

Investing In The Future
THE CAMPAIGN FOR LAMAR UNIVERSITY

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in Lamar, invest in our
students, invest in the future
of Southeast Texas...



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A Member of The Texas State University System

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CARDINAL Cadence

VOL. 38 NO. 2 A PUBLICATION OF LAMAR UNIVERSITY JULY 2010
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SEPT. 11	WEBBER INTERNATIONAL	OCT. 30	NORTH DAKOTA
SEPT. 18	SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	NOV. 6	GEORGIA ST.
SEPT. 25	STEPHEN E. AUSTIN	NOV. 13	SOUTH DAKOTA
OCT. 2	SAM HOUSTON ST.	NOV. 20	OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE ST.
OCT. 9	LANGSTON UNIVERSITY		

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From the President

All across campus, we see evidence of vibrant changes taking place. I am very pleased to announce that Lamar University's accreditation has been reaffirmed by the Council on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). This is vitally important as it allows Lamar to offer federal financial aid to students; but, more important, it is a "stamp of approval" that our programs meet or exceed standards of excellence recognized across the country. This accomplishment is a result of the hard work of our faculty and administrators, particularly those in the College of Education and Human Development, who have been instrumental in the development of Lamar's new and hugely successful online graduate degrees.

As the summer unfolds, tremendous energy is evident across campus as we prepare for a historic fall semester. Enrollment will very likely rise to record levels. Much activity centers on the rejuvenation of the university's football program. Construction is moving rapidly on the athletic complex that will host the Cardinals and thousands of fans in the first gridiron contests since 1989. Don't forget to reserve your tickets! And remember, the men's and women's Cardinal basketball teams will follow football and continue the excitement.

Several new and newly renovated academic buildings will also be part of the campus scene in the coming year. Our music programs will return to the now state-of-the-art Music Building, and hundreds of students will call Cardinal Village Phase 5 their home away from home. Work will continue through the fall to complete the high-tech laboratories of the new addition for Lamar's chemical engineering program.

Like all state agencies, Lamar is facing a reduction in its 2012-2013 biennial budget. Coming on top of deep cuts already made in the 2010-2011 biennial budget, the university will have approximately \$8 million less in state support. Lamar administrators, deans, department chairs, faculty leaders and staff are working hard to identify ways to trim budgets and improve efficiency while maintaining educational excellence. This is, of course, challenging, as the university has experienced nothing short of dramatic growth during the past decade.

We remain committed to ensuring student academic success; delivering high-quality instruction; and supporting research, scholarship and professional service vital to faculty development. We will also continue to invest in areas that create opportunity for future growth and additional revenue. Regardless of the financial situation, we will maintain our momentum as we continue to work together to meet the needs of Southeast Texas and beyond.

Meanwhile, the response to Lamar's Investing in the Future comprehensive campaign continues to grow. The campaign is now at \$69 million raised—on track to meet the \$100 million goal by 2013. We are blessed to have such wonderful alumni and friends.

Thank you for all you do for Lamar University.

With Cardinal Pride,

James M. Simmons

James M. Simmons
President
Lamar University



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Cadence The Staff

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Brian Sattler, Executive Editor, Director of Public Relations
Cynthia Hicks '89, '93, Editor, Publication Specialist
Larry Acker, Assistant Director, Writer
Beth Gallaspy '09, Marketing Specialist, Writer
Louise Wood, Media Specialist, Writer
Frances Simpson '95, Senior Administrative Associate

Contributors:

Mary Baswell, Erik Cox, Sharon Forret, Patrick Murray, Rush Wood, **writing**
Keith Carter, Michelle Cate, Pete Churton, Joel Gothe, Brandon Gouthier, Christi Grudier, Keith Huckabay, Brandon Thibodeaux, Rohn Wenner, **photography**

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Changes of address may be sent to:
University Advancement,
P.O. Box 10011, Beaumont, Texas 77710, or by
E-mail: alumni@lamar.edu

Division of University Advancement
Camille Mouton, Vice President
Floyd F. McSpadden Jr., Director of Planned Giving
Janice Trammell '85, '93, Director of Development
Tracie Bryan Craig, Director of University Reception Centers
P.O. Box 10011
Beaumont, Texas 77710
(409) 880-8419 or fax (409) 880-8409

Lamar University Alumni Office
When visiting campus, you're invited to stop by the Alumni Office at the John Gray Center, Building B, 855 Jim Gilligan Way, Suite 102.

Juan Zabala '07, Executive Director of Alumni Affairs and Advancement Services
LU Alumni Office
P.O. Box 10005
Beaumont, Texas 77710
(409) 880-8921, or (800) 298-4839
E-mail: alumni@lamar.edu
www.lamar.edu/alumni

Janice Trammell, Executive Director
Lamar University Foundation
P.O. Box 11500
Beaumont, Texas 77710
(409) 880-2117

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Spirit Team Captain
Alexis Werner

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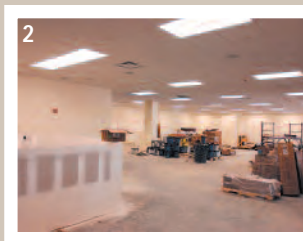
Tackling the music world

No lollygaggin' for former quarterback John Evans -90 . . . he gets audiences jumpin'



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.



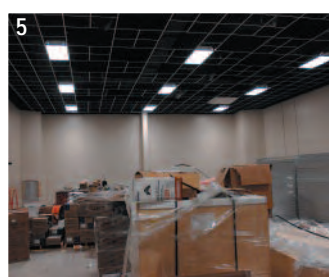
▶ The crowning touch – workers complete the roof of the Field House at Provost Umphrey Stadium.



- 3 The grand staircase sweeps down into the Athletic Complex lobby.
- 4 The future Morgan Suites offer a good view of Provost Umphrey Stadium's home side where chair-back seats are being installed below the Dan F. and Sandra A. Smith Press Box.

▶ The Morgan Suites will enhance the appearance of the Montagne Center when construction is complete.

- 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 it their home away from home.



Investing In The Future
THE CAMPAIGN FOR LAMAR UNIVERSITY

C A M P A I G N I M P A C T

A wealth of spirit

Those closest to Homer Lavelles Walles '41 knew him as down to earth and direct, as outgoing, open and unassuming.

"He was rather disarming," said W.S. "Bud" Leonard '50, '53, '76, a retired Lamar administrator and longtime friend. "I don't think Homer ever met a stranger. He wasn't pretentious in any way, shape or form. He loved a good story."

"Everybody liked Homer," said his wife, Jane. "He had a great personality, and he didn't put on any airs whatsoever."

To Lamar University, Homer Walles is a legend: friend, Distinguished Alumnus and pioneer. He was the first donor to pledge \$1 million to Lamar, having set up several trusts to establish Lamar's first academic chair.

Homer Walles died July 2, 2009, at the age of 87. But his legacy lives on through the Wade C. Sr., Della H. and Homer L. Walles Chair in the Visual and Performing Arts, created by Homer and Jane Walles, in 1984 through gifts from Homer Walles, a deferred gift funded by the Homer L. Walles Trust and a bequest through his estate. The gift bears the name of Homer and his parents.

Internationally acclaimed photographer Keith Carter, University Professor of Art, holds the Walles Chair. "To endow the first chair at Lamar and then have it filled by a man of international stature is just frosting on the cake," Leonard said.

"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 chair," said Floyd McSpadden, director of planned giving. "The charitable trust provided lifetime income for Mr. Walles, certain tax benefits and, most importantly, the long-range

method to complete the endowment of the Walles Chair. Mr. Walles's foresight and planning is a perfect example of how a planned gift can fulfill a lofty aspiration to benefit Lamar University."

Walles also funded two scholarships at Lamar: the Homer and Jane Walles Presidential Scholarship and the Wade C. Sr., Della H. and Homer Walles Scholarship in Business.

Having earned an associate degree from Lamar Junior College in 1941, Walles "had a soft spot in his heart" for the univer-

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

—W.S. "BUD" LEONARD

sity, said Leonard, who retired as vice chancellor of development for the Lamar University System and was instrumental in implementing the endowment.

"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."

It turned out to be a \$1 million milestone. "That was the big deal," Leonard said. "It opened the door for lots of good things in the future."

At first, Walles didn't want the gift publicized. "Bud got after him, and they talked and talked," Jane Walles recalls.

"I said, 'Listen, Homer, we've never had a million-dollar gift. The first one is going to break ground for us,'" Leonard said. "It's going to show that people care about Lamar and there are opportunities here to make that kind of gift. It will



Jane and Homer Walles, with Keith Carter

prompt others to do so.

"He was concerned about what his neighbors would think. Because here's a guy who cut his own grass, did his own yard work and lived in the house where he was born," Leonard said. "He was frugal in so many ways."

A native of Port Neches, Walles lived in the family home on Marion Street all his life, except for a three-year stint in the Air Force. After later graduating from the University of Texas, he began a 45-year career at Texaco, where he served as purchasing agent.

He and Jane married in 1977 after a courtship began with a blind date to a dance club. "Homer was an absolutely fabulous dancer," Jane said.

At Lamar, the couple was a constant presence, from Le Grand Bal to art openings, theater productions and concerts. Jane and Homer served on the Friends of the Arts board and, said Leonard, "They loved the arts. They were thrilled with the arts programs at Lamar."

Upon establishing the chair, Walles said: "Jane and I are excited about the impact which the Walles Chair in the Visual and Performing Arts may have upon the fine arts program within the College of Fine Arts and Communication at Lamar University. We have been watching the work and development of the college for some time now, and we believe that the creation of a chair of this nature . . . will create a stirring atmosphere in the arts at Lamar University."—LW



Glen Morgan and James Simmons

LUXURY view

Morgan Suites overlook Leonard Field

by Brian Sattler

As Lamar University prepares for the return of the Cardinals to the gridiron this fall, it is adding the Morgan Suites to the list of first-class accommodations in the new football complex.

Named in recognition of a generous gift from the Morgan Charitable Foundation on behalf of Glen '75 and Teri (Tammen) Morgan '85, the luxury suites will "put us on par with some of the best collegiate stadiums," said President James Simmons. "Glen and Teri have made it possible for us to build these luxury suites that are a capstone to the overall project."

The gift is part of the university's "Investing in the Future" comprehensive campaign that now totals more than \$68 million toward a \$100 million goal.

"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



Simmons and Teri Morgan

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."

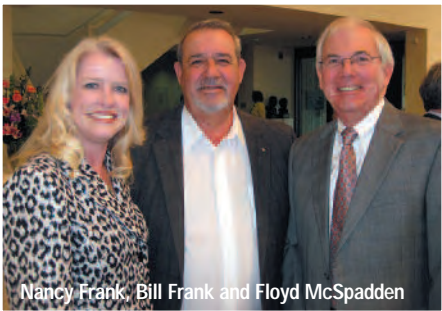


The second floor of the Morgan Suites will offer a commanding view of the field through retractable windows.

Legacy Society: A new tradition Choose how you want to be remembered



Roy Steinhagen,
Janie Steinhagen,
Mark Steinhagen and
President James Simmons



Nancy Frank, Bill Frank and Floyd McSpadden

goals, but personal planning goals as well,” McSpadden said. “Our desire is to work with our donors and their advisors to develop a plan that satisfies these important goals.”

Potential planned giving donors realize benefits from two major areas. Donors can gain immediate tax benefits under current law by making lifetime gifts of appreciated assets, placing assets in charitable trusts or

purchasing charitable-gift annuities. This option is very attractive for individuals who are concerned with annual income tax issues. The second option incorporates an estate tax perspective in which any assets designated to the Lamar University Foundation for the benefit of the university trans-

fer 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, they 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 University 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.”—LA

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.

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

Sample Charitable Gift Annuity Rates

(Single life - based on suggested rates by the American Council on Gift Annuities)

AGE	RATE
60	5.2
62	5.3
66	5.5
70	5.8
75	6.4
80	7.2
85	8.1
90+	9.5

MINIMUM GIFT AMOUNT IS \$25,000

“There are several planned-giving vehicles available to potential donors that can address not only their charitable planning

DreamMakers

Many alumni and friends of Lamar have chosen to establish a vibrant legacy through endowed scholarships that will help many students in the years to come. An endowed scholarship can be established with as little as \$15,000. Awards to students are made from the interest earned on the endowment—effectively making the donation an eternal source of funding for students.

Presidential Scholarships

DEWITT SCOTT & JOE THOMAS 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 GEORGIA LAU PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN BUSINESS | established by Clayton ‘69 and Georgia (Graeter) Lau ‘68, for undergraduate and graduate majors in the College of Business

R. JOE WARE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCES | established by R. Joe Ware ‘58 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

MARILYN T. AND GILBERT T. ADAMS, JR. SCHOLARSHIP IN PRE-LAW | established by their children Gilbert Adams III, Mary Margaret Groves, Caroline Faubus, Catherine Matthews and Julianne LeBlanc for sophomore, junior or senior political science majors.

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

CATHERINE HURLEY 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.

OTHO L. DAVIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN ATHLETIC TRAINING | established by Grace (Davis) 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 EASTEPP SCHOLARSHIP IN NURSING | established by their children Lynn and Becky Eastepp, Debbie Eastepp Keith ‘79, Larry Eastepp ‘81, and Ann Eastepp Schaeffer ‘05 and husband Mark ‘88, ‘89, ‘91, ‘93 and grandchildren Laura Keith Davis ‘94 and husband Ernie and Leslie Eastepp Weaver ‘00 and husband Troy for nursing majors.

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

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

THERESA AND J. C. GIGLIO SCHOLARSHIP IN BUSINESS | established by their children Charles Giglio ‘73, Jo Beth Jenkins and Gerri Christopher for students of all majors in the College of Business.

Three separately endowed scholarships, the **RUTH KAIGLER GOODE AND D. REX GOODE SCHOLARSHIP IN ART, IN MUSIC AND IN THEATRE** were established by the estate of David Rex Goode Jr. for students in the respective departments of art, music and theatre.

I. “BUTCH” AND ANNA “2-2” HOFFER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN ENTREPRENEURIAL STUDIES | established by Marsha and Lewis Hoffer (son) for undergraduate or graduate students majoring in business with a concentration in entrepreneurship.

CHARLES M. AND NADINE KEBODEAUX SCHOLARSHIP IN ACCOUNTING | established by their sons Keith ‘78 and Chris

Kebodeaux ‘83 for undergraduate or graduate accounting majors.

CHARLES R. KNIGHT SCHOLARSHIP IN EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCES | established by Steve ‘70 and Oonagh Rhea to honor Knight’s legacy for junior or senior geology majors.

CHARLES R. MATTHEWS SCHOLARSHIP IN MARCHING BAND | established by the chancellor emeritus of The Texas State University System to express his support for the return of football to Lamar University for a student in any major who is a member of the marching band.

DR. FLOYD AND MARIE MCSPADDEN SR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN PRE-MED | established by Patti and Floyd McSpadden in memory of his father for undergraduate students in any major in the College of Arts and Sciences.

DR. RAUL S. ORNELAS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN TRUMPET | established by family and friends in memory of Ornelas for a music major whose primary instrument is the trumpet.

DR. JACK ORRICK SCHOLARSHIP FOR PRE-MED STUDENTS | established as a legacy gift by Dr. Orrick, a native Beaumont who has always been interested in Lamar’s development, for a pre-med major.

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

PETER BOYD 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) 880-2117.

Endowed Scholarship Giving Levels

MIRABEAU
\$300,000

REGENTS
\$100,000

PRESIDENTIAL
\$50,000

NAMED
SCHOLARSHIPS
\$15,000

The right treatment



From left: Regent David Montogne '74, Dr. Todd Clarke, Dr. Shawn Figari, Dr. David Teuscher, Dr. Marshall Hayes '69, Dr. Wagdy Rizk, Dr. Keith Hill, Coach Ray Woodward, Dr. Curtis Thorpe and President James Simmons.

Muscles, bones, tendons and ligaments are only a few of the joints and structures that make up the human body. In September, Josh Yonker, Lamar's head athletic trainer, will be prepared to deal with virtually all types of sports injuries in a new state-of-the-art sports medicine treatment center. The Beaumont Bone & Joint Institute has made a \$250,000 gift to the "Investing in the Future" comprehensive campaign in recognition of its more than 30-year relationship with the Lamar athletic program. The gift is earmarked for the new athletic complex, and, more specifically, the athletic training program.

"Many of our physicians and staff at the Beaumont Bone & Joint Institute are Lamar University graduates," said Dr. Curtis Thorpe, a member of the Institute and head team physician for Lamar athletics. "The decision to support Lamar athletics was unanimous when we began discussing this gift because of our association as alumni and with the medical treatment of Lamar's athletes."

In addition to providing medical care, injury evaluation and support to the LU athletic training staff, the Institute was in consultation with Yonker and involved in the research to determine the type of equipment needed at the sports complex. The hydrotherapy pools and rehabilitative equipment selected for the sports medicine treatment center are used by many National Football League teams and National Basketball Association franchises.

"Our sports medicine clinic will be one of the best facilities in the conference and will rival the facilities at other, larger

schools," Yonker said. "It will definitely be a great asset to our athletes in getting them back in action as quickly as possible."

A physician at the former Beaumont Bone & Joint Clinic, the late Dr. James Shuffield, was the first team physician for Lamar athletics. Several orthopedic clinics merged in 1995 to form the Beaumont Bone & Joint Institute, which comprises 17 local physicians. Several physicians of the institute will provide treatment in their particular areas of specialization when needed, and, in addition, two institute physicians will provide direct support to Yonker and his athletic training staff.

"The Beaumont Bone & Joint Sports Medicine Facility will be one of the best in the conference and will rival the facilities at other, larger schools."

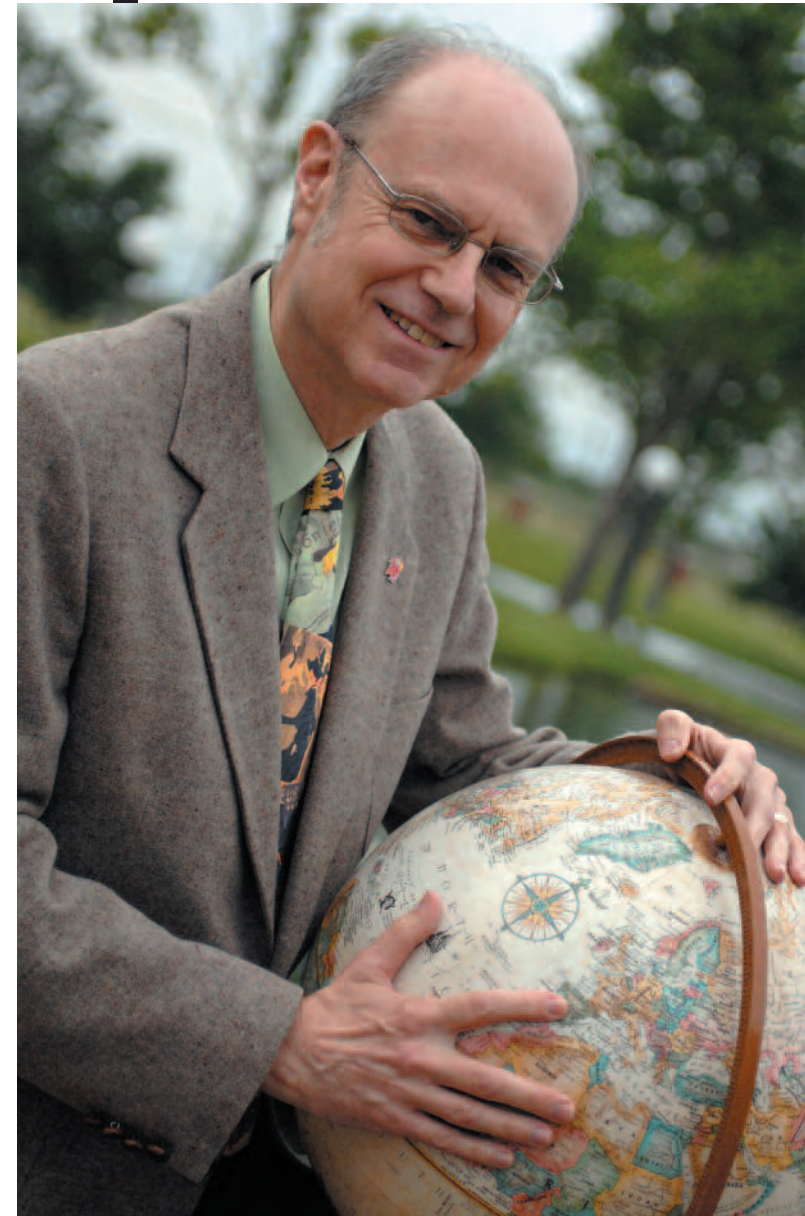
—JOSH YONKER

That staff comprises three full-time trainers, seven graduate students and 10 undergraduate students majoring in kinesiology or exercise science. The athletic training program offers internships for graduate students to obtain their state

license by providing opportunities for hands-on training in injury evaluation, therapeutic rehabilitation and basic first-aid.

"The Beaumont Bone & Joint Institute is very proud and happy to support Lamar University and the athletic program. We recognize the importance and the impact of Lamar to Beaumont and the entire area," Thorpe said. "We feel that bringing back football will upgrade every aspect of Lamar University and especially enhance student life on campus." —LA

World-class act



summers, I have brought my students to the world," said Rivers, who originated and directed the first Global and International Studies Certificate Program at Lamar and has led 12 European study-abroad tours.

Lamar honored Rivers, professor of French, as the 2010 University Professor, with officials applauding him as the pillar of Lamar's French program and an accomplished researcher and author whose publication record is diverse and significant. The professorship, awarded for life, is the university's most prestigious faculty honor.

"Dr. Rivers has served Lamar extraordinarily well . . . and his mark of excellence is apparent throughout the university's modern languages program—in the courses he has taught, the leadership he has provided, the scholarship he has conducted, the relations he has cultivated and, in big ways and small, the students he has educated," said Stephen Doblin, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

During a ceremony April 21, President James Simmons conferred the medallion of University Professor, pre-

sented "as a lasting symbol of this high honor and esteemed title."

"Wow, look at this. I won a gold medal and didn't even have to go to Vancouver to get it," Rivers said, adding, "I've been very fortunate to have received a number of the honors that Lamar bestows, and I think this is probably the one I value the most. It is a life-time-achievement kind of award, and it

"Dr. Rivers is the pillar of our French program. He is capable of teaching every single course we offer, and, indeed, the demands of scheduling have led him to do just that over many years of service."

—STEVEN ZANI, Chair, Department of English and Modern Languages

is not just about me. It's about the French program—and two decades of helping build it into a success. This is a wonderful recognition of that."

Rivers has taught beginning French, senior-level phonetics and every course in between. He has advised, guided and taught thousands of students—entirely in French—employing video clips, movies, language labs and the Internet to emphasize the cultural context of language as well as the people, history and institutions of the French-speaking world.

Rivers holds three degrees in French, including a doctor of philosophy,

On campus and beyond, Kenneth Rivers works to broaden his students' horizons. Over more than two decades at Lamar University, he's brought global perspective to his courses, displaying a flair for teaching that earns him high marks.

"I have tried to bring the world to my classroom. And, during numerous

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 faculty sponsor of the French Circle, the French Film Festival and Lamar's chapter of Pi Delta Phi French honor society. He served 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 *Transmutations: Understanding Literary and Pictorial Caricature*, the first academic study of how caricatures function in literature and visual art. He is under contract to produce a three-volume anthology of works by French playwright Moliere. —LW

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. Master of arts in architectural history, University of Texas, where he is completing doctor of philosophy in architectural history; master of architecture, Columbia University; bachelor of science, Denison University, Columbus, Ohio. . . . studied in Paris at the Sorbonne and Paris School of Architecture . . . program director of interior design in Department of Family and Consumer Sciences . . . organized and led study-abroad trips to New York and Paris, emphasizing architecture and design . . . supervised a student in the design of a "green" concept car . . . spearheading efforts to receive Council of Interior Design accreditation . . . involved off campus in the Beaumont Main Street and Envision Beaumont.

"New course technologies, oral histories, case studies, computer imaging and a relentless emphasis on creativity have contributed greatly to his instructional successes." —STEPHEN DOBLIN, provost and vice president for academic affairs.



SANDRA RICHARDSON, assistant professor of professional pedagogy and mathematics. Ph.D. and M.A., Purdue University, B.S., Dillard University . . . teaches mathematics in College of Arts and Sciences and professional pedagogy in College of Education and Human Development—disciplines joined by her interest in math education . . . developed a capstone course in mathematics for those seeking secondary teacher certification and two courses in Academic Partnership program that enables educators to study online and earn master's degrees in administration and teacher leadership . . . founded and directed Lamar Achievement in Mathematics Program Enrichment Camp and co-chairs Mathfest and Celebration of Teaching . . . has successfully authored or co-authored grants totaling almost \$1.3 million . . . 2009 Advisor of the Year, Texas State Teachers Association.

"She challenged me in the way few professors have ever challenged me." —STUDENT EVALUATION

"Dr. Richardson plays an important role in recruiting more teachers because of her teaching strengths and enthusiasm for her subject." —HOLLIS LOWERY-MOORE, dean, College of Education and Human Development.



THOMAS THOMPSON, assistant professor of finance. Ph.D. , University of Texas at Arlington; master of science in administration, George Washington University; bachelor of business administration, University of Texas at Austin . . . areas of expertise include investments, security analysis and portfolio management . . . stresses social, environmental and ethical issues through the use of case analyses and challenges students to evaluate financial implications surrounding local issues . . . known for leading Student Managed Investment Fund, a \$250,000 portfolio held by the Lamar University Foundation. Under his eye, students manage this fund and acquire the experience of professional money managers . . . advisor to Lamar's Finance Association.

"Dr. Thompson has impressed us as a good teacher and excellent researcher, with service that far exceeds the expectations of an assistant professor." —HENRY VENTA, dean, College of Business.



QIANG XU, assistant professor of chemical engineering. Ph.D. in chemical engineering, master's and bachelor's degrees in environmental engineering and chemical engineering, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China . . . uses a variety of innovative techniques in courses, including software demonstrations, online materials, group projects and his own research . . . principal or co-principal investigator on 18 funded projects, resulting in more than \$1 million from the National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Defense and leading petrochemical companies . . . member (by invitation) of National Science Foundation panel that reviewed grant proposals . . . active in Lamar's American Institute of Chemical Engineering student chapter and the Chinese Student Association.

"Dr. Xu's research activity has been exceptional; his publication record is extremely impressive. His commitment to service is significant not only at Lamar but at the national level." —JACK HOPPER, dean, College of Engineering.



Shirley and Jack Martin

Their season got off to a lackluster start, but the 1960-61 Cardinal basketball team "just seemed to get better and better," said their coach, the legendary Jack Martin. With Martin and his first-year assistant, Billy Tubbs '58, at the helm, the highly competitive Cards turned things around to become the first team in Lamar University history to win a conference championship.

After beginning the season with a 9-8 record, they won their final 10 games to go 12-2 in the Lone Star Conference and set a standard of excellence for future Lamar teams. The players and coaches gathered Feb. 26-27 to reminisce about those glory days during Lamar's annual Basketball Players Reunion Weekend.

Martin, who celebrated his 87th birthday last August, made the trip from his retirement home in San Antonio to attend, and Tubbs, now Lamar's special assistant/consultant to the president, also joined in the activities. Seven of the eight 1960-61 players—Wayne Aaron '61, James Barrum '62, Guy Davis '62, Dale Godfrey '61, Jerry Cammack '62, Larry Augsburger '63 and Wesley Newman '62 attended. Only Johnny Johnston '61 was absent, because of an illness in his family.

"We had a great mixture of players who just seemed to get better and better as that season progressed," said Martin, still the winningest coach in Lamar history with a 335-283 record over 25 seasons. "It meant a lot to our program to get that first championship.

"It was extremely difficult in those days to win road games in our conference, but those guys stuck together and battled their way to some tough road wins. That season was a jump start for the rest of our pro-

Team spirit

1960-61 Cardinals, coaches remember a history-making season on the court

gram."

Indeed, it was. The Cardinals were Lone Star co-champions in each of the next two seasons, and they won the inaugural Southland Conference championship outright in 1963-1964. At the end of that decade, the 1968-1969 Cardinals enjoyed their best season to date by winning their first 15 games and going 20-4 over all.

Led by Johnston, Aaron and Barrum, the 1960-61 Cardinals opened their season with a 65-53 home win over Rice, beat Northeast Louisiana three times and played competitive road games against perennially tough Western Kentucky and Houston before opening LSC play with an 80-58 romp over Texas A&I. In their next-to-last conference game, the Cardinals set a then school record with 110 points in a 39-point whipping of Sul Ross State.

"Johnny was the first big-time post player we had," said Martin. "Aaron went in cycles. He was a team-first type of player. He pushed everyone. He would fuss at Johnny if he didn't think Johnny was getting enough rebounds.

"If something wasn't going just right for us, Wayne would really push the other players to get things straightened out and to focus on winning. He was a great leader,

and I really appreciated his contributions to the team."

In the Cardinals' season finale—a 97-71 victory over Howard Payne, played before a then McDonald Gym record of 3,400 fans—Barrum scored a career-high 32 points.

"Barrum was an excellent ball-handler and a very good guard," said Martin. "He had a knack for taking the ball to the basket and scoring."

The biggest role players for the Cardinals that season were Godfrey, Davis, Newman and Augsburger.

"While Wayne couldn't stand it if he didn't have a good night, Guy Davis was a low-key sort of fellow but a very dependable and steady guard," said Martin. "He was the opposite of Wayne. Wayne was wired and raring to go, and Guy was always reserved. He never got excited about his game, but we could always count on him for good, defensive play.

"It was a wonderful thrill to me to have the opportunity to coach those young men. They were good, competitive players, but they were good students, too. I really appreciated being around them because of their collective attitude. They had good senses of humor, but when it got down to

winning a ball game, they would really get after it." —RW



Back row: Jack Martin, Larry Augsburger, Dale Godfrey, Wesley Newman, space left for Johnny Johnston, who was unable to attend; Billy Tubbs
Front row: team manager Dan Shaddock, James Barrum, Jerry Cammack, Guy Davis, Wayne Aaron

LU posts all-time record enrollment

With a total headcount of 14,054 for the spring 2010 semester, the university has set a new record not only for its highest spring enrollment, but also for the largest enrollment in the university's history.

Traditionally, fall enrollments are higher than those in the spring, but continued growth in Lamar's non-traditional online programs appears to have altered that pattern. Fall 2009 enrollment was 13,994.

Headcount is up 4.22 percent over last spring, when 13,485 students were enrolled. Students are enrolled for 133,754 semester credit hours, an increase of 5.26 percent over last spring (127,066).

Enrollment in Lamar's online Academic Partnership master's in education programs remains strong and is up about 1.5 percent with 4,000 graduate students.

A slack economy aids retention and promotes higher education as a career strategy, said Kevin Smith, senior associate provost at Lamar.

Other highlights in the tally include 13 percent growth in the College of Engineering. The College of Fine Arts and Communication grew more than 12 percent. Lamar's College of Arts and Sciences gained 6.5 percent. The College of Education and Human Development is now Lamar's largest college in terms of majors with more than 5,000 students pursuing degrees in education. The university's fastest-growing traditional program was its master's in business administration, up 45 percent over a year ago.

This growth places Lamar University in an excellent position entering the base counting period for the next legislative session, Smith said. That counting period begins this summer.



BRIAN McCALL

McCall named TSUS chancellor

On April 20, 2010, the Board of Regents of The Texas State University System named Brian McCall of Plano as chancellor of the seven-institution, 99-year old system, the oldest university system in Texas.

McCall has been president of the Dallas-based Westminster Capital Corp. since 2000 and a member of the Texas House of Representatives since 1991 where he has held several key posts, including chairman of the Committee on Calendars, member of the Committee on Higher Education, and member of the Legislative Budget Board.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Baylor University, a Master of Liberal Arts from Southern Methodist University, and a Doctor of Philosophy in the Humanities, Aesthetics, from the University of Texas-Dallas. Additionally, he was a visiting post-graduate student in international politics at Oxford University.

He is the author of *Power and the Texas Governor: Connally to Bush*, published by the University of Texas Press in 2009.

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

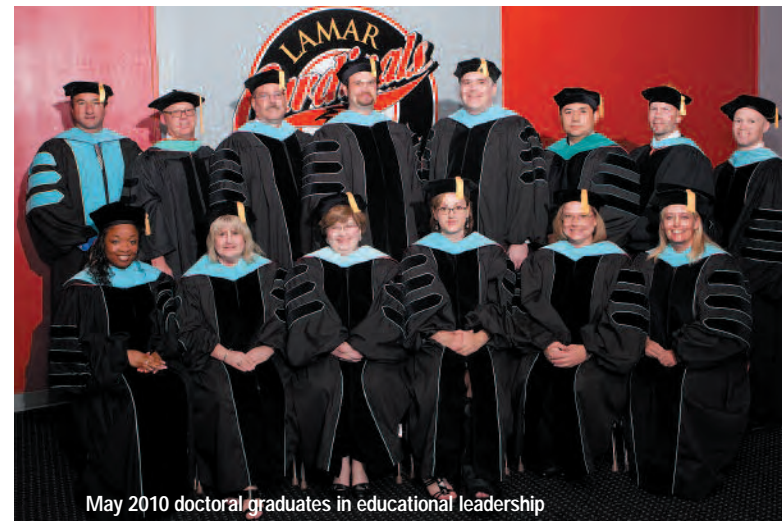
Construction management students will soon be able to obtain at least 90 percent of their degree requirements online.

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.

"The purpose is to expand the program so that more non-traditional students can have access," said Steve McCrary, director of the Reese Construction Management Program. "Many of our construction management students are working in the construction field and need the flexibility online courses provide." More information is available by contacting program director Steve McCrary at (409) 880-8916 or steven.mccrary@lamar.edu.



Steve McCrary and students



May 2010 doctoral graduates in educational leadership

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 conducted 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—at 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.

Graduates hail 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.

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 teams had 72 hours to prepare a paper and presentation addressing a challenge faced by a large global conglomerate. Members of the College of Business Board of Advisors and representatives of area businesses judged the LU effort. The winning team was **Tessa Elizondo** of Port Arthur, **Tony Hussey** of Lumberton, and **Calandre Carr** and **Dan Williams**, both of Beaumont. Other programs represented in the competition include teams from Dartmouth College, University of Pennsylvania, New York University, Northwestern University and MBA programs in Canada, Finland, Spain and Venezuela. "This was an opportunity to give our students some of the hands-on experience that the classroom can't give them," said Brad Mayer, College of Business associate dean.

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 Design Challenge near NASA's Johnson Space Center. The Lamar Launderers team 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 Coletta** of Houston. Other team members are **David Cutler II** 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 nine businesses for financial support and mentoring.



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 quadropole 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 on the same principles but constructed of commonly available materials is achieving measurements of air purity on parity with these systems, Jordan said.

Faculty notes

Wright provides insights in OKC bombing documentary | MSNBC consulted 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 movements and violence. He has been a consultant, legal advisor or expert witness in high-profile litigation such as the McVeigh criminal 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.

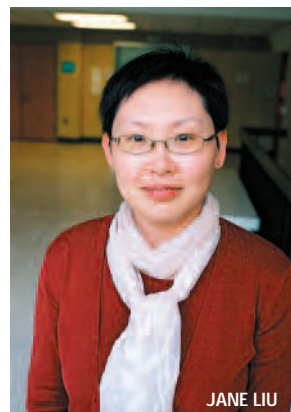
"It was intense but exciting," Wright said. "The interview covered a range of topics about the development of the insurgency leading up to the bombing. I talked about McVeigh's links to the Patriot and militia movements, the planning of the bombing and the network of insurgents that helped him carry 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 document 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 foiled 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 any other award I could receive on campus, because it is voted for by the honors students," 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 interesting subjects and pushes the students in new directions," said Zani, who is also chair of the Department of English and Modern



Languages . . . **Liu first to receive NSF award** | **Jane Liu**, assistant professor of computer science, has won a prestigious \$400,000 National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development award. She is the first Lamar faculty member to receive this national recognition, which acknowledges junior faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding 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 memorialize Eveland for his dedicated service to Lamar, its students and the geological community. The specific choice of the large panoramic photograph by Ashmore was a scene from the Chios Mountains of Big Bend National Park to capture Eveland's passion for the study and teaching of geology.

Student projects make history day

The Department of History hosted Texas History Day Feb. 25, attracting students from high schools and middle schools across Southeast Texas to activities with the theme of "Innovation in History." "National History Day reinforces classroom teaching by rewarding students for their scholarship, individual initiative and cooperative learning," Mary Kelley Scheer, associate professor of history and event coordinator, said.

STARS launches Summer Intensive Program 2010

Student Advising and Retention Services (STARS) increase students' success during its Summer Intensive Program. The program is grant-funded through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, with Lamar being one of only three schools to receive the grant, said Shannon Tait, grant manager for summer programs.

The June 3-July 8 program offers second-year college students help in mastering their reading and writing skills, ultimately bolstering their chances for success in ENGL 1301 and beyond.

Targeting first-generation, low-income students, the program provides academic support through reading and writing seminars, learning communities, group and individual tutoring, weekly dinner workshops and cultural trips.



From left, Cindy Colichia, Delores Black, Valarie Black and Julie Alford

Distinguished Staff Awards recognize service

Five Lamar University employees earned Distinguished Staff Awards at Lamar's annual staff recognition program April 15: **Julie Alford** of Orange, senior academic advisor in the Center for General Studies; **Delores Black**, Vidor, senior administrative associate in the Department of Music; **Valarie Black**, Beaumont, Setzer Student Center's assistant director for student organizations; **Cindy Colichia**, administrative coordinator at the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities, and **Sherri Shoefstall**, director of the STARS program, both of Nederland.

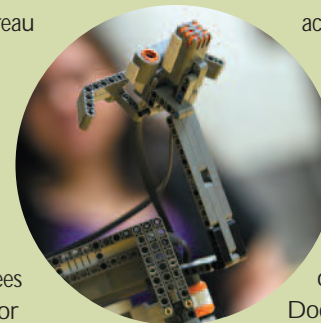
INSPIRED academies motivate students

Lamar University's INSPIRED team hosted computing academies for middle school students this summer. INSPIRED—Increasing Student Participation In Research Development—is supported by a National Science Foundation Broadening Participation in computing grant and grants from ExxonMobil.

Because the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that computing careers are among the fastest growing in this country, the INSPIRED mission is to increase the number of U. S. women and minorities who earn computing degrees to help meet the demand for computing professionals in today's high-tech society.

INSPIRED provides support for teams

of Lamar computing undergraduates to perform research and outreach under the direction of Lamar computer science faculty. The middle school academies are part of the



INSPIRED outreach activities. INSPIRED undergraduates prepare the instructional materials, organize the event and teach the children under the direction of faculty mentors, said Peggy Doerschuk, professor of computer science and director of the program.

Forty-four students from eleven area schools participated in the latest academies.



The students learned to program IntelliBrainBots using Java to navigate a maze, Doerschuk said. They also learned to create simple animations and to create their own web page. Guest speakers spoke to students about computing careers in different fields, such as medicine, business and engineering, and students learned how to prepare for college.

At the podium

Animation authority Asbury shares success strategies

Cinematic talent **Kelly Asbury** -80 was on campus March 19, sharing his experiences with students. Asbury attributed his success to his Lamar art teacher, the late Jerry Newman, for the advice and direction that helped him secure a spot at the Art Institute of California. Among Asbury's film credits are Oscar-nominated films *Shrek 2* and *Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron*. During his career, he has served as an artist on many films, including *Shrek*, *Toy Story*, *Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Little Mermaid*. He is currently directing a new animated film *Gnomeo and Juliet*.



KELLY ASBURY



O.C. FERRELL

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 also is 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.



LINDA FERRELL

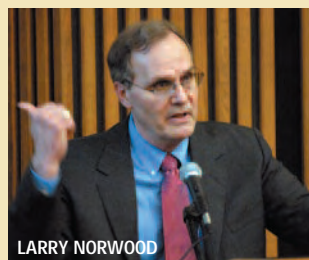
Brooks Conference attracts area leaders

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 Norwood '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. Norwood spoke to engineering students recently as the All College of Engineering lecturer. He is a College of Engineering Advisory Council member.



LARRY NORWOOD

Sigma Xi science society hosts lecture on Texas beachings

Sigma XI, the Lamar University chapter of the Scientific Research Society, hosted **Errol Ronje** of the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network in a lecture March 26.

Ronje discussed the kinds of cetaceans that strand on southeast Texas beaches and what individuals should do if they find one. Ronje 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 state 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. Her visit to Texas to consult with Cindy Stinson '75, '80, LU nursing faculty, about research for Stinson's dissertation became an opportunity to make the conference on "Health Care Challenges in a Global Society" an international event.

Conference sponsors are the Joanne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing, Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital and Memorial-Herman Baptist Hospitals. It serves the dual purpose of



CINDY STINSON, ULLA PETERSON



Christine Zabala, Jasmine Banks and Paul Rizk

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 visiting dignitaries.

"Being a Lamar University Ambassador is both an honor and a great responsibility," Joia Bush, Houston, nursing, president said. "Our goal is to ensure that visitors to Lamar University understand the tremendous impact of their 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.

Tadmor to lecture on force and motion Oct. 11

Lamar University has honored Rafael Tadmor, an associate professor in the Dan F. Smith Department of Chemical Engineering, as the Distinguished Faculty Lecturer for 2010. **Force and Motion: From Ancient Egypt to Lamar University** will be the topic of his lecture, sponsored by ExxonMobil, to be presented at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 11 in the University Theatre. The lecture will survey the concept of force from antiquity through a ground-breaking 2009 Lamar discovery that prompted articles in journals around the world. The lecture will be open to the public without charge.



RAFAEL TADMOR



From left: Stephanie Smith, Alicia Bodin, Stormy Strickland, James Watkins, Christi Grudier, Shannon Copeland

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 non-profit 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.

In partnership with local city and community organizations, Lamar University has produced a wall mural by artist Bill Anderson that depicts the Golden Triangle area for the Southeast Texas Regional Airport.



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 Model 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, Saif Quraishi, Jason Riley,** all of Beaumont; **Matthew Rager,** Fort Worth; **Nathan Landolt,** Vidor; **Sierra Grigsby,** Houston; **Rebecka Gage,** Hill Top Lake; **Nick Ellis, Hutto;** **Josh Gage,** Hill Top Lake; and **Catherine Garmon,** Vernon. The Lamar team took home six individual delegate awards and won joint first place overall, defeating nine other teams . . . **Intramural team makes history.** Lamar's Unrated, 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. Unrated beat seven teams in the tournament and then University of North Texas in the championship game 35-31. Twenty-four teams competed in this regional tournament,

encompassing Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Arkansas. The win qualified Unrated to compete in the NCCS National Tournament for the first time in Lamar history . . .

Nursing 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 JoAnne 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,** Groves; **Lindsey Street,** Dayton; and **Mallory Zittle,** La Marque.



Team Unrated won the 2010 National Campus Championship series



Vehicle gets 1,215 miles per

A team of senior mechanical engineering students achieved a fuel-efficiency equivalent to 1,215 miles per gallon at the March Shell Eco-Marathon in Houston with an ultra-light vehicle they designed and built. More than 40 teams from across the country competed.

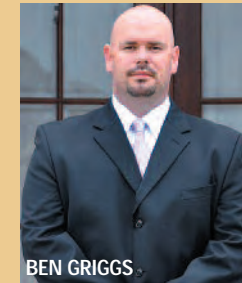
The students placed third in their category and 10th overall with their car, nicknamed Kardinalstein, which is powered by a 1,000-watt hydrogen fuel cell. The competition challenges students to build the most fuel-efficient vehicle possible.

"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; Jonathon Barberena of Houston, driver; Matt Fitzgerald of Kountze; Bryan Garza of Baytown; Kendall Harris of Bridge City; Michael O'Bannion of Beaumont; Boramy Seang of Houston, reserve driver; and Josh Walton of Humble. The group's faculty adviser is Kendrick Aung, associate professor of mechanical engineering. The team also got helpful advice from Lamar alumnus and composites pioneer Andrew Green.

Students take research on the road

Ben Griggs, a 2008-2009 McNair Scholar and senior political science and French double major, presented his research, "How



Enlightenment Literature Influenced the French Revolution of 1789," at the University of Houston-Clear Lake's 16th Annual Student Conference for Research and Creative Arts April 22. He will study international affairs at the University of Liverpool this summer as a McNair Scholar.

Math students present research in Utah. Nick Duplan of Port Neches; Cindy Hall, Freeport; Jessica Nguyen and Cynthia Willis, Batson, presented their research in mathematics, under the direction of Kumer Das, assistant professor of mathematics, at the 2010 Center of Undergraduate Research in Mathematics in Provo, Utah. "Not only did we present our research at the CURM conference," Batson said, "we watched other student presentations and learned about topics we otherwise would not have been introduced to. Furthermore, professors and students from all over the United States attended the conference and it was a real joy to meet and learn about them," she said.

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 Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the world's largest professional association for the advancement of technology.

Garret LaBove 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, Roman 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 Leadership 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. Ritchie Acosta of Houston, a civil engineering major, earned the C. Robert Kemble Award as outstanding senior man. He plans to pursue a master's degree in structural engineering. Bethany Aiena 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. Freddie Titus, instructor and director of developmental studies, was named faculty member of the year, and Valarie Black, assistant director for student organizations, was named staff member of the year.

Teaching majors share skills with Pietzsch-MacArthur

Teacher education majors are sharing their love of reading, writing and teaching with students at Pietzsch-MacArthur Elementary School in Beaumont. The Literacy Block program is a reading program that pairs upperclassmen 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 Bumstead, 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

As most Lamar University students deservedly settle into a slower, more relaxed routine for the hot Southeast Texas summer, one select group is shifting into high gear to prepare for its debut this fall. The LU Marching Band, nicknamed “The Showcase of Southeast Texas,” will spend sweltering summer afternoons practicing marching styles and learning new music.

Scott Deppe, Lamar’s director of bands, was hired almost two years ago to form the marching band in preparation for the return of football to Lamar.

“It’s been a lot of recruiting, and a lot of hard work, but I’m pleased with how well it’s all coming together,” Deppe said.

“It appears that we have students from almost every Southeast Texas high school in the band, so it really will be the ‘Showcase of Southeast Texas,’ which is the slogan the students themselves selected and voted on.”

In addition to recruiting students, Deppe has hired a director of athletic bands. Ryan Smith, a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University, takes charge of the marching band and the pep band Aug. 1.

“We’re lucky to have Ryan join our staff,” said Deppe. “He brings a wealth of talent and energy to the position. He’s going to be the true lifeblood 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 their debut Saturday, Sept. 4, at McNeese State in Lake Charles, La. The home opening game will be Saturday, Sept. 11, when Lamar takes on Webber International University from Florida.

Football fans are in for a real treat and some fun surprises when the LU Marching Band takes the field. Before each home game, the band will march from the music department’s home in Brooks-Shivers Hall through campus and across the bridge over Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway to ProvostUmphey Stadium. Before entering the stadium, they will march through all the tailgating areas for the fans and then proceed up the band ramp into the stadium to start their pregame show.

The pregame performance will be a military style of marching, including block formations, and more traditional marching songs. It will also feature a tribute to Texas that segues into *The Star-Spangled Banner*. The band’s halftime show will feature the more contemporary

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 bands. “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.—SF

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 Umphey 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



first night is going to feel like.”

After 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 half-time 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 don traditional costumes—skirts, jackets, hats and boots—for a Kilgore Rangerettes-type 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 Brixey Blankenship ’06, Dance Team coach. Both are Spirit Team alumni. Joining them are assistants Danese Fondren, Danri Fondren ’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



THEN
Drum major
Lanny Ross
Graham -69
from the
1966 Lamar
yearbook.

NOW
Music education
major Cameron
Wolfe wears
the new LU
marching band
uniform

BRIAN SATTLER



Lamarissimo!



Grammy winning arranger-band-leader Marion Evans takes a turn directing the Lamar Jazz Band “A” at the March 2 *Lamarissimo!* concert. The performance featured nine of Evans’ arrangements, and others by such well-known Evans proteges as Quincy Jones.



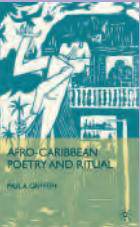
From the cancan to the colorfully contemporary, the Cardinal Singers and Lamar Dance Company provided an exuberant and electrifying finale to the 20th Anniversary Season of *Lamarissimo!*



Le Grand Bal 2010—A Night in *Casablanca*—transforms the Montagne Center into an exotic oasis, replete with tropical flowers, shimmering candles and other touches. The black-tie event honored the Renaissance of Lamar University. The Friends of the Arts hosts the gala evening of art, fine dining, dancing and entertainment to benefit the College of Fine Arts and Communication. Among Bal revelers are, from left, Kenny ‘75 and Lynda (Martin) Moncla ‘75 and Barbara Warner, front row, and Jim Warner, Maureen (Wiggins) - ‘73 and Dean Winchell, Albert Nolen ‘70, ‘75 and Melissa Edwards.



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. “It examines the archtypal 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 debuted its 50th anniversary edition in October 2009 with a Poets of Pulse Poetry Reading that featured six student creative writing award winners **Tara Tatum, Rachel Quinn, Jason Duncan, Caitlin Griffin, John Hillin** and **Mary Baswell**. The Lamar-Longman Award winners for 2009, also included in the magazine, were **Sean Klink, Jennifer Gore, Scotty McWilliams** and **Patricia Earl**. The Lamar-Longman Award winners for 2010 were **Miles Caston, Micah Moore, Tasha Tolliver** 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 **Steven Zani** of the Department of English and Modern Languages... **Jim Sanderson**, writing



JIM AND SUMMER SANDERSON ‘04 AND MELISSA HUDLER ‘93, ‘99

director for the department, hosted Lamar’s Literary Festival that included award-winning Texas authors **Bob and Jean Flynn** Feb. 1 and **Andrew Geyer** Feb. 22. Authors read excerpts from their work in the Dishman Auditorium Lecture Hall, with receptions hosted by Sigma Tau Delta. As part of the festival, **R.S. “Sam” Gwynn** hosted poetry guest speaker **Alan Michael Parker**, 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 (Miller) Priest ‘77, ‘84** and **Dale Priest** served as local arrangements chairs. Guests of the conference included **Jerry 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. **Jennifer Ravey** received the American Literature Award, **Pamela Saur** won the Popken Rhetoric Award, and **Karen Priest** earned the British Literature Award... The Writing Center, located on the first floor of the Mary 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, Saif Quraishi** and **Jenny Vo**... 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, Jason Duncan** and **Mary Baswell**, along with moderator **Andy Coughlan ‘01, ‘05**, discussed the tulip’s allure



ANDREW GEYER



DALE AND KAREN PRIEST



‘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 involved 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 11th 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.”



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 Pate, Christus Southeast Texas regional vice president for philanthropy . . . On May 8, Simmons performed with the Jimmy Simmons Jazz Ensemble at the fifth annual City of Beaumont Jazz + Blues Fest, where Beaumont blues great **Barbara Lynn** received the second Dr. Raul Ornelas Lifetime Music Achievement Award . . . The return of football and the marching band this fall will alter the 2010-2011 **Lamarissimo!** schedule. Lamar jazz bands will present the Oct. 5 season opener, previously 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 28 showcasing the Cardinal Singers and Lamar Dance Company . . .

HullabaLU! will bring an evening of revelry to Southeast Texas Aug. 19. The variety show will feature community performers in an evening filled with song, dance and comedy acts. Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, with the performance at 8 p.m. in the University Theatre. **Allison Golias Getz** chairs the event. **Judy Sebesta**, chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance, will direct the show, with musical direction by **Betsy Hines**, assistant professor of music. Tickets are \$50 a person, **(409) 880-8037**, and proceeds benefit scholarships for theatre and dance students

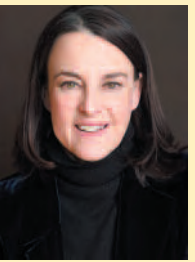


ALLISON GOLIAS GETZ

Axle Wisor, 12, seated, right, plays the title role in **John Tumer Davis**, one of three one-act plays in Horton Foote’s trilogy **Harison, Texas**, presented Feb. 11-16 by Lamar Theatre. Other cast members, from left, are Kristen Davis, as Paul; Christi Grudier, Miss Fanny; Maci McFarlin, Hazel; and Carley Stewart, Sulphur Springs. Wisor is the son of Jeffrey Wisor, assistant professor of theatre, and Donna Rae Wisor ‘06.



JOEL GROTHE



LIBBY LARSEN

Industrial Carillon, Lamar’s new-music ensemble, presented the final concert in the 2009-2010 “Living Composer Series” March 29, with Grammy Award winner **Libby Larsen** as special guest. Larson is one of America’s most prolific and most performed living composers, with more than 400 works to her credit.

Nick Rissman is Industrial Carillon’s founder and director . . . The Lamar Civic Orchestra celebrated the works of timeless composers Debussy, Mendelssohn, Copland and Rimsky-Korsakov at its spring concert April 27, featuring guest performances by **Brian Kelley**, winner of the 2009 Lamar Piano Competition; Lamar students **Nicholas Allen** and **Trevor Duell**; and guest conductor **Shelly Duell**. Kelley will be a senior at Orangefield High School. **Kurt Gilman**, associate professor of music, conducts the orchestra . . . **James Han**, director of choral activities, selected “Home, My Home” as the theme of the spring choir concert May 2. Selections reflected not only a hometown or everyday home, “but also represents our childhood memories or our eternal home,” Han said. The Grand Chorus and A Cappella Choir performed works by Mozart, Faure and Bach . . . Lamar Opera Theater presented operatic renderings of Shakespeare masterpieces May 4. Using music by some of the world’s greatest composers, including Haydn, Britten, Mendelssohn and Verdi,



NICK RISSMAN



Lamar students interpreted **Midsummer Night’s Dream**, **Falstaff**, **Macbeth** and **Romeo and Juliet**, under the direction of **Kerry Jennings** . . . With styles ranging from classical to modern and serious to lighthearted and genres from cancan to contemporary ballet and hip hop, the Lamar Dance Company stimulated the mind and senses at its spring concert April 15 and 16. “Dance Stimulus” was its theme, with choreography by faculty members **Lou Arrington** and **Julie Parker** and students **Angel-Marie Goines** and **Havord Trusty** . . . A new exhibition in the Dishman Art Museum April 9-23 displayed the cutting edge of video art, exploring such universal themes as family, religion, concepts of time and space, territorial issues, immigration, humanitarian concerns and the individual versus society. **Extreme Sensibility: Taiwanese Contemporary Video Art** included works created through digital, animation and interactive arts . . . Ten art students displayed

their senior thesis projects April 30-May 16 in the Dishman Art Museum, with works ranging from painting, photography, print-making and drawing to computer graphics. The show showcased art by **Brandon Bazar** of Fort Worth; **Lauren Beck**, Beaumont; **Scarlett Blanchard**, Nome; **Melissa Carter** and **Megan Crosby**, both of Orange; **Lakisha Darden**, Houston; **Emily Deroche**, Nederland; **Jamie Havard**, Beaumont; **James Little**, Lumberton; and **Jeffery Wheeler**, Beaumont.



A season to remember

The 2009-2010 schedule turned into a dream season for the Lamar University women’s basketball team.

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.



JENNA PLUMLEY

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.

“It was 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 Darika Hill was named to the conference’s second team; freshman forward Kalis Loyd was named to the third team and junior forward Trashanna Smith earned honorable mention accolades. Hill was the MVP of the Southland Conference



KALIS LOYD

“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

Tournament and was joined on the all-tournament team by Plumley. Senior Brittney Williams graduated with 1,483 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 kinesiology, was one of the top defensive play-

ers for the Lady Cardinals.

“It was just a great season, and I am so proud of what 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.

Lamar’s success has not gone unnoticed outside of Southeast Texas. The Lady Cardinals were selected to play this November in the prestigious Preseason WNIT Tournament, which will be part of an ambitious non-league schedule that 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

Baseball Cardinals make big splash with NCAA Regional appearance



Despising the 2010 Southland Conference Baseball Championships as the No. 7 seed in the eight-team field, the Cardinals made Corpus Christi's 3,500-seat Whataburger Field their own little playground.

Beginning with a 4-3 victory over second-seeded Northwestern State in the first round, the Cardinals swept through the four-day tournament to win it in stunning fashion and earn Lamar's first NCAA Tournament berth since 2004—its 13th overall.

Coach Jim Gilligan's gallant club followed the win over Northwestern State with back-to-back triumphs of 10-7 and 9-3 over No. 6-seed McNeese State, which had defeated them four times during the regular season. The Cards then overwhelmed regular-season champion Texas State 17-7 in the championship game.

The Cardinals were assigned a No. 4 seed in the Fort Worth Regional where they went up against the nation's fifth-ranked TCU Horned Frogs on their home field in the first round. Playing before a partisan crowd of 3,135 in Lupton Stadium, the Frogs pulled away to a 16-3 win.

The Cardinals bowed to Baylor 6-4 in an elimination game the next day but not before Joey Latulippe slugged a three-run home run in the ninth inning or before

Jonathan Dziedzic rose to the top of the SLC's strikeout chart.

The dramatic home run was the sixth of the season for Latulippe, a junior catcher from League City who finished the season with a .302 batting average. Dziedzic, a freshman left-hander from Humble Atascocita, struck out eight Baylor batters to improve his season total to 114 in 94 innings, moving him one ahead of the 113 strikeouts accumulated by Texas-Arlington's Jason Mitchell in 112 innings.

With his eight K's in the season finale, Dziedzic zoomed past former Cardinal pitchers Mike Pasqualichio, Craig Fisch and Rick Nesloney into second place on Lamar's one-season strikeout list. With 127 in 2002, only Clay Hensley, who now pitches for the Florida Marlins, has had more one-season strikeouts than Dziedzic.

Before Latulippe and Dziedzic came to the forefront 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 sizzling .625 average, the senior from Cedar Hill was voted the SLC 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

games, and Dziedzic, who had a win and a save during tournament play, joined Moore on the 11-player, all-tournament team.

With junior shortstop Aaron Buchanan and junior second baseman Andy Mena leading the way with respective averages of .349 and .347, the Cardinals batted a stout .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 117.1 innings pitched rank third on the Cardinals' all-time, one-season list.

Mena was voted to the All-SLC third team, while Luquette, Smith and junior pitcher Eric Harrington (8-3, 5.02 ERA) made the honorable mention list. Other Cardinals batting over .300 were junior first baseman Wade Mathis (.328), junior third baseman Pablo Salinas (.323), Luquette (.310) and Moore (.309).

The Cardinals finished the season with a 35-26 record, marking the 21st time in Gilligan's 33 years at the helm for them to reach that plateau. Their five-game winning streak to open the season included a 13-7 victory at ninth-ranked Rice University.—RW

Cards score



Lady Cards junior guard **Jenna Plumley** was named the Southland Conference Women's Basketball Player of the Year and Newcomer of the Year . . . The Lamar University women's basketball team has been selected as one of 16 teams to play in the November Preseason WNIT for the upcoming season. "This is a big deal for Lamar," women's basketball coach and interim athletic director Larry Tidwell said. "The WNIT is one of the most prestigious preseason tournaments." . . . The Texas Association of Basketball Coaches has named standout point guard **Jenna Plumley** as its Division I Women's Basketball Player of the Year and Lady Cardinals head coach **Larry Tidwell** as its Division I Women's Basketball Coach of the Year. The association is the largest state basketball association in the nation, with an enrollment of more than 4,500 members . . . Guard **Ashley Crawford** was named to the First Team 2010 Academic All-District Women's Basketball Team for District 6. The kinesiology major had a 3.95 GPA as an undergraduate and a perfect 4.0 GPA as a graduate student . . . Nineteen students signed as members of LU's new Cheer Squad—the first Cardinal cheerleaders in 21 years. Members of the squad are **Connor Hargroder** and **Karen Lovell** of Beaumont; **Samantha Briggs**, **Miranda Fisette** and **Alexa Richmond**

of Bridge City; **Alisha Broussard** of Groves; **Megan Ogden** of LaBelle; **Whitney Poe**, **Destini Ray**, **Chelsea Thibodeaux** and **Hailey Young** of Lumberton; **Meagan Silva** of Porter; **Erin Hebert**, **Alexis Hollier**, **Shelby Plaia** and **Cori Spencer** of Port Neches; **Ellen Byars** and **Brittany Colvin** of Silsbee; and **Cesiley Cloteaux** of Vidor . . . **Francis Kasagule** set school and Southland



Conference records as he qualified for the NCAA Track and Field Championships in the men's 1,500 meters. Kasagule is one of three Lamar athletes who competed at the NCAA Championships . . . The men's track team finished 1-2 in the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the Southland Conference Championships—**Joonas Harjamaki** taking first and **Matt Johnsen** second. Harjamaki became Lamar University's first outdoor track and field All-American in 21 years with a seventh-place finish in the men's 3,000-meter steeplechase at the NCAA Track and Field Championships June 9-12. **Samuel Kosgei**, who holds the 10,000-meter school record, was named to the Southland Conference's 2009-10 cross country and indoor and outdoor track and field all-academic teams.

FOOTBALL KICK-OFF BANQUET

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29
4 PM OPENING RECEPTION • PLAYER AUTOGRAPH SESSION • SILENT AUCTION • CASH BAR

5 PM DINNER, PROGRAM & LIVE AUCTION
MONTAGNE CENTER

Individual tickets \$100 • Table sponsorships available

Visit lamarcards.com and click on the story for more details and RSVP forms. Or call (409) 880-8422



Alumni pros

Stroud competes with game greats. Former Lamar standout **Chris Stroud** '04 has seven career Top 10 finishes on the PGA Tour, but none may have been as impressive as his finish at this year's Players Championship. Playing against what is arguably the toughest field in golf, Stroud fired a four-day total of 9-under-par to tie for 10th place.



Despite some putting woes on Sunday, Stroud still walked away with \$237,500, 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 golfing great **John Riegger** '85 is enjoying a career renaissance on the Nationwide Tour as he picked up a victory in the 2010 Rex Hospital Open, his second-ever 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 season in just eight tournament starts. The win, and one other Top 10 finish, has 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 alumnus **Kevin Millar** '93 has signed as an MLB analyst for Fox Sports . . . **Tubbs earns honored spot.**

Billy Tubbs '58, 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. Tubbs has been a part of Lamar athletics for 25 years—as 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 teams have pocketed 21 Southland Conference championships in nine different sports.



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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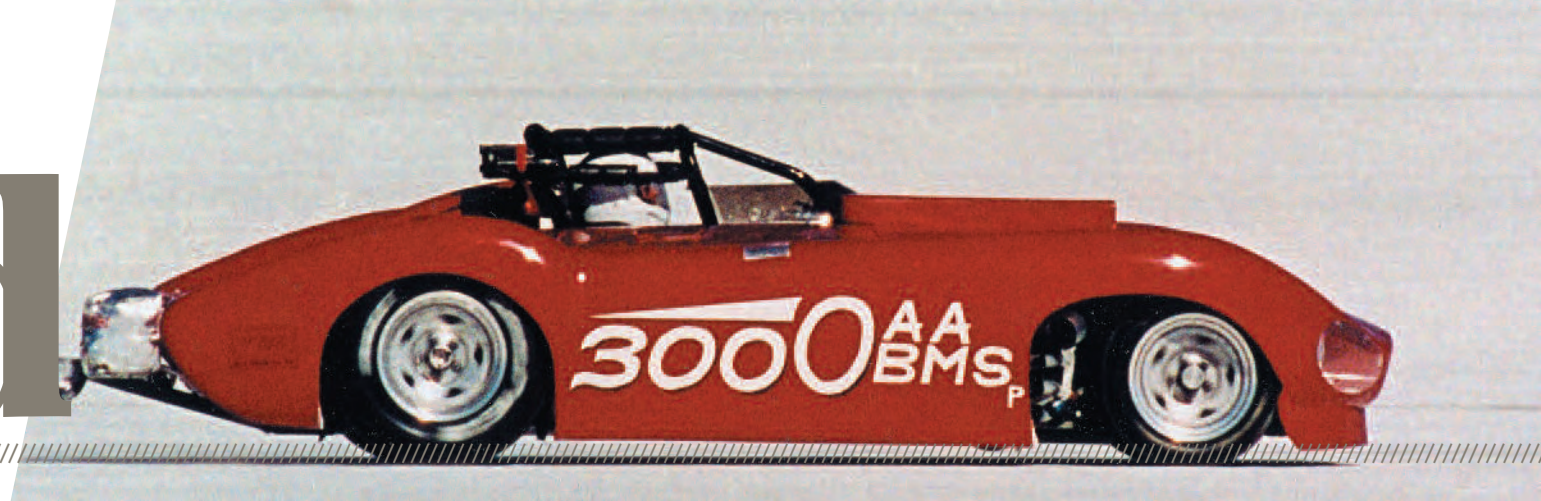
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Fastforward



Lamar alum races into sports car history

by Brian Sattler

M 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 Speedway, 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 least on one pass at more than 300 mph, people went crazy. That speed has never been achieved by a sports car before," Denton said.

Every August, the maestros 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 slushy 1.5- to 2-inch deep snow most of the time," Denton said. The Bonneville Nationals Inc. and the Southern California Timing

Association have been the governing bodies and official time-keepers for speed-racing aficionados since 1948.

"For us, the beauty of Bonneville is that it's one time a year. You have a whole year to get ready for the next Speedweek, so you can work around a full-time university career," he said.

"In '09, we set another record in a different class. We didn't go as fast as the year before, but we feel we would have if we had stuck around (they'd averaged 272.732 over the third mile of the two runs). We were having oil-pressure problems, and I didn't want to blow another motor up 'cause they're kind of pricey," Denton said. At around \$50,000 for a complete engine, "on a university professor's salary, you really don't want to go around doing that kind of thing."

Oil pressure wasn't the only problem. "I never could get more than 70 percent of the throttle without heading way off course, and I had to back out of it a whole series of times. We didn't go nearly as fast as the car would have gone," Denton said.

Denton first set a record in his car, "Bonner's Bad Berkeley," in 2002 at 254.138 mph. He started building the car in the mid-'90s and first raced it in 2000. Denton's highly modified 1959 Berkeley is classic, vintage British roadster behind the dash, but Denton built an aerodynamic custom body from the dash forward. Modified sports car rules allowed him to stretch the front of his car to the maximum of its 130-inch wheelbase. The entire car is 180 inches long.

"That's where science and technology come in. You have to be knowledgeable about aerodynamic forces," Denton said. "What you want to do is build a car that will not fly. We hope not to fly, but quite frankly, I never intended this car to go much over 300 mph."

The 540-cubic-inch, electronic fuel injection, aluminum Donovan engine runs on \$15-a-gallon gasoline, consumed at a rate of four to five gallons during the 90 seconds it takes Denton to cover the 5-mile course. The fuel is rich with tetra-ethyl lead—essential to avoid early detonation but so hazardous that "you wash your hands right away if you get any on you."

Providing 22 pounds of boost are twin, custom-built

Garrett AiResearch turbochargers. They were the largest racing turbos in the world when Denton installed them. To maximize their effect, Denton designed a cold-water chiller for the intake air that consumes 100 pounds of ice on each run. Altogether, the behemoth cranks out some 2,400 horsepower. Getting all this power to the salt is the job of special-rated Bonneville Goodyear tires or Mikey Thompsons rated for 600 mph.

Several of Denton's racing team are Lamar graduates. His crew chief, George DeLaMatyr '64, graduated with a bachelor's in mechanical engineering and is president of Mechanical Technology in Corpus Christi. George's brother, Richard, graduated with the same degree in 1968. Corky Wheeler, of Wheeler Truck Body in Beaumont, earned a bachelor's of fine arts in graphic design in 1964, and the late Nickey Felsher, who was general manager of Gulf Coast Machine and Supply Co., also attended Lamar with Denton.

A Beaumont native, Denton built his first car in his mother's garage when he was 14 and began racing cars while 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 Kenz and Leslie 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.

After gaining experience with dragsters in the quarter mile, Denton's first efforts at Bonneville were with his serial No. 1 Bocar, a sports car built by fighter pilot Bob Carnes in Lakewood, Colo., in the late 1950s that Denton acquired in 1965.

"We had pulled a mold off of that car and started building a street car, and, while

“I received one very good education at Lamar.

—M. BONNER DENTON

we were doing that, we decided to go race it at Bonneville," Denton said.

"Production sports cars with small frontal areas mean short wheelbase, and, on the salt, short wheelbases are prone to spin or flip or do worse things," Denton said. "I was clearly going to go with a Bocar body, and we moved the front axle forward one inch so the Bonneville car had a 91-inch wheelbase."

The first year, it ran more than 200 mph. The next year, "every time I got the car over 240 mph we spun out," Denton said. "That's a good way to get your adrenaline very, very high. Try spinning a car at 240 plus miles per hour. The first time around is amazing." After spinning out on three different runs, the team headed home

to work on the problem.

"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 "I slid for quite a ways and hit 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-horsepower 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 the new rules," he said. Denton would like to see two classes, 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-





ogy. While he was a student, he was a member of Kappa Alpha order and the American Chemical Society student club.

After graduation, he headed to the University of Illinois to pursue his Ph.D. Denton is quick to give credit to his LU chemistry professors, Margaret Cameron, Roger Yeric, Anne Harmon and Harold 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 puffer 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 racing 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.



BRIAN SATTIER

True timber

Historical trove reveals family history

ELLEN RIENSTRA, LEFT, AND JO ANN STILES

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 Lutchter 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 Lutchter. 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 Lutchter Stark was the oldest—and favorite—grandchild of Frances Ann Lutchter 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 cornet to become the first female in the Lutch Stark Boys Band during the 1920s, including a memorable performance on the summit of Pike's Peak.

These are just a few of the new-found friends



HENRY JACOB LUTCHTER

LUTCHER STARK CHAUFFERS ORANGE LADIES TO A PARADE.



FRANCES ANN LUTCHER



LUTCHER STARK AS A YOUNG MAN



friend of Nelda Stark and a member of the Stark Foundation board. “She knew everything about everything,” Rienstra said.

“We interviewed all kinds of fascinating people from the Orange area,” Stiles said.

The two traveled to other locations in Texas, as well as to Williamsport, Pa., for research on the early Lutcher family. “We met so many delightful people everywhere we went.”

And, said Rienstra, “The oral-history interviews give color. Everyone will remember a story—about Lutcher Stark and others. Some even remembered his parents. One recalled seeing Miriam in her garden, dressed in white, and talked about how elegant she looked. The stories are just invaluable.”

Rienstra and Stiles have spent years poring over an estimated 400,000 items in the archives, dating to the 1830s. And the number keeps growing “because they keep bringing us more things,” Stiles said.

“They’ve got several buildings we’re just now going through,” Rienstra added. “We want any and everything that pertains to the history of the family, of Orange, the houses, the Depression, the war. Everything.”

But, she said, “We look for letters and diaries. Those are our favorites. When William was writing to Miriam, he would describe the picnics and the trips and playing

fiddle in the town band. That’s what letters and diaries are so wonderful for. All those details. And their speech. It showed how he framed things and what he was thinking.”

Rienstra and Stiles travel to Orange from their homes in Beaumont three times a week on the average. That’s more than a thousand trips since the project began. While focusing on three generations of the family, their research involves the entire Lutcher-Stark family tree.

“The Lutcher and Stark families were everything as far as the foundation was concerned, so they decided they needed the family history. Of course, the outgrowth is the history of Orange. That’s where we came in,” Rienstra said.

“We can’t do this unless we really know Texas and U.S. history,” Stiles said. “You have to put those people in the framework of the time in which they lived.”

Their story began in January of 1877 in Pennsylvania, where two successful young Williamsport lumbermen, Henry Jacob Lutcher and Gregory Bedell Moore, realized the Susquehanna River Valley was running out of timber. They had heard of the vast forests in Southeast Texas and Louisiana, and they decided to see for themselves. They traveled by rail to Beaumont and, upon reaching Orange, found a wonderland of huge pine and cypress forests and natural advantages for large-scale lumbering. They

transferred their operations to Orange, buying thousands of acres. The Lutcher & Moore Lumber Co. would become one of the largest lumbering concerns in the nation—and the beginning of this extraordinary family.

Nelda and Lutcher Stark established the foundation in 1961. When Lutcher Stark died Sept. 2, 1965, Nelda assumed leadership, overseeing the restoration of the W.H.

Stark House (the home of Miriam and W.H. Stark, built in 1894) and construction of both the

Frances Ann Lutcher Theater for the Performing Arts and the Stark Museum of Art, built to house the family’s collections. Nelda Stark died Dec. 13, 1999, but the foundation continues to carry out the Starks’ vision of improving the quality of life in Southeast Texas. It recently restored Shangri La,

which reopened in March 2009—72 years after

Lutcher personally supervised construction of the botanical gardens, named for the mystical land in the 1933 literary classic *Lost Horizon*. A freeze and two hurricanes failed to keep his dream from becoming a reality.

Eventually, their voluminous work will be housed in an archive. There’s also a book in their future—on the life and times of Lutcher Stark and his family.

“I really have enjoyed beginning to get

LUTCHER STARK WATCHES BENGAL GUARDS PRACTICE.



to know those people and beginning to understand how they managed to put something so huge together,” Stiles said. “They had to be aggressive, and they had to be smart. They’re characters, and their character is so interesting that sometimes we look at them and shake our heads.”

“That’s one of the fascinating things about history,” Rienstra said. “Jo Ann and I are both social historians, so we look at what people did with their environment and with their own initiative.”

Stiles describes the experience as “overwhelming.” And, she said, “We learn by the day.”

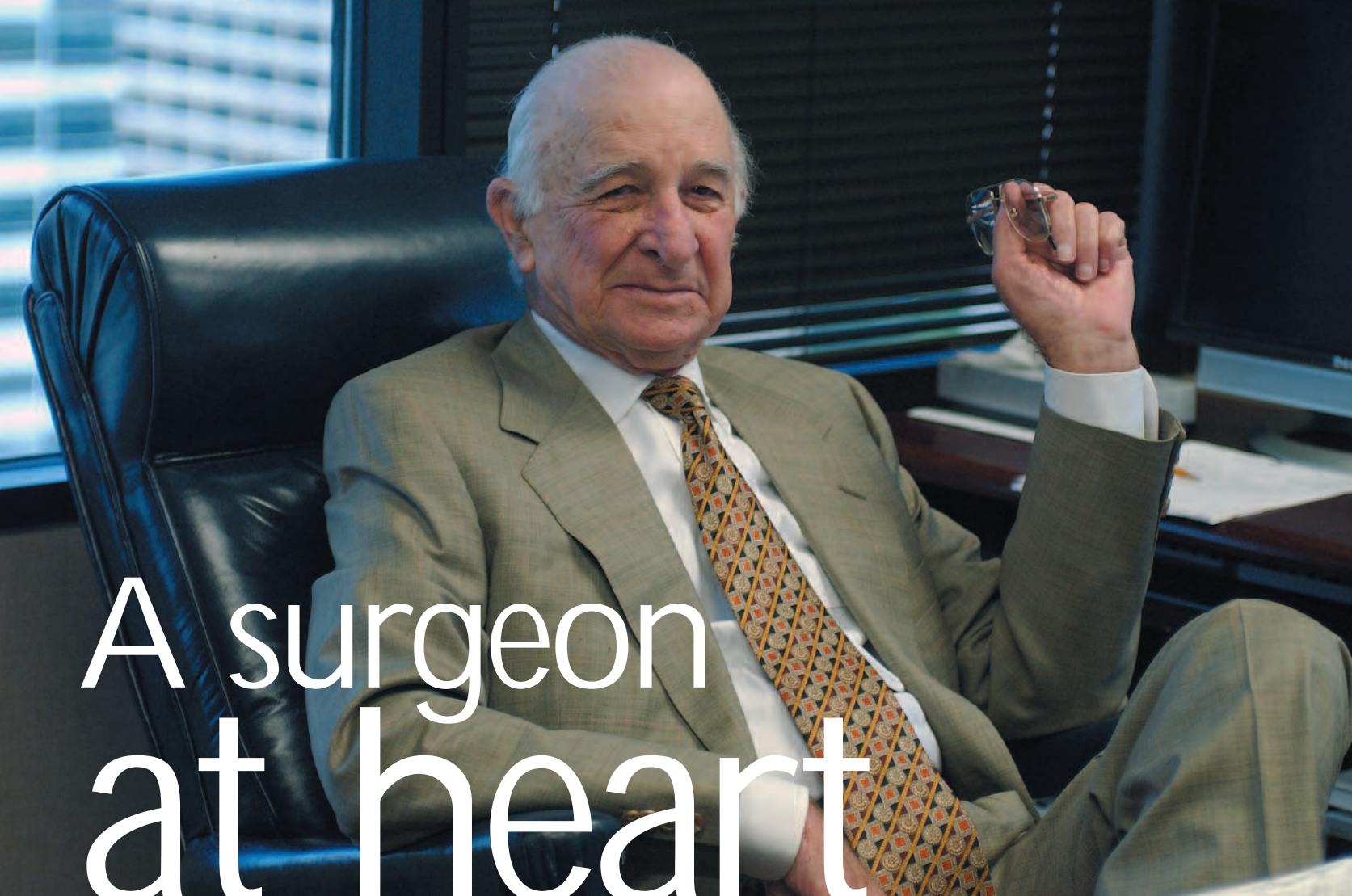
“We stay overwhelmed. We really do. But it’s so much fun,” Rienstra said. “It’s



LUTCHER STARK IN HIS PRIME

AN EARLY PHOTO OF THE SABINE RIVER AND THE ORANGE WATERFRONT





A surgeon at heart

by Beth Gallaspy

After 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 cardiothoracic 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 now.

"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 for his residency, surgery was the natural choice.

"It was a new era" Howell said. "Nobody had ever operated on the heart much. It was sort of a sacred item. Once people learned that they could operate on it successfully, it became something that was exciting to do to correct abnormalities—valvular, congenital and acquired abnormalities. It seemed a very exciting frontier in medicine."

He learned vascular surgery from DeBakey, who has been honored worldwide on numerous occasions for groundbreaking research and dozens of innovations in surgical techniques and instruments. He learned heart surgery from Dr. Denton Cooley, another much-honored innovator who holds several firsts in the field. Other pioneers in cardiovascular surgery who served as teachers during his residency and later became colleagues included Dr. Stanley Crawford, Dr. Oscar Creech and Dr. George Morris. When Howell completed his residency in 1963, DeBakey invited him to join the department of surgery at Baylor College of Medicine, where he has spent his entire career. During that time, he saw innovations in treatments for aneurysms with DeBakey's development of the Dacron graft. Howell participated in the advent of open heart surgery after the pump oxygenator was created and became 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 to 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 revived after the Cleveland Clinic performed a successful coronary bypass operation in 1967.

"That was the thing I was most interest-

ed in when I was maturing in the department of surgery," Howell said. "I guess I've operated on about 60,000 people, about half of them on the heart. The procedure I've done most was coronary bypass. I've probably done 14,000 or so of those cases." This procedure, which he had a hand in developing, is now probably the most common operation in the United States, Howell said.

Away from the hospital, Howell has pursued interests befitting a true Texan—oil and cattle. He started his oil and gas exploration company about 30 years ago. The interest in cattle goes back even further. He has a 12,000-acre ranch south of Liberty with about 2,000 head of cattle. He and his wife, Roberta, have four daughters, two sons and 13 grandchildren. "They're all good, productive people," he said. One daughter is a nurse, but no one else shared his inclination toward the health professions other than

“
I try to teach mine [my students] the best that I can—the very best technique, how to treat people morally and ethically, and how to do good surgery. My contention is if you can do a good operation, they don't need much post-operative care.

—DR. JIMMY HOWELL '54

his mother, Maggie Howell. She attended Lamar later in life, after the death of Howell's father, to become a nurse. Howell doubts his mother, who died in 2008, was influenced by his medical career in that decision. "She was a very strong-willed person, and she did about what she wanted to do all of her life," he said.

Howell remembers his own studies at Lamar fondly. After graduating from Stark High School in Orange in 1950, he enrolled in what was then Lamar Junior College because it was close to home and an easy commute. "Lamar was a great place for me to start off and had great teachers," Howell said. At Lamar, which became a senior college during his studies, Howell encountered

professors and fellow students who influenced his next steps. "The chair of the biology department was Edwin Hayes, who I remember very well. Edwin was a very deep fellow. He looked the part and played the part. He was an excellent teacher," Howell said. Through the encouragement of Hayes and two students who were a year ahead of him, Howell decided to pursue premedical studies. After those two students—C.W. Drawhorn and Floyd Pollard—moved on from Lamar to Baylor College of Medicine, Howell followed a year later. He began his studies at Baylor in 1953 and received his bachelor's degree from Lamar upon completion of his first year of medical school. "I think Lamar's a good institution as I've seen it develop," Howell said. "Since I've left there, it's really grown significantly to be a super nice and good school."

Through the years, Howell has also had the opportunity to watch the evolution of the Texas Medical Center and to teach many of the medical students, residents and fellows who have passed through the complex. "They're young people, and they're eager to learn, eager to do. It's good to teach them," Howell said. "I try to teach mine the best that I can—the very best technique, how to treat people morally and ethically, and how to do good surgery. My contention is if you can do a good operation, they don't need much post-operative care." Like anything else in life, the way to become good at surgery is through practice, Howell said. With one case a week, a surgeon might not do a great job. With 10 cases a week, he will do better. With 20 cases a week, the result will be better still "because it's a repetitive process. When you're doing things, you learn how to do it better. You see something that's not just right, and you make an adjustment, so you learn." Perhaps that's why after 60,000 surgeries and nearly 50 years on the faculty at Baylor College of Medicine, Howell is in no hurry to quit. He still has things to learn and people to help.

Online or beyond the wire

Lamar student Cpl. Aaron Taylor completing degree online

by Brian Sattler



Whether online or beyond the wire, Aaron Taylor of Vidor is a man on a mission. A corporal in the Marine Corps, Taylor is serving with Company G of the 2nd Marines Special Operations Battalion out of Camp Lejeune and is currently deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He is also completing his college degree at Lamar University.

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 schoolwork. “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. Missions may change at a moment's notice “like the weather back in Southeast Texas. We have a saying here, ‘Semper Gumby’ 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 neatest 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, felled in an ambush. A Marines' Marine and the youngest ever promoted to gunnery sergeant, Gilbert died of his wounds on his birthday March 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. “He 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 Gallaspy

Dr. Jane (Knott) Fitch '78 has a low-maintenance lifestyle to balance out a demanding, high-maintenance, multifaceted career as a physician, teacher, administrator and advocate.

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, chief of anesthesia service and medical director for perioperative services. "The most enjoyable and the most rewarding parts are the clinical aspects of the job—taking care of patients—and the educational aspects. Being able to train the next generation of anesthesiologists 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 specialties, or even better than that, we need to have more physicians running for office and advocating for rules, regulations and laws that recognize the concerns of patients and physicians," Fitch said. She became interested in the political aspects of organized medicine when she began her career as a physician. Her experience in healthcare goes back even further.

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 anesthesiologists she worked with seemed to easily grasp all the elements of what was happening around them. She realized their additional education and training made the difference and decided to follow the same route. Fitch completed medical school at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston and an anesthesiology residency and fellowship at the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle. She has remained in academic medicine ever since. She moved from a faculty position at Yale University to a division chief and vice chair at Baylor College of Medicine before joining the OU faculty.

"I enjoy teaching and training our residents," she said. "They keep you on your toes. They're always asking questions. What better way to learn something than to teach it to someone else? I just find that very stimulating, which is why I've always chosen to be in that academic environment."

As she moved through nursing school, nurse anesthesia school and along the path toward becoming a physician, Fitch received steady encouragement and financial support from her husband, John. The high school sweethearts will celebrate their 34th wedding anniversary this year. John's



COURTESY PHOTO

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 MBA at Rice University while they lived in Houston and started a software company. "That's what's allowed me to be so mobile and be an academic gypsy," she said. His expertise in writing managerial software 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 Fitches 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, the Fitches 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 education 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 by 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 two more 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 at that point," she said.

For Fitch, that willingness to try something new is, well, nothing new. It's been part of her life since joining the first nursing class at Lamar to receive bachelor's degrees and continues to serve her well with each new challenge that arises.

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

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

30s

Leonard Fugate '39, A.A. general studies, earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. He had a 46-year career in electronic manufacturing. He lives in Beaumont.

40s

Alma (Wells) Price '44, A.A. general studies, is a retired teacher and lives in Birmingham, Ala.

Leon Norwood '46, A.A. general studies, lives in Haskell, Okla., with his wife, Ima Jean.

Dudley Letbetter '48, A.A. general studies, lives in Beaumont.

Melba (Forsythe) Hayes '49, A.A. general studies, is retired and lives in Lake Charles, La., with her husband, Glyn.

50s

Bette Stead '57, B.B.A. general business, received the 2010 Mayor's Volunteer Houston Award from The Women's Home. She earned a master's degree in business from the University of Texas-Austin and a doctoral degree from the University of Houston.

John Knox '58, B.S. mechanical engineering, and his wife, Barbara, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Feb. 27, 2010. They have two children and two grandchildren and live in Los Gatos, Calif.

John Bedsole '59, B.S. mechanical engineering, is retired and lives in Livingston with his wife, Nancy.

Claud Sibert '59, B.S. chemistry, '72, M.S. chemistry, retired and lives in Nederland with his wife, Alice.

60s

Richard Adams '62, B.B.A. marketing, taught school for 34 years and retired in 1996. He lives in Richwood.

Tipton Gollias '62, B.S. biology, president of Helena Laboratories, won the 2009 Van Slyke Award from the American Association for Clinical Chemistry for his contributions to the science of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine. He was recognized as being

inventor or co-inventor of 40 patents at Helena. He and his wife, Ann, live in Beaumont.

Nancy (Maynard) Irle '62, B.S. elementary education, earned a master's degree from Nicholls State University and is retired. She lives in Friendswood, with her husband, Don.

LaVerne Kinnaird '62, certif. vocational nursing, lives in Belle Chasse, La.

Reona (Monson) Hughes '63, certif. vocational nursing, practiced nursing for 21 years and lives in Independence, La.

John Hunsucker '63, B.S. mathematics, earned a master's degree in math from Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge, a master's degree in industrial engineering from Texas A&M-College Station and a doctoral degree in math from Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge. He is owner and chief executive officer of the National Aquatic Safety Co. in Dickinson, where he lives.

Don Hannegan '64, B.S. industrial engineering, is drilling hazard mitigation strategic manager for Weatherford International. He has been commissioned by the University of Texas Petroleum Engineering Extended Training Program to author a textbook on Drilling Hazard Mitigation technologies. He lives in Fort Smith, Ark., with his wife, Joy Marie.

Carmen Schroedter '64, certif. industrial electricity, is vice president of Automation USA in Lafayette, La., where lives with his wife, Harolyn.

Mike Carman '65, certif. refrigeration and air conditioning technology, is retired and lives in Winder, Ga., with his wife, Jeanne.

Anita (Nugent) Gerlach '66, B.A. English, earned the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching. She lives in Glorieta, N.M.

William Bloodworth Jr. '67, M.A. English, earned a doctoral degree from the University of Texas at Austin. He was named a Most Distinguished Alumnus from Texas Lutheran University, where he received his bachelor's degree. He and his wife, Julia, have two children and live in Augusta, Ga., where he is president of Augusta State University.

Phil Primm '67, B.B.A. marketing, is managing partner for Pencal. He and his wife, Alva, live in Greensboro, Ga.

Sharon (Oliver) Tortorich '67, B.B.A. marketing, is retired and lives in Fulshear, with her

husband, Charles.

Nancy Hurlbut '68, B.B.A. secretarial science, is retired and lives in Ragley, La., with her husband, George.

Alan Sampson '68, B.B.A. general business, was honored as namesake for the 2009 Eagle Scout Class of the Three Rivers Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He and his wife, **Norma** '75, B.S. speech, live in Beaumont.

Minnie (Mearlon) Melton '69, B.S. communication disorders, is retired but works part time as a speech and language therapist in the Port Arthur school district. She has authored a children's book, **Chuckles and Hurricane Rita**.

Stu Slikfin '69, B.S. sociology, retired in February 2009 after more than 30 years in logistics and transportation with Tiffany & Co.

Lynda (Isakson) Stout '69, B.S. education, is proud to be the second generation of four generations of Lamar graduates: her father, Al Isakson; her daughter and two sons; and two grandchildren.

Larry Walker '69, B.B.A. business administration, '97 M.Ed. counseling and development, is director of Christian Counseling Center SETX and was selected as runnerup Trustee of the Year of 5,400 large hospitals by Modern Healthcare 2010. He serves as trustee for Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas. He and his wife, Beverly, live in Beaumont.

70s

Nancy (Pearson) Adams '70, B.S. elementary education, '71, M.Ed. elementary education, earned her doctoral degree in 1995 from Texas A&M University at College Station and is an associate professor at Lamar University. She lives in Lumberton.

Jay Hankamer '70, B.S. industrial engineering, '71, M.E. industrial engineering, is senior vice president of resort development for Silverleaf Resorts Inc. in Dallas. He and his wife, **Yvonne (Roush)** '68, B.S. home economics, live in Carrollton.

Jane (Nichols) Kingsley '70, B.B.A. accounting, retired from a 33-year career with the Beaumont school district.

Bill Scott '70, B.S. government, was recognized with the Ernest Thompson Seton level of membership at the 2010 Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner/Council Awards Banquet. Bill and his wife, **Gay** '80, B.B.A. accounting, live in Nederland.

Ron Couvillon '71, B.B.A. management, is marketing specialist for Southern Champion Tray in Chattanooga, Tenn. He and his wife, Joan, live in Whitwell, Tenn.

Kyle Johnson '71, B.B.A. accounting, retired as chief financial officer for Southern Heat Exchanger. He and his wife, Jeanie, live in Tuscaloosa.

Ron Montgomery '71, B.S. chemical engineering, '81, M.Ed. chemical engineering, is

worldwide sales leader for IBM. He and his wife, **Sherry (Tilkins)** '69, certif. secretarial science, live in Round Rock.

Michael O'Brien '71, B.S. mechanical engineering, had a 35-year career in the international oil and gas equipment and packaging business. He is retired and owns a golf course and a construction and demolition landfill business in Tulsa, Okla. He and his wife, Glenda, live in Jenks, Okla.

Mary (Provost) Charrier '72, vocational nursing, returned to college in 1989 and earned a master's degree in marriage and family therapy in 1997 from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Jay Dickstein '72, B.B.A. economics, owns Skip Dickstein Photography and lives in Stillwater, N.Y.

Walter Jones '72, B.S. mechanical engineering, and his wife, **Linda (Messer)** '70, B.A. history, live in Minneola, Fla.

Chuck Mason '72, B.S. biology, was the recipient of the T. Kelsey Lamb Sr. Business Ethics Award given by Beaumont Rotary.

David Muse '72, civil engineering, is project director for the Block Island farm project for Deepwater Wind. He had a 33-year career with Mobil and ExxonMobil, managing operations of on- and offshore projects in Dallas, Houston, Newfoundland, Canada, Peru, Norway and Nigeria. Deepwater Wind is trying to become the first company in the U.S. to build offshore wind farms. He lives in Spring, with his wife, **Mary Katherine (White)** '72, B.S. elementary education.

Russell Konesheck '73, B.S. mechanical engineering, is senior mechanical facilities engineer for Mustang Engineering in Houston. He and his wife, **Karen (Euers)** '73, B.S. biology, live in Katy, where she is veterinarian and owner of Animal Hospital of Katy. They have four children and two grandchildren.

Chris Richter '73, B.A. French, is contract administration competency manager for the U.S. region for Dupont Beaumont Works. He lives in Beaumont.

The Liberty-Dayton Chamber of Commerce named **John Simmons** '73, B.B.A. accounting, the 2010 Citizen of the Year. He has served as a state tax consultant for 32 years and lives in Dayton.

Walter Barrutia '74, M.Ed. engineering, '79, E.D. engineering, returned to Peru after 22 years in the United States. He is a graduate professor at San Marcos University in Lima, where he lives, and steered the passing of the Education Accreditation Law, in order to improve the quality of education in Peru.

Nelson Fernandes '74, B.S. electrical engineering, is senior project engineer for AK Steel Inc. in Rockport, Ind. He and his wife, Elizabeth, live in Newburgh, Ind.

Rudy Simpson '74, B.S. secondary education, is a turnaround coordinator for Hovensa. He lives in Christiansted, Virgin Islands.

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Texas representative
for the Fellowship of Christian
Athletes. He and his wife, Janis, live in
Port Neches.

Lorri McNight '77, B.S. psychology, is vice president of lending for City Bank New Mexico in Ruidoso. She was appointed to the Supreme Court of New Mexico Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee member.

Rene Rangel '77, B.A. Spanish, earned a master's degree in bilingual education from Texas A&M-Kingsville and is coordinator for support services in the Santa Rosa school district, where he lives.

Dr. Michael Bearb '78, B.S. psychology, earned a doctoral degree from the University of Texas-SW Medical Center at Dallas. He practices with the Cardiac Anesthesia Group in Jackson, Tenn., where he lives.

David Block '78, B.S. speech, earned a master's degree in information resource management from the Air Force Institute of Technology and a master's degree in liberal arts from Texas Christian University. He is coordinator for institutional effectiveness and accountability at Austin Community College and lives in Round Rock.

Gary Garrison '78, B.S. speech, is executive director of creative affairs for The Dramatists Guild of America. He lives in Westport, Conn.

Celeste Salhab '78, B.S. deaf education, M.S. audiology, teaches technology in the Hardin-Jefferson school district in Sour Lake. She lives in Beaumont.

Marty (Peveto) Taylor '78, is science department head and teaches in the Bridge City school district. She and her husband, **Hyman**, '74, A.A.S. drafting technology, '75, A.A.S.



Don Phillips '64 was honored with the Texas Industrial Engineering Lifetime Achievement Award Feb. 26. He was recognized for 43 years of achievement and service in education, specifically in the field of industrial engineering, which focuses on maximizing the efficiency of processes and systems.

Phillips played football for the Cardinals and coached tight ends and wide receivers as a student assistant coach. He joined the faculty of Texas A&M University in 1975 and serves as a Chevron Distinguished Professor of Industrial Engineering. Prior to his current appointment, he held faculty positions at Purdue University and the University of Texas. A prolific author and researcher, Phillips is the author of seven college

industrial supervision, live in Orange.

Toni (Passmore) Anderson '79, B.M. music-vocals, earned a master's in vocal performance from the New England Conservatory and a doctoral degree in higher education from Georgia State University. She is professor of voice and chair of the music department of LaGrange College.

Charles Feagin '79, B.S. criminal justice, is a correctional officer with Jefferson County. He lives in Village Mills with his wife, Susan.

Hal Johnston '79, A.A.S. industrial electricity, is an electrical designer for Galewsky and Johnston Consulting Engineers in Beaumont. He lives in Sour Lake.

Hyattye Simmons '79, B.A. government, earned a law degree from the University of Texas School of Law and received the 2009 Texas General Counsel Forum's Magna Stella Award for excellence in leadership and management for a non-profit or government agency. He is general counsel for the Dallas Area Rapid Transit and lives in Dallas.

80s

Michael Bienvenu '80, B.S. law enforcement, '95, A.A.S. process operating technology, is an operator for ExxonMobil. He and his wife, Josephine, live in Beaumont.

Jane (McBroom) Busby '80, B.S. nursing, is school nurse and director of health services in the Bridge City school district. She lives in Nederland with her husband, **Donald** '79, A.A.S. drafting technology, '90, A.A.S. computer electronics and robotics, '92, B.S. industrial technology, who is a senior engineer at Huntsman in Port Arthur.

Tommy Fain Jr. '80, B.M. music education, earned a master's degree and educational doctorate from Texas A&M-Commerce and is associate director of bands at Lake Dallas Middle School. He lives in Plano.

Karen (Bankhead) Guidry '80, B.S. elementary education, teaches in the Beaumont school district, where she lives with her husband, Emery.

Steve Hankins '80, B.S. music, is head band director for Heritage Middle School in the East Central school district in San Antonio. He and his wife, Elizabeth, live in Cibolo and have three children.

Ronald Strybos '80, B.S. chemical engineering, is facility manager for Air Liquide in Beaumont. He and his wife, Gwen, live in Kountze.

Susan (Brodeur) Gilbert '81, B.S. elementary education, teaches eighth-grade American history in Lumberton, where she lives with her husband of 29 years, David. They have three children: Leah, Hayden and Nathan. Leah is the producer for LUTV news.

Tex Glazier '81, B.B.A. marketing, is chief operating officer for The Daniel Group in Houston. He and his wife, **Sherri (Van Breemen)** '82, certif. office administration, live in Argyle.

Thad Angelle '82, B.B.A. general business, is chief executive officer of MCT Credit Union. He lives in Orangefield with his wife, Candace, and three sons.

Carol (Giron) Batiste '82, M.Ed. educational leadership, retired as principal of Willie Ray Smith Middle School in Beaumont.

LU alumnus receives lifetime achievement award

textbooks, including a book of the year award for operations research, and more than 150 peer-reviewed journals and proceedings. He has been the principal or co-principal investigator for research grants in excess of \$18 million and serves as the Homeland Security research coordinator for the engineering programs at Texas A&M.

"Many in the field considered Don to be one of the top five industrial engineering researchers in the country," said Victor Zaloom, associate dean of the College of Engineering and chair of the Industrial Engineering Department.

Nominees for the award are selected by members of the Texas executive committee of the Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE), an international professional society.

Gina (Vallot) Heinlein '82, B.S.N. nursing, is a registered nurse with Christus Hospital St. Elizabeth. She lives in Beaumont.

Vianney Martawibawa '82, B.S. mechanical engineering, is general manager of ITW Welding in Singapore, where he lives with his wife, Kalin, and two sons.

Michael McEachern '82, B.B.A. personnel administration, earned a master's degree from the University of Houston and is chief executive officer of Renaissance Hospital Groves. He lives in Port Neches.

Deborah (Seiver) Germentz '83, B.B.A. accounting, is senior consultant for Interdyn Progressive Group in Houston. She lives in Beaumont.

Wyman Hopkins '83, B.S. criminal justice, retired from a 25-year career in law enforcement and teaches at Foster High School in Richmond, where he lives.

John Tisdale '83, B.S. communication, '88 M.A. history, earned a doctoral degree from the University of North Texas. He is an associate professor and associate director of the Schieffer School of Journalism at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, where he lives.

Susan (Swendig) Wisenbaker '83, B.S. mechanical engineering, '95, B.S. physics, teaches math at Montezuma-Cortez High School and lives in Dolores, Colo., with her husband, Robert.

Kenneth Booker '84, B.S. music theory and composition, earned a master's degree from the University of Houston and a doctoral degree from the University of Texas at Austin. He teaches at Lee College in Baytown and has composed more than 70 pieces of music in his career.

Robert Hall '84, B.S. mechanical engineering, works for CB&I Engineering in Beaumont. He lives in Sour Lake with his wife, Nancy.

Rich Harrist '84, B.S. government, earned his law degree from the University of Oklahoma and is senior attorney for Cooper and Scully. He lives in Pipe Creek.

Ron Sims '84, M.Ed. school administration, earned his bachelor's degree from Louisiana Tech University. He later earned his Ed.D. from Texas A&M University. He is superintendent of the Lumberton school district, where he lives.

Jackie (Ardoin) Spears '84, B.S. sociology, M.Ed. educational technology, is division chair of business and technology for Lamar State College in Orange, where she lives with her husband, Jack.

Julie (Gordey) Wesseling '84, B.B.A. accounting, is financial manager at Telluride Medical Center in Telluride, Colo. She lives in Ridgway, Colo., with her husband, Danny.

Fikri Dweiri '85, B.S. electrical engineering, obtained a doctoral degree in industrial engineering from the University of Texas-Arlington. He established the industrial engi-

neering department at Jordan University of Science and Technology in Jordan. He was the first dean for the School of Technological Science at the German-Jordanian University and established the industrial engineering and management department at Sharjah University. He is chairman of the industrial engineering and management department at the University of Sharjay in the United Arab Emirates.

Theresa (Ward) Oemig '85, B.S. elementary education, teaches at Big Creek Elementary in Cumming, Ga., where she lives with her husband, Michael.

Debra (Hartman) Petree '85, B.S. sociology, teaches in the Beaumont school district, where she lives with her husband, **Ray** '82, B.A. political science, who teaches and coaches in Lumberton.

Rose Thomas '86, B.S. chemical engineering, is staff engineer for ExxonMobil Research and Engineering in Fairfax, Va.

Betsy (Durso) Branch '87, B.A. history, earned a law degree from the University of Mississippi in 1990. She is a partner in the family law firm of McCurley Orsinger McCurley Nelson & Downing. She lives in Mesquite.

Don Cunningham '87, B.S. mechanical engineering, is program director for nuclear operations for Siemens Energy Inc. in Orlando, Fla. He lives in Altamonte Springs, Fla.

John Curtin '87, B.B.A. finance, is senior vice president for Citibank in Dallas. He lives in Prosper.

Timothy Mathis '87, B.B.A. management, is management assistant in surgery at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, Calif. He lives in West Hollywood, Calif.

Carolyn (Leach) Pineda '87, B.S. mathematics, is vice president of services for Intergraph in Houston. She lives in Lumberton.

Rebecca Summerlin '87, B.S. elementary education, teaches math at Marshall Middle School in Beaumont, where she lives.

Theresa Hill '88, B.B.A. accounting, is a financial analyst for Beech-Nut Nutrition. She lives in Little Falls, N.Y.

Todd Hoffman '88, B.B.A. accounting, is a partner for PricewaterhouseCoopers in Houston. He lives in The Woodlands.

Jennie Riddle -88, music education, received the Dove award for Songwriter of the Year, and her song, *Revelation Song*, received the Dove award for Worship Song of the Year.

Dominique (Dor) Rogers '88, B.B.A. finance, is executive director and a licensed professional counselor for Supporting Others Through Mentoring in Duncanville, where she lives with her husband, Arthur.

Sue Ellen Ware '88, B.A. English, is a 2009 Reaud Excellence in Education Award nominee for Teacher of the Year. She teaches English at the Pathways Learning Center in Beaumont.

Michael Wilson '88, B.B.A. marketing, earned a master's degree from the University of Houston in Clear Lake and is executive director for Community in Schools for Goose Creek school district. He lives in Baytown.

Melissa (Custer) Boyett '89, B.S. elementary education, teaches at Pine Forest Elementary in Vidor, where she lives with her husband, Neil.

Chris Coffey -89, criminal justice, is assistant superintendent for the Dallas County Juvenile Department. He lives in Cedar Hill.

Steven Floyd '89, B.B.A. finance, is vice president and trust officer of specialty assets for Wells Fargo Bank in Corpus Christi, where he lives with his wife, Shelly.

Lorie (Thompson) Gibson '89, B.S. elementary education, teaches in the Little Cypress-Mauriceville school district. She lives in Beaumont.

Karen Lindsey '89, B.S. elementary education, is district dyslexia evaluator for the Katy school district. She lives in Bellville.

Amy (Toomim) Long '89, B.S. dance, co-hosts a talk radio show called Rational Radio Report in Dallas and teaches classes at North Central Texas College in Corinth. She lives in Denton with her husband, Terry. They have two sons.

Kathy Portie '89, B.S. communication, '94, M.A. visual arts, is sports editor for the Big Bear Grizzly in Big Bear Lake, Calif., where she lives.

John Sudela '89, B.S. civil engineering, is design engineer for the Beaumont district for the Texas Department of Transportation. He and his wife, Misty, have two children.

90s

Paul Bordelon '90, B.B.A. marketing, is general manager of Harper and Associates in New Orleans. He lives in Metairie.

Willie Crysel '90, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a scheduler for Newtron and lives in Beaumont.

Gina Giblin '90, B.A. sociology, earned her law degree from South Texas College of Law and is in private practice in Dallas.

Bill Griffin '82, A.A.S. diesel mechanics, '90, B.M. music education, is an investigator for Premier in Houston. He lives in Pearland.

Peggy (Dorsey) Haley '90, B.S. elementary education, teaches in the Port Arthur school district. She lives in Port Neches, with her husband, Carl.

Peggy (Deville) Henderson '90, B.S. mechanical engineering, was awarded the Society of Women Engineers Distinguished Service Award for her more than 20 years of service to the organization. She is a senior nuclear technologist at Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant and lives in Granbury.

Carmen (Angelle) Jordan '90, B.B.A. finance, is executive vice president for Encore Bank in Houston. She and her husband, Matthew, live in Sugar Land.

Gene Stewart '90, B.S. electrical engineering, is systems engineer for ExxonMobil in Beaumont. He lives in Lumberton with his wife, Selah.

Kevin Stone '90, B.M. music education, '08, M.M. music, is director of bands in the Barbers Hill school district. During his 18-year career, he has been invited to adjudicate bands and is a former director of athletic bands at Lamar University.

Ted Wiggins '90, B.B.A. accounting, is chief financial officer for Performance Companies in Cleveland and serves on the Lamar University College of Business Accounting Advisory Board. He and his wife, Sandra, live in Livingston.

Teresa (Burwick) Fisher '91, B.S. biology, is science department chair at Manvel High School in the Alvin school district. She lives in Pearland with her husband, **Shawn** '91, B.S. electrical engineering, who is a project engineer for Powell Industries.

Lisa Gloude '91, A.A.S. child care and development, teaches at Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School in Beaumont, where she lives.

Yolonda Kelley '91, B.S. elementary education, is program director for professional development services for THIRST Teacher Training in Houston. She lives in Sugar Land.

Vivian (Briscoe) Ballou '92, B.B.A. general business, is owner of Neighborhood Redevelopment Associates in Port Arthur, where she lives.

Kenneth Barry '92, B.B.A. marketing, is senior managing director for Sunbelt Securities Inc. in Beaumont. He lives in Orange.

Kendra (Rayon) Edwards '92, B.B.A. office administration, teaches in the Devers school district, where she lives.

Teri Langston '92, B.S. kinesiology, earned a master's degree in educational leadership. She teaches and coaches at Niles West High School in Skokie, Ill. She lives in Chicago, Ill., with her husband, Steve Heuerman.

Cynthia Parra '92, B.A. history, '92, B.A. political science, is assistant director of operations for the Setzer Student Center at Lamar University. She lives in Beaumont.

Jeff McKinnon '93, B.A. Spanish, '93, B.A. history, '00, M.Ed. counseling and development, is counselor at Nederland High School, where he lives with his wife, Brooke.

Tammy (Simmons) Stansbury '93, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is a landman for J. Mark Smith and Associates. She lives in Livingston.

Cindy (Brast) Gault '94, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, earned a master's degree in educational technology from McNeese State

University. She is the district instructional technology specialist in the Hardin-Jefferson school district. She lives in Beaumont.

Youzhi He '94, M.E. engineering, earned a master's in business from the University of Michigan and is senior engineer for Schaeffler Group. He and his wife, Jun Yang, live in Rochester Hills, Mich.

Cherie (Louvier) Loyacano '94, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '09, M.Ed. teacher leadership, lives in Porter with her husband, **David** '93, B.S. criminal justice. He earned a master's degree in education from the University of Houston.

Charles Wintill '94, B.S. mechanical engineering, is engineering manager for PetroQuip Energy Services in Houston, where he lives.

Hap Call '90, B.A. history, '95, B.S. electrical engineering, is an electrical engineering specialist for ExxonMobil in Beaumont, where he lives with his wife, Susan.

Chris Jamison '95, B.B.A. marketing, is senior vice president for Bank of the Ozarks in Frisco, where he lives.

Kelli (Hudson) McLaurin '95, B.S. sociology, teaches at the Academy of Accelerated Learning. She lives in Fresno.

Lisa Morrison '95, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is lead science teacher at Ogden Elementary in the Beaumont school district. She lives in Winnie.

Chad Anderson '96, B.S. chemical engineering, is operations manager at Huntsman Chemical Corp. in Port Neches. He and his wife, Hope, live in Nederland.

Kristen (Ritchey) Bellanger '96, B.B.A. marketing, is senior vice president of operations at FivePoint Credit Union. She lives in Orange.

Victoria McCleery '96, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is career services specialist for Tarrant County College in Hurst. She lives in Bedford.

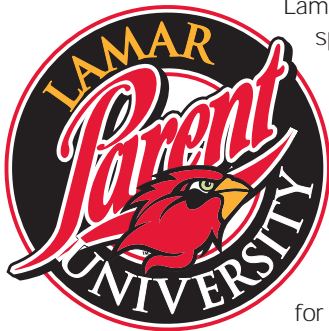
Tiffany (Nash) Prudhomme '96, B.B.A. accounting, is senior manager for the national office of accounting standards and communications group for Deloitte and Touche in Wilton, Conn. She lives in Stamford, Conn. She was selected as recipient of the Harlem YMCA's 2010 Black Achievers in Industry Award, which recognizes some of today's most talented and committed African-American men and women for their successes in business and the community.

Heather (Jones) Skeen '96, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, lives in Crosby, with her husband, James, and three children.

Wayne Wells '96, B.S. criminal justice, is principal at Ogden Elementary in Beaumont, where he lives. Ogden Elementary was recipient of a 2009 National Center for High Educational Achievement (Just for Kids) in Science Award, as well as being a 2010 National Blue Ribbon Nominee School.

LU encourages parents to Go Big Red

Parents have questions too.



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—with 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 met with members of the alumni office staff, President James Simmons and Camille Mouton, vice-president for University Advancement, to share ideas.

The advisory committee comprises 24 parents: Roxanne and Karl Barnes, Evelyn and Jack Briggs, Jennie and James Dees, Sheryll and Jerry Plaia, Connie and Milt Prewitt, Traci and Wagdy Rizk, and Peggy and Juan Zabala, all of Beaumont; Susan and Greg Thompson, Orange; Gail and Brian Binagia and Fran and Don Duplan, Port Neches; Anita and Billy Greer, Sour Lake; and Angela and Zeb Zbranek, Winnie.

Joia Bush of Houston, a Lamar University student ambassador, understands the value of reaching out to parents. "It's just as important for the parent to feel as welcome as the student," said Bush. "Parents who understand how the university is trying to help their child succeed are more likely to be engaged in helping their student to succeed.

"The organization will be of great assistance to parents of first-generation students," said Bush. "These parents may not have firsthand experience with the workings of a university. The organization can help them understand the curricular and social opportunities and become more active in their students' academic careers."

James Dees '90, who earned an MBA from Lamar, and his wife Jennie '78 (B.S., biology) serve on the steering committee to develop a mechanism for parents to partner with the university to guide all students through their educational experience. "A Lamar University that prepares students to be successful in their professional field improves the community as a whole," James said.

For more information about the parents and family organization contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (409) 880-8921 or e-mail Parents@Lamar.edu.

Parents: Get your free LU Parent car decal by calling (409) 880-8921 or e-mailing Parents@lamar.edu. If you are the parent of a current LU student or know of someone who is, please contact us.

Marie (Alvarado) Tucker '97, B.S. communication, '09, M.Ed. administration, is speech instructor in the Alvin school district, where she lives with her husband, Hans.

Kevin Waterfallen '97, B.S. computer science, is an engineer for United Space Alliance. He lives in Porter with his wife, Tracy.

Laura (McCurley) Distefano '98, B.B.A. accounting, '98, B.B.A. economics, is senior manager for Deloitte in Houston. She lives in League City with her husband, **Brian** '99, B.S. earth science.

Jarrel Jimmerson '98, B.B.A. management information systems, is data warehouse application architect for Accenture in Austin. He and his wife, **Annette (McCloud)** '96, B.S. communication, live in Cedar Park.

Sam Kash '98, B.S. communication, is business development manager for Tiger Industrial. He lives in Sour Lake.

Darrell Cruse '99, B.S. kinesiology, is defensive coordinator and teacher in the Boles school district in Quinlan, where he lives.

Michael Hart '99, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, '99, B.G.S. general studies, teaches for the Beaumont school district.

Lanny Marshall '99, B.M. music, lives in Kirbyville, with his wife, **Brenda (Hinson)** '92, B.S. interdisciplinary studies. They teach in the Kirbyville school district.

Vickie McGee '99, B.A. history, is personnel coordinator for Walmart Stores Inc. She lives in Kountze.

Ben Thames '99, B.S. industrial technology, is a first officer for Expressjet Airlines. He and his wife, **Suzanne (Vicknair)** '95, B.A. English, live in Groves. She teaches language arts in the Port Neches-Groves school district.

00s

Richard LeBlanc III '00, B.B.A. marketing, is associate general counsel for The Planet in Houston, where he lives. The Planet is the world's largest privately held Internet Web hosting company.

Andy Miller '00, B.S. chemical engineering, is senior operations engineer at BASF Corp., in Port Arthur. He lives in Beaumont.

Rekina Smith '00, B.S. food and nutrition, '03, family and consumer sciences, '05, M.P.A., public administration, works for the Jefferson County Victims' Assistance Center and lives in Beaumont.

Frederick Barlow Jr. '01, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches in the Vidor school district, where he lives.

Yolanda Cruz '01, B.S. psychology, is director of student life for Educational Housing Services in Brooklyn, N.Y. She lives in New York City.

Duaine Harris Sr. '01, B.S. sociology, earned a master's degree in counseling and a master's

degree in educational administration from Prairie View A&M University. He is assistant principal at Vincent Middle School in the Beaumont school district and was named 2010-2011 Region 5 principal of the year.

Keith Harvey '01, B.S. political science, '05, B.S. dietetics, teaches in the Conroe school district and lives in Spring.

Dr. Jeremy Huff '01, B.S. biology, has joined Beaumont Internal Medicine and Geriatric Associates. He attending the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth and completed his internship and residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. His parents are **Vicky (Hubbard) Huff** '92, A.A.S. nursing and **Gene Huff** '87, A.A.S. nursing.

Heath McGallion '01, B.B.A. finance, is account vice president for UBS Financial Services in Beaumont, where he lives with his wife, **Mikala (Griffin)** '09, B.A. English. She is a sales assistant for Remax-Beaumont.

Colleen (Reagan) Milam '01, M.S. nursing administration, is chief nursing officer for Glen Rose Medical Center. She lives in Glen Rose.

Devyn (Lusk) Mitchell '01, M.E.M. engineering management, '04, M.B.A. business administration, and her husband, **Ryan** '04, M.B.A. business administration, have a daughter, Rebecca Elaine, born April 15, 2010. They live in Beaumont.

Brandon Monk '01, B.A. political science, earned a law degree from the University of Houston in 2004 and works for the Monk Law Firm in Port Arthur and lives in Nederland.

Jana (Chauvin) Morgan '01, B.B.A. management information systems, and her husband, **Brandon** '03, B.S. communication, live in Orange.

Swapna Pradhan-Kadam '01, M.S. chemistry, is a scientist for Cookson in Bangalore, India, where he lives with his wife, Jitendra.

Sugam Shrestha '01, M.S. environmental studies, is project manager for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in Austin. He lives in Pflugerville.

Stephanie Chesson '02, B.S. criminal justice, is community development manager for the American Cancer Society in Bryan. She lives in College Station.

Cynthia Crenshaw '02, B.A. criminal justice, works for the Internal Revenue Service in Austin, where she lives.

Traci (Yawn) Cross '02, B.G.S. general studies, is a second-grade teacher at Warren Elementary. Her husband, **Darren** '03, B.B.A. marketing, '03, B.B.A. management, is store manager at Conn's in Nederland. They live in Beaumont.

Robert Ellison '02, B.S. electrical engineering, is a licensed professional engineer in the state of Texas.

Alisa Hicklin '02, B.S. political science, earned a doctoral degree from Texas A&M in 2006. She is assistant professor at the University of Oklahoma and lives in Norman.

Jeremy Hunt '02, B.M. music, and his wife, Annie, had their first child, Hattie, on Aug. 23, 2009.

Dottie (McIntyre) LeBlanc '02, B.S. communication, is field sales trainer for Reckitt Benckiser. She lives with her husband, Matthew, in Daphne, Ala.

Venkat Lingareddy '02, M.E. civil engineering, lives in Hyderabad, India, with his wife, Madhavi.

Kelley Martin '02, B.S. psychology, earned a doctoral degree in psychology from The American School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University in Washington, D.C., and is working on a postdoctoral fellowship at Children's Medical Center of Dallas, specializing in the evaluation of treatment of autism spectrum disorders.

Justin Owens '02, B.S. chemical engineering, is a captain in the Marine Corps. He and his wife, Jessica, live in Poway, Calif.

Anna Phillips '02, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, and her husband, Fleming, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They live in Beaumont.

Sam Sharp '99, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, '02, M.S. deaf studies, is president and chief executive officer of ThinkDeaf Communications in Cleveland. He and his wife, Wendy, live in Splendor.

Shametta Benefield '03, B.S. criminal justice, is a child protective services supervisor in Pearland, where she lives.

William Effendy '03, M.S. computer science, is senior quality assurance engineer for Siperian Inc. in Foster City, Calif. He lives in Milpitas, Calif.

Seth Farris '03, B.B.A. marketing, is warehouse supervisor for Wilson Warehouse. He and his wife, **Amanda (Parker)** '01, B.B.A. management, live in Groves, where she is an accounting manager for Sterling Shipyard.

Bradley Johnson '03, B.B.A. marketing, is a product trainer for Robert Bosch LLC. He lives in Dallas.

Peter Jungen '03, B.S. civil engineering, is a pavement engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation. He lives in Beaumont.

Nicole (Madden) Lewis '03, B.S. chemical engineering, is supervisor of global logistics and trade compliance for Champion Technologies in Houston. She and her husband, **Jacob** '03, B.S. psychology, live in Liberty. He is a science teacher and department chair in the Cleveland school district.

Kara (Melancon) Mabe '03, B.B.A. management information systems, earned a master's

degree from Texas Woman's University and is a business office supervisor at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston. She lives in Pearland, with her husband, Michael.

Cheri (Coon) Nahhas '03, B.S. communication, earned her master's degree from Texas Woman's University. She and her husband, Ahmad, live in New York with their daughter, Zoey.

Laura Ramberg '03, B.G.S. general studies, is a parole officer for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in San Angelo, where she lives with her husband, Clay.

Marco Sanchez '03, M.E. industrial engineering, is an engineer with Mason Construction and lives in Beaumont.

Bobby Smith '03, B.B.A. accounting, is senior auditor for Tenet Healthcare in Dallas, where he lives with his wife, Carolyn.

Jacqueline (Bennight) Wenski '03, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches third grade in the Fort Bend school district and lives in Pearland, with her husband, Travis.

Jennifer Wright '03, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches in the Beaumont school district, where she lives.

Srimanth Brindavanam '04, M.E. industrial engineering, is a project manager for the state of Tennessee. He lives in Nashville, Tenn., with his wife, **Sirisha (Ser)** '05, M.S. environmental science, who is a business intelligence engineer for Kroll Background Services.

Chris Coy '04, B.S. sociology, teaches and coaches at Hyde Park Baptist Schools in Austin, where he lives with his wife, Heather.

Damon Derrick '04, B.B.A. marketing, earned a law degree from the University of Mississippi and is a staff attorney for Stephen F. Austin State University. He and his wife, **Jamie (Nelson)** '04, B.B.A. human resource management, is a senior human resources representative for Stephen F. Austin State University. They live in Nacogdoches.

Amanda Digmon '04, B.G.S. general studies, is a business education teacher at Kountze High School. She lives in Kountze.

Crystal (Simmons) '04, A.A.S. nursing, and Randy Dorrell were married Nov. 20, 2009. They live in Lumberton.

Brandy (Harrington) Henley '04, B.S. psychology, '04, B.S. biology, is a forensic scientist for Jefferson County Regional Crime Laboratory. She and her husband, Johnathan, live in Beaumont.

Laura Hunt '04, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches in the Hallsville school district, where she lives with her husband, **Charles** '85, B.S. chemical engineering.

Paul Kulish '04, B.B.A. management informa-

GET YOUR RED ON
AND JOIN US
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 Cards on the diamond May 20.



1. Dean Jack Hopper with son, Brad '87, and grandson, Holden 2. Celia Coleman, standing, and Ellen Rienstra '62, '80 3. Morris Lee '73, '79, greets friends.

tion systems, is a computer support specialist for Faust Distributing Co. in Houston. He and his wife, **Sandra (Fregia)** '07, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, live in Kingwood. She teaches in the Crosby school district.

Lawanna (Rideaux) Liedy '04, B.S.W. social work, earned a master's degree in social work administration from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. She is a workforce specialist at Beaumont Workforce Solutions. She and her husband, Gerald, live in Beaumont with their son, Gerald III.

Richard Morris '04, B.S. communication, is a process operator for ExxonMobil. He lives in Beaumont.

Prabhi Naralasetti '04, M.E. chemical engineering, is a senior manager for Supremesoft Corp. He and his wife, Sudha, live in McLean, Va.

Martin Novich '85, A.A.S. mid-management, '04, B.S. industrial technology, is manager of health and safety for Huntsman in Port Neches. He lives in Kingwood.

Amit Phanse '04, M.E. civil engineering, is a project engineer for The VMC Group in Bloomingdale, N.J. He lives in Parsippany, N.J., with his wife, Swara.

Mahesh Sriramshetty '04, M.E. mechanical engineering, is an engineer for Worley Parsons in Houston, where he lives.

Jayne (Trimble) Theriot '04, B.B.A. finance, '07, M.B.A. business administration, is an accountant for LyondellBasell Industries in Houston. She and her husband, Cody, live in Dayton.

Corey Thoe '04, B.S. mechanical engineering, '04, B.S. industrial engineering, earned a master's degree in business from the University of Texas in 2007. He is a licensed professional engineer and works as a reliability engineer for ConocoPhillips in Sweeny. He and his wife, Lynsie, live in Pearland.

Amber Woodard '04, B.B.A. marketing, '09, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, is a fitness specialist for Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital's Health and Wellness Center. She lives in Vidor.

Felicia Alexander-Branch '05, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is an equipment foreman, dispatcher and medium operator for Fluor-Daniels Corp. She and her husband, Karl, celebrated their ninth wedding anniversary March 25, 2010, and live in Port Arthur.

Amanda (Rowe) Breaux '05, B.S. communication, is marketing manager for La Madeleine de Corps Inc. in Dallas. She lives in Carrollton with her husband, **David** '03, B.A. history. He teaches and coaches in the Carrollton-Farmers Branch school district.

Lisanne (Reeves) Chancey '05, B.S. chemical engineering, is a run plant engineer at Dow Chemical Co. in Freeport. She and her husband, Brett, live in Pearland.

Dr. Tyler Dabel '05, B.S. biology, is a dentist in Nederland. He lives in Beaumont.

Nicholas Elizondo '05, B.B.A. economics, '07, M.B.A. business administration, is a general accountant for Golden Pass LNG in Sabine Pass. He lives in Bridge City.

Chris Ferguson '05, B.B.A. marketing, is internet sales director for Covert Auto Group in Austin. He lives in Hutto.

Saurabh Gupta '05, M.E. mechanical engineering, is an engineering specialist for Intecsea. He lives in Katy.

Summer Lydick '05, M.A. visual art, owns The Painted Wall in Beaumont, where she lives.

Kristin Mattingly '05, B.B.A. accounting, '05, B.B.A. finance, is an accountant for the city of Beaumont and lives in Lumberton.

Todd McCormick '05, B.B.A. marketing, and Brenda Chavez were married Nov. 20, 2009. They honeymooned in Italy and live in Katy.

Amanda Shaw '05, B.S. political science, earned her law degree from South Texas College of Law and joined the Houston office of Jackson Walker as an associate. She lives in Crosby.

Scott Sheridan '05, B.S. civil engineering, is vice president of Daniel Scott Engineering, in Alvin, where he lives with his wife, **Emily (Ponthieu)** '08, B.S. interdisciplinary studies. He is a registered professional land surveyor.

Cody Chance '06, B.B.A. finance, is a commercial credit analyst for Capital One, in Houston. He and his wife, **Haley (Celeste)** '05, B.A. English, live in Houston.

Brandi (Blanchard) Fasulo '06, B.S. industrial technology, lives in Beaumont with her husband, Anthony, who is assistant body shop manager for Kinsel Ford.

Rachel Goss '06, B.G.S. general studies, '09, M.Ed. educational leadership, teaches in the Goose Creek school district. She lives in Baytown.

Lori (Kimball) Gossett '06, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches in the Nederland school district, where she lives.

Shonte (Jean) Leonard '06, B.S. communication, '06, B.S. family studies, '10, M.Ed. school administration, teaches in the Beaumont school district, where she lives with her husband, David.

Justin Lewis '06, B.A. chemistry, graduated from University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio School of Medicine and will complete his residency training in internal medicine at Louisiana State University in Shreveport.

Vipin Lillaney '06, M.E. chemical engineering, works for Parkson Corp. and lives in Pompano Beach, Fla.

Prashanth Pabbati '06, M.S. chemistry, is a process chemist for Reagens USA in Pasadena. He lives in Webster.

Eric Perez '06, B.G.S. general studies, is a sergeant in the Army and has returned from duty in Iraq. He and his wife, **Heather (Deaton)** '09, B.G.S. general studies, live in Killeen. His family and Heather's family pooled their money and gave him a truck upon his return from Iraq. They requested a Lamar alumni sticker to have on his truck before they gave the truck to him.

Tara Schrieber '06, B.S. political science, is audit coordinator for EnerVest Ltd. in Houston, where she lives.

Shafi Shaik '06, M.S. chemistry, is a research scientist for Capricorn Pharama Inc. in Frederick, Md., where he lives.

Elisha Stanley '06, B.S. fashion retail merchandising, '06, B.B.A. general business entrepreneurship, earned a B.F.A. in fashion design from American Intercontinental University in Atlanta, Ga. She lives in Manhattan, Kan.

1961 basketball team reunion

The team reunited to reminisce during LU's annual Basketball Players Reunion Weekend Feb. 26-27



1. From left, Pat Tubbs, Homer Taylor '77, B.B. Davis -81, Billy Tubbs '58 and Ike Mills '77 2. Jack Martin, Dale Godfrey '61, Guy Davis '62 3. From left, Larry Augsburger '63, Don Bryson '65, Jack Martin, Billy Tubbs '58, Larry Lopez -60, Joe Lee Smith and Rush Wood

Carrie (Hebert) Strong '06, B.S. fashion retail merchandising, is a human resource generalist for FivePoint Credit Union. She lives in Nederland.

Radha Sunkara '06, M.E. industrial engineering, is an industrial engineer for Panasonic Automotive Systems Co. of America in Peachtree City, Ga., where he lives.

Prici Arizmendi '07, B.S. psychology, is a guidance consultant for CompPsych in Chicago, Ill., where she lives.

Matthew Broussard '07, B.B.A. management, is a personal banker for Chase bank in Houston, where he lives.

Guy Crossley '07, B.B.A. management information systems, '09, M.B.A. business administration, is an academic computing specialist for the College of Business at Lamar University.

James Cunningham '07, B.S. industrial engineering, is a field service engineer for Lufkin Industries Inc. in Lufkin, where he lives.

Jona Gilchrist '07, B.A. music, is an accounts receivable clerk for LD Service in Beaumont, where she lives.

Aaron Johnson '07, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is an agent for Texas Farm Bureau Insurance in Beaumont. He lives in Port Neches.

Aditya Khare '07, M.E. industrial engineering, is a business analyst for SQA Labs Inc. in Phoenix, Ariz., where he lives with his wife, Roopa.

Sivansanthosh Komirelly '07, M.E. chemical engineering, is a process simulation engineer for Cape Software in The Woodlands. He and his wife, **Santhoshi (Thalakanti)** '08, M.E. electrical engineer, were married Nov. 25, 2009.

Priya Patil '07, B.S. electrical engineering, is a specialist engineer for network design for Verizon. She lives in Richardson.

Richard Radomski '07, B.S. exercise science

and fitness management, is a personal trainer for Lifetime Fitness in Houston. He and his wife, Casey, live in Spring.

Lauren (Hughes) '07, B.G.S. general studies, and Justin Sartin were married Dec. 12, 2009. They live in Lake Charles, La.

Athena (Russell) Tallmadge '07, B.G.S. general studies, works in sales at Controlled Fluids in Beaumont. She and her husband, Justin '07, B.G.S. general studies, live in Nederland. He is service manager at Equipment Depot.

Kartheek Thalakanti '07, M.E. chemical engineering, is a process engineer for AMEC Paragon in Houston, where he lives.

John Villforth '07, B.S. psychology, completed Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command at Great Lakes, Ill. He is the son of **Paul Villforth** '04, M.S. family and consumer sciences.

Quinetta Andrus '08, B.S. criminal justice, teaches math in the Port Arthur school district and lives in Beaumont.

Amber Barnes '08, B.M. music, is assistant band director in the Humble school district, where she lives.

Carly (Siewert) Barnett '08, B.F.A. studio art, is shift supervisor for Starbucks in Kelowna, British Columbia, where she lives with her husband, Joshua.

Stephen Boone '08, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a project engineer for Englobal in Beaumont, where he lives.

Lisa Chalow '08, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, works for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and lives in Beaumont.

Patrick Gonzales '08, B.S. civil engineering, is a water quality engineer for BP Products North America in Texas City. He and his wife, **Morgin (Cryer)** '08, B.B.A. accounting, live in Seabrook. She is an accountant for the City of Texas City.

Ralph Harrington III '08, B.B.A. management, is manager at Jason's Deli. His wife, **Vanessa (Vaquere)** '09, B.B.A. general business, also works for Jason's Deli, and they live in Nederland.

Mary Janssens '08, 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.

Tarah (Burns) Shepherd '08, B.S. criminal justice, teaches in the Dayton school district. She is married to **Joshua Shepherd** '07, B.S. criminal justice, who is a Texas Department of Public Safety trooper. They live in Humble.

Nina Shrestha '08, M.E. civil engineering, is a civil engineer for Chow Lazer. She lives in Newark, Calif.

Kristin (Huntley) Villanueva '08, B.A. history, teaches in the Dallas school district, where she lives with her husband, **Oscar** '07. B.A. English.

Quang Vu '08, B.S. chemical engineering, is a process engineer for Alpha Sim Technology in Katy. He lives in Houston.

Cathy Warmack '08, B.S. music, teaches private violin lessons and plays for volunteer symphonies and orchestras. She lives in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Emily (Eisen) Wheeler '08, B.S. communication, is program services coordinator for the Julie Rogers "Gift of Life" Program in Beaumont. She and her husband, **Jeffrey** '10, B.F.A. studio art, live in Beaumont.

Natasha Wright '08, B.S. criminal justice, is a child protective services investigator for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. She lives in Houston.

Megan (Christopher) Baker '09, M.Ed. administration, works for the Montgomery school district, where she lives.

Willis Bassham Jr. '09, M.Ed. teacher leadership, married **Moriah (Ahlfinger)** '09, M.Ed. administration, June 20, 2009. Both are teachers at Garland High School, and they live in McKinney.

Caleb Blanchard '09, B.B.A. management, works for Georgia Pacific. He and his wife, Brittany, live in Cleveland.

Shanna Cormier '09, B.B.A. finance, is contract administrator for Camp, Dresser and McKee Inc. in Houston, where she lives.

Andre Dean '09, M.Ed. administration, teaches in the Carrollton-Farmers Branch school district and lives in Keller.

Michelle (Lombard) DeAngelo '09, M.Ed. administration, earned her principal's certification and lives in Denton.

Mark Eaves '09, B.S. communication, is a video editor and producer for Lamar University in Beaumont, where he lives.

James Eshliman '09, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, teaches in the Beaumont school district. He lives in Lumberton with his wife, **Kelsey (Mullins)** '04, B.S. criminal justice, '09 M.Ed. administration. She also teaches in the Beaumont school district.

Thelma George '09, B.S.W. social work, is social service director at Woodridge Nursing and Rehabilitation in Houston, where she lives.

Lisa (Doucet) Gray '09, M.P.A. public administration, is a parole officer for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Beaumont, where she lives.

Dane Hayton '09, M.Ed. administration, works for Fort Bend school district. He and his wife, Misty, live in Houston.

Jerlynn Hill-Goolsby '09, B.S.W. social work, is a caseworker for Community In Schools. She lives in Port Arthur, with her husband, Jason.



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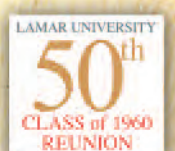
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<p>Clarissa Jayroe '09, M.Ed. administration, works for the Mesquite school district and lives in Heath.</p> <p>Melissa (Greckel) Johnson '09, M.E. administration, teaches in the Frisco school district. She lives in Coppell.</p> <p>Kristal (Swearengen) LaBerge '09, M.Ed. administration, teaches in the Waller school district and lives in Cypress.</p> <p>Gary Long Jr. '09, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a machinery engineer with LyondellBasell Industries. He and his wife, Valerie, live in Pearland.</p> <p>Laura Maricle '09, M.Ed. teacher leadership, teaches in the New Caney school district. She lives in Porter.</p> <p>Alba Montoya '09, M.Ed. administration, teaches first grade in the Aldine school district and lives in Houston.</p> <p>Morgan (Dougay) Moore '09, A.A.S. nursing, is a nurse at Christus Hospital St. Elizabeth Beaumont. She and her husband, Dwight, live in Beaumont.</p> <p>David Myrick '09, M.Ed. administration, teaches in the Channelview school district. He lives in Houston.</p> <p>Glen Newsom '09, M.Ed. administration, works for the Hitchcock school district, where he lives.</p> <p>Guillermo Ovalles '09, M.Ed. administration, is a bilingual teacher for Sheldon school district. He lives in Humble.</p> <p>Erika Segrest '09, B.B.A. marketing, is manager for Chili's Bar & Grill in Houston, where she lives.</p> <p>Stephanie (Allen) Simmons '09, B.S. family and consumer sciences, is a senior administrative associate at Lamar University. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Troy, who is a supervisor for United States Industrial Services in Orange. They live in Beaumont.</p> <p>Darla (Peterson) Vazquez '09, M.Ed. teacher leadership is a bilingual teacher in the Aldine school district. She lives in Houston.</p> <p>Justin Walters '09, B.S. electrical engineering, is an engineer for BP Corp. North America and lives in Richmond.</p> <p>Laurie (Struzik) Weeks '09, M.Ed. administration, is an assistant principal in the Prosper school district. She lives in Frisco.</p> <p>Krystal (Hoadley) Williams '09, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is account executive for the Beaumont Enterprise and lives in Vidor.</p> <p>Cynthia Lusignolo '10, Ed.D. educational leadership, is superintendent of the Liberty school district, where she lives.</p> <p>Nicole (DuPree) May '10, M.Ed. educational administration, is an assistant principal in the Denton school district, where she and her husband, Perry, live.</p>	<p>Alumni</p> <p>Jean (Venza) Sowers '27, A.A. general studies, died Dec. 16, 2009.</p> <p>Martha (Linville) Straughan '27, A.A. general studies, died Nov. 21, 2009.</p> <p>Robert Collins '35, A.A. general studies, died Dec. 31, 2009.</p> <p>Mary (Dunshie) Speer '35, A.A. general studies, '63, B.B.A. general business, died May 13, 2010.</p> <p>Lindsey Walker '35, A.A. general studies, died March 21, 2010.</p> <p>Dru (Sheffield) Coates '37, A.A. general studies, '56, B.S. elementary education, '69, M.Ed. elementary education, died May 15, 2010.</p> <p>Julius David '37, A.A. general studies, died Oct. 1, 2009.</p> <p>Geraldine (Turney) Jenkins '37, A.A. general studies, died Oct. 8, 2009.</p> <p>Anne Meeker '37, A.A. general studies, died May 15, 2010.</p> <p>Eleanor (Hunt) Krueger '38, A.A. general studies, died Sept. 20, 2009.</p> <p>Mildred (Campbell) Yates '40, A.A. general studies, died Jan. 8, 2010.</p> <p>LaRue (Fischer) Choate '44, A.A. general studies, '55, B.S. medical technology, died Jan. 1, 2010.</p> <p>Edna (Canter) Mattox '46, A.A. general studies, died Feb. 28, 2010.</p> <p>Mary McCall '46, A.A. general studies, died Jan. 22, 2010.</p> <p>James Grady '47, A.A. general studies, died Feb. 1, 2010.</p> <p>Ralph Massey '47, A.A. general studies, died Sept. 16, 2009.</p> <p>Bruce Bishop '48, A.A. general studies, '53, B.S. industrial engineering, died May 7, 2010.</p> <p>George Kleespies '48, A.A. general studies, died Feb. 8, 2010.</p> <p>Arthur Klein '48, A.A. general studies, died Jan. 11, 2010.</p> <p>Norman Moore '48, A.A. general studies, died Dec. 17, 2009.</p> <p>Leonard Davis '49, A.A. general studies, died Oct. 2, 2009.</p> <p>Kelly Guarnere '49, A.A. general studies, died Dec. 31, 2009.</p> <p>Robert Harbour '49, A.A. general studies, '55, B.B.A. marketing, died May 2, 2010.</p> <p>Billie (Irvine) Harris '49, A.A. general studies, died March 20, 2010.</p> <p>Dr. John Lewis '49, A.A. general studies, died Jan. 13, 2010.</p> <p>Lorraine (King) Wilson '49, A.A. general studies, died Nov. 17, 2009.</p> <p>Billy Howell '50, A.A. engineering, '54, B.S. civil engineering, died Oct. 9, 2009.</p> <p>Ann (Talley) Schweikert '50, A.A. general studies, died May 26, 2010.</p> <p>Rodger Hargraves '51, A.A. general studies, '54, B.S. biology, '80, M.S. biology, died Feb. 14, 2010.</p> <p>Ben Westerterp '51, certif. general studies, died Feb. 23, 2010.</p>	<p>Dr. Chester Drawhorn '53, biology, died Oct. 1, 2009.</p> <p>Roy Mazzagatti '53, B.S. electrical engineering, '54 B.S. mathematics, died March 17, 2010.</p> <p>Henry Stutzenburg '53, B.S. geology, died Dec. 28, 2009.</p> <p>Boyce Foreman '54, B.S. mechanical engineering, died Dec. 24, 2009.</p> <p>Guy Williford '54, B.S. business administration, died Dec. 24, 2009.</p> <p>Milt Wing '54, B.S. chemistry, died Sept. 23, 2009.</p> <p>Mark Brown '55, B.B.A. marketing, died Sept. 6, 2009.</p> <p>Anthony Dugas '55, B.S. chemical engineering, died Nov. 12, 2009.</p> <p>Marjorie (Peebles) Gore '55, B.S. sociology, died March 12, 2010.</p> <p>George McDuffie '55, B.S. mechanical engineering, died Jan. 1, 2010.</p> <p>Michael McNamara '55, B.B.A. general business, died April 21, 2010.</p> <p>Dale Kanoy '56, B.S. social science, died May 13, 2010.</p> <p>Raymond Meyer -56, died Oct. 18, 2009.</p> <p>Charles Fiorenza '57, B.B.A. general business, died March 24, 2010.</p> <p>John Martin '57, B.S. physical education, died May 21, 2010.</p> <p>Clara (McGill) Bean '58, B.S. home economics, died Sept. 21, 2009.</p> <p>Bernie Cook '58, B.B.A. general business, died Sept. 9, 2009.</p> <p>Bobby Gardner '58, B.S. chemical engineering, died Feb. 12, 2010.</p> <p>Dr. Joe Allen -59, biology, died Jan. 20, 2010.</p> <p>Thomas Gravett '59, B.S. chemical engineering, died Sept. 24, 2009.</p> <p>John Johnston '59, B.S. geology, died Sept. 19, 2009.</p> <p>Robert Scott Jr. '59, B.S. civil engineering, died Jan. 31, 2010.</p> <p>Richard Collier Jr. '60, B.B.A. general business, died March 21, 2010.</p> <p>Clayton Garner '60, B.B.A. general business, died Jan. 27, 2010.</p> <p>Hubert King '60, B.S. physical education, died Jan. 24, 2010.</p> <p>William Vann '60, B.S. mechanical engineering, died March 24, 2010.</p> <p>John Bynum '61, B.S. physical education, died Sept. 9, 2009.</p> <p>Charles McLin '61, B.S. mathematics, died Sept. 3, 2009.</p> <p>Wendell Radford '61, B.B.A. general business, died April 8, 2010.</p> <p>Lois Rogers '61, B.S. elementary education, died Oct. 25, 2009.</p> <p>Marie (Risinger) Arnall '62, B.B.A. secretarial science, died Dec. 13, 2009.</p> <p>Frank Phelan '62, B.S. chemical engineering, died May 27, 2010.</p> <p>Irene Dobie '63, certif. vocational nursing, died Dec. 13, 2009.</p> <p>Bobby Shepherd -63, physical education, died</p>	<p>Dec. 23, 2009.</p> <p>Buzz Abshier '64, B.B.A. management, died Jan. 16, 2010.</p> <p>Charles Budd '64, certif. industrial electricity, died March 19, 2010.</p> <p>Jean (Gardner) Chase '64, B.S. home economics, died Oct. 28, 2009.</p> <p>Kenneth Donovan '64, B.S. elementary education, died Sept. 18, 2009.</p> <p>Waleman Pitts '64, B.B.A. general business, died Oct. 9, 2009.</p> <p>Charles Afflerbach '65, B.S. medical technology, died Nov. 2, 2009.</p> <p>Elizabeth (Bledsoe) Brown '65, B.A. history, died April 14, 2010.</p> <p>Wayne Holbrook -65, accounting, died Jan. 12, 2010.</p> <p>Joseph Mattox '65, B.B.A. management, died Jan. 24, 2010.</p> <p>Marion (Hall) Springer '65, A.A.S. nursing, '65, B.A. English, died May 11, 2010.</p> <p>Connie (Martin) Atmar '66, B.B.A. accounting, '98 M.Ed. special education, died Dec. 12, 2009.</p> <p>Ruby (Jones) Bray '66, certif. vocational nursing, died March 11, 2010.</p> <p>Bobby Covington '66, B.B.A. management, died Nov. 11, 2009.</p> <p>Hoyt Neal '67, B.S. music-instrumental, died Feb. 20, 2010.</p> <p>Mary (Jones) Humphrey '67, B.S. elementary education, died April 26, 2010.</p> <p>Betty (Cousins) Laake '67, certif. vocational nursing, died Jan. 24, 2010.</p> <p>James Lewis '67, B.B.A. accounting, died Oct. 24, 2009.</p> <p>William Settle '67, B.S. mathematics, '67, B.S. electrical engineering, died Dec. 23, 2009.</p> <p>Phyllis (Murphy) Smith '67, B.A. English, '76, B.S. sociology, died Feb. 12, 2010.</p> <p>Stephen Solis '67, B.A. Spanish, died Sept. 5, 2009.</p> <p>Elsie (Grantham) Woolf '67, certif. vocational nursing, died Oct. 20, 2009.</p> <p>Joel Wrotan '67, B.S. history, died Feb. 28, 2010.</p> <p>Stephen Young '67, B.S. music, died April 8, 2010.</p> <p>Mary (Dickens) Ellis '68, B.S. elementary education, died April 13, 2010.</p> <p>Elizabeth (Gregory) Hunt '68, B.S. elementary education.</p> <p>William Norfleet Jr. '68, B.B.A. marketing, died April 2, 2010.</p> <p>Juanita Price '68, B.S. physical education, died May 14, 2010.</p> <p>Johnie (Emerson) Cutrer '69, B.A. English, '74, M.Ed. counseling and development, died Jan. 3, 2010.</p> <p>Margie Dobbs, '69, B.S. home economics, died May 8, 2010.</p> <p>Ellen (Sumner) Gatzka '69, B.A. sociology, died Dec. 5, 2009.</p> <p>J. Donald Guidry '69 B.S. chemical engineering, died March 7, 2010.</p> <p>Lionel Rowland '69, M.A. history, died Sept.</p>	<p>25, 2009.</p> <p>Robert Wilcox '69, B.B.A. management, died Sept. 24, 2009.</p> <p>Jay Wadenpfehl -60s, music, died June 19, 2010.</p> <p>Velmarie (Stephens) Cude '70, certif. vocational nursing, died Feb. 3, 2010.</p> <p>Doris (Jones) Hill '70, B.S. sociology, died Feb. 8, 2010.</p> <p>James Jones '70, certif. industrial electricity, died Nov. 21, 2009.</p> <p>Terry Russell '70, B.B.A. management, died March 19, 2010.</p> <p>Wilmer Sanford '70, B.A. sociology, died Feb. 28, 2010.</p> <p>Elton Smith '70, B.F.A. graphic design, died Sept. 24, 2009.</p> <p>Linda Stevenson '70, B.A. sociology, died Jan. 6, 2010.</p> <p>Dortha (Maxey) Vaughan '65, B.A. English, '70 M.A. English, died March 7, 2010.</p> <p>Barbara (Allen) Ainsworth, '71, B.S. secondary education, '77, M.Ed. supervision, died March 22, 2010.</p> <p>Melanie Brunette '71, B.A. history, '76, M.E. supervision, died May 15, 2010.</p> <p>Weasey (Tyson) Carter '71, B.B.A. secretarial science, died Dec. 14, 2009.</p> <p>John Hackbarth '71, B.B.A. accounting, died April 12, 2010.</p> <p>William Hammond '71, B.S. government, died Oct. 16, 2009.</p> <p>Gayle Henry '71, B.S. elementary education, died March 19, 2010.</p> <p>Donald Hickey '71, certif. diesel mechanics, died April 8, 2010.</p> <p>John Norwood '71, certif. diesel mechanics, died Dec. 28, 2009.</p> <p>Charles (Blackmon) Smith '71, certif. vocational nursing, '81, A.A. nursing, died Feb. 11, 2009.</p> <p>Frank Stokes '71, B.S. elementary education, died March 25, 2010.</p> <p>Byron Lemmon '72, A.A.S. diesel mechanics, died March 29, 2010.</p> <p>Billy Marshall '72, A.A.S. mid-management, died Jan. 20, 2010.</p> <p>Margaret (Shelton) Randall '72, B.S. elementary education, died May 29, 2010.</p> <p>Thomas Shea '72, B.B.A. marketing, died Oct. 26, 2009.</p> <p>Janice (Getz) Alexander '74 certif. vocational nursing, died Jan. 13, 2010.</p> <p>Veigh (Dickerson) Conn '73, B.S. elementary education, died Jan. 6, 2010.</p> <p>Pete Elliott '73, B.B.A. marketing, died May 16, 2010.</p> <p>Derwin Koleada '73, M.B.A. business administration, died Jan. 25, 2010.</p> <p>Jud Price '73, B.S. physics, '78, M.Ed. supervision, died Feb. 3, 2010.</p> <p>Conrad Reynolds '73, B.S. secondary education, '02, B.S. chemical engineering, died March 27, 2010.</p> <p>Stanley Shelander '73, B.B.A. general business, '77, B.B.A. accounting, died April 5, 2010.</p> <p>Jerrel Swan '73, A.A.S. industrial electricity</p>	<p>'87, A.A.S. refrigeration and air conditioning technology, '99, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, died Oct. 15, 2009.</p> <p>Ken Thayer '73, B.S. elementary education, died Feb. 11, 2010.</p> <p>Joel Jeffcote '74, B.B.A. accounting, died Dec. 20, 2009.</p> <p>Phillip Loupe '74, A.A.S. industrial electricity, died Feb. 9, 2010.</p> <p>William Paradossi '74, B.S. communication, died Sept. 16, 2009.</p> <p>Rick Henderson '75, B.S. communication, died Dec. 15, 2009.</p> <p>Betsy (Castille) Lynch '75, B.S. elementary education, died Feb. 7, 2010.</p> <p>Glenda (Walker) Ridgeway '75, certif. vocational nursing, died Sept. 4, 2009.</p> <p>Walter Roberts '75, A.A.S. drafting technology, died Sept. 27, 2009.</p> <p>George Wentz -75, fine arts, died March 6, 2010.</p> <p>Neil Allen, '76, B.F.A. studio art, '95, M.A. visual arts, died May 28, 2010.</p> <p>John Key '76, A.A.S. business data processing, '76, B.S. computer science, died March 15, 2010.</p> <p>Loretta (Ainsworth) Westmoreland '76, B.S. elementary education, '87, M.Ed. school administration, died March 13, 2010. Memorial contributions may be made to Lamar University College of Education and Human Development, P. O. Box 10011, Beaumont, Texas 77710.</p> <p>Lillian (Hart) Wray '76, B.S. elementary education, died Feb. 1, 2010.</p> <p>James Dattalo '77, A.A.S. industrial electricity, died Oct. 7, 2009.</p> <p>Virginia (Carpenter) Gillespie, '77, M.Ed. special education, died Feb. 24, 2010.</p> <p>Deborah Grable '77, B.B.A. marketing, '84, M.B.A. business administration, died May 31, 2010.</p> <p>James Shankle '77, A.A.S. drafting technology, died March 29, 2010.</p> <p>Mary Thompson '77, B.S. elementary education, died Nov. 25, 2009.</p> <p>Charles Trum '78, B.S. sociology, died Feb. 3, 2010.</p> <p>Joseph Victorian '78, B.S. industrial technology, died Nov. 3, 2009.</p> <p>Jesse White '78, A.A.S. industrial electricity, died Feb. 1, 2010.</p> <p>Bobbie (Grimes) Boyett '79, certif. office administration, '81, B.B.A., office administration, died Sept. 12, 2009.</p> <p>Bonnie (Turn) Fahey '79, B.S. nursing, died March 18, 2010.</p> <p>Bernardo Martinez '79, A.A.S. industrial electricity, died Dec. 29, 2009.</p> <p>Victoria Nele '79, certif. vocational nursing, died April 9, 2010.</p> <p>Bebe (Ford) Robinson -79, office administration, died Sept. 15, 2009.</p> <p>Scott Williams '79, M.Ed. secondary education, died April 18, 2010.</p> <p>Mary (Pete) Dyson '80, A.A.S. business data processing, died Jan. 20, 2010.</p> <p>Ouida (McCullough) Edwards -80, died April</p>	<p>21, 2010.</p> <p>John Ford '80, A.A.S. diesel mechanics, died Sept. 23, 2009.</p> <p>Jerry Gaskill '80, B.A. history, died April 29, 2010.</p> <p>Mark Henderson '80, A.S. industrial electricity, '84, B.B.A. accounting, died Jan. 19, 2010.</p> <p>Donald Matussek '80, A.A.S. diesel mechanics, '83, A.A.S. refrigeration, died Oct. 10, 2009.</p> <p>Patricia (Stevens) Allison '81, certif. vocational nursing, died Jan. 27, 2010.</p> <p>John Bergeron '81, A.A.S. drafting technology, '88, B.S. industrial technology, died May 27, 2010.</p> <p>William Bowman -81, marketing, died March 10, 2010.</p> <p>Diana Fernandez, '82, B.B.A. finance, '85, B.B.A. accounting, died May 26, 2010.</p> <p>Jeffrey Jackson '82, M.B.A., business administration, died Nov. 25, 2009.</p> <p>Will Crowell '83, B.B.A. marketing, died March 3, 2010.</p> <p>Paul Bronson, '84, M.Ed. school administration, died March 13, 2010.</p> <p>Angela (Andreozzi) Phillips '84, M.Ed. special education, died Sept. 15, 2009.</p> <p>Leroy Poulson '84, B.G.S. liberal arts, died May 14, 2010.</p> <p>Kimberly (Broussard) Marcel '85, B.B.A. general business, died Jan. 21, 2010.</p> <p>Fred Smith '85, A.A.S. industrial electronics, died Oct. 7, 2009.</p> <p>Charles Cravens '86, M.Ed. special education, died Jan. 15, 2010.</p> <p>Aaron Dupuis '86, B.S. sociology, died Jan. 25, 2010.</p> <p>Alan Hebert '86, A.A.S. drafting technology, died Sept. 1, 2009.</p> <p>Charles Jackson '86, A.A.S. instrumentation technology, died Nov. 10, 2009.</p> <p>Charles Morvant '86, A.A.S. diesel mechanics, died March 9, 2010.</p> <p>Michael Castillo '87, A.A.S. business data processing, died October 9, 2009.</p> <p>John Kloss '87, B.B.A. finance, died Oct. 2009.</p> <p>Rose (Hrychorchuk) Weatherholt, '87, B.S. secondary education, died Nov. 20, 2009.</p> <p>Kathryn (Draper) Wright '87, M.B.A. business administration, died Jan. 11, 2010.</p> <p>Deann (St. Clair) Huhn, '89, B.S. elementary education, died Nov. 23, 2009.</p> <p>Linda (Jones) Boone '90, A.A.S. nursing, '92, B.A.A.S., applied arts and sciences, died March 27, 2010.</p> <p>Thomas Cudd '90, A.A.S. nursing, died April 4, 2010.</p> <p>Chris Sekaly '90, B.B.A. finance, died Jan. 11, 2010.</p> <p>Kay (Wall) Self '90, B.A. English, died May 4, 2010.</p> <p>Kenesaw Bernsen '91, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, '92, B.S. psychology, '95, M.S. psychology, died Nov. 12, 2009.</p> <p>Jane Miller '91, B.B.A. accounting, died May 25, 2010.</p>	<p>Monica (Gilchrist) Petty '92, A.A.S. nursing, died Jan. 26, 2010.</p> <p>Johnny Smith '92, B.S. political science, died Dec. 24, 2009.</p> <p>Rachel (Leach) Stuck '92, A.A.S. computer drafting technology, died Jan. 9, 2010.</p> <p>Sarah (Shofner) McGown -93, elementary education, died March 14, 2010.</p> <p>Janice (Swain) Boswell '94, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, died Jan. 24, 2010.</p> <p>Steven Sepulvado '94, A.A.S. refrigeration and air conditioning technology, died Dec. 20, 2009.</p> <p>Reginald Singleton '94, A.A.S. food service management, '94, B.S. hospitality administration, died June 1, 2010.</p> <p>Glenn Stilley '94, B.S. kinesiology, died March 28, 2010.</p> <p>Michael Hartnett '95, A.A.S., occupational safety and health, died April 2, 2010.</p> <p>Robert Dean '96, B.S. political science, died Oct. 8, 2009.</p> <p>Brent Guillot '97, B.S. medical technology, died Oct. 24, 2009.</p> <p>Kaye (Devillier) Kennamer, '97, B.G.S. general studies, died March 28, 2010.</p> <p>David Dudley -02, nursing, died Oct. 16, 2009.</p> <p>Joe Jones '04, B.S. biology, died Sept. 29, 2009.</p> <p>Adita Singh '04, M.E. chemical engineering, '07 Ph.D. chemical engineering, died May 31, 2010.</p> <p>Teresa Fowler '09, M.Ed. administration, died Sept. 9, 2009.</p>
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BRANDON THIBODEAUX

Uncommon brew A cuppa . . . mokk-a

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

by Cynthia Hicks



Between Trader Joe's and Sprouts, Whole Foods and Balducci's, Glavimans works her contacts person to person when she's in the States. When she's at home in Holland, she makes cold calls to the list of stores where she would 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 a chapter in her 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 tiring years of behind-the-desk 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 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 1,300 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.

"Everything was new then and just getting off the ground," Glavimans said. "We signed 28 contracts in the first six months. As it turned out I 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 Raduzhny. "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

in my life. When we landed, the runway was covered in ice, and it was the smoothest landing I've ever had. When my eyes started running because of the cold, the tears just froze to my face." When she realized she needed to either move there or quit, she sold the company to her Joint Venture Partners and the camp's Portuguese catering company. "It was an interesting time," she said. "I knew how to say beer and thank you. That was the extent of my Russian."

It was during that adventure that she met her husband, and in 1995 she moved to Holland. In 2006, she was marketing coffee equipment in the U.S. for a company in Denmark and sent its coffee to Whole Foods, which expressed interest. With the difficulties inherent in trying to get a fresh product imported into the U.S. after 9/11 and the Homeland Securities Act, the president decided not to pursue the opening, but the idea nagged at Glavimans. An e-mail discussion with a Small Business Administration counselor culminated with, "Why don't you do it yourself?"

"I had this image of the most-loved coffee in Denmark. It was real hard to think I could create something without having them behind me," Glavimans said.

But when she was in Sweden for a weekend with friends, she particularly enjoyed the coffee at a café 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 promotes 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 Glavimans liked and a meeting with the roaster outside of Naples. After much talk, pizza and champagne, she bought her second blend/recipe.

With it in hand, Glavimans jumped on a plane to Houston, handed it to her roaster and said, "Go to work." She returned to Holland and, a few days later, drove to the

small village of Puligny-Montrachet in the Burgundy region of France after hearing about a small roaster there. "The guy was about 85 years old with a tiny little shop that looked like something out of a Harry Potter movie and one very small roaster. He said, 'No commercial. No commercial.' Of course, he only roasted for the village." Once she explained her interest and asked if he would consider selling the recipe for one of his coffees, Glavimans said, "He basically started talking about the blend and about how he roasted it. He handed me three bags of coffee, wished me luck and sent me on my way."

What became Mokk-a's Café Svenska, Café Italia and Café France went into the bags for the first time in November 2008, and the first sample went to Central Market. Her coffee was on the shelves in May 2009. "I came back in September," Glavimans said, "and they asked when I was going to expand the line again." She wanted to add a Dutch coffee, but "I tried a lot of coffees, and they weren't what I was looking for," she said. "I wanted a real Dutch coffee that was 100 percent high-grown arabicas." A friend's brother told her about a roaster with whom he played tennis. His family has been roasting for almost 200 years in one of the oldest villages in eastern Holland. The roaster agreed to work with her, so she added Café Holland to her line in March.

Café Italia is a blend of seven beans, while the other coffees are five-bean blends sourced from India, Africa, the Caribbean and South America. "It's just the recipes for these special 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.

"What I'm finding in my tastings is that people's palates have evolved as people have gotten more into coffee. They've become connoisseurs of coffee and when they try my coffee, they like them."

Business continues to grow. Central Market anticipates further expansion of her line. She enlisted the help of professional tasters to find an Austrian coffee. "I had four different coffees, and we didn't like any of them." But she has found a Swiss blend and

took samples when she attended the Fancy Food Show in New York in June.

Central Market acknowledged Mokk-a as The Most Innovative New Product on the Market. "I just flipped. Central Market has been so supportive and so wonderful to work with," she said. Mokk-a is on the Whole Foods shelves in the southwest region, and Glavimans expects to be in Market Street stores in Dallas by September. She's found success with Kings Supermarkets in New Jersey and Balducci's in Maryland, another 30 stores. Trader Joe's likes her coffee but prefers a private label. Glavimans is considering whether or not to pursue



those 300 stores because, for now, she wants to build her brand rather than producing for another label. She has targeted Sprouts in Arizona and Whole Foods stores in England, as well as the 600 stores Marks and Spencer has in England and other parts of the world. She's also working on adding a Web shop to her site mokk-a.com.

Slowly, the business is starting to build. Having never worked in retail, she's learning as she goes. "So far, it's one of the top-selling coffees in Central Market. I've developed a big following there, so if I can do the same with Whole Foods and the rest of them, then we'll be fine."

Glavimans has been selling since 1976. "I'm used to the difficulties of getting to the person you need to talk to, and I have a lot of patience with it. 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."

Glavimans has made a few friends over cups of her coffees. She's looking for the next one to share a flavor with as she searches for the next perfect cup.

Tackling the music world

Former LU QB John Evans now a Texas music powerhouse

by Beth Gallaspy

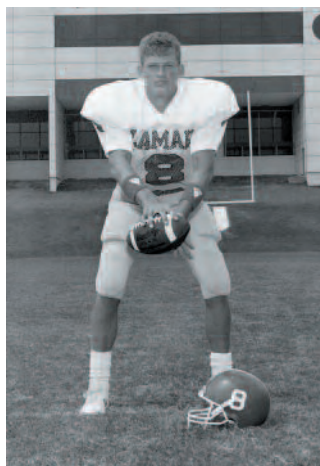
John Evans '90 sums up his approach to life in his cell phone voice mail message explaining why he can't pick up at the moment—He's busy taking over the world.

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 in October and spent about five months on the Americana charts. It's a long way from his first show—the tiny stage of a friend's

coffee shop in Clear Lake City in 1993, soon after his football career ended.

Evans started playing guitar in third grade and toyed with writing songs during his college days, but didn't take it seriously. He was too busy playing football. A quarterback, Evans signed with Lamar out of J. Frank Dobie High School in Pasadena in 1986. He played a few games his freshman year and was considered one of the top quarterbacks in his division nationally by his senior year in 1989, which became the last year of Lamar football for more than 20 years.

"There had been rumors before I got there that the program was in jeopardy. I just kind of ignored it and hoped it would go away," Evans said. "The coaches did a good job of trying to keep it off our brains so we could focus on football." After that final season and the decision to end the program, Evans wanted to keep focusing on football but a hoped-for NFL contract never materialized. 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



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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 joining 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 mics in Houston." In the meantime, Evans kept working wherever 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 *Circling 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 they 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, *Sideshow*, while he pondered his next move. His two most recent records, *Lucky 13* and the current *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." Playing with the Lamar team also helped Evans develop mental toughness and adaptability. "In writing songs and the music business, the whole gamut is taking risks and sticking your neck out and trying to be different and vulnerable. If you're scared, you're never going to make it in this business."

As he continues making his way in 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."

