foundation to benefit the university. The second option incorporates an estate tax perspective in which any assets designated to the Lamar U niversity Foundation for the benefit of the university transfer to the foundation without any taxation upon the death of the donor under current law.

 One of the most common vehicles for planned giving is the charitable gift annuity—popularly known as the gift that gives back. The individual makes an irrevocable gift to a charitable foundation, and, in return, receive not only an upfront charitable deduction, but also a steady source of income during their lifetime. The charitable gift annuity is one of many vehicles that can be tailored to fit a donor’s wishes and financial profile.

 “In my opinion, making a legacy gift to the Lamar U niversity Foundation to benefit the university says the donor has a strong belief in the future of the institution and they want to have a stake in that future.” McSpadden added. “In many cases, these gifts won’t be realized during the lifetime of the donor, and they understand that it is so important to sow the seeds for future generations.”

 Leave a lasting legacy

 To discuss planned giving options available to potential Legacy Society donors and to learn about the possible tax benefits in making a legacy gift, contact Floyd McSpadden, director of planned giving, at (409) 880-7895 or by e-mail at floyd.mcspadden@lamar.edu.  

 President’s Scholarships  DEBUT SCOTT J. & MISS MARY CLARK DUCKWORTH MEMORIAL PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN BUSINESS | established by the Gay D., ’80 and William F. Scott, ’70 Family Foundation for freshmen in any major in the College of Business.

 CLAYTON AND GEORGE LAU PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN BUSINESS | established by Clayton 103 and Georgia (Greater) Lau ’68, for undergraduate and graduate majors in the College of Business.

 R. J. OE WARE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCES | established by R. Joe Ware and family for undergraduate earth and space sciences majors.

 F. DAVID WINTER JR., MD ‘72 PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN PRE-MED | established by Fred and Betty Winter in honor of their son David for a freshman pre-med major.

 Named Scholarship Endowments  MCKENZIE T. AND GILBERT T. ADAMS, JR. SCHOLARSHIP IN PRE-LAW I | established by their children Gilbert Adams III, Mary Margaret Groves, Carolina Faulkus, Catherine M. Conklin and Blair Neely for sophomores, junior or senior political science majors.

 MARY ALICE MCLIN SCHOLARSHIP IN DANCE | established by friends and family for students majoring in dance.

 CATHRINE HURLER CLARK SCHOLARSHIP IN NURSING | established by Ron Clark in honor of his mother for students accepted to the associate degree of nursing or Bachelor of Science degree in nursing programs.

 OTTO L. DAVIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN ATHLETIC TRAINING | established by Grace (Dav) England ’55 in memory of her brother for students majoring in an academic area leading to a bachelor’s degree with specialization in athletic training.

 HOWARD AND SYBIL EASTEP SCHOLARSHIP IN NURSING | established by their children Lynn and Becky Eastep, Debbie Eastep Keith ’79, Larry Eastep ’81, and Ann Eastep Schaefer ’05 and husband Mark ’88, ’99, ’91, skilled grand-children Laura Keith Davis ’04 and husband Ernie and Leslie Eastep Weaver ’80 and husband Troy for nursing majors.

 DR. SAMUEL L. EVANS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN HISTORY | established by his daughters Victoria (Evans) Touchet ’75, ’71 and Stephanie (Evans) Whitehurst ’65 for undergraduate and graduate history majors.

 DR. K. E. EVELAND MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN GEOLOGY | established by his wife, Doris, in memory of Dr. Eveland for junior and senior geology majors.

 DR. R. JOSEPH WARE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN THEATRE | established as a legacy gift by Dr. Orrick, a native Beaumonter who has always been interested in Lamar’s development, for a pre-med major.

 DOUG C. PROCTOR JR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN BUSINESS | established by Pati and Floyd McSpadden in memory of her father for undergraduate students in any major in the College of Business.

 PETER BOWE WELLS JR. SCHOLARSHIP IN HISTORY | established by family and friends for history majors in all class levels.

 To begin your own scholarship endowment or to add a gift to an existing scholarship, please contact the Lamar University Foundation at (409) 880-2217.
The right treatment

In the conference and will rival the facilities at other large schools. —Josh Yonker

World-class act

The Beaumont Bone & Joint Sports Medicine Facility will be one of the best in the conference and will rival the facilities at other large schools. —Josh Yonker

The Beaumont Bone & Joint Institute, which comprises 17 physicians, was the first team physician for Lamar athletics. Several orthopedic clinics merged in 1995 to form the Beaumont Bone & Joint Institute with companies in the athletic training program. We provide direct support to Yonker and the athletic training staff.

The Beaumont Bone & Joint Institute physicians and, in addition, two inpatient physicians have an affiliation with the Beaumont Bone & Joint Institute, which is a specialty clinic.

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Four LU faculty members earn 2010 University Merit Awards

Lamar University honored four faculty members with 2010 University Merit Awards in recognition of scholarship, service, classroom performance and interaction with students.

Richard Gachot, assistant professor of interior design.

“His love for his subject and his determination to pass that love on to his students is something to behold. His work ethic is second to none and he puts his heart and soul into everything he does. In his first year as an assistant professor, he has been a model of success and has demonstrated that he is a great teacher and a great person.” – Student Evaluation

“Impressed with his creativity and his ability to instill that creativity in others.” – Student Evaluation

Sandra Richardson, assistant professor of professional pedagogy and mathematics.

“Dr. Richardson’s enthusiasm for her subject is unparalleled. She is a great teacher.” – Student Evaluation

“Dr. Richardson is an absolute role model for all teachers. She has the ability to take complex ideas and break them down into digestible pieces for the students.” – Student Evaluation

Qiang Xu, assistant professor of chemical engineering.

“Dr. Xu’s research activity has been exceptional; his publication record is extremely impressive. He is committed to service and is recognized as one of the best in the country.” – Student Evaluation

“Dr. Xu is an absolute role model for all teachers. She has the ability to take complex ideas and break them down into digestible pieces for the students.” – Student Evaluation

Thomas Thompson, assistant professor of finance.

“Dr. Thompson has impressed us as a good teacher and excellent researcher, with service that far exceeds the expectations of an assistant professor.” – Student Evaluation

“Dr. Thompson is a very good teacher. He always makes an effort to make sure his students understand the material.” – Student Evaluation

From the University of California at Berkeley and has taught at the college level for 36 years. He was honored as Lamar’s 2005 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer, making his presentation on “The Meaning of the Movies: 100 Years of Cinema in the U.S. and Around the World.” In 1997, Rivers earned the College of Arts and Sciences’ Excellence in Teaching Award. As a recipient of an LU Research Enhancement Grant, he traveled this summer to France, where his itinerary included the Cannes Film Festival where he was a credentialed visitor in 2003. Rivers is a faculty sponsor of the Film Society of the French Film Festival and Lamar’s chapter of Pi Delta Phi French honor society. He serves as president of the East Texas chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French. Rivers edited and published the third edition of A Survey of French Literature, a literary anthology in five volumes described as “a standard for the discipline.” He also published Transmissions: Understanding Literary and Pictorial Caricature, the first academic study of how caricature functions in literature and visual art. It is under contract to produce a three-volume anthology of works by French playwrights Molière. – LW
TEA commends principal education program

Evaluators from the Texas Education Agency recently presented their final report following a review of Lamar University’s master’s level principal education program. The team found the university in compliance in each of the five areas of review and commended the university for the quality of its curriculum, officials said.

Lamar offers the M.Ed. in Educational Leadership both on campus and online through its partnership with Higher Ed Holdings. The team found Lamar’s program in compliance with all five primary areas of evaluation: commitment and collaboration, admission criteria, curriculum, program delivery and on-going support, and program evaluation.

In addition, under area of curriculum, the team issued the following commendation: “Lamar University’s Principal Program is to be commended for providing a comprehensive, research-based instructional program. It is technically appropriate for distance learning.”

Construction management courses go online

Construction management courses will soon be able to obtain at least 90 percent of their degree requirements online.

Two initial course offerings, introduction to construction management and commercial construction, will be available to students online for the fall 2010 semester. Two additional classes will be offered online each semester until the majority of the 19 construction management core courses are available.

“Construction management students working in the construction industry will benefit from this change,” said Dr. David McCurry, professor of construction management.

MBA students join elite international competition

Four, four-member teams of MBA students competed against 24 other elite teams from schools across the U.S. and around the world to solve a real-life sustainability challenge presented during the first round of the Aspen Institute’s 2010 Business & Society International MBA Case Competition in April.

The winning team was Tessa Elsko, of Fort Worth; Tony Hussey of Lubbock; and Calandre Carr and Dan Williams, both of Beaumont. The winning team was honored with Best Model, Best Paper, Best Oral Presentation, Best Poster, Best Patch, Best Photo Documentation and Best Collaboration for working with NASA’s Johnson Space Center. The Lamar team members are from the McCall School of Business, and the winning team was supervised by Professors John W. Dillard, Dr. Tim Hayes, and Dr. única Coates. Other team members were David Cutler, Jr. and Timothy Stephens, both of Beaumont. They also were honored with Best Model, Best Paper, Best Oral Presentation, Best Poster, Best Patch, Best Photo Documentation and Best Collaboration for working with NASA’s Johnson Space Center.

Nearly 1,500 degrees awarded

Lamar University conferred nearly 1,500 degrees during spring commencement ceremonies May 15 in the Montagne Center. Because of the large number of graduates and growth at the university, Lamar conferred two ceremonies for the second time in its history. The first was in December 2009.

State Senator Tommy Williams, R-The Woodlands, addressed graduates in both ceremonies—9:30 a.m. for the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business and Engineering and at 2:30 p.m. for graduates in the Colleges of Education and Human Development, Fine Arts and Communication and General Studies.

Grades from 15 countries, 17 states outside Texas and 263 cities and towns in Texas. Lamar conferred a record 17 doctorates, 826 master’s degrees and 676 bachelor’s degrees.

Students build vacuum system, clean room for assembly

Earth and space science majors enrolled in the course space vacuum physics and under the direction of department chair Jim Jordan created a “clean room” environment. The students built a vacuum system to house a highly sensitive quadrupole mass spectrometer and other devices designed to operate in a vacuum. Commercially available clean rooms used in industry and research can cost up to $1 million. The clean room designed by the students was constructed of commonly available materials and is achieved by its own, unique design.

Engineering students win big in space design challenge

A team of mechanical engineering students won multiple awards including Top Design Team/Best Overall and Forum Favorite at a recent showcase for the Texas Space Grant Consortium U-Design Challenge near NASA’s Johnson Space Center. The Lamar team members designed a washing machine to use in space that requires very little water and about one third of the energy needed for a traditional washing machine. "With the amount of conserved energy, we could probably sell it to a commercialized industry as well," said team member Justin Coleta of Houston. Other team members are David Cutler, III and Timothy Stephens, both of Beaumont. Their faculty advisors are Ken Aung and Jenny Zhou, associate professors of mechanical engineering at Lamar. The team also was honored with Best Model, Best Paper, Best Oral Presentation, Best Poster, Best Patch, Best Photo Documentation and Best Collaboration for working with NASA’s Johnson Space Center.
Wright provides insights in OKC bombing documentary | MSNBC  con-
sulted scholar Stuart Wright, professor of sociology and director of  
research in Lamar’s Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, as  
part of a television documentary commemorating the 15th anniversary  
of the Oklahoma City bombing, which claimed 168 lives and injured  
680 on April 19, 1995.  

“The McVeigh Tapes: Confessions of an  
American Terrorist” premiered April 19 on  
MSNBC.  

Wright is known internationally as an  
authority on religious and political move-  
ments and violence. He has been a consult-  
ant, legal advisor or expert witness in high-  
profile litigation such as the McVeigh crimi-  
nal trial and Branch Davidian civil trial.  

MSNBC contacted Wright last November  
after the producer read his 2007 book, Patriots, Politics and the  
Oklahoma City Bombing. The network flew him to New York where  
he spent four hours being interviewed in the MSNBC studio at  
Rockefeller Plaza.  

“It was intense but exciting,” Wright said. “The interview covered a  
range of topics about the development of the insurgency leading up  
to the bombing. I talked about McVeigh’s links to the Patriot and  
militia movements, the planning of the bombing and the network of  
infiltrants that helped him carry out the bombing.”  

Wright contends in his book that the characterization of McVeigh as  
a “lone-wolf” terrorist is inaccurate and that McVeigh was part of a  
social network of movement actors. “I carefully documented his contacts  
with other terrorist cells, his ties to Elohim City, where the planning  
of the bombing took place and where a similar plot was planned but foil ed  
10 years earlier,” Wright said . . .  

Honors students  

Honor Zani | Honors Program students  
voted Steven Zani as the 2010 Honors  
Professor of the Year.  

“I am more proud of this award than  
yet another award I could receive on campus,  
because it is voted for by the honors stu-  
dents,” said Zani. “He teaches honors classes  
and has served on the honors council for five years.  

“The program itself is thriving; it’s got extraordinary students, it’s  
a great opportunity for faculty to create classes that deal with interest-  
 ing subjects and pushes the students in new directions,” said Zani.  

He is also chair of the Department of English and Modern  
Languages. . . Liu recently received the NSF  
award and June Liu, assistant professor of  
computer science, has won a presti-  
gious $400,000 National Science  
Foundation Faculty Early Career  
Development award. She is the first  
Lamar faculty member to receive this  
national recognition, which acknowl-  
edges junior faculty who exemplify the  
role of teacher-scholars through out-

standing research, excellent education  
and the integration of education and  
research within the context of the  
mission of their organizations.  

Panoramic photo memorializes Eveland  

Lamar University recently honored the  
memory of Professor Emeritus H. E. “Ed”  
Eveland, founder of the Department of  
Geology. Eveland served as chairman of the  
department from its conception in 1951  
until his retirement in 1983.  

Faculty, friends and family joined  
together for the March 25 unveiling of a  
commissioned, 9-foot panoramic photo-

graph produced by Richard Ashmore, a  
Lamar alumnus, geology instructor and award-winning photographer.  

The new photographic work, entitled “The Window, 2009,” is displayed on  
the first floor of the Geology Building.  

After Eveland’s death in May 2009, his  
family and faculty of the Department of  
Earth and Space Science (formally the  
Department of Geology) decided to memori-  
alize Eveland for his dedicated service to  
Lamar, its students and the geological com-  
munity. The specific choice of the large  
panoramic photography by Ashmore was a  
scene from the Chisos Mountains of Big Bend  
National Park to capture Eveland’s passion  
for the study and teaching of geology.  

The students learned to program  
intelligent robots using Java to navigate a  
maze. Derschuk said. They also learned to  
create simple animations and to create their  
own web page. Guest speakers spoke to stu- 
ents about computing careers in different  
fields, such as medicine, business and engi-  
n engring, and students learned how to prepare  
for college.
Business hosts ExxonMobil Scholars in Residence

The College of Business hosted business ethics experts O.C. and Linda Ferrell as ExxonMobil Scholars in Residence April 15. O.C. Ferrell is professor of marketing, Bill Daniels Professor of Business Ethics and Creative Enterprise Scholar at the University of New Mexico. He is also editor of e-businessethics.com. Often a source for news media, he has been quoted in USA Today and interviewed on the NBC Today Show on topics related to business ethics and social responsibility. Linda Ferrell is associate professor of marketing, Bill Daniels Professor of Business Ethics, and Albert & Mary Jane Black Professor of Economic Development at the University of New Mexico.

She is an ethics content expert for the AACSB Ethics Educational Resource Center and has spoken at a number of AACSB International conferences on teaching business ethics issues.

Brooks Conference attracts area leaders

The 2010 Brooks conference brought Southeast Texas leaders and more than 30 prominent speakers together on campus March 25 for a day-long series of programs on topics ranging from substance abuse to public administration and policy. Lamar’s Jack Brooks Chair in Government and Public Service, in collaboration with the Regional Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Coalition, hosted the conference.

Engineering welcomes Lubrizol exec

Larry Novoe ’73 worked his way through process engineering, production and technology in the 70s and 80s at several Lubrizol Additives facilities before being named vice president of operations for the company in 2004. In 2008, he became corporate vice president for operations. Novoe spoke to engineering students recently as the All College of Engineering lecturer. He is a College of Engineering Advisory Council member.

Sigma Xi science society hosts lecture on Texas beachings

Sigma Xi, the Lamar University chapter of the Scientific Research Society, hosted Erol Ronie of the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network in a lecture March 26. Ronie discussed the kinds of cetaceans that strand on southeast Texas beaches and what individuals should do if they find one. Ronie is a field coordinator for the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network, which is dedicated to the conservation of marine mammals through rescue and rehabilitation, research and education. The network’s office is in Galveston, and its operations are divided into the Sabine Pass, Galveston, Port Aransas, Corpus Christi and South Padre Island regions, as well as a program in western Louisiana.

hands across the sea

The Kappa Kappa Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing welcomed international speaker Ulla Peterson of Sweden as keynote speaker for the Annual Nursing Research Conference. Peterson’s presentation on “Burn out of health care workers” addressed challenges common to health care workers on both sides of the Atlantic. Peterson is currently researching the elderly and reminiscence.

In his visit to Texas to consult with Cindy Stinson ’75, ’80, LU nursing faculty, Peterson’s presentation on “Burn out of health care workers” addressed challenges common to health care workers on both sides of the Atlantic. Peterson is currently researching the elderly and reminiscence.

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Ambassadors expand to 36 students

The Lamar Ambassadors Program has been expanded to meet the demands of the growing university. Twenty-nine students were recently selected to serve as ambassadors and will join seven returning ambassadors in representing the student body at official university events during the 2010-2011 academic year.

“Lamar University is fortunate to have many alumni and friends who are dedicated to supporting the goals of our university,” said President James Simmons. “The Ambassadors are excellent representatives of the students who benefit from the support of these loyal friends.”

Ambassadors serve Lamar University by assisting in recruiting qualified prospective students, building goodwill among alumni and community supporters at various public functions, and representing the student body to visitors and dignitaries.

“Being a Lamar Ambassador is both an honor and a great responsibility,” said Bush, Houston, nursing, president, said. “Our goal is to ensure that visitors to Lamar University understand the tremendous impact of our support and that they feel welcome when they visit our university.”

More information about the program is available by calling the Office of Alumni Affairs at (409) 880-8921.

College Panhellenic Council helps individuals with disabilities

The College Panhellenic Council raised money and volunteered at the Annual Stars of the Arc Celebrity Style Show and Dinner, which is one of the main fundraising events for the Arc of Greater Beaumont, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Southeast Texas.

The College Panhellenic Council, which includes Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Chi Omega and Zeta Tau Alpha sororities, conducts a community service project each semester and chose to raise money for the Arc. “Members of the Greek community at Lamar University are very dedicated to serving the community, and this is just an example of the many philanthropic activities that they conduct each year,” said Shannon Copeland, College Panhellenic Council advisor.

The College Panhellenic Council raised more than $500 to donate to the Arc through various fundraisers on campus. Members volunteered at the Annual Stars of the Arc Celebrity Style Show and Dinner on May 14, helping 70 individuals with disabilities.
Beyond the classroom

Students take first at conference. Among 11 university teams from across Texas, the Lamar team shared first place with Texas State University when they gathered at Texas A&M University April 9-10 to participate in the third annual M.O. & Arab League conference, a student leadership development program hosted by the Bush School of Government and Public Service. The Lamar team delegates were Bryce Romero, Wesley Howard, Sallu Quraishi, Jason Riley, all of Beaumont; Matthew Rager, Fort Worth; Nathan Landolt, Victor; Sierra Grigsby, Houston; Rebekka Gage, H I l l Top Lake; Nick Ellis, Hutto; Josh Gage, H I l l Top Lake; and Catherine Gammon, Vernon. The Lamar team took home six individual delegate awards and won joint first place overall, defeating Vernon. The Lamar team took home 31. Twenty-four teams competed in this regional tournament, Texas in the championship game 35-

Top Lake; Grigsby all of Beaumont; Catherine Gammon, Vernon. The Lamar team took home six individualdelegate awards and won joint first place overall, defeating nine other teams. Intramural basketball makes history. Lamar’s U Invitational, a four-time defending intramural basketball women’s champion team, won the 2010 National Campus Championship Series (NCCS) Regional Tournament, hosted by University of Texas at San Antonio, UInvitational beat seven teams in the tournament and then NIRCS of North Texas in the championship game 35-31. Twenty-four teams competed in this regional tournament, encompassing Texas, Louisiana, N ew M exico, Oklahoma and Arkansas. The win qualified U Invitational to compete in the NCCS National Tournament for the first time in Lamar history. . . .

Students win “Brain Bowl.” Senior nursing students won top honors in the “Brain Bowl” contest at the February Texas Nursing Students’ Association convention in San Antonio. Winning the competition by 200 points more than the nearest competitor, the students from the J R Anne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing competed against 15 other teams from 13 colleges and universities across Texas, including the University of Texas at Austin and Texas Tech University. Winning team members are Kyle Addcox and Mason Weems, Beaumont; Savanna Benson and Grant Snyder, Port Neches; Jared Boynton, Orange; Ashley LaVerne, and Gregory Watson, Tomball. The group’s reserve driver; and Josh Walton of Humble. The group’s reserve driver; and Josh Walton of Humble.

Vehicle gets 1,215 miles per gallon

A team of senior mechanical engineering students achieved a fuel-efficiency equivalent to 1,215 miles per gallon at the M. Arch Shell Eco-Marathon in Houston with a vehicle they designed and built. More than 40 teams from across the country competed. The students placed third in their category and 10th overall with their car, nicknamed Kardinalstein, which is powered by a 1,000-watt hydrogen fuel cell. The competition challenges students to build the most fuel-efficient vehicle possible.

"Originally we started out with an aluminum tube frame car. Trying to lighten the load as much as we possibly could, we chose to step in another direction and make the car out of carbon fiber," said Dustin Dixon of Buna, team leader. "We were trying to see if we could make something that's never been done before."

Other team members are Mark Barber of Pilot Point; Jonathan Barbarena of Houston, driver; Matt Fitzgerald of Kountze; Bryan Garza of Baytown; Kendal H. Harris of Bridge City; Michael O’Bannon of Beaumont; Boramy Seany of H ouston, reserve driver; and Josh Walton of Houston. The group’s faculty advisor is Kendrick Aung, associate professor of mechanical engineering. The team also got helpful advice from Lamar alumni and composites pioneer Andrew Green.

Students form benefit to support H i span ic engineering students

Members of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, a new student organization at Lamar University, won three awards for their academic achievements and dedication to the organization at the recent Region 5 Development Leadership Conference in Fort Worth.

The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers chapter came to campus last fall through the work of junior civil engineering major Maricela Guerrero of Hamshire, who serves as chapter president. At the March 26-28 conference, M iguel Valdez, sophomore mechanical engineering major from H ouston, earned honors for Outstanding Academics. Guerrero won a dedicated Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Spirit M ember. The chapter took home the Region 5 Membership Point System Award.

Engineering students honored at IEEE competition

Four seniors in the Phillip M. Drayer Department of Electrical Engineering were honored April 17 for excellence for their winning design papers in a recent competition sponsored by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the world’s largest professional association for the advancement of technology.

Garret L. Above of Beaumont won first place in the undergraduate student paper competition for his design of a fault current limiter with smart grid technology that could be used in electrical transmission networks to address electrical surges more efficiently than mechanical devices used today.

The team of Aaron Brown of Sour Lake, Rom an Reyes of Port Arthur and Michael Ward of Beaumont won second place in a competition co-sponsored by IEEE Region 5 and the Center for Commercialization of Electric Technologies. They designed a direct current electrical system powered by solar panels for home use to store energy in a battery. "If you put this in your house, you would save money on your electric bill because there's a wide variety of things in your house that run off DC," Reyes said.

Top students earn named awards

Lamar University honored three students April 12 for their exceptional service at the 2010 Toast to Leaders Awards Program.

Georgia Gilzow of Bay City, a double-major in mechanical engineering and physics with a minor in space science, earned the Bess Gentry Award, recognizing her as outstanding senior woman. She is an engineer with L-3 Communications. R ichie Acosta of H ouston, a civil engineering major, earned the C. Robert K emble Award as outstanding senior man. H e plans to pursue a master’s degree in structural engineering. Bethany Aiona of Sour Lake, a psychology major with a biology minor, received the Ann Shaw Award in recognition of exemplary student leadership. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. in clinical psychology.

Teaching majors share skills with Pitzsch-M aArthur

Teacher education majors are sharing their love of reading, writing and teaching with students at Pitzsch-MaArthur Elementary School in Beaumont. The Literacy Block program is a reading program that pairs undergraduate students in the teacher education program with elementary-age students in a unique one-on-one reading program designed to bolster the reading and writing skills of the elementary students and the teaching skills of the college students.

"The feedback we get from our teacher education students is amazing," said Stacey Burnsted, an instructor in the Department of Professional Pedagogy. "They take the theories they learned in the classroom and apply them to the reading and writing difficulties the children are experiencing. They get so excited when they actually get to see how those skills translate to a classroom setting."
We got the beat

The Showcase of Southeast Texas takes the field this fall

Almost Lamar University students can hardly believe it, more seasoned cadets for the hot-weather season. The LU Marching Band, nicknamed “The Showcase of Southeast Texas,” will spend the summer preparing for the return of half-time shows, new uniforms and learning new music.

Scott Deppe, Lamar’s director of bands, was hired almost two years ago to form the marching band team. Deppe says, “It’s been a lot of recruiting, and a lot of hard work, but I’m pleased with the new LU marching band.”

Deppe wears the position. He’s going to be the true lifeblood of the Deppe. “He brings a wealth of talent and energy to the position. It’s going to be the true lifestyle of the marching band.”

Travis Fife, director of marching percussion, rounds out the marching band team. Fife is in charge of the drum line. He will score and arrange all of its music.

The LU Marching Band will perform at every home game and select away games beginning with the debut Saturday, Sept. 4, at McNeese State in Jennings. The home opening game will be their debut Saturday, Sept. 11, when Lamar takes on Weber State, La. The home opening game will be Saturday, Sept. 11, when Lamar takes on Weber State, La. The home opening game will be Saturday, Sept. 11, when Lamar takes on Weber State, La.

It will also feature a tribute to Texas that segues into corps style, which allows for any type of music, such as pop, classical and traditional. Formations may be pictures, shapes or lines. The corps-style show can be anything from Journey to Mahler, you never know,” said Kara Phillips ’09, graduate assistant of band. “In fact, for the first home game, we are planning a Journey tribute. We think it will be very popular.

Phillips and Kerry Coleman, Lamar music graduates, will gain valuable experience this fall as graduate assistants to Lamar’s band program. In addition to attending classes, they will conduct, teach, prepare music, inventory instruments and help with marching band rehearsals.

Auditions will take place this summer for drum majors, twirlers and colorguard members. The plan is to appoint as many as three drum majors. Twirlers and the colorguard will add dynamic visual elements to the band’s performance. The colorguard will use flags, sabres and rifles.

To prepare for their performances, students are required to attend marching band camp. “It’s going to be intense,” said Phillips. “We’re going to have students from all different backgrounds and playing levels, and by the end of the week, they’ll need to conform and work as a unit. The camp will teach marching fundamentals, military and corps styles, and the music for our shows.”

All the preparation and practice paves the way for a heart-pounding return of the LU band tradition for the first time in more than 20 years as these students take W.S. “Bud” Leonard Field with rhythm and true Cardinal style.

First night is going to feel like.”

Afer almost 14 years as artistic director of the Lamar Spirit Team, which performs at LU basketball games and in the community, Griner has branched out to oversee spirit programs for the return of football.

“I feel the excitement in the community,” she said. “I can feel the intensity building. We have about 200 student employees at the rec center, and the buzz is starting to really happen. When students come in for auditions, they are excited, and I can feel that. I get chill bumps when I talk to people about it.”

Setting the stage for pre-game and halftime performances, Griner described the spectacle of the Dance Team of 27 members and Cheer Squad of 19 members as they join the marching band to intensify the gridiron experience. Before the game, the Dance Team will perform traditional costumes—skirts, jackets, hats and boots—for a K-pop Kranteng-style performance. For halftime, they’ll change into jazz pants and tops for a contemporary show.

Griner’s team includes Kristyn Henderson ’07, cheer and mascot coordinator, and Briey Blankenship ’06, Dance Team coach. Both are Spirit Team alumni. Joining them are assistants D’anes Finfrock, D’ani Finfrock ‘08 and Amber Bell. They planned to finalize the two groups after June auditions before the final countdown begins for show time Sept. 11.—LW

Dancin’ to the music

The Dance Team, the Cheer Squad and, of course, the Big Red mascot are revving up for an exciting season of football at Provost Umphrey Stadium.

“Just imagine what it’s going to look like, when you see the cheerleaders on the sideline, the dancers in the stands and the marching band on the field,” said Brenda Griner ’87, ’03, associate director of programs for recreational sports and leader of Lamar’s newly reorganized spirit programs. “I can only imagine what that
**Literary Lamar**

Paul Griffith, associate professor of English, released his book *Afro-Caribbean Poetry* and *Ritual* April 27. The book reaffirms the importance of myth and symbol in folk consciousness as a mode of imaginative conceptualization in oral culture. "I examine the archetypal human interests informing the folk art, that is, how the mind and the outer world interact to formulate ideas about who we are and what we are," said Griffith...PULSE, Lamar University’s student literary magazine, celebrates its 50th anniversary edition in October 2009 with a Poets of Pulse Poetry Reading that featured six student creative writing award winners Tara Talman, Rachel Quinn, J. Jason Duncan, Caitlin Griffin, John Hillin and Mary Baswell. The Lamar-Longman Award winners for 2009, also included in the magazine, were Sean Klini, J. Jennifer Gore, Scotty McWilliams and Patricia Earl. The Lamar-Longman Award winners for 2010 were Miles Caston, Micah Moore, Tasha Tollar and Justin Weeks and will be featured in the journal’s 51st edition in 2010, for which PULSE hosted its first cover art contest in more than a decade...Sigma Tau Delta, the International English honor society, hosted its annual English majors’ reception Nov. 3. The reception included a keynote address from chair of the Department of English and administration, David Carter, who read from his newest collection of poetry, *Elephants and Butterflies*, on Feb. 17...Lamar University hosted the 2010 Conference of College Teachers of English March 4-6 at the Holiday Inn Beaumont Plaza. Karen (Mills) Priest ’77, ’84 and Dale Priest served as local arrangements chairs. Gasts of the conference included Jery Craven, Moumin Quazi and Karla Morton, 2010 Texas Poet Laureate. Nine members of Lamar faculty and staff presented papers, and three were honored with awards for their submissions. J. Jennifer Ravey received the American Literature Award, Pamela Saur won the Popkin Rhetoric Award, and Karen Priest earned the British Literature Award...The Writing Center, located on the first floor of the M. Cony and John Gray Library, celebrated National Poetry Month by hosting a poetry contest in April. Melissa Hudler ’93, ’99, director for the center, announced winners: Mary Baswell, Safi Quraishi and J. Jennifer Vu...Lamar faculty staff, and alumni took part in the Stark Museum of Art’s book discussion of *The Tulip* by Anna Pavord May 18. The panel, which included Steven Zani, Michael Saar, J. Jason Duncan and Mary Baswell, along with moderator Andy Coughlan ’01, ’05, discussed the tulip’s allure.

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**‘I always take this place with me’**

Keith Carter’s striking images of Beaumont landmarks make recognizable locations seem magical and exotic. Those images, by the world-renowned Lamar art professor and photographer, were featured in the June issue of *Texas Monthly* Magazine. The special issue, “Where I’m From,” compiled the essays of prominent Texans, including writers, artists and politicians. Carter contributed a 10-page photo essay on Beaumont and the Southeast Texas region.

“It was interesting to me to write about my hometown, but I didn’t do it from a tourist bureau perspective. I wrote about why I stay here and what I have enjoyed about this region since my boyhood,” Carter said. “When the editor called me to ask if I’d be interested in the project, I was honored to participate. This was a chance to share our area with the rest of the state.”

Carter is the recipient of the Texas Medal of Arts and holds the endowed Walles Chair in Visual and Performing Arts at Lamar. His work has been exhibited worldwide, and he released his 12th book last fall.

“I try to take my culture and my hometown with me wherever I go. The natural diversity of people in Southeast Texas has always interested me—the overlapping folklore, music and religious aspects. We have a gumbo culture that has shaped me as an artist. Nowadays I travel widely, but I always take this place with me.”
Tickets are $50 a person, will direct the show, with musical direction by chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance, cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, with the performance proceeds benefit scholarships for theatre and dance students.

The Christus Health Foundation paid tribute to President James Simmons at its 30th annual gala June 12. Chicago—billed the “world-famous rock n’ roll band with horns”—headlined the gala, so it was appropriate that Simmons, “Beaumont’s own king of horns,” was the 2010 gala honoree, said Ivy Patel, Chief Development Officer for philanthropy . . . On May 8, Simmons performed with the Jimi Simmons Jazz Ensemble at the fifth annual City of Beaumont Jazz + Blues Fest, where Beaumont blues great Barbara Lynn received the Lifetime Achievement Award . . . The return of football and the marching band this fall will alter the 2010-11 lamarranier schedule. Lamar jazz bands will present the Oct. 5 season opener, previewing featuring the Wind Ensemble and Concert Band. The fall season will continue with faculty artists Nov. 4 and the holiday choir concert Dec. 5. The bands will open the spring season March 3, with the finale April 29 showcasing the Cardinal Singers and Lamar Dance Company . . .

The Lady Cardinals posted one of the best seasons in program history, going 26-8, winning the Southland Conference regular season and tournament championships, and advancing to the NCAA Tournament for just the second time ever.

Led by junior point guard Jenna Plumley, the conference’s Player of the Year and Newcomer of the Year and the Texas Basketball Coaches Association Division I Women’s Basketball Player of the Year, the Lady Cardinals had a high-flying offense that finished 16th in the nation in points per game. Plumley, who transferred to Lamar from Oklahoma, led the team in scoring at 14.3 points per game. She was fifth in the nation in assists, averaging 6.6 per game, and sixth nationally in 3-pointers, draining an average of 3.2 per game.

“An honor to be named Player of the Year,” Plumley said. “But what was even better was winning the Southland Conference and going to the NCAA Tournament. This team really came together.”

Strong athletes fought beside Plumley. Senior forward Dalika Hill III was named to the conference’s second team; freshman forward Calisia Floyd was named to the third team and junior forward Trachanna Smith earned honorable mention accolades. Hill III was the MVP of the Southland Conference Tournament.

I think we have a chance to challenge for the championship again. We’re going to be a fun team to watch.

—COACH LARRY TIDWELL

Lead by

A season to remember

T he 2009-10 schedule turned into a dream season for the Lamar University women’s basketball team.

The Lady Cardinals were selected to play this November in the prestigious Preseason WNIT Tournament, which will see Lamar participate in a tournament at Arizona State as well as play a road game at perennial power Tennessee. “We’re going to have a tough non-conference schedule, but that will help us get ready for our conference games,” Tidwell said. “I think we have a chance to challenge for the tournament and was joined on the all-tournament team by Plumley. Senior Brittany Williams graduated with 1,453 points, the third highest total in Lamar history. Guard Ashley Crawford was named to the all-district academic team for her efforts on the court and in the classroom. Crawford, who was pursuing her master’s degree in education, was one of the top defensive players for the Lady Cardinals.

“It was just a great season, and I am so proud of these young ladies accomplished,” said Lamar Coach Larry Tidwell, who was named the Division I Women’s Basketball Coach of the Year by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches. “They represented Lamar in a first-class fashion, both on and off the court.”

Tidwell has been a big reason for the rise of the Lady Cardinals in his three seasons at Lamar, the Lady Cardinals are 65-32 and have had a winning record in each season. Prior to Tidwell’s arrival in Beaumont, Lamar had not had a winning season since the 1994-95 team went 16-12.

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The Cards then overwhelmed regular-season ed them four times during the regular season. No. 6-seed McNeese State, which had defeat- back-to-back triumphs of 10-7 and 9-3 over lowed the win over Northwestern State with round, the Cardinals swept through the four- Regional, the center stage at Whataburger the forefront during the Fort Worth the home run leader with 10. Dziedzic zoomed past former Cardinal pitch- ing the way with respective averages of .349 and .347, the Cardinals batted a standout .301 for the season. Senior outfielder Quentin Luquette led them in runs batted in with 52 and in stolen bases with 18, and Moore was the home run leader with 10. Senior right-hander Matison Smith topped the pitching staff with a 10-4 record and a 4.68 earned run average, and his 117 innings pitched rank third on the Cardinals’ all-time, one-season list. Mena was voted the SLC’s all-star first-team center fielder by his league peers. Before Latulippe and Dziedzic came the foremost during the Fort Worth Regional, the center stage at Whataburger Field belonged to outfielder Anthony Moore. After collecting 10 hits in 16 at-bats for a siz- ing, .625 average, the senior from Cedar Hill was voted the SLC’s Tournament’s Most Valuable Player, and he was named the CB360 National PrimeTime Player of the Week. He hit three home runs in tournament play, drove in six and scored six. Latulippe, who hit safely in all four Baseball Cardinals make big splash with NCAA Regional appearance

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Alumni pros

Stroud competes with game greats. Former Lamar standout Chris Stroud ’94 has seven career Top 10 finishes on the PGA Tour, but none may have been as impressive as his finish this year’s Players Championship. Playing against what is arguably the toughest field in golf, Stroud finished in a four-day total of -9 under-par to tie for 10th place. Despite some putting woes on Sunday, Stroud still ranked 22nd in 327-500, his largest payday as a professional. Often referred to as “the fifth major,” the 145-man field at The Players Championship featured the game’s greats, including Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, Ernie Els, Paul Casey and Lee Westwood. Riegger eyes Top 10. Former Lamar golfer great J ohn Riegger ’83 is enjoying a career renaissance on the Nationwide Tour as he picked up a victory in the 2010 Hex Hospital Open, his second career win on the tour and first since 2007. After finishing the 2009 season ranked 88th on the money list, Riegger has already earned almost twice as much this sea- son in just eight professional starts. As a result, Top 10 finish, his Riegger ranked 11th on this year’s money list with the Top 25 at year’s end earning a spot on the PGA Tour . . . Former Red Sox first baseman and alumnum Kevin Millar ’93 has signed as an MLB analyst for ESPN. Millar, a 1993 Edward R. and Mary L. Stagg . , special assistant/consultant to the president, was inducted into the Southland Conference Hall of Honor during the conference’s annual honors ceremony and dinner June 3 in Galveston. Tabbs has been a fixture for Lamar athletics for 25 years. He is a player assistant coach, ticket manager, head coach and director of athletics. He won eight conference championships as a coach, and, since his return to the school as athletics director in 2002, Lamar has swept nine regional and national titles in nine different sports. 

FOOTBALL KICK-OFF BANQUET
SUNDAY, AUGUST 29
4 PM OPENING RECEPTION • PLAYER AUTOGRAPH SESSION • SILENT AUCTION • CASH BAR

4 PM DINNER, PROGRAM & LIVE AUCTION MONTGOMERY CENTER
5 PM TICKETS • $100 Table sponsorships available
Visit lamarcardinals.com and click on the story for more details and RSVP forms. Or call (409) 880-4822
After a long hiatus, Provost Umphrey Stadium will reverberate with the sounds of the LU fight song, cheer squad yells and the crack of pads hitting helmets. When the Cardinals meet their first home opponent of the season Sept. 11, the sounds of the fans will pump up the volume.

It’s taken a community to rebuild the program and make the return of collegiate football to Southeast Texas a reality, and it will take a community to shepherd that program to success. From the practice field, scoreboard and press box to the playing field, stadium and luxury suites, friends and alumni of Lamar University chose to make a commitment to the rebirth of football. The individuals behind these gifts chose to support Lamar’s vision and its students. They believe in the spirit and camaraderie football brings to the collegiate atmosphere. Without them and the students’ vote to increase fees, the larger LU community would not now be eagerly anticipating the first game.

We are grateful they chose to be a part of history. Those in attendance Sept. 11 will heartily cheer on Coach Ray Woodard and the 2010 Cardinal team when the Red and White takes the field. Be there to mark a historic milestone in the life of Lamar University.

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FROM TAILGATING TO HALFTIME TO THE FINAL SCORE
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Le Grand Bal . . .

1. Lenny and Melissa Caballero
2. Will -67 and Joy (Hopkins) Crenshaw '69, and Jack and Shirley Wright
3. Guy Stonecipher and Micah Lindsay '06
4. Lynda (Martin) '75 and Kenny Moncla '75 and Melissa Edwards
5. Elizabeth and Russ Waddill
6. Laura (Stanton) '05, '06 and Craig Escamilla '06, '09
7. Mike and Cindy Lindsay and Miranda and Chris Yohe
8. Joseph '72 and Sandy Fertitta, Kit Ohmstede '82, '03 and Ric Arena
9. Brad Klein and Johnnie (Slovak) Broussard '84 and Catherine (Broussard) Klein '84 and Joe Broussard IV

Legacy Society . . .

1. From left: Buzz '70 and Cathy Long with Sharon (Smith) '83, '89 and Roger McCabe
2. Susan (Williams) Simmons '68, left, with Dennis '96 and Dawn Carl
3. Charlotte Jungen '97 and President James Simmons

Music department interim chair Robert Culbertson, left, greets Virginia Bean and A.B. Bernard at the Lamarissimo! jazz concert March 2. A.B. Bernard is president of BGI Contractors, which sponsored the performance.

Longtime U.S. Rep. Jack Brooks '41 and his wife, Charlotte, attend the 2010 Brooks Conference March 25 at Lamar, joined by conference leaders Michael Pennington, left, Terri Davis and James Vanderleeuw. The three are faculty members in the Department of Political Science, where Vanderleeuw holds the Brooks Chair in Government and Public Policy.

Dean Jack Hopper and Camille Mouton, vice president for advancement, accept a check for $136,863 from Kathleen Jackson, public affairs manager, and Mark T. Bradley '81, maintenance manager, ExxonMobil's Beaumont Chemical Plant, on behalf of ExxonMobil's Matching Gift Program.

Author Sarah Vowell, seated, poses with Brenda Nichols, Steven Zani and Jennifer Ravey '04, '07 at a reception and book-signing after Vowell's Academic Lecture Series presentation April 6. Nichols is dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, which hosted the event. Zani, chair of the Department of English and Modern Languages, served as event chair. Ravey is an adjunct instructor of English.
Bonner Denton ’67 is highly regarded for his work in analytical chemistry but is also driven to make sports car history.

A University of Arizona Galileo professor, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a Lamar Distinguished Alumnus, he’s currently developing devices that can detect hidden explosives a thousand times more sensitive than anything now available—capability the military and homeland security covet.

He is also known for breaking land speed records at the legendary Bonneville Salt Flats Speedweek, where he continues to drive himself into sports car racing history. In 2008, Denton was officially clocked at speeds greater than 300 mph.

"We already had the world’s fastest sports car, but when we qualified at one percent at more than 300 mph, people went crazy. That speed has never been achieved by a sports car before,” Denton said.

Every August, the mastiffs of speed descend onto the 47-square-mile Salt Flats in northwestern Utah for Bonneville Speedweek to test themselves and their machines on the three-mile and five-mile courses. August is prime for racing because the salt is at its best. While notably even, salt flats are not like pavement. "It’s really something between wet sand and fluffy 1½- to 2-inch deep snow most of the time," Denton said.

"I received one very good education at Lamar. —M. BONNER DENTON"

The inspiration to race at Bonneville also began in that garage while the boys were still in high school. The first car he built was a 1929 Model A Ford with a Chrysler hemi and eight carburetors. It was not just unreliable, a friend quipped, "but unsafe on jack stands." The inspiration to race at Bonneville also began in that garage while the boys turned wrenches beneath a picture of the Koenig and Leise Streamliner, America’s fastest car in the 1950s that was clocked at 255 mph. "I said to George that someday we’re going to go and race Bonneville,” Denton said.

"What we did to solve the problem is put 600 pounds of lead right behind the headlights," Denton said. "If you think about it, a dart or an arrow has the weight in front, and the aerodynamic drag, the feathers, are in the rear. You want to make sure your center of mass is in front of your center of aerodynamic drag if you have a short wheel base and your traction is poor.”

The next year, the left front tire blew out, and it’s all for quite a ways and the five-mile timing light at 258.985 mph, which is a very effective way of triggering the timing light." It also destroyed four feet of body and two feet of frame. "We were in no shape to make the return run.”

When the association changed the rules to allow a 130-inch wheelbase and major modifications forward of the dash, Denton bought the 1959 Berkeley body. The car originally had a 15-horsepowrer Excelsior motorcycle engine. He stretched the frame to 130 inches and streamlined the front end with hopes of setting records. "I want to change the rules back to what they were, but I knew I’d just sound like sour grapes if I didn’t participate under them,” Denton said. "I knew I’d just sound like sour grapes if I didn’t participate under the new rules,” he said. Denton said he would like to see some races, the competition sports class with the longer wheel base he is currently running and a modified sports class with no changes in body length, width or contour and with the wheel base restricted to close to stock.

Denton graduated from Lamar with bachelor’s degrees in chemistry and psychol-
Your first job is to sweep the place out. ’ So day to work for free because I wanted to.” I told him I’d come in after school every produced himself to the owner, Louis Stockard. ’ Denton is quick to give credit to his LU chemistry professors, Margaret Cameron, Roger Yeric, Anne H armion and H arold Baker, for preparing him well. “When I showed up for graduate school, I looked at the people around me from Harvard, Cal Tech, UCLA, Purdue and all these other big schools, and I said, ’Uh oh. I hope I can do okay.’” When he took the entrance exams, he found that his Lamar preparation was not only adequate, but that he had excelled. “I received one very good education at Lamar,” he said. “As far as fundamentals of chemistry, I had a better grounding than almost any of them.” So well grounded, in fact, that Denton was assigned to teach quantitative analysis rather than freshman chemistry like his peers. Denton’s interest in motor sports and chemistry parallels his passion for electronics. When he was 11, Denton went to Coastal Electronics Co. on Calder and introduced himself to the owner, Louis Stockard. “I told him I’d come in after school every day to work for free because I wanted to learn more about electronics,” Denton said. “Mr. Stockard said ’Okay. Here’s a broom. Your first job is to sweep the place out.’” So every day I came in, and I swept the place out.” It was the mid-1950s, and color television was just starting to become popular. Coastal Electronics was a major color TV retailer. They also were the RCA and Link two-way radio distributors in Southeast Texas and did all the service work on two-way radios for the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department. Denton had researched well, and his keen interest and unusual aptitude for electronics caught Stockard’s eye. Soon Denton had his own workbench alongside the company’s two full-time technicians. “The third bench became Bonner’s bench,” and often times I fixed the job by myself, wrote up the billing and we shipped the TV sets back,” Denton said. Louis couldn’t hire Denton—he was too young—but he wanted to do something for him. “I suggested they put money into an account that I could use to buy test equipment,” Denton said. “That’s how I purchased my first oscilloscope kit—it still works—and a variety of other test equipment.” Denton worked for Stockard for a number of years, then, when business was slow, Stockard arranged a job with Wally Electronics Supply. Later, when Denton entered Lamar, he worked for the chemistry department, maintaining all of its radiation test equipment and other instrumentation. He also moonlighted as a TV repairman, primarily for motels in town. That aptitude for electronics has served Denton extremely well in the research field. Virtually every inductively coupled plasma instrument sold today throughout the world has technology directly traceable to the Denton research group, and he holds scores of patents. “I have some really brilliant people who are senior scientists,” Denton said. He is also quick to credit the graduate students that make the group’s accomplishments possible. Some of that brilliance is shining on the group’s latest project, a device that can “sniff out” high explosives. “If one goes to an airport right now, the explosive detection technology requires swipes to pick up crystals off of surfaces, or you walk into this box with a puffler that blows crystals off of you,” Denton said. “The only technology that’s deployed at airports today that can smell explosives is a canine. A dog can smell TNT from 2 to 3 feet. There is one commercial instrument that can smell explosives, developed at MIT, and it has a stand off of 3 to 5 inches.” “We have technology that can smell TNT from over 140 feet away,” Denton said. “While it is still in the prototype laboratory stage, we are negotiating a large grant with the Department of Defense to carry it into a fieldable stage.” Denton’s team is eager to get the car back into the field as well. In the months since the speed runs in 2009, Denton and his crew have modified Bonner’s Bad Berkeley yet again, this time creating a custom dry sump oil system. The first challenge was finding a way to house 28 quarts of oil in the cramped space of the car, a feat accomplished with a custom-built holding tank between the car’s frame and body. Denton and his volunteer crew will head to Bonneville in August to give the Berkeley another shot at the record book. They hope the latest modifications and a dash on the salt are a recipe for success. “With thanks to Lori Stiles, Arizona State, for her assistance,” 1166

True timber
Historical trove reveals family history

by Louise Wood

William Henry Stark had a way with words, writing of flowering trees and beautiful cruises down the river in letters to his future wife, Miriam. He played fiddle in the town band. A mill worker by trade, he became a sawyer—a dangerous job requiring a strong physique, great physical skill and quick, aggressive wits. With little formal education, he went on to prove himself a genius at business, expanding on a vast timber empire. Miriam Melissa Lutcher Stark was a serious, sweet-natured young woman, an heiress who, soon after arriving in Orange at the age of 19, caught the eye of the enterprising young mill worker. They married at the palatial Sabine River home of her parents, Henry Jacob and Frances Ann Lutcher. Miriam collected rare books at a time when few women did so, with her library distinguished by early and significant editions of the English Romantics. Henry Jacob Lutcher Stark was the oldest—and favorite—grandchild of Frances Ann Lutcher and star of the Stark family drama. At 49, he assumed leadership of the family interests and was a dominant force in the community who, among other lasting ventures, established a boys’ band and a girls’ drum and bugle corp—known as the Bengal Guards—at Orange High School. He spared no expense to make the Guards the finest group of its kind in the nation. Nelda Childers Stark was known as Blossom—or Orange Blossom—when she was a child. She was recognized as the best dancer in her high school and then took up the comet to become the first female in the Lutcher Boys Band during the 1920s, including a memorable performance on the summit of Pikes Peak. These are just a few of the new-found friends...
from yesteryear being written indelibly into history by Ellen (Walker) Rienstra ’52, ’80 and Jo Ann Stiles, who retired from the Lamar history faculty in 2002 after a 35-year career. From a room with a view in an almost century-old office building on Front Street in downtown Orange, Rienstra and Stiles work tirelessly to put together the pieces of a puzzle while enjoying what they describe as a “lovely view” of the Sabine River. It’s a huge building, and they’re its only occupants—other than boxes and boxes of family archives, treasures spanning almost two centuries—the puzzle pieces, so to speak.

They have no less dazzling a vantage point to history as they weave together the threads of a family dynasty to create an enduring tapestry for the ages.

For more than seven years, Rienstra and Stiles have been delving into the family archives, treasures spanning almost two centuries—the puzzle pieces, so to speak. They have no less dazzling a vantage point to history as they weave together the threads of a family dynasty to create an enduring tapestry for the ages.

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A surgeon at heart

by Beth Gallapcy

fter more than half a century in the operating rooms associated with Baylor College of Medicine, Dr. Jimmy Howell ’54 has barely slowed his pace. In his busiest years, the innovative cardiovascular surgeon routinely worked 16-hour days that included performing six to eight operations and overseeing 80 to 100 patients at a time with the help of the dozen or so surgical fellows, residents and medical students. Today, Howell still begins most mornings in surgery about 7 a.m., but he only performs one or two daily operations before returning to his office to see patients and take care of business. His normal workday is about 10 hours long.

“It gets to be a way of life to you, and as long as you’re good, I guess you keep doing it,” Howell, 77, said from his 18th-floor office overlooking the sprawling Texas Medical Center complex in Houston. “If it looks like you’re beginning to weaken or something, well, then you quit. So far, I still think I’m pretty good at it.”

Howell became very good at heart and vascular surgery by training with pioneers in the fields and by adding his own significant contributions along the way. He began medical school at Baylor College of Medicine as Dr. Michael DeBakey, chairman of the department of surgery, was in the process of building one of the strongest surgical programs in the country. When the time came for Howell to decide the focus of his career, he turned to Dr. Michael DeBakey – Dr. James White Head – for advice. DeBakey was the inventor of the heart-lung machine, the operating room pump-oxygenator that became the standard equipment in cardiac operating rooms. Working with DeBakey, he was involved in early research on artificial hearts. And with his colleague Dr. H. Edward Garrett in 1964, he performed the first successful coronary artery bypass surgery. “We didn’t know it was successful at the time because this was experimental work we were doing,” Howell said.

He and Garrett initially developed a technique from bypass blockages in the small vessels of the leg using the saphenous vein. After this proved successful as a treatment for gangrene of the foot, he and Garrett decided to attempt the same technique to bypass blockages of coronary arteries. The first two attempts failed, and the third patient initially appeared to suffer some tissue damage. The doctors backed away from the procedure and returned to a previous treatment, which involved opening the artery and removing the blockage; however, they later realized that their third bypass operation had actually been a success. The technique was revised after the Cleveland Clinic performed a successful coronary bypass operation in 1967.

“That was the thing I was most interest-
Online or beyond the wire

Lamar student Cpl. Aaron Taylor completing degree online

by Brian Sattler

When he’s not on convoy duty or probing for the enemy somewhere in the contested region, he is taking courses through Lamar’s 100-percent-online Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences program. He is on track to graduate in August.

A senior, Taylor left Lamar to join the Marines with 120 credits earned—just a few courses short of completing his degree in biology. He said in an e-mail that he decided to enlist because “I wanted to do something that I knew was going to require a 100 percent effort and something that I would never forget I accomplished.”

It is a decision his wife, Tammy, fully supported. “We were meant to be together,” he said of Tammy, whom he has known since the two were in third grade. Their son, Aaron Hilton Taylor Jr., was born on his father’s birthday in 2008. “I have absolutely the best wife in the world,” he said. “Both of them mean the world to me.”

While he takes a lot of ribbing from the other Marines about not yet graduating, it is not a decision he regrets. “I wanted to start at the bottom and work my way up,” he said. “I felt that if I understood the enlisted side, then became an officer, I would be a more effective leader.”

In October 2009, Taylor learned of Lamar’s online program just three weeks before he deployed to Afghanistan. He realized that although he would not be able to take the biology classes that required hands-on lab work, the B.A.A.S. program provided a way to keep working toward a degree. He became one of the first to enroll in the program. After he completes his military service, he plans to take those biology classes with an eye toward veterinary school.

“I have developed a unique rapport with Aaron,” said Tony Sarda, his academic advisor at Lamar. “Much of our conversation happens via email, and many are exchanged on Afghanistan time. On occasion, Aaron will call the office from the field and let me know he is doing okay as he counts down the days to his safe and long-awaited return to Texas.”

Taylor credits Sarda with making his participation possible by assisting in getting him enrolled, providing class and book information, and helping with any issues that popped up. “Trust me, as soon as I am able to get back to Texas, I plan on giving him a great big bear hug,” he said.

Taylor keeps very busy, which helps the time pass more quickly. “Out here I’m either doing work, on convoys, studying, talking to the family or at the gym,” he wrote. That continues a pattern for the student athlete who excelled in football, basketball, track and power lifting, but also participated in choir, studied the martial arts and worked part time, all while keeping up with his coursework. “I’m the guy who wants to do everything all at the same time,” he said.

As a radio field operator by trade, Taylor serves as the radio chief within his unit. It is his responsibility to ensure all equipment is fully operational for his company, which includes 106 people comprising a headquarters element and three teams. From radios to cryptographic devices to vehicle communications, that adds up to a lot of high-tech gear. Like all Marines, he’s an integral part of the team outside the wire when he serves as a gunner on convoys.

There is “a lot of downtime, and, all of a sudden, stuff comes up and everyone wants it done yesterday,” Taylor said. Missons may change at a moment’s notice “like the weather back in Southeast Texas. We have a saying here, ‘Semper Gumbly’ which means always flexible.”

That flexibility has taken him to “some really remote places hundreds of miles from anything resembling civilization to cities that are a much dirtier, less developed version of our towns.” Different, too, are the many children seen working in shops, selling wares on the side of the road, carrying water. And the traffic: “I’ve seen a car with 15 people inside and four kids riding on the roof,” Taylor said. “I saw a guy on a motorcycle the other day with his 9-month-old child in front of him balanced on the gas tank, and his wife and two more kids behind him. It is really crazy.” He calls going out the hardest and the nearest part—hard for the preparation, and the uncertainty, but the opportunity to see the people of the country is something he relishes.

Outside the wire, Taylor likes to share candy with the children. “I have had my wife buy $100 worth of candy and send it to me,” he said. “It is really what makes me get through the day, seeing them smile. That is how we are going to win this war, by showing the younger generation that there is something better out there.”

There is no denying the dangers of the mission, the uncertainty of life and the bond among Marines. It all came together when the company lost one of its own.

“He is someone I thought very highly of and aspired to be like,” Taylor said of Gunnery Sgt. Robert Gilbert, 28, of Richfield, Ohio, killed in an ambush. A Marine’s Marine and the youngest ever promoted to Gunnery sergeant, Gilbert died of his wounds on his birthday Mar 16 at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., with family and friends at his bedside.

A couple of days before the ambush, his Kevlar vest had been credited with saving his life from a different Taliban bullet. It was his second Afghanistan tour, and he felt like luck was running out, close friends said.

“He, like many other service members, paid the ultimate price so that people can live the lives they do,” Taylor said. “I didn’t do what he did for recognition but because he loved what he did and had a sense of purpose in protecting his country. I think sometimes people forget all the sacrifices that are made, not just by the people that lose their lives, but the sacrifices that families make, too.”

For those service men and women in harm’s way, the long list of sacrifices don’t have to include giving up the opportunity for the future that higher education can bring thanks to online programs like Lamar’s B.A.A.S.
A caring professional

From her LU nursing education to multiple roles as a physician and professor in Oklahoma today, Jane Fitch has spent her career caring for others

by Beth Gallaply

D

Since 2001, Fitch has been at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine and the OU Medical Center where she holds the John L. Plewes Chair and serves as professor and chair of the Department of Anesthesiology.

Fitch was president of the first class of nurses to receive bachelor's degrees at Lamar University. She then worked in the intensive care unit of St. Elizabeth Hospital for about a year to gain experience before attending nurse anesthesia school at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. After completing that program and going to work as a nurse anesthetist, she became increasingly frustrated as she struggled to fully understand her patients' needs and the procedures she performed. The anesthetists she worked with seemed to easily grasp all the elements of what was happening around them. She realized their educational background is incredibly rewarding and is why we do what we do," said Fitch, who previously served as residency program director at OU as well.

More challenging, but also important, are the administrative components of the job—managing limited resources and making doctors' voices heard as state and national political leaders develop new regulations impacting the practice of medicine. "As a physician and as a patient advocate, we have to make sure we educate our legislators about what's in the best interest of patients and our profession. We're not a very large class, but we all developed a close relationship because we all realized we were going to set the stage for the future of nursing at Lamar. We were the first class going through, and I think we all felt a sense of responsibility that we need to make sure that we do our part to make this program a success. Now, all these years later, I'm incredibly proud of how the nursing department and the nursing program there has grown and the reputation that it's developed. We really did enjoy our time there," Fitch said, noting that she remains in touch with some of her instructors and classmates. "It really was a fun time."

Fitch believes her experience as a nurse has been a help to her in her medical career and to the residents she trains. "I was the first person to say, 'I think nurses make better physicians.' I think nurse anesthetists make better anesthesiologists. I think my nursing background really gives me a better perspective for the overall healthcare team and the various roles that people play. I think it likewise has made it a lot easier for me to be able to navigate the healthcare system and work with other people in the healthcare system, especially nursing colleagues because we also spoke a common language and came from a similar background," she said. Fitch strives to use that knowledge to help new residents understand the team approach to delivering patient care and appreciate the role that nurses play.

Fitch is not the only one in her household with a desire to continue learning. Her husband completed an M.B.A. at Rice University while they lived in Houston and started a software company. "That's what allowed me to be so mobile and be an academic gypsy," she said. He is an expert in writing managerial software and has also helped in her work. She mentions a problem, and often he writes software to solve it. They love to travel and have enjoyed the opportunity to live in many different parts of the country. The Fiches have visited all 50 states—a goal they set when they married—and are about halfway through visiting all 11 U.S. presidential libraries and museums. To accommodate a life that keeps them on the go, they try to keep their home low maintenance. They have no children, plants or pets but enjoy spoiling their many nieces and nephews at every opportunity.

Fitch attributes her interest in writing to the value her parents placed on it. Her father is a retired Southern Baptist minister, and her mother ran a patent attorney's office. "My whole life, they emphasized the importance of education and likewise the aspect of picking a profession where you're giving back to society and you're really trying to leave a mark on society making it better than you found it," Fitch said. For her, that meant becoming a nurse, then a doctor. Her brother is a surgeon. Her sister is a retired school principal. "The three of us all went into areas where they're the helping professions." Already she can see the impact of her work. Anesthesiologists she trained are working across the country including in Beaumont. Since 2001, she has doubled the size of OU's anesthesiology residency program to 12 residents per year and added a fellowship program. Still to come, she is working to establish multiple fellowships and assist in establishing a new surgery center and comprehensive cancer center. "I'm hoping to stay busy doing this for about 10 more years and then be able to retire and maybe dabble in politics, if I want to be at that point," she said.

For Fitch, that willingness to try something new is well, nothing new. It's been a part of her life since starting the first nursing class at Lamar to receive bachelor's degrees and continues to serve her well with each new challenge that arises.
studies, is retired and lives in Lake Charles, in Haskell, Okla., with his wife, Ima Jean. Richard Adams earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Houston Award from The Women’s Home. Leonard Fugate, earning is retired and lives in Livingston with his wife, Nancy. Mike Carman, certif. refrigeration and air conditioning, is drilling hazard mitigation strategic manager for Pencal. He and his wife, Alva, are partner for Pencal. He and his wife, Alva, is director of Christian Counseling Center in Temple. She is director of the San Antonio County’s Women of Achievement for 25 years. He was recognized for 43 years of achievement and service in the Texas Industrial Engineering Department. Nominees for the award are selected by the Industrial Engineering Department.

In 2010, Lloyd received an Honorary Doctorate from Texas A&M-Commerce and is coordinator of the Instructional Development for the Engineering programs at Texas A&M. Lloyd received his Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering from the University of Houston in 1975, and a master’s degree in Industrial Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in 1973. Lloyd has held positions in industry, government, and academic institutions.

Lloyd received the Outstanding Service Award from the American Society for Engineering Education in 2001, and was named a Fellow of the American Society for Engineering Education in 2004. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Sciences. He is a fellow of the American Society for Engineering Education and a fellow of the American Society for Engineering Education.

Lloyd has served as a consultant for the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and the Department of Energy. He is a member of the Engineering Education Research Council and the National Academy of Sciences. He is a fellow of the American Society for Engineering Education and a fellow of the American Society for Engineering Education.

Lloyd received the 2001 Distinguished Engineering Educator Award from the American Society for Engineering Education and the 2002 Distinguished Engineering Educator Award from the American Society for Engineering Education. He is a fellow of the American Society for Engineering Education and a fellow of the American Society for Engineering Education.

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Parents have questions too.

“Where are we going to get help for our children?” asked a Lamar University student advisor, a parent who has been in touch with the university’s Office of Parents and Family Engagement.

Parents: Get your free LU Parent Car decal by calling (409) 880-8821 or e-mailing Parents@lamar.edu, or if you are the parent of a current LU student or know of someone who is, please contact us.

Lamar University is forming a Parents and Families Organization, specifically focusing on parents and family members of Lamar students. “After successfully engaging alumni and community leaders, we are now focusing on the parents of our current students,” said Linda LeBlanc, assistant director of alumni affairs. “It is the perfect time to involve this group.”

The organization will help keep families of LU students informed about activities and opportunities at Lamar and offer ways for families to become involved with the university.

In the program’s inaugural year, the university will host events for parents and family members—from tailgate parties to more structured functions—funded by a goal of establishing an annual Lamar University Parents and Families Weekend.

A Parents Advisory Committee, made up of parents who have established relationships with Lamar, provided input on forming the organization. The committee was formed to help parents, student leaders, and university administrators find ways for families to become involved with the university.

“We’re here to help parents help their students” — JUAN ZABALA, executive director of alumni affairs.
class notes

GET YOUR RED ON

Red White & You Kickoff Monday, October 4
5:30-7:30 pm
Bistro LeMonde

Baseball
tailgate gathering

More than 300 alumni and parents powered up on burgers and dogs to cheer for the Cardinals on the diamond May 20.

1. Dean Jack Hopper with his son, Evan, and his sons, Hunter and Nolan. 2. Coley Goins and Robin Brainard, holding Evie.
3. Marla and Todd, 73, 79, great friends.

1. Robert Ellison teaches in the Hallsville school district, where he lives with his wife, Kari. 2. Sandra Madison, assistant principal at Warren Elementary, hosts the Career Cadence Barbecue. 3. Marla and Todd, 73, 79, great friends.

Counseling.

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The team reunited to commemorate LMU’s annual Basketball Players Reunion Weekend Feb. 26-27

1. From left, Pat Tubbs, Homer Taylor ’77, B.B. Davis ‘61, Billy Tubbs ’58 and Joe Mills ’77
2. Jack Martin, Dale Godfrey ‘61, Guy Davis ‘62

Carrie (Hardin) Strong ’65, B.S. fashion retail merchandising, is a human resource generalist for Pfiester Credit Union. She lives in Nederland.
Nellie Sandrock ’66, M. S. industrial engineering, is an industrial engineer for Panasonic Automotive Systems Co. of America in抗战City, Ill., where he lives.
Prici asteroid ’67, B.S. psychology, is a guidance counselor for Comcast in Chicago, Ill., where she lives.
Matthew Brannon ’67, B.B.A. management, is a personal banker for Chase bank in Houston, where he lives.
Guy Crossley ’67, B.B.A. management information systems, ’67, M.B.A. business administration, is an academic computing specialist for the College of Business at Lamar University.
James Coggin ’67, B.S. industrial engineering, is a field service engineer for Lufkin Industries Inc. in Lufkin, where he lives.
Jen Gilbert ’67, B.B.A. music, is an accounts payable specialist for LTO Service in Houston, where she lives.
Aaron Jobson ’67, B.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is an agent for Texas Farm Bureau Insurance in Beaumont. He lives in Port Neches.
Adina Khan ’67, M.F. industrial engineering, is a business analyst for SQA Labs Inc. in Phoenix, Ariz., where he lives with his wife, Rossie.
Sweethanu Kondyala ’67, M.E. chemical engineering, is a process simulation engineer for Cape Software Inc. in the Woodlands, where he and his wife, Senery, live.
Darron NEXT ’67, B.S. electrical engineering, is a special engineer for network design for Verizon. She lives in Richardson.
Richard Redmond ’67, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, is a personal trainer for a Prime Fitness in Houston. He and his wife, Casey, live in Spring.
Leonor (Hagen) Shipman ’67, B.A.S. general business, also works for Jern’s Dell, and they live in Nederland.
Mary Jones ’67, B.S. communication, works as a child protective service investigator for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services in Orange. She lives in Port Neches.
Tara (Borne) Smith ’68, B.S. criminal justice, teaches in the Dayton school district. She is married to Jason Smith ’67, B.S. criminal justice, who is a Texas Department of Public Safety trooper. They live in Humble.
Nina Sirestha ’68, M.F. civil engineering, is a civil engineer for Chase Loan. She lives in Katy, Calif.
Kris (Hardy) Smallwood ’68, B.A. history, teaches in the Dallas school district, where she lives with her husband, Christian ’07, B.B.A. English.
Quinetta Andrus ’07, B.S. industrial engineering, is an accounts payable specialist for the Davis Motor Co. of America in Beaumont. She and her husband, Justin ’07, B.S. sciences, are child protective service investigators for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services in Houston, where she lives.
Lauren (Hughes) Jones ’07, M.E. industrial engineering, is a process engineer for AMEC in Beaumont. She and her husband, Oscar ’06, B.S. criminal justice, who is a Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Beaumont, live in Port Neches.
Vanessa (Vaquere) Kepps ’07, B.S. exercise science, is an accounts payable specialist for Controlled Fluids in Beaumont. She and her husband, Andrew ’08, B.S. what major do you plan to study at Lamar University?
Arielle (Sier) Weldon ’10, B.I.S. communication, is a program services coordinator for the Julian Rogers “Gift of Life” Program in Beaumont. She and her husband, Jeffrey ’10, B.S.A. studio art, live in Beaumont.
Kathia Wright ’10, B.S. criminal justice, is a child protective service investigator for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Service. She lives in Houston.
Meagan (Christopher) Baker ’10, M.Ed. administration, works for the Montgomery school district. She lives in Port Arthur, with her husband, Jason.
Willa Basham ’10, M.Ed. teacher leadership, married Hurst (Hopfinger) ’09, M.Ed. administration, June 20, 2009. Both are teachers at Garland High School, and they live in Hutto.
Colin Blanchard ’10, B.S.A. management, works for Georgia Pacific. He and his wife, Brittany (Lee), live in Cleveland.
Sharena Cannon ’10, B.S.A. finance, is a contract administrator for Camp, Cooper and Hittie Inc. in Hutto, where she lives.
Andre Dau ’10, M.Ed. administration, teaches in the Cameron Furr High School district and lives in Katy.
Michelle (Lambert) Delkay ’10, M.Ed. administration, earned her principal’s certification and lives in Dayton.
Mark Evans ’10, B.S. communications, is a video editor and producer for Lamar University in Beaumont, where he lives.
James Eshliman ’10, B.A.S. applied arts and sciences, teaches in the Beaumont school district. He lives in Lumberton with his wife, Katrina.
Mary (McGinty) Eaves ’10, B.S. communication, is an agent for First Key in Beaumont, where she lives.
Theresa Georgia ’10, B.S. social work, is social service director at Woodridge Nursing and Rehabilitation in Houston, where she lives.
Lisa (Doucet) Gray ’10, M.P.A. public administration, is a parole officer for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Beaumont, where she lives.
Dane Hayton ’04, M.S. family and consumer sciences, works as a child protective service investigator for Fort Bend school district. He and his wife, Heaths, live in Missouri City.
Mark Morgan ’03, B.S.A. applied arts and sciences, teaches in the Beaumont school district. He lives in Lamar with his wife, Rolanda.
Natasha Wright ’03, B.S. criminal justice, is a Texas Department of Family and Protective Services in Orange. She lives in Port Neches.
Cherrise Jones ’08, M.Ed. administration, teaches in the New Caney school district. She lives in Conroe.

Summer Welham [Robertson] ’09, M.Ed. administration, teaches in the Flsher school district and lives in Cypress.

Ashley Prince ’09, B.B.A. business, is an engineering technician, is a machine engineer with LyondellBasell Industries and his wife, Valerie, live in Beaumont.

Lance Martin ’10, M.Ed. teacher leadership, teaches in the New Caney school district and lives in Houston.

Wong (Dee-Sa) Moon ’09, A.A. nursing, is a nurse at Christus St. Elizabeth Beaumont. She and her husband, Dwight, live in Beaverton.

Dr. Myron King ’09, M.Ed. administration, teaches in the Channelview school district. He lives in Pearland.

Nicole (DuPree) May ’09, M.Ed. administration, teaches in the Frisco school district. She lives in Frisco.

Erika Segrest ’09, M.Ed. administration, is a bilingual teacher for Sheldon school district. She works for the Hitchcock school district, where she lives in League City.

Clarissa Jayroe ’09, B.B.A. business, is an administrative assistant at Lamar University College of Education and administration, died March 13, 2010. Memorial contributions may be made to Lamar University College of Education and Human Development, P.O. Box 11111, Beaumont, Texas 77711.

Martin Davis ’70, B.S. chemical engineering, is a retired teacher, lives in West Orange.

Mr. Robert Wilcox ’69, B.S. elementary education, died Nov. 12, 2009.

LaRue (Fischer) Choate ’38, A.A. general studies, died April 21, 2010.

Velmarie (Stephens) Cude ’70, certif. vocational nursing, died Dec. 28, 2009.


Ellen Smith ’70, B.A. sociology, died Jan. 6, 2010.


LaRue (Fischer) Choate ’40, A.A. general studies, died Nov. 21, 2009.

LaRue (Fischer) Choate ’37, A.A. general studies, died Dec. 31, 2009.

LaRue (Fischer) Choate ’36, certif. general studies, died Feb. 23, 2010.


Jean Crane ’51, M.Ed. administration, died Dec. 21, 2009.


Ben Westerterp ’09, B.S. mechanical engineering, died Dec. 28, 2009.


Karen (Hawa) Glavimans ’73 travels, determined to bring a little of Europe to American coffee palates.

by Cynthia Hicks

between Trader Joes and Sprouts, Whole Foods and Balducci’s, Glavimans works her contacts person to person when she’s in the States. When initial contacts in Holland, she makes cold calls on a list of stores where she’d like to see her coffee on the shelves. It’s been a challenge and a little bit of an adventure, but Glavimans has built a coffee company with sales experience gained from 30 years as an insurance benefits consultant and business developer. Her company—Mokk-a—offers coffee connoisseurs four distinct blends from Sweden, Holland, France and Italy. The last time Glavimans stepped off into the unknown to build something from nothing, she ended up traveling Siberia—the end of her chapter in a work life that began in Dallas.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in psychology, Glavimans, a Cardinal cheerleader and Alpha Chi Omega sorority member, moved to Dallas. Two trim years of behind-the-scenes work helped her decide she wanted to sell—real estate and then insurance. She ended up in employee benefits for 17 years and put that experience to work when she ended up in employee benefits for 17 years and put that experience to work when she started her first business—part ownership in a small employee benefits consulting firm with multi-national corporate clients. Burnout led to her “first crazy idea” and a business in Russia. She developed a benefits program for the 13,300 Russian workers for the first joint venture to drill for oil in Siberia. The formula of safety, oil production and performance allowed workers to earn monthly credits with which they could buy clothes, appliances, electronics and food from a catalog Glavimans produced.

“There was a lot of travel, and we had to move quickly,” Glavimans said. “We signed 28 contracts in the first six months. As it turned out, we had to go to Siberia and travel from camp to camp to meet with each camp boss.” It was 40 degrees below zero the first time she traveled to Siberia in December 1993. That was before Aeroflot airlines was privatized, and she flew three hours from Moscow to Irkutsk. “I almost died,” Glavimans recalled. “The carpet was pulled up. Frans, my husband now, had one part of a seat belt. You had to hold your luggage in your lap. I’ve never prayed so hard. ‘You had to hold your luggage in your lap. I’ve never prayed so hard.”

She was returning with her second blend/recipe. “That opening led to a coffee Glavimans liked,” she said. “I was really happy.”

But when she was in Sweden for a weekend with friends, she particularly enjoyed the coffee at a cafe and chatted with the owner. The roaster was local, so she went to talk with him. “I said, ‘I’m not sure what I’m wanting to do, but your coffee is really nice. Would you consider selling me the recipe?’ He gave me the recipe for the blend. Europeans tend to think only Americans would try something so crazy,” Glavimans said. “So I had one blend and wondered, ‘Now, what am I gonna do?’

A childhood friend lives in Italy. Her husband is now president of a consortium that represents the export of Italian products to other countries. Glavimans asked her if she knew of a good coffee roaster in Italy. That opening led to a coffee blends developed by little roasters in various countries,” she said. “They create a coffee the people in their country like.”

Every country has its little idiosyncrasies. I know in my head what I want, so I really have to search to find what I’m looking for, but so far I’ve been lucky,” she said.

“Whatever you’re doing, you have to have vision. Glavimans said. “I’m used to the difficulties of getting to the person you need to talk to, and I have a lot of patience with that. That’s what it takes,” she said. “When I’ve trained sales people in the past, I’ve told them, in that first conversation, you connect with that person. If you can make a friend in that first conversation, then when you get in front of them, everything is easier.”

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Glavimans has made a few friends over cups of her coffee. She’s looking for the next one to share a flavor with as she searches for the next perfect cup.
John Evans -90 sums up his approach to life in his cell phone voice mail message explaining why he can't pick up at the moment—“It's busy taking over the world.”

Evans' blend of humor, confidence and determination, which helped him succeed on the football field during his years at Lamar University, has made him a growing force on the Texas music scene. The hard-to-define sound of the John Evans Band has won a cadre of devoted fans and accolades, including Houston Press Music Awards. His songs have been covered by other popular Texas artists, including Roger Creager, Hayes Carll and Adam Carroll. His eighth album, Lollygaggin', debuted on the Billboard charts the same week he produced stadium seats, vinyl cushions and the first hard-surface mouse pads on the market. By night, especially on weekends, he kept writing songs and playing to college crowds, making friends in Texas and Oklahoma most weekends, to allow him to pursue music full time. By that time, he had a wife and child. He left Lamar after his fourth year, a few credits shy of a degree, and started working as a pipefitter's helper to support his family. Two years later, he got an opportunity to play professional football with the New York/New Jersey Knights in the fledgling World League of American Football. That lasted two seasons until the NFL bought and temporarily shut down the league before moving it to Europe. Evans decided he'd had enough; however, his time in New York did help revive his interest in music. He and the punter, another Texan named Bobby Lilljedahl, played together to pass the time with the kicker sometimes playing in on harmonies. Evans started writing songs to suit Lilljedahl's country crooner voice. They even recorded one that played during the halftime of a televised game. By the time he returned to Texas, he had written more than 20 songs and was ready for his debut at Jamming Java in Clear Lake City.

"Once you get paid for playing, it's hard to get rid of the bug," Evans said. "I guess I played that for four or five months. It was mainly a songwriter show. From there, I met some other songwriters and singers and started playing open mic in Houston." In the meantime, Evans kept working whether he could to make a living—painting houses, curbs, parking lots—before finding his "first real job" in the specialty division of Sterling Manufacturing in Houston. By day during the week, he produced stadium seats, vinyl cushions and the first hard-surface mouse pads on the market. By night, especially on weekends, he kept writing songs and playing music, trying to build enough of a following to allow him to pursue music full time. By the late 1990s, he and his band were playing around Texas and Oklahoma most weekends, mainly to college crowds, making friends in the business and developing his own unique sound, which he describes as "high energy, roots, honky tonk, rockabilly." When Evans and his wife split in 1999, he decided to make a change in his work life as well.

"At that stage of the game, I thought if I'm going to do the music thing, now's the time to do it and kind of jump off the deep end. Trying to be a musician and make enough money just as a musician is a tough deal. I can't even explain how tough that was," Evans said, mentioning the scarcity of big record deals in the age of Internet music downloads. "I kind of just focused on being a songwriter, building a following where I could make a living off of the shows that I played. I would sell records along the way to supplement however much money I made from a show." Evans progressed from his first record Riding Shotgun with songwriting buddy Ronnie Walker under the band name Evans Walker to his first John Evans Band release Biggest Fool in Town, which he cut in 1999 and released nationally in 2001, followed by Out of Control. Later came Cirding the Drain, which dealt with the vagaries of the music business he experienced when his distributor went out of business, and Ramblin' Boy, a full-on rocker. Evans and his band toured for two solid years on those albums and "completely starved to death." Although he played well-known, well-regarded venues all over the country, including CBGB in New York, they often shared the bill—and the profits—with four or five other bands. The band "kind of imploded," and Evans recorded an acoustic record, Sideowel, while he pondered his next move. His two most recent records, Lollygaggin', have been with Fort Worth-based Smith Entertainment.

Evans feels good about what he's achieved so far, but he's not finished taking over the world yet. He is pleased with his success as a songwriter as more of his songs find their way into movies and onto the records of other artists. "It's an honor when someone will cut one of your songs," Evans said. "I like getting a new idea in my head and being able to actually create it, turn it into something. It's like little babies. You write a song and you think, 'OK, this is a good one.' And you tweak it, and it gets recorded, and you see if everybody else likes it or not. It's still really personal to you. I love the songwriting aspect of it. It's therapeutic. I like being in control of what I'm doing."

"I still book my shows. I've got a band that I've got to take care of. I love those guys. I've got a family of songwriters that I get to hang out with, and I get to hang out with people with like minds, so I don't necessarily feel like a weirdo for being a musician and not having a regular job. I like just going for it. I like challenges, and this challenges me. It's always something new." Many of the qualities Evans needs as a musician and bandleader were first learned on the football field. "You have to learn all these different personalities and learn how to make those personalities work together," said Evans, who was inducted into the Cardinal Hall of Honor in 2001. "I built so many friendships with those players. It’s just like having a team of brothers around you."

Evans developed mental toughness and adaptability. "In writing songs and the music business, Evans is getting ready to cut his next record and looking forward to playing a gig or two especially close to his heart. "I'm super stoked about the football season," said Evans, who never had a chance to return for a Lamar game as a fan. "I'm going to play some tailgate parties. Look for the big tall goofy guy with Buddy Holly glasses."