

Join in a
Standing Ovation
as we honor
Jimmy and Susan
Simmons
March 2, 2013

Details page 45



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"I give a lot of credit to my mentors here at Lamar for their support and input. They guide us and make us into who we are."

—Humberto Hernandez, LU senior Biology major

"The classes are small enough that you can have personal relationships with your professors. Getting to know the professors personally helped me to figure out who I am as a person and what I want to do with my life."

—Christine Zabala, LU senior English & History major

"As a student-athlete, I've had to become more disciplined in my studies, and throughout my courses at Lamar, my professors have really pushed me academically. My experience at Lamar has prepared me to succeed in graduate school and other future academic pursuits."

—Joshua Raglon, recent LU grad, Psychology major

Texas Roots. **Infinite Possibilities.**

Be part of the momentum that is propelling Lamar University forward!

We are experiencing growth like never before. With record-breaking enrollment and new and innovative programs, the possibilities are infinite!

Lamar's excellence is attracting the highest caliber students, like the ones featured here. They are drawn to the innovation that is a hallmark of Lamar.

The generosity of alumni and friends like you helps Lamar keep this momentum going. **Make a difference by giving to the annual fund.**

Your support of the annual fund helps make our innovative programs and quality education available to Lamar University students.

Together, we can give our students a future filled with infinite possibilities.

Please send your gift today, or to make an immediate impact, make your gift online at www.lamar.edu/give.





From the President

As we round the corner to 2013 and Lamar University's 90th year, we can look back on 2012 as another great time in our history. We have seen growth on many levels, from record enrollments to a major milestone in the comprehensive campaign, to name but two.

Lamar posted record enrollment again this fall, despite raising our entrance requirements. Lamar's 20th class day headcount was 14,675, up 2 percent over fall 2011. And, by the time this semester ends, even more students will have started and completed online courses bringing the total number of students enrolled at LU during the fall to around 15,000.

Earlier this fall, Lamar's Investing in the Future comprehensive campaign topped more than \$100 million raised thanks to the incredible support of so many alumni and friends, and it continues to grow. We are so thankful to everyone who is making the future of Lamar University better for all.

A few weeks ago I announced that I would be stepping down from the presidency effective in 2013. It had been an extremely difficult decision for Susan and me. We have been a part of Lamar University for more than 42 years – and have grown to love being so much a part of life here. It has been a very, very special time for us both.

Because the legislative session is such an important time for the university, our chancellor, Brian McCall, has asked that I continue to serve until Lamar's next leader can be on campus. That will take place sometime before the fall semester. I will gladly do so, for there are many exciting things on the horizon. Lamar University is stronger than ever, and even though challenges remain, there is incredible momentum and enthusiasm across the campus.

After taking a leave of absence, I look forward to returning to the faculty of the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music to pursue my first loves—teaching and music.

In the meantime, the Chancellor has assembled an exceptional team and the search process is underway for Lamar's 11th president. I am confident they will find the right person for the job and that Lamar University's greatest days lay ahead.

With Cardinal Pride,

James M. Simmons
President
Lamar University



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Circulation includes 68,000 copies distributed to alumni, faculty, staff and friends of Lamar University. If you have received more than one copy of this publication, please let us know.

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Cardinal Cadence (USPS 017-254) is published biannually
by Lamar University, Division of University Advancement,
855 Jim Gilligan Way, Beaumont, Texas 77705.

Cadence

VOL. 40 NO. 2 | NOVEMBER 2012

Magazine design: Mike Rhodes | On the cover: Susan and Jimmy Simmons

Cover photography: Keith Carter '70, internationally renowned photographer and Homer D. Walles Chair, College of Fine Arts and Communication

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DeWayne Layfield, TSUS Foundation honored with \$2 million LU scholarship

Students in the College of Engineering will benefit from scholarships thanks to the combined generosity of The Beaumont Foundation of America and The Texas State University System Foundation.

The two joined in creating the L. DeWayne Layfield–Texas State University System Foundation Scholarship by contributing \$1 million each. The \$2 million endowment will provide scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students majoring in engineering. Layfield '87 is a Beaumont attorney and Lamar graduate.

"We are grateful to the Beaumont Foundation and the TSUS Foundation for their support in establishing the DeWayne Layfield–TSUS Foundation Scholarship," said

President James Simmons when the scholarship was announced. "It's wonderful that these two foundations have joined in supporting Lamar University."

"This is, without question, the largest gift the TSUS Foundation has ever given by far and an extraordinary gift for the university," said regent and TSUS Foundation trustee Kevin Lilly.

"Mr. Layfield has distinguished himself in the practice of law, and we are proud to count him among the outstanding alumni of Lamar University," Simmons said. "It is fitting that his name will forever be associated with opportunity for countless students as they too realize their own personal dreams through higher education."

"The dream or hope of exaltation comes from the

occasional graduate who becomes a state or national leader. Dwayne Layfield is the dream of exaltation made real at Lamar University as a state and nationally recognized legal professional in the area of complex litigation," said Beaumont Foundation President Frank Newton.

"Scholarships like the one we announced today are vital," said Jack Hopper, dean of the College of Engineering. "Thanks to the Layfield–TSUS Foundation Scholarship, countless young men and women will excel in engineering at Lamar University, graduate and become the leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs of tomorrow."

Larry DeWayne Layfield graduated summa cum laude from Lamar with a degree in chemical engineering. The top male graduate in his class, he enrolled in the University of Texas School of Law, where he was elected to Chancellors, the most prestigious honor society, as well as the Order of the Coif, and served as editor in chief of The Texas Law Review. Layfield financed his law school education through a combination of summer work and a stipend paid for his service to The Texas Law Review.

After earning his law degree, he immediately began his clerkship with the Honorable Thomas Gibbs Gee, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. He later began work on complex environmental and multi-plaintiff chemical exposure litigation for Vinson & Elkins in its Houston office. In 1994, he became senior litigation counsel to Bridgestone/Firestone Inc., a position he held until he began a private practice in 1997.

"Throughout my 40-plus years at Lamar, we have had a large number of exceptionally talented engineering students," Hopper said, "however, without a doubt, DeWayne Layfield is one of the most scholarly and talented individuals to ever graduate from Lamar. It is very appropriate to have a scholarship endowed in his honor."



"The students
at Lamar receive skills
from the teachers, staff
and administration that
stand them in good
stead to compete
with anyone."

—DEWAYNE LAYFIELD

An expert in the areas of civil litigation and class action/mass torts, Layfield was instrumental in the historic class action settlement against Toshiba Corp. and Hewlett-Packard Corp. In creating the perpetual scholarship in his name, Beaumont Foundation directors Wayne Reaud and Buddy Low sought to recognize Layfield's outstanding contribution to the successful resolution of the landmark case.

In 2004, Layfield was named to the "Texas Super Lawyers" list representing the top five percent of attorneys in the state. He has recovered or assisted in the recovery of more than \$1 billion in cash and more than \$2 billion in cash and non-cash benefits for his clients.

Layfield's connections to Lamar go beyond his own to include the fact that his wife, Carol, also graduated with honors from Lamar, and that Carol's son, Jason Cox, is pursuing a degree in electrical engineering. Their daughter, Savannah, began attending the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities this fall.

"I'm very honored to have this scholarship have my name, and I am extremely grateful to the Beaumont Foundation of America and the TSUS Foundation for making funds available to

create this scholarship," Layfield said. "This scholarship will touch the lives of hundreds, perhaps thousands of students over the course of its future.

"Lamar was the only university I considered going to because I knew I would have to work while going to school," Layfield said. "I was extremely happy with the education I received here.

"Twenty-five years ago, by coincidence, I had the opportunity to stand in this room because I got the Plummer award," Layfield said. "I said then, in general, that I was so happy for the opportunity I had been given by the teachers and administrators at Lamar. It's a wonderful campus, a wonderful experience. The students at Lamar receive skills from the teachers, staff and administration that stand them in good stead to compete with anyone.

"I hope that the students of Lamar and the community will realize that Lamar does an excellent job," Layfield said. "There is literally nothing you can't do with an education from Lamar University."

The Texas State University Foundation was organized in 1977 as a Texas non-profit corporation for charitable and educational purposes. It has focused largely on supporting special services and programs of the component institutions of the TSUS system and for the faculty, staff and students of

those institutions. As the oldest multi-campus system in Texas, TSUS plays a critical role in the educational and economic development of the state.

The Beaumont Foundation was organized in 2000 as a Texas non-profit corporation for charitable purposes. The Beaumont Foundation has

focused its charitable and social activities on gifts and grants that foster the development of knowledge, advance human welfare, nurture individual creativity, strengthen institutions and contribute to the well-being of the less fortunate in society.

DreamMakers

It is time for a special note of thanks and appreciation to the alumni and friends of Lamar University who have recently established endowments. These gifts encourage students to pursue a college education and help faculty create innovative learning environments. An endowment creates a legacy that becomes a permanent piece of Lamar’s history. To learn more about those who have given to Lamar or to find out how you can begin your own giving plan, we invite you to visit our website at lamar.edu/development. In this issue of Cardinal Cadence, we are honored to acknowledge our Dream Makers.

The **Del Papa Distributing Company College Endowment** was established to commemorate the company’s 100th year in business. The purpose of the gift is to give back to the communities that have helped in the success of the business. It will be awarded to undergraduates majoring in marketing.

Family, friends, students and colleagues established the **Howard Perkins Memorial Scholarship** to honor the career of Howard Perkins ’60. Perkins earned a bachelor’s degree in English from Lamar and served as the director of student publications for nearly four decades, inspiring thousands of student journalists at the *University Press*. This scholarship will be awarded to the editor of the *University Press* each year.

The **Dr. Barbara Mathis Vocal Scholarship** was established with donations from students, colleagues and family in honor of Mathis, former professor of music at Lamar. During her 22-year tenure, she taught studio voice, language dictions, structure and function of the voice, and graduate vocal methods. The scholarship will be available to voice or vocal performance majors.

Dr. Grace (Davis) England ’55 and husband, Bill England, established the **Anna England Crow Memorial Scholarship in Nursing** in honor of his sister. Anna England Crow graduated from the Hotel Dieu School of Nursing in Beaumont and later attended Lamar. She served at several medical facilities in Beaumont during her nursing career. This is the second scholarship established at Lamar University through the England’s generosity.

The **Camille Mouton Scholarship** was established by the members of the Lamar University Investing in the Future Campaign cabinet to honor the current vice president for university advancement for her tireless and selfless commitment to the success of Lamar’s first comprehensive campaign. Mouton has worked at Lamar University for fifteen years as a dedicated development officer ensuring the financial future of LU. This scholarship will be open to all majors.

The **A.J. Leger Memorial Scholarship** was established by A.J. Leger’s many friends and family to honor his service and dedication to helping people in his community. Leger, who was a partner in Don’s Seafood and Steakhouse restaurant in Beaumont, was acknowledged with many honors, including induction into the Texas Restaurant Hall of Honor in 1997. A gift from the Sabine Area Restaurant Association in his memory completed funding for the scholarship,

which is open to all Hospitality Administration and Culinary Arts majors.

Cynthia (Hext) Fontenot ’72, ’79, established the **R.C. “Bobby” and Ramona Hext Scholarship** in memory of her parents. Fontenot earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Lamar. She credits her parents with making her Lamar experience possible and established the endowment to honor their hard work and many sacrifices. The scholarship is open to all majors.

Herman Ortega ’69 has established the **Hermann H. Ortega Scholarship in Engineering** to benefit engineering majors, with a preference for chemical engineering students. Ortega graduated from Lamar with a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering and an M.B.A. and is a retired vice president of Honeywell Corp. He serves on the College of Engineering Advisory Council.

The H.A. Butler Memorial Scholar-Athlete Award Inc. established the **Coach H.A. Butler Presidential Scholarship** in memory of Coach Butler. Known by many as a special coach, teacher, friend, father, husband and gentleman, Coach Butler’s influence on student athletes was tremendous, preparing them for life, family and professional careers.

Patricia and Scott Groben established the **Scott and Patricia Groben Scholarship in Chemistry** for junior and senior chemistry majors. Patricia (Sherburne) Groben ’69 earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Lamar. Her husband, Scott, graduated from Oregon State University in 1980 with a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering.

Phillip ’81 and Cheryl (Spencer) Fuller ’82 established the **Margie Hartsfield Fuller Scholarship in Education** in recognition of his mother’s dedication to the education of children and young adults. Margie Hartsfield Fuller retired from Port Neches-Groves High School in 1984 after 31 years of formal classroom teaching and countless hours of after-school activities. This is the third endowed scholarship the Fullers have established.

Friends and family of Minh-Dang Nguyen established the **Minh-Dang Nguyen Memorial Scholarship in Nursing** after her untimely death in 2010. A Lamar nursing major, she is remembered for her radiant smile and bubbling personality. She graduated from West Brook High School and had dreams of a career in nursing in Beaumont.



Mary Jane Garth

A passion for the arts . . . a legacy at Lamar

A passion for music and the visual arts will result in a permanent legacy for Southeast Texas arts patron Mary Jane Garth—a gift that will enrich the lives and cultivate the talents of students at Lamar University.

The Mary Jane Garth Regents’ Scholarship has been established in the Lamar University Foundation to benefit undergraduates majoring in music or art at Lamar University.

“I am thrilled to think that I can be part of changing the lives of Lamar students for many years to come,” Garth said. “I have often pondered how I could best support the arts and music at Lamar, and I feel that this scholarship is something that will provide support for deserving students who may become our future leaders.

“This scholarship will enable the university to select and support the most deserving students who otherwise might not be able to continue their education,” said Garth.

Garth was born in Houston, where she attended Rice University. While a student there, she met Tyrrell Garth and moved to Beaumont, where the couple raised their children, Terry, Harriet and David. In 1966, Mary Jane moved to Aspen, Colo., where she lived for more than 40 years on the Aspen Valley Ranch, which she owned and managed.

She returned to Beaumont seven years ago, and her entrepreneurial spirit has inspired her to continue to give many volunteer hours to the community, along with her generous charitable support of many deserving organizations. Garth has created a scholarship

endowment that continues this spirit of cultural enrichment.

“This scholarship will have an impact on the lives of Lamar art and music students for generations to come,” said Camille Mouton, vice president for university advancement. “It is a very meaningful gift to the university from someone like Mary Jane Garth, who has had such an impact on the arts in Southeast Texas. It is a wonderful legacy for her.”

“Mary Jane Garth is a true patron of the arts. We are so fortunate that she has returned to our community,” said Russ Schultz, dean of Lamar’s College of Fine Arts and Communication.

“One of her most wonderful traits is her desire to share with people the excitement of art by showing her extraordinary collection of paintings that

adorn her home. She remains actively involved as a trustee for the Symphony of Southeast Texas, as well as the Art Museum of Southeast Texas. In all these roles, she has elevated the level of culture and quality of life in our community.”

Mouton said one of the things she most admires about Garth is that she became very involved in the community in a short period of time after returning to Beaumont.

“A vibrant cultural environment provides a better quality of life to the community and provides the opportunity to attract new businesses and residents,” Garth said. “Art enriches the lives of people in all communities.”

During her time in Aspen, Garth was actively involved in many business and charitable activities. She became an integral part of the Aspen art community, where she met and actively dealt with young New York artists who were creating a new genre of modern pop art.

“I had a very dear friend who introduced me to some of the up-and-coming young artists and their work. This became the starting point of my love for art,” Garth said.

“My passion for contemporary art began as a collector and evolved into a business as I bought, sold and traded art work. I continue to sell some of my collection by more established artists and to invest in young artists,” Garth said.

Now, the Mary Jane Garth Regents’ Scholarship will turn her passion into a legacy. —LW

An excellent run

Simmons announces end of an era

by Brian Sattler

News that President Simmons plans to resign the presidency spread quickly. Just as rapidly returned heart-felt comments from alumni and friends who described LU's longtime leader as a positive influence, the best cheerleader, a humble man showing great depth of character, and an outstanding leader. The collective assessment of the tenor of his tenure: we needed so much of what he has been

able to provide. He leaves Lamar well positioned for the future and prosperous. His are big shoes to fill.

Indeed.

For 13 years—an exceptional period for a university president—Dr. James M. Simmons has led Lamar in an era of dynamic growth. His impressive tenure will reach 14 years, as he will continue to serve as Lamar's 10th president until a successor is chosen and can assume the top post in 2013. After spending some well-deserved time with family, Simmons plans to return to the faculty of the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music.

Accepting the presidency was not an easy decision, Simmons has said, for few knew better the challenges the university faced when he took office as president on Sept. 1, 1999. His Lamar career had already spanned nearly three decades, so few knew better the heart and soul of the university and the promise that could be realized by tapping into its greatest strength, its people.

At his investiture, Simmons chose a theme—Building Strength through Community—and through that strength drawn from the campus, community, alumni and friends of Lamar he has accomplished far more than anyone could have imagined.

He previously served as dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication and as executive director of university advancement. He began his Lamar career in 1970 as an instructor and director of the marching band. He quickly rose through the ranks, serving as director of bands and as chair of the music department.

A great uniter and friend to all

Simmons took the university from a time of seemingly insurmountable struggles to create a culture of excellence that permeates faculty, staff and students.

He brought the campus together. When agendas were at odds, he helped find common ground and created a shared vision that always featured an unwavering focus on doing what was best for the student.

It is clear to see how his musicianship and teaching experience in classrooms, on stage, in the band hall and on the marching field helped shape him. His leadership was resolute, but adaptive. His vision focused, but flexible. Decisive, but always inclusive.

Simmons has led Lamar through a period of incredible growth—from 7,810 students in the spring he was selected to become president to 14,675 students this fall, setting numerous records along the way. Even in the wake of two major storms—

Hurricanes Ike in 2008 and Rita in 2005—Simmons and his team kept classes and graduation on schedule, restoring the campus after substantial damage as well as adding state-of-the-art facilities.

Simmons implemented a master plan to enhance the campus through landscaping and buildings, most notably the five Cardinal Village residence halls, which today accommodate more than 2,500 students. The dining hall, which opened in spring of 2006, and the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center, dedicated in spring of 2007, further contributed to campus life. Renovations and expansions of several major academic buildings have been completed, are under way or are in planning. Lamar has also enhanced its athletic facilities, with the crown jewels including Provost Umphrey Stadium and the Dauphin Athletic Complex. Vincent-Beck Stadium and McDonald Gym have seen major upgrades, and the LU Soccer Complex opened in 2009.

Simmons knows the importance of private philanthropy. In spring 2008, the university began the public phase of its first

vital to the university's future, Simmons has continually sought growth in that area. Today, more than 30 percent of LU's credit hours are generated through online courses; nearly 4,200 of the university's students learn entirely online, and LU is a recognized leader in online education. The university has continued its online leadership with the first entirely online doctoral program in Texas.

By working closely with area chambers of commerce, local government, business and industry leaders, Simmons helped make Lamar a much stronger catalyst for economic growth in the region.

Simmons is also a leader in community service, having garnered dozens of awards and accolades. He has attracted acclaim as an orchestra leader and as a performer on clarinet, saxophone and piano. Because of his leadership role, those pursuits have taken a back seat, but he often says music is his first love, and he continues to grace the stage.

Simmons is known as an administrator with a strong sense of direction and a keen ability to attract and cultivate talented faculty. His innovative approaches to the pursuit of

“Jimmy Simmons leaves a university that is much stronger, more resilient and more capable than it was before he became its president.”

—TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM CHANCELLOR BRIAN MCCALL

comprehensive campaign, “Investing in the Future,” with \$46 million raised in an effort that has now surpassed \$100 million. Impact of the campaign is far reaching—to include endowments for four named academic departments, gifts to support revival of the Cardinals' football tradition, establishment of a major student fellowship program and tremendous growth in scholarship and faculty enhancement funds.

Under Simmons leadership the university has made significant strides in academics, with the addition of new master's and doctoral programs and the university's first Ph.D. Lamar's designation as a Doctoral Research University by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching is a powerful affirmation of Lamar's high level of research activities.

Recognizing that online programs are

academic excellence and his winning rapport with students, faculty, staff and the community are defining qualities.

Simmons was the right man for the job when Lamar needed a champion in 1999. He has guided Lamar through one of the brightest periods in its history and has positioned the university for even greater days as it enters its 90th year.



HONORS ACCORDED PRESIDENT JAMES M. SIMMONS

Phi Beta Mu Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame, 2012

Honored, with Susan, at 24th annual Chef's Delight, sponsored by Sabine Area Restaurant Association, Golden Triangle Chefs Association and Lamar Family and Consumer Sciences, 2012

Press Club of Southeast Texas Newsmaker of the Decade, 2011, and Newsmaker of the Year, 1999, 2009

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Signature Sinfonian, 2010

Honored by Christus Health Foundation as “Beaumont's own king of horns” at 30th-anniversary gala, 2010

Beaumont Jazz + Blues Festival, inaugural Dr. Raul Ornelas Lifetime Music Achievement Award, 2009

Chief Executive Leadership Award from District 4 of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), which includes Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Mexico, 2009

Honored, with Susan, by the Beaumont Chapter of the American Heart Association with the Jay C. Crager Award, bestowed on individuals whose endeavors exemplify making Beaumont a better place to live, 2007

Honored by the Masons' Grand Lodge of Texas with the Mirabeau B. Lamar Award, 2006

Honored by the Epilepsy Foundation at annual fund-raiser, 2003

Selected Mr. East Texas by the Tyler County Dogwood Festival, Woodville, 2002

Neches River Festival's King Neches XXIII, 2001, and as Citizen of the Year, 2000

Honored by American Red Cross at annual “Hurricane” fund-raiser, 2000

Honored by The Art Studio Inc., 2000

Executive of the Year, Sales Marketing and Executives Club of Southeast Texas, 2000

Establishment of the annual Jimmy Simmons Artists Showcase by Young Audiences, 1999

Inducted into Phi Beta Mu, National Honorary Music Educators Fraternity, 1998

Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow, 1997

Outstanding Achievement by an Artist, Southeast Texas Arts Council, 1996

Commitment Outside the Classroom, Lamar Student Organizations Office, 1980

Outstanding Young Man of the Year, Beaumont Jaycees, 1979

Blue Key Honor Society, elected by student acclamation to honorary society, 1975

Lamar University Regents' Merit Award for Distinguished Teaching, 1974



Susan Simmons and Lamar University:

by Louise Wood

‘It’s who I am’

Call Susan Simmons the first lady of Lamar University. Call her a fearless, tireless leader in campus transformation. Call her a force for change – tangible and intangible – that has shaped Lamar for more than 42 years.

Boldly, she championed a warehouse look for the Mirabeau’s eatery in the Setzer Student Center by taking out the ceiling. Louisiana-style architecture at Cardinal Village. Porches on the dining hall so it looked and felt like home. Just the right red in the Dauphin Athletic Complex. And the exact shade of green on the eye of the Cardinal in the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center.

Susan (Williams) Simmons ’68, has played a leading role in campus landscaping and building design. “That came from the real estate business,” she said. “You’ve got to have curb appeal, or you’re not going to entice anybody to come inside.”

When Jimmy Simmons announced he would step down as president in 2013, he

thanked his family – especially Susan. “They say that behind every man stands a woman,” he said. “Well, Susan doesn’t stand behind me. She stands right beside me. You will never know how much impact she has had on my presidency and what she has done for this university.”

Reflecting on her role, Susan says, “The thing I feel best about is the way the campus appears and the way the buildings look – that Lamar now has a real campus feeling.”

Assessing her husband’s accomplishments is more difficult. “There are so many. He’s totally rebuilt this university from the ground up. I mean, we didn’t have suitable dorms. We didn’t have a dining hall, except for an old, undersized cafeteria. We didn’t have a rec sports center at

all. We didn’t have an athletic complex. There’s no way to narrow it.”

In terms of intangibles, Susan points to Simmons’ leadership ability: “The way he is a consensus builder . . . his attitude about people . . . the way faculty and staff work together. Maybe that’s the thing he’s accomplished that’s been better than anything else. Everybody is on the same team.”

The Simmonses have shared the spotlight for more than four decades, orchestrating a bright future for the university while contributing time and considerable talents to Southeast Texas and achieving professional success in worlds of arts, education and business. Susan has been a leader in community organizations while also working as a realtor, teacher and business owner. The couple married on June 2, 1968, beginning a life together focused on family – and a deep affection for their hometown, the region and the university.

An astute businesswoman and creative catalyst, Susan is a devoted wife, daughter, mother and grandmother. When the Simmonses relinquish their roles as president and first lady, they look forward to spending more time with family: daughter Jennifer, her husband, Danny Lehan, and their children, Meg, Anna, Rachel and Thomas; twin sons Matt, his wife, Becki, and their daughter, Madeleine; and Mike and his wife, Nikki, and their daughter, Lily. He and Susan now await three more grandchildren – including twins to Matt and Becki – as both of their daughters-in-law are expecting in January.

Susan has been a realtor with American Real Estate more than 25 years, with honors including Realtor of the Year and Multi-Million-Dollar Producer. She owned and operated the Caterpillar, Beaumont’s first upscale children’s shop, and assisted in the family construction company, applying her artistic talents to coordinate floor plans and design.

She has served as president and debutante chair of the Symphony League of Beaumont, solicitations chair of the Junior League of Beaumont, social chair of the Neches River Festival and on boards of the Art Museum of Southeast Texas, Beaumont Family Services and other groups.

Susan and Jimmy met on a blind date, arranged by her friend Kelli Maness. Then the

Beaumont High School band director, Jimmy proposed five months later. Susan transferred from Texas Tech to Lamar, graduating in 1968 with a degree in elementary education and beginning professional life as a teacher at Fletcher Elementary School. Having pledged Zeta Tau Alpha at Tech, she became active in Lamar’s alumni group and remains involved as a member and mentor.

Between their first date and the “grand finale” of Simmons’ presidency, there have been many milestones – and moments to remember. One came Feb. 9, 1999, when regents of The Texas State University System unanimously selected Simmons to become the 10th president of Lamar.

“I cried with happiness,” Susan said. “I can’t describe the feeling – the pride, the excitement, the responsibility. It was a very emotional and overwhelming day.”

Since Simmons’ arrival on campus in 1970, Susan has been immersed in life at Lamar, serving as president of the Lamar Women’s Club (later the Lamar University Club), as founder of Cardinal Lights and in many other projects. And how did that change when she became first lady?

“It really didn’t. I just kept going. I’ve just had more people asking me to do things. And then I’d be in a meeting and somebody would want to paint something brown, and I’d say, ‘Nooo. We don’t need another brown building. Really and truly, as president’s wife, the very first thing I did was helping clean up the campus,’ she said, pointing to improvements like cutting bushes, trimming, edging and painting the buildings.

Cardinal Village, the dining hall, the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center, Dauphin Athletic Complex and Mirabeau’s all reflect her talents, in design, colors, flooring and other decorative details.

During construction of the Dauphin Athletic Complex – where she regularly donned a pink hard hat specially provided for her. “You should have seen me – on the lift under that high ceiling. They had painted it Cardinal red, but the lighting made it look like UT orange. There was no budget to repaint it, but I said, ‘You cannot leave this thing UT orange.’ I talked them into doing it, but it had to be the right color of red. I

got into that bucket truck and went up to the ceiling. People would walk in and say, ‘What are you doing?’ I’d say, ‘I’m matching red paints.’ That was fun.”

The renovation of Mirabeau’s was Susan’s trail-blazing effort. She was involved in every aspect of the project. “I happened to be walking through the Setzer Center one day, and Mirabeau’s was awful. I don’t know how else to

“I have a thing for porches. I love porches because they invite people in.”

—SUSAN SIMMONS

say it. I asked Jimmy if he could do something, and he said, ‘What do you want to do?’ I said, ‘We could paint the walls and take the ceiling out to give it that warehouse look. Nobody wanted to. They couldn’t believe I was going to do that because people hadn’t seen that a lot. They said, ‘Ew, do you really want those ducts and pipes to show?’ I said, ‘Yes, I do.’” The result was a high-tech, happening place, with exposed air-conditioning fixtures and pipes, a concrete counter and glazed walls adorned with modern posters.

Cardinal Village was a major undertaking – and set the stage for other enhancements. “I wanted it to have a Southeast Texas look,” she said. “Here we are, right on the Louisiana border, and Beaumont probably has more of the feel of Louisiana than of Texas. So I said, ‘If we’re going to build anything new, let’s make it look like Louisiana. So we developed the residence halls first and, once we had that concept,

we carried it over to the dining hall.

“It was first drawn without the porches because of the cost,” Susan recalls. “And I said, ‘It looks like a giant funeral home.’ So we went to battle over the porches, and I finally won. I have a thing for porches. I love porches because they invite people in.”

With sleek, clean lines, the use of metallic fixtures and surfaces and artful lighting, the dining hall is a campus attraction. One source of pride is the original art gracing its walls. “We had a budget for art, and I told the decorator, ‘Instead of spending money in Dallas or Austin, why don’t you come to the art auction at Le Grand Bal and buy student and faculty artwork.’ And she did. She picked the pieces she liked and bid on them, and the money all came back to Lamar and the artists.” More student and faculty art adorns Cardinal Village.

“For ‘The Sheila,’ we came up with a design based on what was there in the beginning – the steel work and all . . . I told the designer I wanted Cardinals everywhere, a lot of red, and one day I went in there and saw she had someone do the Cardinal logo in tile on the floor. It was wonderful.”

Susan’s current project is restoring the garden between the Music Building and Science Auditorium “so it will be a pretty, pretty place for our students to sit and read and study.”

Jimmy Simmons has said many times he considers the students his greatest legacy, and Susan, naturally, shares that sentiment. “That’s where your investment is,” she said. “If you’re going to invest in something, you’re trying to graduate students who come out of here and contribute to society. That’s the most valuable thing that comes from a university.”

Animated and expressive when recalling the excitement of each of her many projects and life at Lamar in general, she becomes silent, pensive and almost tearful when asked what her many years at Lamar, including those as first lady, have meant to her.

“It means a lot. It means getting emotional,” Susan said. “It’s been 42 years – my entire married life. It’s what our kids are, what our relationship with one another is.

“It’s part of your being. All the history. And all the people who have had an influence on your life,” she said. “I’ve loved every minute of it. It’s who I am.”



It's so rare that a president would begin his tenure knowing a university as intimately as Jimmy Simmons did. A 42-year career with the same institution is unusual in academia. That affinity has set his leadership apart and guided unprecedented growth for Lamar University.



1942
Born March 17



1968
Marries Susan Williams

"It's no surprise to me that this gifted man was able to take Lamar University to new heights of academic achievement. Lamar under his leadership is a far different institution than it was when he took over as LU President 14 years ago. Most important, he's engaged the community. He has that rare quality that allows him to connect on a personal level with both student and regent. In my travels throughout the region, I can't recall anyone having a bad word to say about Dr. Simmons or his administration of Lamar's affairs. That's really rather remarkable." *Jack Pieper, longtime radio personality*

"I am proud to be a LU grad under Dr. Simmons. He will be missed but not forgotten. We should make a statue of him." *Matt Pace '12*

1964
Graduates Memphis State University

"What a wonderful legacy by a GREAT president. He has made me even more proud to be a Lamar alumna." *Patricia (Clayton) Deckert '69*

1970-1978
▪ Director of marching band—The Grandest Band in the Land—and instructor/assistant professor of music Lamar University
▪ 1979 doctorate in education McNeese State University



1985-1992
▪ Chair, Department of Music and Theatre, LU
▪ Associate professor/ professor of music

"Dr. Simmons will forever be in my LU memories. Sweet man, fantastic leader." *Josmery (Ramirez) Mulvahl '09*



"He was nothing short of amazing 24/7 it seems." *Donna Gober '88*

Sept. 1, 1999
▪ James M. Simmons begins tenure as 10th president
▪ Enrollment: 7,810

"Congratulations on your excellent run as a positive influence on countless students and faculty from your first position as director of bands all the way through to present and probably beyond as an example of leadership and talent." *Howard Hayes '74*



2001
▪ Spindletop Gladys City Boomtown Centennial Celebration
▪ Cardinal Village Gentry Hall built
▪ TMEA landmark concert

James Simmons: A uniquely LU tenure

"Jimmy is the best musician with whom I have ever worked." *Jim Boone '64, '74*



1960
Graduates Beaumont High School

"How fortunate we all have been to be blessed with Jimmy and the great legacy he has helped foster and grow for Lamar. Jimmy is the first to give credit to others for what has been and is being accomplished. His can-do attitude, vision, leadership, mentoring and devotion have encouraged so many to do so much." *Alan G. Sampson '68*

1964-1969
▪ Orchestra and band director Beaumont school district
▪ 1969 master of music University of Houston

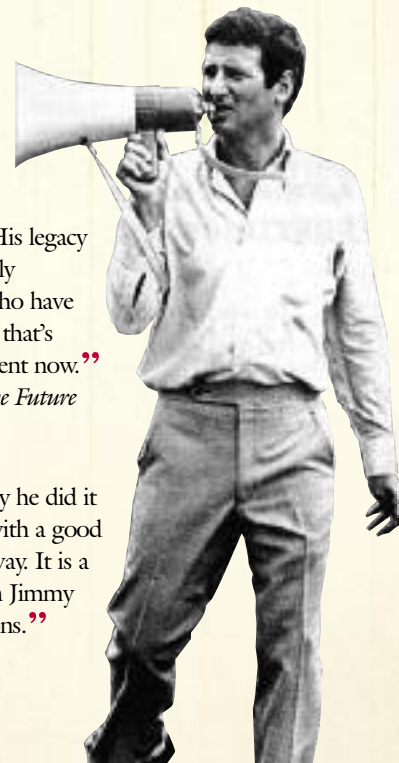
1969-1970
Assistant director of bands and instructor of woodwinds Memphis State Univ.

"Jimmy has been a phenomenal, transformational leader here at Lamar University. His legacy includes not just the campaign that has really enhanced the university, but the students who have higher standards, and the football program that's been brought back, and an edge of excitement now." *Greg Thompson, co-chair of the Investing in the Future campaign cabinet*

"Jimmy Simmons did what he did the way he did it for as long as he did for the right reasons with a good result affecting so many lives in a positive way. It is a highlight of my career to have worked with Jimmy Simmons and to learn from Jimmy Simmons." *Chancellor Brian McCall*

1978-1983
▪ Assistant professor of music
▪ Owner and manager, Coda Inc. and D.G. Inc.

1983-1985
Director of bands and assistant/associate professor of music, LU



1996
Interim executive director of Institutional Advancement

"I loved Lamar, but Jimmy is the reason I was there in the first place. He was and is one of the most important people in my life." *Mike Krepper '76*

"Jimmy Simmons had a tremendous effect on my career. He was a great jazz band teacher in college and a mentor and friend to me since." *Gary Weldon '74*

2002
▪ Cardinal Village Morris Hall built
▪ Archer Physics building renovated

"It would be very difficult for anybody in a few words to say what Jimmy's meant to Lamar. We call him a turnaround specialist. He's really done a super job at Lamar, and he's laid the groundwork for continued growth." *Regent Bill Scott '70*

2000
▪ Campus transformation begins
▪ Mirabeau's renovation, landscaping and perimeter enhancement

"He has done OUTSTANDING things while at the 'helm' of Lamar University! Lamar is better than it has ever been." *Paula (Donaldson) Chessher '70*

Lamarissimo!

1990
Founded Lamarissimo! Concert Series



2003

- Office of Alumni Affairs est.
- Doctorate in Audiology est.
- Chemistry building renovated
- Social and Behavioral Sciences renovated

“Hearing Jimmy play for me as a young kid was how I met him, and he and I have been friends, I guess, for almost 50 years. Every time I perform or sing, he is my accompanist. We’ve had so many wonderful times together.” *Tommy Vance*

“Lamar is well positioned for the future in a large part because of the leadership of Dr. Simmons.” *Matt Underwood '84*



2005

- Ph.D. Chemical Engineering est.
- Dining Hall built
- Hurricane Rita recovery
- Geology building renovated
- Online education—multiple full degree programs in education—online enrollment reaches 4,100

“Dr. Simmons is a wonderful president. He came at a very difficult moment. He contributed enormously—unbelievably.” *Valentin Andreev, associate professor of mathematics and former president of Faculty Senate*



2007

- David J. Beck Fellowship est.
- Phillip M. Drayer Department of Electrical Engineering named
- Cardinal Village Campbell Hall built

2009

- Provost Umphrey Stadium named
- Dan F. and Sandra A. Smith Press Box named
- Dan F. Smith Department of Chemical Engineering named
- W.S. “Bud” Leonard Field named
- Rolfe Christopher Drive upgraded
- Thompson Family Tennis Center named
- Soccer and Softball Complex built
- Vernon Glass Field of Champions named
- LU named one of “Great Colleges to Work For” by Chronicle of Higher Education



“How rare it is to find a university president who is also completely, totally hip?” *Sharon Montgomery '75*



“Jimmy has more talent in his little toe than the rest of us have in our entire body.” *Travis Harris '90*

2011

- \$100 million topped
- Goal raised to \$125 million
- Dauphin Athletic Complex built
- Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music est.
- LU becomes Carnegie Doctoral Research University, one of only 29 public schools in the nation with that designation
- Fecel Financial Center est.
- Charles & Eleanor Garrett Engineering Center est.
- Dyer Geosciences Innovation fund est.
- Music Building renovated

“I very much appreciate Jimmy Simmons as a friend and educator. He was vital to my formative years and continues to be an inspiration.” *James Marshall '83*

2013

- 90th anniversary
- New era begins

James Simmons: A uniquely LU tenure

2004

- Doctorate in Educational Leadership est.
- Cardinal Village Combs Hall built

“He taught us a lot more than just music. We who experienced Lamar through him agree that his leadership and encouragement helped not only to launch our careers, but our lives as successful teachers, musicians and human beings.” *Donnie Todd '79*



“I am so proud of Lamar and the growth and prosperity it's seen under Dr. Simmons. He's definitely a strong leader and the University's best cheerleader.” *Judy Hammond '72, '82*



2006

- B.A. American Sign Language est.
- Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center opens
- Jimmy Simmons & Friends concert
- First named department: JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing
- Southeast Texas Legends Scholarship Program est.
- Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Administration opens

“Looking back at my years as Jimmy's student is like looking back at my father; the older I get, the smarter he seems.” *Don Rollins '83*



2008

- Reese Construction Management program est.
- \$46 million raised
- Investing in the Future Campaign public phase begins
- \$100 million goal announced
- Jimmy Simmons & Friends Encore
- Hurricane Ike recovery

Investing In The Future
THE CAMPAIGN FOR LAMAR UNIVERSITY

“Dr. Simmons is an educational leader in the state of Texas and nationally. He leaves a tremendous legacy and a university that is poised for even greater things.” *Regent Rossanna Salazar*



2010

- Football, marching band, cheerleading returns to LU
- Basketball: Lady Cardinals advance to NCAA Tournament
- Morgan Luxury Suites built
- EducationFirst Federal Credit Union Scoreboard built
- Steinhagen Global Fellows program est.
- Cardinal Village Monroe Hall built
- LU SACS accreditation reaffirmed

2012

- L. Dewayne Layfield-TSUS Scholarship program est.
- Success initiatives launched
- First online doctorate: Ed.D.
- President James Simmons announces pending resignation
- Enrollment: 14,675





With the flow:

From living room to leader

Los Colinas

by Beth Gallaspy

Preparation, planning and a healthy dose of caution—courtesy of his wife—are at the heart of the career success Alan Plummer '64 has enjoyed. The engineering firm he founded in 1978, Alan Plummer Associates Inc. has grown into a leader in environmental engineering and water resource management. The company's projects have included water and wastewater treatment plants throughout Texas and innovative constructed wetlands and water reuse systems. But when Plummer first broached the subject of starting his own consulting engineering firm, his wife, Peggy (O'Pry) Plummer '65, did not embrace the idea.

At the time, Plummer had a good job at a national engineering firm, and the couple had two young daughters at home. After completing his civil engineering degree at Lamar, where he and Peggy met, Plummer began his career with the firm Forrest and Cotton before earning a master's degree in environmental engineering from the University of Texas. He gained additional experience working for a decade at Forrest and Cotton, the Trinity River Authority and the national firm Hydrosience before suggesting to Peggy that they start their own company. Never a risk

taker, she demurred, and he waited. When he brought up the idea again, she agreed they could pray about it. "We did, and some doors opened up that really gave us the confidence that that's what we should do," Plummer said. Alan Plummer Associates Inc. opened for business in the living/dining room of their Arlington home. Alan's engineering department occupied one side with Peggy's secretarial and administrative department on the other, separated by bookcases.

An English major at Lamar who had experience as a teacher and secretary, Peggy served as the firm's secretary, bookkeeper and editor for numerous reports. "She made some real contributions in the early years of the company," Alan Plummer said. "One of the specific principles she emphasized, not being a risk taker, was she wanted us to be on a cash basis. She initiated that operating principle, and the firm has continued to benefit from that." She initially agreed to help Alan get the company started for the first year or two. After eight years, she decided to leave the company and return her focus to their family. "I really got in trouble with her when she found out how much it was going to cost to replace her relative to what she'd been paid," he said.

When they started the firm, Alan envisioned growing into a small company with about six employees. After about six months, they hired their first part-time help. A year later, they moved out of their home into leased office space, where they expanded to a staff of six. The firm now employs more than 90 people. Many times over the years, Peggy has reminded him that he far exceeded his initial goal.

"We have a mixture of both engineers and scientists. Being in the environmental field, I feel like it's extremely important to have both the scientific skills as well as the technical skills to meet our clients' needs," Plummer said. Along with experts in chemical testing, the scientific staff at Alan Plummer Associates includes biologists with expertise in aquatic plants. One of the areas in which the firm has become a leader is designing and constructing natural systems or constructed wetlands for wastewater treatment and water reuse. "That's proven to be an extremely beneficial approach. The natural polishing that goes on in the wetlands is beneficial for cleaning the water. At the same time, it provides a habitat for wildlife so that the wetlands have served multiple purposes. These wetlands are frequently used by hunters and birdwatchers."

Plummer was an early advocate of using such innovative methods as part of developing a sustainable water supply in Texas. About 30 years ago, his firm developed and designed a water reuse project working with the Trinity River Authority and the Dallas County Utility and Reclamation District to provide water for golf courses, landscaping and water features at Los Colinas, a large development in Irving. Since then, he has worked with numerous other clients and water planners throughout Texas on developing plans for water reuse and conservation. Technology from 20 to 30 years ago produced reclaimed water suitable for non-potable uses such as irrigation and industrial needs. Now, professionals are studying how to expand water reuse technologies to cautiously supplement strained drinking water resources, something Plummer sees as the next step. "The treat-

ment technologies have greatly increased over the last 30 years. Also the level of recognition of the value of water has increased. People just took it for granted that it was going to be there, particularly in the East Texas region with heavy rainfall."

Plummer's leadership in his field has drawn the recognition of his peers. He was an original member of the North Texas Section of the Water Environment Association of Texas and served as president and vice-president of the state organization. The group honored him with its Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009 and in 2011 established the Alan H. Plummer Environmental Sustainability Award, naming him the first recipient. Plummer is also a longtime leader of the Texas Water Conservation Association, having served as president, a board member and on multiple committees. The association dedicated its 2004 convention to him in recognition of his contributions. He is a past president of the WaterReuse Association Texas and winner of its award of merit. Plummer shares his knowledge with his alma mater as a member of Lamar's College of Engineering Advisory Council and previously served on the civil engineering advisory boards for both Lamar and for the University of Texas at Arlington.

Now 71 years old, Plummer has stepped back from his managerial work. He currently

"We have a mixture of both engineers and scientists."

—ALAN PLUMMER '64

serves as chairman emeritus of the board of directors of the employee-owned company he founded. Another Lamar engineering alumnus, Alan Tucker '83, serves as president. "I'm focusing my attention on getting involved in some of the technical aspects of projects and also helping with business development and just being available to some of our clients," Plummer said. "I'm enjoying being away from some of the administrative aspects of the business." He's also enjoying having more time for his family.

The Plummers' daughters, Jamie and

Patti, and their families live nearby, allowing the couple to spend time with their grandson and three granddaughters. Alan has been an avid runner for about 30 years, logging three miles a day at 5 a.m. Monday through Thursday and six to eight miles on Saturdays with his running group, the Dawn Patrol. His daughter Jamie and 15-year-old granddaughter Macenzi often join the group. "It's pretty special to have three generations running together at 5 a.m. We're really blessed to have them so close." Plummer also has three half-marathons to his credit. The most recent one, to celebrate his 70th birthday last year, was a family affair with Jamie, three out-of-town relatives and Dawn Patrol members joining him in the run.

Alan and Peggy Plummer credit Lamar not only with providing them a good education, but also with helping them find each other. Additionally, he credits Lamar for providing a good foundational education to his two brothers, Edward Plummer '67 and Ralph Plummer '67, which has been critical to their successful careers in sales. Alan and Peggy met when she served as student secretary in the civil engineering department while he was a student. Soon before they started dating, a staff secretary in the department predicted that Peggy and Alan would marry. Back then, social time often meant studying together at her house after their classes and

his part-time job at Mobil Chemical. "Both of us were focused on working and schooling," he said. "I think we were encouraging each other to do what we needed to do to get through school." That encour-

agement and partnership have continued for nearly 50 years, leading to success in both business and their personal lives. They strove to operate the company they founded together based on the principles of their Christian faith. The logo for Alan Plummer Associates shows "a tree firmly planted by streams of water," a passage from Psalms 1, from which they took inspiration. That foundation—combined with planning, preparation and appropriate caution—seems to have served them well.



Bite-sized goals lead to global-sized firm

As co-founder and managing principal of MFR, one of the largest accounting and advisory firms in Houston, Roland Rodriguez '74 feels thankful to have attained the success he has and feels compelled to help others succeed.

Rodriguez enjoys working with college students and encourages them to see the bright future ahead and to take the right steps to get where they want to go. "I tell people success is a choice and decisions that you make have consequences," Rodriguez said. "They have to believe in themselves. This is America, and you can do it. It's a matter of setting your goals and finding mentors and support to help you accomplish your goals. I definitely come back to 'If I did it, you can do it.'"

Rodriguez did it by taking the advice he now gives. Goal setting was part of his approach from the time he began his accounting studies at Lamar University. He knew that he wanted to get his degree and become a certified public accountant by age 25, which he accomplished. He knew he wanted to work for a big four international accounting firm. He did that, spending a total of 10 years with KPMG in Houston. Rodriguez now thinks of those 10 years as something of an internship. He began his KPMG career as an auditor, which he now says was not his calling because it provided no outlet for his entrepreneurial instinct. He left KPMG for a private company after five years and set a new goal of

becoming a top-level executive. He realized at the time, however, that he had not acquired the experience he needed. He returned to KPMG for five more years to focus on his professional development. Then, he was ready for his next step.

Rodriguez and two colleagues—Gasper Mir and Carolyn Fox—left KPMG and started their own firm in January 1988 with a total of five people, the three partners plus two new hires. At the time, they believed that a Houston accounting firm led by Hispanics or women could fill a niche in the community. "When we started the firm we were going into a recession, which was actually beneficial to us. The economic climate was such that many companies were looking for good value. They were price sensitive," Rodriguez said. He and his partners had a combined 40 years of experience with a large international firm and had established strong relationships throughout the Houston area. Within five years, this new firm led by two Hispanic men and a woman had grown into one of the top 25 largest firms in the city, as ranked by the Houston Business Journal. Last year, the journal recognized MFR, which now employs about 120 people, as the city's 11th largest firm. Rodriguez also believes his firm to be the largest Hispanic-owned accounting firm in the country. Their business centers on three sectors – audits, tax, and business advisory and consulting.

After getting its start as Mir, Fox & Rodriguez, the firm changed its name to MFR a few years ago to reflect its growth beyond the founders. A multicultural approach that embraces diversity has been important to Rodriguez and his partners from the beginning. Today, the firm has business around the globe, and employees at the firm speak 14 different languages. "Operating in the global economy is not a luxury, it's a necessity," Rodriguez said. "In today's environment you have to have that mindset. Even small companies now are being impacted directly or indirectly by the global economy. Either they're trying to export or they're trying to build international strategic alliances." As businesses attempt to build those cross-cultural relationships, Rodriguez and his colleagues stand ready to help.

When he moved away from auditing, Rodriguez turned his focus to business consulting and advising. "I've always pictured myself

as an entrepreneur who happened to be a CPA. That's not a bad combination," Rodriguez said. "I'm intrigued by entrepreneurs. It's been interesting to learn their stories, to hear about how they made it, and to really work with them. Based on what they want to try to accomplish with their business, my job is to help them accomplish that faster and more profitably. We are quite cognizant that their success is our success. We try to build a team relationship with them. As they grow their businesses, there will be more opportunities for us as well." During the course of his career, Rodriguez has worked with business leaders at all stages of development, from start-up ventures to companies navigating economic downturns to established entrepreneurs seeking exit strategies to generate family wealth. Houston has provided the ideal location for that career path, said Rodriguez, who enjoys working with clients "from the bar to the boardroom."

Now, because of Houston's prominence in key industries and MFR's reputation in Houston, Rodriguez believes his firm is well positioned for additional growth and success internationally, especially in the healthcare and energy sectors. He and his colleagues have emphasized recruiting professionals with international and industry experience in recent years. In the energy industry, MFR has clients involved in joint ventures in China and India and sees Brazil promising strong opportunities. In healthcare, Rodriguez and the head of their healthcare practice, a former Houston hospital system CEO, are working with a client in planning to build a new hospital in Colombia. Other healthcare opportunities are on the horizon in Mexico, the Middle East and China because of the U.S. reputation in healthcare technology, education and delivery of quality services. Rodriguez said MFR has gathered the right people and the right resources to help clients take advantage of those opportunities worldwide. "When you combine the healthcare consulting group with the rest of the firm's capability of providing accounting, tax, information technology and consulting services along with our bilingual capabilities, you really bring together a powerful combination of services," Rodriguez said. Working on the strategic direction of the firm and its client relationships has become Rodriguez's primary professional

focus. The firm's tagline—"People Count"—has served as his guide, recognizing the value of both the clients his company serves and the people who work for MFR.

One advantage of MFR's international business interests has been the opportunities for travel Rodriguez and his wife, Linda Gonzalez, have enjoyed. For business and pleasure, Rodriguez has visited Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Turkey and South Africa. "I've enjoyed meeting people all over the world and enjoyed learning about different cultures. I've also enjoyed seeing how business is conducted in other parts of the world. As I go to different countries, I always try to study economic models and see how people and businesses make money. It's been a phenomenal experience to have had the luxury of traveling the way we've traveled, of seeing so many interesting places," he said. There is, however, probably no place that Rodriguez and Gonzalez enjoy traveling to more than their home in Costa Rica. Thanks to today's technology, he manages to work efficiently answering calls and e-mails from his home there just as easily as from his home or office in Houston. "It's really a paradise. It's a great place to spend time with friends and family."

In addition to spending time with his wife, who recently retired from her own C.P.A. practice, Rodriguez enjoys time with his daughter, who recently completed her M.B.A. at Rice University, where he has served on the Council of Overseers for the Jones Graduate School of Business. His interest in education has also led to serving on the board of the University of St. Thomas as well as being involved with various mentorship and scholarship programs. Building relationships with Lamar University students also is important to him. Rodriguez spoke to a student group at Lamar this spring and invited the students to visit his Houston office, which they did this fall.

"It's been a great journey. I've been very blessed, and Lamar was obviously a cornerstone to that process," Rodriguez said. "I'm not chasing the ring anymore. I've transitioned to how can I be a coach to make sure other people are successful."

With his own proven record, he is ready to achieve his new goal of helping others succeed.

by Beth Gallaspy

Delivering in the midst of disaster

by Andrew Strange



Faith Wallace, assistant professor in the Joanne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing, is a well-travelled woman. From her hometown of Cagayan de

Oro on the Philippine island of Mindanao, to Austria, to the Texas Gulf Coast, Wallace has worked and been educated in several corners of the globe. Now, with continual advancements in delivering online education, Wallace can teach her own students at Lamar University from abroad using the Blackboard system.

Wallace already had experience teaching online courses, and technology provided a way to continue her work when her 91-year-old mother needed her to come to the Philippines to help with family business. Eileen Curl, chair of the nursing department, suggested Wallace use the online Blackboard system to teach her class from abroad to enable her to both help her mother and not miss any time working with students.

While the idea was well conceived, its execution presented a number of challenges. About six weeks before Wallace's arrival in Cagayan de Oro, the area was hit by a severe tropical storm. Tropical cyclone Washi made landfall between Dec. 15 and 18, 2011. Named Typhoon Sendong by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, the storm killed more than 1,200 people and displaced more than 285,000.

Wallace was aware her hometown had been one of the hardest hit by the typhoon. Cagayan de Oro is situated on the Cagayan de Oro River. The already swollen floodplains swallowed many families' homes during the storm.

"The houses weren't there anymore, especially on the banks of the river," she said. "There was a small island where there were once houses and people, but it was completely gone."

Upon her arrival, her first priority was to find an Internet connection. But with devastation from the storm, this was easier said than done. Wallace began searching for Internet cafes where she might get her work done.

"Computers are not in most homes in the Philippines," she said. "The cafes are open 24 hours, so teenagers are there at all hours playing games and being noisy. Here you are trying to concentrate, and the minute school lets out the place fills up with students. I had to figure out which cafes to go to at what time of day to get the most work done. I found a café in the city, a little further away from my mom's house, so I had to stay until I finished everything for the day."

The next obstacle she faced was bandwidth limitations on the island. With fiber-optic lines out, transferring data became very slow, and computers would simply log off if they became bogged down processing information. Simply opening Blackboard, the program used for Lamar's online courses, became an insurmountable challenge at many of the Internet locations on the island. After three weeks of long

"They want that individual attention, even online."

To help relieve some of the stress resulting from bandwidth issues, Wallace answered similar questions in the Blackboard announcement area rather than sending out more than 20 individual emails.

In addition to teaching her online class and helping her mother sort out family matters, Wallace made time to assist with the disaster efforts in her hometown. She helped set up clinics so that patients could be assessed and diagnosed.

When Wallace arrived in Cagayan de Oro, she discovered that an old classmate, Ramon Nery, a CEO of provincial hospitals, was in charge of organizing relief efforts. He told Wallace the people there needed more than money—they needed the help of someone who knew them. "So I stayed and went to work helping set up clinics," Wallace said.

ways students can interact with the instructor and other students in the class. "After they saw what I was doing, they began to ask questions," she said. "They were in awe of the extent of the organization."

While the online infrastructure at Liceo de Cagayan University has a long way to go before being able to deliver courses through a program like Blackboard, seeing how Lamar does it gave the faculty there an idea of the type of technology and funding needed to provide a similar product to their students.

Despite the challenges she faced, Wallace said teaching an online course from abroad is doable—even in a disaster zone.

"We are spoiled by the technology we have in the States," she said. "When you get somewhere and it takes more than 30 seconds to load a page, you think, 'Wait a minute, something must be wrong.' But it is doable. You have to have patience and

"It was a unique situation, but you do the best you can to give your students the best you're able." —FAITH WALLACE

nights at the cafes, Wallace finally attained connectivity at her mother's house.

Being in a different time zone, Wallace had to keep odd hours to be available for her students' questions and e-mails. The 13-hour gap between Wallace and her students meant that to address questions or concerns regarding an assignment due at 5 p.m. in the U.S., she had to be awake no later than 4 a.m. the following morning in the Philippines.

"If they have questions before the assignment is due, I have to be up even earlier to address those issues before they turn their assignments in," she said.

Despite being connected at her mother's house, the issues with bandwidth persisted. In a classroom setting, questions can be addressed individually in a venue where the entire class can hear both the question and response. But in an online class, this is not always the case.

"The students want to feel like they are being addressed personally," she said.

With the help of a financial donation sent by Wallace's church, First United Methodist in Nederland, the clinics were able to serve as many as 300 patients.

Having maintained a relationship with the dean of her graduate school program at Liceo de Cagayan University, Wallace often takes opportunities to give guest lectures or present research there. Much like universities in the U.S., universities in the Philippines are also attempting to reduce their expenses while simultaneously increasing programs for students. The faculty at Liceo de Cagayan University was very interested in Lamar's method of online education.

"Their mindset of an Internet course is to put everything on YouTube and use e-mail," she said. "They don't really understand the interconnectivity of American online education."

Wallace began to explain how to use Blackboard to deliver presentations, links to videos and PDFs, as well as the various

just do the work."

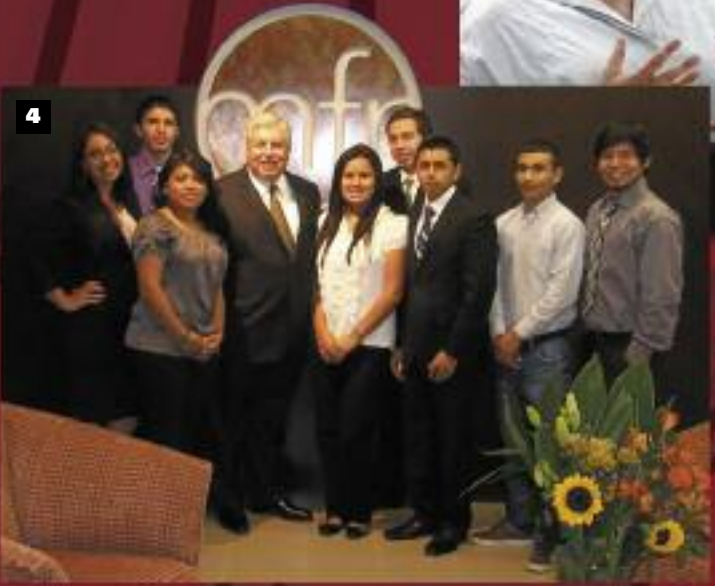
Wallace's students have little to no knowledge of the lengths she went to in delivering her courses.

"I never announced to the students I was overseas," she said. "I told them I would be without the Internet for a couple of days so I would answer their e-mails once I had connectivity. When managing an online course, your students want to feel like their professor is there for them, so I didn't tell them I had left the country."

Through all of the challenges she faced, Wallace maintained her dedication to her students and her responsibilities as an instructor.

"That is what online faculty does," she said. "It was a unique situation, but you do the best you can to give your students the best you're able."





1. Freeman King, second from left, a Lamar University deaf education faculty member from 1978-1988, was a special guest at Lamar commencement Aug. 18. He is pictured with Curt Radford, Smithfield, Utah; Sandra Edwards, Ridgeland, Miss.; and Damara Paris, Salem, Ore., all of whom earned doctorates in deaf studies/deaf education, and Tony Martin '79, '80, chair of Lamar's Department of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education. Paris joined the Lamar faculty this fall as an assistant professor.

2. Before commencement ceremonies Aug. 18, Provost Stephen Doblin joins keynote speaker state Senator Robert Nichols, R-Jacksonville, a 1968 industrial engineering graduate of Lamar, Regent Bill Scott '70 and Dean Jack Hopper.

3. Lisa Jackson, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, visited Lamar University Aug. 13 where she learned first hand about a number of university programs focusing on science, technology, engineering and math. Jackson made the university a stop in her travels after hearing about Lamar's Governor's School and other efforts in STEM education led by LU faculty members. During the visit, Jackson spoke and was briefed on the Governor's School, the Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp, STAIRSTEP program and several others by faculty and students who had participated in those programs.

4. Members of Phi Iota Alpha, the Latino Fraternal Fraternity, visited managing partner **Roland Rodriguez** '74 at the Houston offices of Mir, Fox, Rodriguez P.C., a certified public accounting and advisory firm. Rodriguez is profiled in this issue of Cadence.

5. 2012 LU Ambassadors from left, first row: Christina Walker, Danielle Ellis, Patty Stephens, Aleiya Samad, Morgan Simmons, Kristeen Reynolds, Christine Zabala, Yanni Thomas, Jessica Pospisil; second row: Charline Sam, Paul Rizk, Will Pickard, Joshua Barnes, Alex Edgerly, A. J. Webb, Fernando Mejia, Cole Durkin, Long Nguyen, Kayleigh Romero; back row: Stacy Cotton, Elisabeth Maxwell, Jesi Courville, Rachel Binagia, Dana Guy, Candice Andrews; not pictured: Vaughn Ogrydziak, Will Robbins, Riyad Samad, Natalie Sell, Daniel Ward, Elizabeth Wu

6. President Jimmy Simmons honors **John B. Stevens Sr.** -48 for his many years of volunteer service to KVLU public radio.



"I encourage my fellow graduates to look into creating their own legacy at Lamar." —JIMMY BOOKER '55, '56



Lifetime ties

by Beth Gallaspy

Bill Nylin '65 describes meeting his wife, Libbie (Campbell) Nylin '64, '65, as “the classic nerd love story.” He saw her sitting in the front row of his Calculus I class at Lamar and “dove in right behind her.” Both mathematics majors at a time when few women at Lamar chose that field, Bill and Libbie quickly became friends

and study partners in that class and others they took together. The best friends went to Lamar’s “prom” together their senior year and, as Libbie said, “the rest is history.” More than 50 years later, their connection to each other and to Lamar remains strong.

“We had a wonderful time, and student life was really fun then,” said Libbie, who was active in numerous clubs as a student and served as president of Alpha Delta Pi sorority. “I’m close to the women I was sorority sisters with still. Those are lifetime ties to Lamar.”

Their connection to Lamar, however, runs much deeper than their student days. Both Bill and Libbie returned to Lamar as longtime faculty members. Libbie, who earned a master’s in mathematics at Lamar thanks to the encouragement of her professors, taught math for 28 years at what became Lamar Institute of Technology. After receiving his Ph.D. in computer science at Purdue University and teaching at Southern Methodist University, Bill returned to Lamar to create the first computer science department on campus. Previously, Lamar had offered computer classes only through the mathematics and industrial engineering departments. In fact, Bill and Libbie took the first computer class ever taught at Lamar together.

“It was machine-code programming on a vacuum-tube computer,” Bill recalled. “It was the same era as the old Univac 1101 they would show on TV on the \$64,000 Question in the 1950s.” “It was enormous,” Libbie added.

Although Bill received his first exposure to computers as a Lamar student, his real interest in the burgeoning field developed after graduation while working for the aerospace company Pratt & Whitney in Florida. “The first thing they did was give me a stack of computer manuals,” he said. He found the work intriguing and decided to pursue a graduate degree at Purdue, which had started the nation’s first computer science department. There, he became close friends with fellow students who had earned bachelor’s degrees from Harvard, Cal Tech, Michigan, Minnesota,

Kansas State, Purdue and Notre Dame. “My background was as good as every single one of them. That really gave me a great feeling because I knew that my education from Lamar was solid.” He continued to promote his confidence in the quality of Lamar’s programs to prospective students he encountered as a Lamar faculty member and administrator. “I had just wonderful, smart students,” he said. “He really did have some outstanding students who he’s still close to today,” Libbie added.

When Bill accepted the faculty job at Lamar in 1975, Libbie began teaching in the College of Technical Arts, which later became LIT. Previously she had taught junior high and high school in Florida, Indiana and the Dallas area. “I loved teaching,” she said. “I really liked the students’ personalities and getting to know them. Some of them met success for the first time in math in my classes. That made you feel good.”

Each of the Nylins is quick to praise the other’s abilities and impact on students. The couple honored Libbie’s commitment to her students by creating an endowed scholarship at LIT in her name in 2002. Bill’s former students honored his contributions by surprising him in 2005 with an endowed scholarship in computer science at Lamar University in his name. “It’s a great thing,” Bill said. “I was able to go to college supplemented by scholarships that other people paid for. To be able to give a little bit back and help provide some scholarship funds for other students to make it easier for them to go through is just a wonderful, heartwarming thing to us. We get such nice letters from the students saying what it means to them to be able to have the scholarship funds.”

While Libbie’s career continued in teaching, Bill’s experience with computers led him from the classroom into other arenas. After teaching and then becoming the first director of computer science at Lamar, he rose through the university’s executive ranks. He served in a variety of roles including director of personnel and computer services, executive vice president of finance and operations, and deputy chancellor of the Lamar University System, before LU joined the Texas State University System. In 1995, he left Lamar to embark on a new career as president and chief operating officer at Conn’s Appliances. He had previously served on the company’s board of directors and as a consultant. He remained at Conn’s until January of this year, serving in a number of roles during the years including chairman. Nylin’s experience with computers and finance at Lamar proved advantageous when

he helped Conn’s implement new sales management and inventory systems for distribution. “The other side that translated well was Conn’s commissioned retail environment, which was competitive,” he said. “In high school and four years of college, I actually paid my way as a commissioned salesman, so I understand the environment. I think the background that I had going through those different areas, each step, even though they appear to be quite different, added to each other to help me.”

In recent years, both Bill and Libbie have taken the step from full-time employment to retirement. Libbie retired from LIT in December 2005. She continued part-time teaching briefly but has since left the classroom behind. Bill stepped down as chairman of Conn’s in 2010 and left the board of directors in January 2012. They now live in the Dallas area, about a 30-minute drive from their daughter, son-in-law, granddaughter and grandson. They have found other interests in retirement, but “that’s the biggest one,” Libbie said. “We get to spend a lot of time with our grandchildren,” Bill said. “This grandparenting business is a wonderful, wonderful job.”

Additionally, they are enjoying traveling, making up for lost time after busy careers in which they never took more than a week of vacation at a time. So far, they have taken the grandchildren on a Disney cruise and had fun on family trips to San Diego, Paris and London. Trips to other countries in Europe and together with old friends from Lamar to California have also added to the nine trips they have planned this year alone.

One thing that has not been part of their retirement agenda is keeping up with all the latest technology. A few years ago when Bill was named distinguished alumnus of Purdue’s computer science department, he gave a talk on five decades of computer history, from vacuum tubes to plasma televisions. He feels privileged to have worked through the first several generations of computers but more recent developments have passed him by.

“Nowadays I don’t know enough to do anything significant with computers. I now have my daughter and son-in-law as special consultants since I’ve been out of it for a while. It was wonderful and exciting, and I loved teaching it and loved doing it, and it has changed so much. It’s been wonderful to see.”



The *accidental* psychologist

by Louise Wood



SATTLER

James Esser traded tennis for industrial-organizational psychology and the heartland for the heart of Cardinal country. Along the way, he turned soccer fanatic and diehard basketball fan while swapping leisurely European backpacking forays for intensive, summer-long pilgrimages through Spain. An accidental academic pursuit led him to Lamar University, where he is one of the university's most-honored faculty members.

Among many accolades, Esser is Lamar's 2012 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer, having stepped to the University Theatre podium Nov. 13 to focus on "Negotiating with Terrorists"—the latest area of research in an impressive and diverse body of scholarly pursuits. He is a University Professor, the highest honor accorded an LU faculty member.

"Psychology was an accident," Esser said. "Back in the day, all I really cared about was tennis. I didn't care about academics."

Home for Esser—back in the day—was Charles City, Iowa, population 10,000. He

played basketball in the winter and tennis in the spring. When his father took a job in the Chicago area, Esser moved from a small town to a large suburban school where the tennis team had won the state championship the previous year. "All of a sudden, I wasn't good enough to make the team," he said. "I got better quickly and was No. 2 my junior year and then No. 1 during my senior year at Arlington High School in Arlington Heights."

Esser went to the University of Iowa to play tennis, eventually earning scholarships and a No. 1 ranking in singles and doubles for the Hawkeyes.

A headline from a clipping he saved brings back not-so-pleasant memories: "Benched with mononucleosis." The newspaper article begins: "Jim Esser, Iowa's top singles tennis player, has been stricken with mononucleosis and may be forced to sit out the remainder of the season." In fact, he

returned in three weeks.

Although Esser entered Iowa in the honors program, he didn't have a major and had no idea what he wanted to do. "When I took my first psychology class, I had already gotten bad enough grades not to be in the honors program."

He signed up for a special section of an introductory psychology class open only to honors program students or psychology majors. It interested him because it included labs. "Supposedly, you learned a lot more. And it sounded interesting. I walked into the first class, even though I wasn't really eligible, and the professor gave the scare talk that there were too many people in the class and he was going to throw everybody out, so you'd better be an honors student or a psych major. So I

changed my major to psychology. I liked it enough that I stayed."

But Esser still had not mapped a career path. When he was a senior, a professor recommended he attend graduate school and specialize in social psychology. Esser went on to earn a Ph.D. in the field from Indiana University, with minors in math psychology and business. "The business minor got me my job at Lamar," he said. "I attended a psychology convention where Lamar recruiters were looking for somebody who would fit into the master's program in industrial-organizational psychology"—a specialty involving the application of psychology methods to the workplace.

That was 36 years ago, and, for Esser, the rest is history. "I like what I do," he said. "I've been the face of industrial/organizational psychology, which makes up half of our graduate program." He loves his job, he said, first because "I like working with the students on a more individual basis at the graduate level. Second, I'm able to pursue what interests me in research, and that's always a fun thing."

An especially fulfilling part of Esser's job is arranging and supervising practicums. Each semester, teams of graduate students under his supervision provide free industrial/organizational psychology services to local organizations, including cities, counties, hospitals, refineries, the local power company and other for-profit and nonprofit organizations. "Recently, it's been mostly non-profit, and that seems to work very well for us because they're eager for assistance in view of budget challenges. We do things that, I think, are very valuable to them."

Another high point is following the achievement of his graduates—a mix of those who go into Ph.D. programs and teaching positions in universities and those to enter the workplace in a variety of settings. Many of them keep in touch, Esser said, "and we enjoy that because we get to see how they move up through the ranks."

Gone are the days of racquets and tennis

balls, although Esser remains "a definite sports fan," sharing a love of soccer with his family, including his wife of 16 years, Christine Bridges-Esser, associate professor of Spanish, the 2006 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer and his partner-in-adventure on summer pilgrimages through Spain. "My two kids played through high school and in college intramurals, but my whole family is kind of soccer crazy."

Esser coached for several years, and his stepson now coaches the Midland Soccers, a semi-pro team in Midland affiliated with FC Dallas. Christine was already a fan when the two met, having coached her son. Esser also follows NBA and college basketball, which brings him to a series of coincidences:

"Terrorism got to the forefront of everybody's mind in 2001, on 9/11."

—JAMES ESSER

"When I was in college, Ralph Miller was the basketball coach at the University of Iowa, and his team, when I was a senior, went undefeated in the Big 10 and made a good run in the NCAA tournament. When I moved to Indiana for graduate school, it was Bobby Knight's first year at Indiana. So I was able to watch Bobby Knight build that first NCAA championship team.

"And when I got here, Billy Tubbs had just arrived, so I got to watch Billy Tubbs build that really good bunch of teams. I had great luck being in the right place at the right time, and what goes around comes around because here comes Pat Knight."

Compared to the Essers' annual pilgrimages in Spain, Esser said, his European forays during college "were just put a backpack on and go. You get a Europass, get off the train, take your backpack to the hotel and leave it there."

Later, when he and Christine began traveling in Spain, he said. "We would just see the sights. Soon, the trips involved relatives and, eventually, more interesting locales—not just

the tourist attractions.

"We'd gotten off the highways and onto the little back roads where, near the end of El Camino, we saw people coming out of the woods. It was raining, and they were all miserable. They were sopping wet and grubby, and Chris's mother says, 'Who are they? Do they have hobos in Spain?' And Chris thought for a minute and said, 'Oh, I know who they are. They are the people walking the Camino.' Our reaction was, 'Those poor slob. I would never do that.'

"The next year, we were getting ready for our annual trip, and Chris says, 'I think I want to hike it. Our decision was to walk a long ways—longer than we should have, given the fact that we were beginners, and we didn't

know what we were doing. Our eyes got opened."

Determined to hike the entire Camino the next year, they did some planning, with the help of guidebooks—"and we've done it eight or 10 times since."

Though American-born, Christine often says she has been Spanish in her heart all her life. She speaks Spanish fluently. While he is not fluent, James said, "I'm a lot better than I used to be. My specialty is menus, wine lists and 'Where's the bathroom.'"

In summer 2012, Christine was teaching at the University of Salamanca, so the Essers involved her students in a sampling of the pilgrimage. Jim, armed with a laptop and a heavy load of reference articles, proceeded to work on his lecture.

His interest in Spain had led him to research on terrorism and the opportunity to gather material up close and personal through interviews with the Basque terrorist group and its political arm. "Terrorism got to the forefront of everybody's mind in 2001, on 9/11," he said. His research is worldwide, but Esser said, "I started with Spain because my familiarity with it. That seemed a natural place to begin."



STRANGE

Discovering the story behind the story

Christine Zabala, senior English and history major, likes to get the whole story. While some are serial status updaters on their favorite social media site, Zabala's interests lie with the thoughts and happenings of the past.

The Austin native moved at age 12 to Beaumont where she was homeschooled. As an incoming freshman at Lamar University, Zabala had plans to study biology. After a semester's worth of courses, Zabala decided to shift her focus back to her first love—hearing other people's stories.

"English is something that I really enjoyed in high school," she said. "So when I switched from biology to history, I added English as a major because they complement each other so well."

Many connoisseurs of composition celebrate the works of Jane Austen or Emily Dickinson, but Zabala has developed a taste for more macabre authors.

"I like gothic fiction," she said. "I am a big fan of Edgar Allan Poe. I like the overlap of horror and comedy. I did a research paper one time comparing Virginia Woolf to George A. Romero's 'Night of the

Living Dead.' It was about 'Mrs. Dalloway' and the zombies of the Victorian Era who were more into living in society than actual living. They didn't really think."

Zabala came to Lamar on a Mirabeau Scholarship, which provides financial support for her undergraduate career at the university. She said the scholarship gave her the opportunity to focus on her studies without having to worry about tuition and student loans.

"Receiving the Mirabeau scholarship was an amazing opportunity for me," she said. "I realize what a highly sought after scholarship the Mirabeau is, and I am truly thankful to have been chosen for such a prestigious honor."

Now a senior, Zabala has become a member of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, a Lamar Ambassador, and served as chairman of the community service committee and president of the Honors Student Association.

As a Lamar Ambassador, Zabala is one of the faces of Lamar's student body. Ambassadors come from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds and attend community and university events as representatives of the Lamar student body. Zabala said the Lamar Ambassadors program is a great opportunity for students to network

among leaders in the academic and local community.

"The Ambassadors were invited to dinner at Ellen Rienstra's house," Zabala said. "She is a prominent historian from this area, and a very inspiring connection for me as a history major."

She said much of her academic success is a result of the supportive faculty at Lamar and the opportunity to build relationships with academic professionals.

"The classes are small enough that you can have personal relationships with your professors," she said. "Getting to know the professors personally helped me figure out who I am as a person and what I want to do with my life. It's good because I feel comfortable enough that if I have questions I can just go to their office and ask what they think."

The faculty at Lamar create an environment where students can make important parallels between their courses. Zabala said she found to truly understand what people were writing about in her literature courses, it helped to have a good grasp on what she learned about the particular era in her history courses.

"Especially in literature, you have to know the background story," Zabala said. "I have written several papers about how different circumstances shape the way books are written. There is no way to keep books separate from the period in which they were written."

As a double major with a heavy courseload, Zabala decided to use some of her elective courses as an opportunity to get involved in something she had never experienced.

"I took a ballroom dance class," she said. "I didn't have any experience but I saw it in the catalog and thought, 'You know, I'd like to learn to waltz.' So I signed up for it. Now when they have something like salsa night downtown on Crockett Street, I can go and know what I'm doing."

After graduation, Zabala plans to attend graduate school to pursue a doctorate in literature and hopes to teach at the university level. —AS

Turning a calling into a career

Quentin Jiles, Houston senior and social work major, was elected Student Government Association president for 2012-2013. Jiles has been president of Lamar's chapter of the NAACP. He is also a member of the Alpha Kappa Psi Business fraternity and is a student director of student development in the Office of Student Engagement.

When I first came to campus, I really only stuck with my three closest friends,"

he said. "But after getting involved in various organizations, I began to meet people at a whole different level. I got to meet people of different backgrounds and with various interests, and it made the whole experience fun.

Jiles said that through this involvement, he has had the opportunity to hear what students think about the university and the quality of their experience. He said that his mission as SGA president is to be a voice for students and to help increase the quality of their college experience.

"I want everybody to feel included, feel like they are getting a quality education

and feel like they are having a good time as well," he said. "I love my school, and I want everybody to take pride in it."

Jiles said that, above all, his goal is to serve the students and listen to their ideas.

"I will talk to anyone," he said. "At the end of the day, if your tuition goes up, so does mine. We are on the same level playing field—I am just a voice for you."

Jiles said after graduation, he plans to pursue a Ph.D. in social work. He plans to put his education to good use through a career as an investigator for Child Protective Services.

"My ultimate goal is to build an agency that can get children adopted out to great homes, and that is something that I feel I will be able to learn through working with CPS," he said.

"I have always wanted to work with children. When I was in the fifth grade, I saw this girl, who was in the second grade, crying. I asked her why, and she said that her sister wouldn't give her half of the lunch money that her mother had given her for the both of them. So I took her in the lunch line and split my lunch money with her. After that day, she always sat by me at lunch, so I kind of adopted her as my little sister. I think that was the start of me trying to help people. To me, it felt good. So why not try to turn that into a career and do something that I really love?"

Jiles said the Department of Sociology, Social Work and Criminal Justice at Lamar University helped prepare him for his professional future plans.

"They are always bringing in professional people to talk to you," he said. "They also have volunteer days where you go to different agencies out in the community—one day it may be at Boys' Haven and the next may be a soup kitchen. It is a good feeling to be in the field doing volunteer work. It gives you an opportunity to give back to the community while you learn about your discipline. You get a chance to go to various places and see how the different social agencies work together for the benefit of the community. My department really helps prepare you for the field." —AS



STRANGE



PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH UNDERWAY

The search for the university’s next leader began with President James M. Simmons’ announcement of his pending resignation of the presidency.

In September, Texas State University System Vice Chancellor Perry Moore visited campus to update faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends on the search process and to solicit comments on attributes these constituents sought in the next leader.

Moore announced that the system has engaged R. William Funk & Associates of Dallas to assist in the search process. Funk & Associates (RWilliamFunk.com) is the “premier firm in Texas dedicated to higher education search consulting.” Moore also presented a time-line for the search that should culminate in the announcement of Lamar’s next president in late spring.

President Simmons, the 10th to hold the university’s top post, will remain in his position until the new president takes office. Simmons

will then return to the faculty of the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music.

A website (Lamar.edu/PresidentialSearch) has been created to provide information about the position and the search process. The site contains information about Lamar University, the search committee, the search consultant and the job posting. The site will be updated during the process and will include information on the three top candidates when the search committee announces them. The top three candidates will be invited to Lamar for on-site interviews, and those interview times will be posted on the website. Those who attend the on-campus interviews will have opportunity to submit comments, via the site, to the TSUS chancellor.

The final candidate will be selected by the chancellor and presented to the Board of Regents for approval.



Team completes reduced gravity flights

LAMAR UNIVERSITY ADVISORY PRESIDENT SEARCH COMMITTEE

Texas State University System

Regent **Rossanna Salazar**
Chair, Advisory Search Committee
Regent **David Montagne** '74
Vice Chair, Advisory Search Committee
Regent **Bill Scott** '70
Lamar University Foundation Trustee and LU Investing in the Future Campaign Cabinet member
Regent **Jaime Garza**, M.D.

Lamar University faculty and staff on the committee

S. Quoc-Nam Tran, Professor of Computer Science and President of the Faculty Senate
Pam Saur, Regents Professor and University Professor of German

James Westgate, Piper Professor and University Professor of Geology
Amy Shows '81, Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences
Ku-yen Li, Regents Professor and University Professor of Chemical Engineering
Jean Andrews, Regents Professor and University Professor of Deaf Education
Charles Hawkins '61, Regents Professor and University Professor of Economics
Vernice Monroe, Associate Professor of Social Work and Special Assistant to the President for Multicultural Affairs
Henry Venta, Professor and Dean of the College of Business

Also joining the committee are several individuals representing other university communities:

Joe Domino '75, Former President and CEO of Entergy Texas Inc.; Chief Integration Officer, Entergy Corp., President of the Lamar University Foundation
Greg Thompson, Attorney and Mediator, Co-chair of the Lamar University Investing in the Future Campaign, Former President of Lamar University Foundation
Mike Aldredge '65, Retired President/CEO & Chairman of the Board of Puffer Sweiven, Co-chair of the Lamar University Investing in the Future Campaign, Former President of Lamar University Foundation, Former President of the Lamar University Alumni Advisory Board
Timothy Chargois '91, '08, Superintendent, Beaumont Independent School District and Lamar Alumni Advisory Board member
Quentin Jiles, President of the Lamar University Student Government Association

“It was nothing like what I expected,” said Aaron Weatherford of his experience with reduced gravity aboard NASA’s Reduced Gravity aircraft.

Weatherford, a senior physics and mathematics major from Orange, is a member of Lamar’s 14th group to fly an experiment in zero-G conditions, and was in the second of two groups of LU students to fly June 13-14 from NASA Johnson Space Center’s Ellington Field south of Houston.

Flying on June 13 were team leader Nicholas Allen, a senior chemical engineering major from Orange, Aleiya Samad, a senior chemical engineering major from Nederland, and Jacob Wright, an electrical engineering and physics major from Beaumont.

The following day, Weatherford flew with teammate Kirk Goza, a senior electrical engineering and physics major from Vidor, and Jason Dugas, a 2001 LU alumnus and electrical engineer at NASA .

All the team members were instrumental in developing the experiment proposal, a lengthy and detailed analysis required by NASA, as well as in building the experiment itself and the safety cage that contained it on the aircraft. The experiment examined resonate frequencies to determine how they differ in zero gravity. “Gravity acts on the way waves disperse,” Weatherford said. “In engineering applications and construction, we know that resonate frequency can damage a structure. Take for example the well-known collapse of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge in 1940 and the lateral vibrations of the Millennium Bridge in London.”

“Only 14 schools were selected to fly this year, down from as many as 96 schools several years ago,” said Jim Jordan, chair of the Department of Earth and Space Science. “That tells me that this research was of some interest to NASA.” —BKS

Simmons focuses on students in convocation

Lamar University President James Simmons had three words for faculty and staff attending the annual back-to-school convocation Aug. 20: Recruit. Retain. Graduate.

Students were the focus of Simmons's state-of-the-university message, his last as Lamar president before his retirement in 2013. A capacity audience of more than 500 gathered in the University Theatre for the convocation. Simmons had good news: Fall enrollment has increased from last year, despite greatly enhanced admission requirements. "We're a little surprised," he said. "We were anticipating a decline because we raised the entrance requirements."

Simmons said he anticipates a challenging legislative session ahead when legislators convene in Austin Jan. 8. But, he said, "Lamar University should be in much better shape than in the past because of the student semester hours we are going to produce this year, which is a 'counting year,' (on which state funding is based) and those we produced this summer. We are anticipating entering and exiting this legislative session in

better shape than we have in the past."

This will depend on three things, he

said: "Our ability to recruit students, because, however you look at it, the state bases the formula on numbers; on our ability to retain students; and on our ability to graduate students because graduation rates are going to become ever more important as we look to the future."

"The legacy of this administration is not the bricks and mortar but the students," he said.

"I have had the honor of shaking hands with literally thousands of students who came to Lamar from all around the world who have walked across our stage (to accept degrees) and gone on to wonderful lives. That is the kind of legacy that most presidents want to leave behind."



Among honors and distinctions:

- USA Today reported Lamar is ranked ninth of 1,617 institutions nationwide in online education degrees awarded.
- The journal Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education reported that Lamar ranks No. 1 nationally in master of education degrees awarded to Hispanics.
- Lamar's MBA program was scored among the Aspen Institute's "Global 100" ranking, Lamar's third consecutive year among these top programs.
- Again, Lamar ranked No. 1 in the nation for awarding master's degrees in chemical engineering.
- Reflecting Lamar's designation by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a Doctoral Research University, LU now has 363 doctoral students, the most in The Texas State University System—and, Simmons said, "We are growing."
- For the first time, the Southland Conference awarded Lamar the Commissioner's Cup Men's All-Sport Trophy, based on the number of places earned in all men's sports.

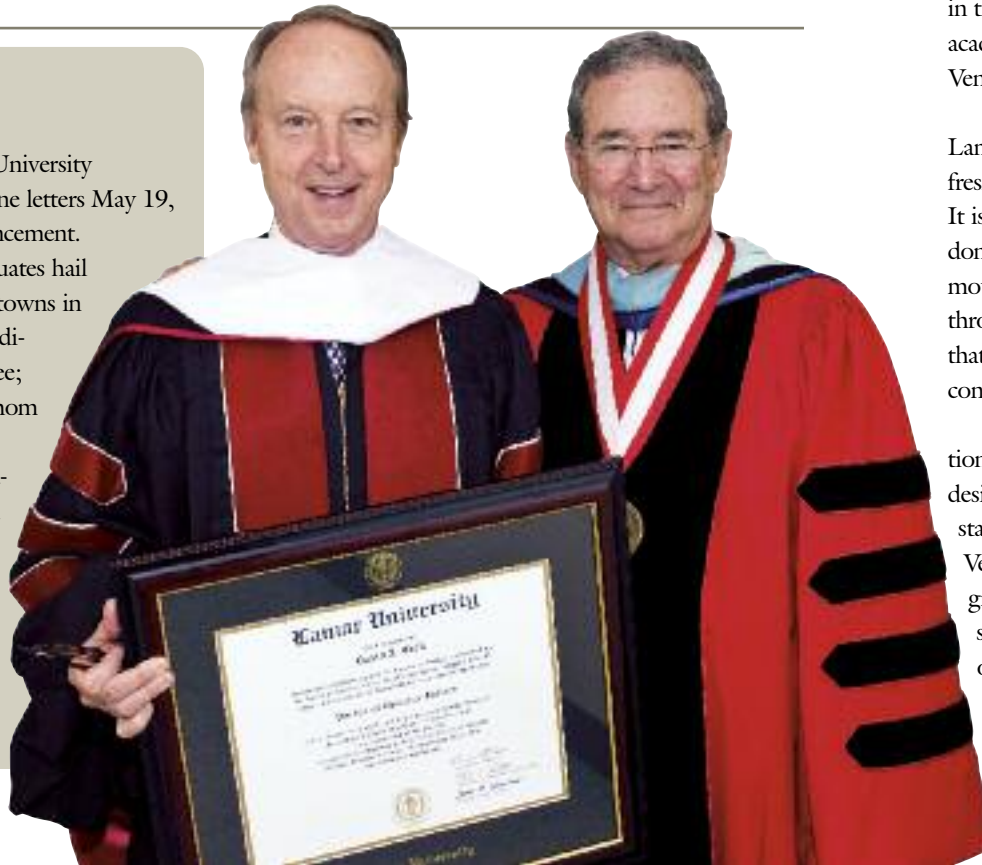
And, Simmons added, these achievements have not gone unnoticed; alumni and friends have contributed more than \$100 million to the university's Investing in the Future comprehensive campaign.

Lamar confers 1,354 degrees

World-renowned Houston trial lawyer David Beck, a Lamar University distinguished alumnus, received the honorary doctor of humane letters May 19, when he also delivered the keynote at Lamar's spring commencement.

Lamar conferred 1,354 degrees in two ceremonies. Graduates hail from 16 countries, 22 states outside Texas and 276 cities and towns in Texas. Lamar awarded 1,354 degrees to 1,340 graduation candidates—27 for doctorates, in addition to Beck's honorary degree; 599 for master's degrees; 704 for bachelor's degrees, 14 of whom earned two degrees each; and 24 for associate degrees.

The honorary doctorate recognizes Beck's many contributions to the university, including the prestigious David J. Beck Fellowship, which was made possible by his generous gift to the university's Investing in the Future Campaign. Beck had previously established the David J. Beck Scholarship in Political Science and has been a longtime supporter of the Lamar Governor's Honors Program.



Record number of doctoral graduates

A record 27 doctoral students for Lamar from four programs of study graduated May 19—12 graduates from educational leadership, four graduates from chemical engineering, one graduate from engineering, one graduate from deaf studies and deaf education, and nine graduates from audiology pictured here, which is also a record for that program.

Smith-Hutson Scholarship program opens doors to business degrees

The Smith-Hutson Scholarship program will become one of the most generous and prolific scholarship programs at LU, with six students beginning on the scholarship this fall in a program that will grow in numbers each year in the College of Business.

Smith-Hutson scholars are funded at up to \$14,000 per year for a maximum of four years. "The Smith-Hutson program is unique in that both financial need and potential for academic success are considered," said Henry Venta, dean of the college.

The program has been established at Lamar University for incoming freshmen pursuing business degrees. It is funded through an individual donor, who wishes to remain anonymous. All funding is provided through a private family foundation that makes no solicitations for contributions.

"We are grateful to the foundation for their support and their desire to grow the program in substantial ways in the years to come," Venta said. "I feel that the program will have a strong impact in serving an important segment of our students."

The program was started at Sam Houston State University

in Huntsville in 1996. Today, about 70 students are on the scholarship.

"We are excited about expanding the Smith-Hutson program to the College of Business at Lamar University and appreciate the warm welcome and assistance provided to us by Dean Venta and his staff," said Robert E. Hutson, a Houston banker who manages the program. Hutson, a 1965 graduate of the Sam Houston College of Business, went on to say, "We have graduated 151 students from the program during the past 16 years at Sam Houston. This program has changed the lives

of so many people and we look forward to the same long term success at Lamar University."

"Smith-Hutson has been a major source of financial aid to needy high school students in East Texas for some time," said Lynn Godkin, professor of management and marketing at Lamar. "Now, Smith-Hutson has become a major player in providing financial aid to students of limited financial means in Southeast Texas and greater Houston."

The scholarship program focuses on graduating high school seniors who have academic potential and are unable to attend college without financial assistance. "Students unable to even consider college, will now be able to earn a B.B.A. degree from Lamar and graduate virtually debt free," Godkin said.

"Smith-Hutson provides on-going counseling, tutoring where needed, and motivational support to each recipient," he added. Graduate students and upper-classmen provide the tutoring and are paid for their service by the scholarship program.

"The Smith-Hutson scholarship is a significant addition to scholarship portfolios on the campus and a major boost to the scholarships offerings in the College of Business," Godkin said.



Dawn Wesneski, left, with Robert E. and Sylvia Hutson

University sets enrollment record

Lamar University has set another all-time enrollment record, according to LU officials. Official figures for the fall 2012 semester taken on the 20th class day show Lamar has the highest enrollment in the university's history.

More specifically, Lamar's headcount is 14,675, up 2 percent over fall 2011. Semester credit hours totaled 139,503, the second largest total in LU history, up 5.9 percent over Fall 2011. By the end of the fall 2012 semester, more students will have started and completed online degrees, bringing the total headcount to more than 15,000.

The increase in headcount and semester credit hours comes despite an increase in tuition and raised freshman admission requirement, said Kevin Smith, senior associate provost and interim vice president for student engagement.

Lamar has seen an increase in new freshman, from 1,402 last fall to 1,686 today. The number of doctoral students has also grown, up from 262 to 363. The percentage of new freshman from the top quartile of their class has grown from 31 percent to 34 percent.

14,675

UP 2%

Research targets efficiency with \$69,000 Entergy grant

Xianchang Li, associate professor of mechanical engineering, will undertake groundbreaking work in modeling complex power generation systems with an eye to increasing efficiency thanks to a \$69,000 grant from Entergy Charitable Foundation.

Li's work, "Gas Turbine/Steam Turbine Modeling and Optimization" seeks to refine the performance and efficiency of a combined power system using both gas and steam turbines. The final goal is to maximize the power output or the thermal efficiency while considering the trade-offs in revenue, Li said.

Sallie Rainer, Entergy Texas president and chief executive officer, said, "My predecessor, Joe Domino, was a vital link in obtaining this grant for the university and for good reason. The project clearly deserves a commitment from our company for the value of the work and because the partnership between Entergy Texas and Lamar is important to the welfare of Southeast Texas as a whole."

FACULTY NOTES



Sheryl Abshire, assistant professor of educational leadership, will receive the 2012 "Community Builder Award" from the National Coalition for Technology in Education and Training (NCET) at its Bytes & Books Inaugural Ball in Washington, D.C., in January. This award is presented every four years, and past recipients include film director and Edutopia founder George Lucas, the late Sen. Edward Kennedy, Sen. Olympia Snowe and inventor Ray Kursweil. The award recognizes exemplary service in support of policies and practices designed to facilitate the effective integration of technology into teaching and learning . . . The Division of Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, and Transport Systems (CBET) of the Directorate of Engineering of the National Science Foundation has recognized the research of **Zhanhu "John" Guo**, assistant professor of chemical engineering. His "Magnetic Carbon Nanocomposites for Heavy Metal Removal from Polluted Water" was the only NSF CBET research project highlighted for 2012 . . . The University of North Texas Press recently published

Women and the Texas Revolution, a book by **Mary Scheer**, associate professor and chair of the Department of History. The book has been nominated for the Liz Carpenter Award from the Texas State Historical Association . . .

Helen Lou, professor of chemical engineering, has been selected by Shanxi Province of China as one of the "Top 100 Talents" for the province's economic growth. As part of this award program to forge international collaboration and stimulate economic growth, Lou will receive one million Chinese Yuan (about \$160,000) during three years to develop clean coal-related technologies in collaboration with researchers at Shanxi University . . . **G.N. Reddy**, associate professor of electrical engineering, has developed a user-friendly, state-of-the-art simulation system to design electric vehicles. He published a paper, "A Matlab-Based Tool for EV-Design," in the Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Education & E-Learning Innovations held recently in Sousse, Tunisia . . . **Barbara Hernandez**, professor of health and kinesiology, has been named 2012-14 research committee chair for the Southern District of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance . . . **Kurt Dyrhaug**, professor of art, has had his



sculpture selected for exhibition at the following venues: Alexandria Museum of Art, "25th September Competition Exhibition;" Rockport Center for the Arts, "Breaking the Mold;" Foster Tanner Fine Arts Center in Tallahassee, "PINNACLE 2012:"

National Juried Art Competition;" University of Southern Mississippi, "Campus Sculpture;" Baum Gallery of Fine Art in Arkansas, "So Tiny: An Exhibition of Small Works in 3-D;" and the Elaine L. Jacob Gallery in Detroit, "2012 MACAA Conference Membership Exhibition" . . . **Clementine Msengi**, visiting assistant professor of health and kinesiology, will receive the 2012 "Immigrant Entrepreneur Leadership Award" at the Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit in recognition of her leadership and an entrepreneurial spirit as a first generation immigrant . . . An interdisciplinary



team—**Alberto Marquez**, assistant professor of industrial engineering; **Weihsang Zhu**, associate professor of industrial engineering; and **Julia Yoo**, assistant professor of professional pedagogy—has received funding for its project, "Multimedia Learning of Engineering Economics Through Role Play Gaming on a Mobile Platform."

The \$200,000 grant from the National Science Foundation enables them to study the effectiveness of mobile technology in promoting deep and lasting learning . . . Students and their teachers in Southeast Texas have the opportunity to learn about the latest in energy science thanks to a partnership between LU engineering research assistant professor **Tony Pereira** and Rice professor of mechanical engineering and materials science **Enrique Barrera**. The two-week workshops in June hosted more than 50 students and a dozen teachers and focused on the future of energy sciences. Pereira and Rice are developing curriculum for teaching energy topics in high schools. Pereira is a researcher in the College of Engineering's Fuel Cell Research Center and Green Composites Laboratory . . . The Southeast Texas Chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants (TSCPA) presented its Faculty Research Award April 26 to **Frank Badua**, assistant professor of accounting, for excellence in research.

Online M.Ed. achieves 'Best Buys'

Lamar University's master of education programs ranked No. 1 among the most affordable master's degrees offered online in the U.S., according to a national consumer group.

The College of Education and Human Development earned three award badges from GetEducated.com for ranking as a top affordable option among online master's degrees for teachers and educators.

The GetEducated "Best Online Colleges" data-driven ranking indicates LU's programs were independently reviewed, compared to its national peers and found to be the "Best Buy" nationwide for teachers and educators for whom college affordability has become a critical issue.

LU's Master of Education, Master of Educational Leadership and Master of Educational Technology were all ranked No. 1.

Lamar University also ranked as the No. 1 most affordable online education school in the nation at about \$6,450 for its online master's for Texas teachers. The average overall cost for all

master's degrees in the online learning survey was \$16,731.

Notably absent from the "Best Buy" list were online education degrees from for-profit colleges, most of whom charge consumers higher than average tuition and fee rates, including the University of Phoenix

Online, which charges about \$18,000 for its online education master's degree as compared to Lamar's state resident rates of about \$6,450 and national rates of about \$8,460.

"In a time when college costs have reached startling levels, Lamar models how instructional technology coupled with sound administrative policies can help America's

colleges solve the cost crisis that plagues higher education," said Vicky Phillips, founder of GetEducated.com.

The GetEducated Best Buy rankings are based on a comprehensive review of 367 online education masters offered by 129 regionally accredited universities.





Cheerleading team earns seven awards at UCA

The cheerleading team brought home seven awards from the July Universal Cheerleaders Association College Camp in San Marcos. The Lamar team included 19 women, seven men and two mascots who competed against more than 25 teams from different conferences. LU earned first place in cheer, third place in sideline, fifth place in fight song, the Most Collegiate Team Award, the Most Improved Program Award and the Best Game Day Plan Award. The LU mascots also earned first place in their Home Skit, which they prepared before the camp.

Kristyn Henderson, Lamar cheer and mascot coordinator, said the goal of the UCA is to make sure teams are game focused, doing what they are supposed to for the school and properly representing the school in the community. "They want to get you game ready," she said, "and want to make sure you always look professional and you are getting the crowd involved." The team has made more than 100 community appearances this year.



Entergy Texas, LU add electric vehicle charging station

Students and employees can now charge electric vehicles for free at a new charging station at the Montagne Center. This station joins a similar one installed at Lamar Institute of Technology earlier this year. The Montagne Center location is the fifth charging station Entergy has put in place in Texas.

Entergy Texas will collect usage data for research about the chargers' impact on consumers and the electric grid. The charging stations are capable of providing a full charge to any electric vehicle on the market. They were donated by Entergy and paid for by Entergy shareholders.

LU ranks among nation's best

Diverse: Issues in Higher Education magazine, for the second consecutive year, has ranked Lamar University No. 1 in the nation for graduating Hispanic students earning master's degrees in education. The national education magazine, in its June 7 issue, also ranked Lamar among the Top 10 universities nationwide in six additional categories.

The rankings include fifth for total number of minority graduate students in education, fifth for the most Asian-American master's graduates in physical sciences and sixth in the nation for the most Asian-American master's graduates in communication disorders. The annual rankings also recognized Lamar as the seventh highest institution for graduating the most African-American master's degree students in education, ninth for Hispanic master's graduates in all disciplines and ninth nationwide for Native-American graduate students in education.

"We are very proud of our faculty and staff, whose collective commitment to diversity, a Lamar University core value and a central component of our strategic plan, has once again resulted in national recognition, as well as our designation as one of the most diverse campuses in the country," said Stephen Doblin, LU provost and vice president for academic affairs. "As a Carnegie Doctoral Research University, Lamar is committed to the participation and success of all our students."

Diverse: Issues in Higher Education is the leading national education magazine devoted to issues concerning minorities in higher education. The annual rankings are the most comprehensive compilation of statistical data identifying the Top 100 four-year universities awarding degrees to minority students. The data are compiled in partnership with researchers at Indiana University and Purdue University.

LU tapped military-friendly school

Lamar University was added recently to the 2013 list of military-friendly schools by *G.I. Jobs* magazine. The military-friendly school designation places Lamar in the top 15 percent of all colleges, universities and trade schools nationwide that have successfully integrated service members into their campus and online offerings. "We are excited to announce that Lamar University is currently reaching out to more military service members than ever before," said Ashley Sheehan, LU coordinator of military programs.

Financial assistance is open to active service members only. Service members can take advantage of online courses or face-to-face classes offered at Lamar. "When we say 'active' we mean Reserve and National Guard as well," said Sheehan. "As long as they are currently serving in some capacity, they qualify. If they're getting tuition assistance, they're eligible for the discounts Lamar has agreed to give them on tuition, which is significant. It makes their education much more affordable." For more information about military service recruitment contact military@lamar.edu or call (409) 880-2138.



LU, SeoulTech exchange students and faculty

Lamar University and Seoul National University of Science and Technology formally entered a memorandum of understanding for student and faculty exchange and collaborative research Provost Steve Doblin and SeoulTech representative Jin-Hui Lee, professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering, announced Aug. 2.

Up to five undergraduate or graduate students from each institution can participate for a semester or a full academic year per the agreement, Doblin said.

M.B.A. students travel to Beijing and Shanghai

Seven students in the M.B.A. and master of science in accounting programs traveled to Beijing and Shanghai, China, in May for an 11-day excursion to factories, historical sites and shopping hubs.

Hyundai Motors, Oracle Software Systems, Lenovo Computer Co., the Shanghai Apple store, a food processing company and Baosteel, a state-owned iron and steel company, were some of the tours the students took during their stay in the Orient. Students also met with representatives of the Chinese Ministry of Commerce and visited the Shanghai Futures Exchange.

Making the annual

trip were Clarke Baker, Grant Owens and Gary Hill of Beaumont; Apryll LaHaye of Port Neches; Chris Huebner of St. Louis, Mo.; Lauren Anderson of Port Acres and Fred Vernon of Port Arthur.



This trip marks the fourth year business students have traveled to China. Funding for the trip is provided by the Lamar Study Abroad program and the Janie Nelson Steinhagen and Mark Steinhagen Global Fellows Endowment, a gift to Lamar that provides graduate students and faculty opportunities to gain first-hand knowledge of the global marketplace.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Audiology doctoral students further their study: **Jessica Spratt** was chosen for a competitive eight-week clinical rotation during summer 2012 at the House Ear Institute, a premier research institute involved in the development of cochlear implants and other implantable hearing devices; **Danielle Hummel** was selected as a summer research assistant at the University of Southern Illinois, conducting animal research on ototoxicity and tinnitus; **Steven Allred** accompanied a group of professional audiologists on a 10-day humanitarian trip to the Dominican Republic, where he helped with hearing aid fittings of donated hearing aids on more than 200 children and adults . . .

Michelle Johnson, a doctoral student in educational leadership, will present her dissertation research, "Effective Support for First-Year Immigrants," at the annual conference of the Texas Association of Bilingual Educators. She also has been invited by Archipelago Learning, a subsidiary of PLATO Learning, to speak at their annual EdTech Conference in Columbus, Ohio, at which she will present her work on the implementation of technology in the classroom to assist English language learners . . . **Janeal McCauley's** master's thesis, "Defining Family: Perspectives of Homeless Adults in Southeast Texas," has been selected by the



Meiqian Wang
Engineers Process Development Division Student Paper Award. The winning paper

National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) as its "National Thesis of the Year" . . . **Meiqian Wang**, a Ph.D. student in chemical engineering, has won the highly competitive 2012 American Institute of Chemical

was co-authored with her doctoral advisors and is entitled, "Thermodynamic Analysis Based Energy Consumption Minimization for Natural Gas Liquefaction," and was published in *Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Research*. Eli Lilly Inc. sponsors this recognition, which includes a plaque and cash award and selects only one student each year from among a large number of international nominations. Wang's doctoral advisors are **Ku-Yen Li** and **Qiang Xu**. LU doctoral students have won this award in three of the last eight years . . . **Samuel Choudhary**, a graduate student and **Syed Mohiuddin** an undergraduate senior in the Drayer Department of Electrical Engineering, have completed a novel project that estimates possible energy extraction from vehicle suspension, a source of energy for the second generation of electric vehicles. The two co-authored a paper, "Estimation of Harvestable Green Energy from Vehicle Suspension," which was presented at the 2012 IEEE International Conference on Vehicle Power and Propulsion Conference in Seoul, Korea . . . Lamar University accounting students earned excellence awards at an April 26 program sponsored by the Southeast Texas Chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants (TSCPA). **Tyler Angelle** of Orange, who will graduate this December with a master of science, received the Accounting Excellence Award and **Tracie Chambers** of Beaumont received the chapter's TSCPA Endowed Scholarship. The chapter provides several additional scholarships to deserving Lamar accounting majors through annual fundraising efforts. The 2012 recipients include **Emmanuel Amoabeng** of Cape Coast, Ghana; **Smile Bathla**, Beaumont; **Michael Carl** and **Jamie Outler**, Port Neches; **Heather Hebert**, Groves; **Nicole Hoyt**, Houston; and **Joseph Kilmer** and **Jonathan Webster**, Vidor.



Lamar earns grant for ASCENT scholarship program

The National Science Foundation has awarded Lamar University \$590,000 in funding for the departments of mathematics and computer science for their scholarship program, "Addressing the Gulf Coast Region's Graduation Rate Crisis in Mathematics and Computer Science" (ASCENT). This five-year grant program will provide 24 students majoring in math or computer science with considerable financial and educational support during the completion of their degrees, beginning this fall.

The program targets students currently enrolled at Lamar with two years left in their math or computer science degree, as well as transfer students who have graduated from a community college entering Lamar's math or computer science programs. It is part of an initiative to improve the six-year graduation rate among math and computer science majors at Lamar.

Students accepted to the program receive two annual scholarships of up to \$10,000 as supplementary income, reducing employment obligations for undergraduates in their last two years. ASCENT scholars will also receive extensive academic support including undergraduate research experience, multi-level mentoring and post-graduate placement and all students will be in a learning community.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Priscilla Parsons '87, '12 is now vice president for information technology after serving as interim associate vice president since December 2010. Parsons, a native of Orange, is responsible for data center services, network infrastructure, telecommunications, academic technology support, information resource security, enterprise applications and customer support. The information technology department at Lamar also supports the infrastructure needs for Lamar Institute of Technology and Lamar State College-Orange . . . **Juan Zabala** '07 has been named associate vice president of University Advancement, a role he has filled on an interim basis since Sept. 2011. As associate vice president, he directs the activities of public relations, marketing, web communications, alumni affairs and advancement services. Zabala joined Lamar University as director of alumni affairs in January 2003.



Supervision of the Advancement Services Department was added to his portfolio in November 2007. Prior to his appointment at Lamar University, Zabala served as assistant dean of the University of Texas School of Law. He has more than 20 years experience in administration, university development and alumni relations . . .

Linda LeBlanc '75 has been appointed director of alumni affairs. LeBlanc has been on the university's advancement staff since 2003 as assistant director of alumni affairs. In that capacity, she worked with alumni to encourage their involvement with the university, organized and attended scores of alumni events, maintained alumni records, and coordinated efforts between the alumni office and university organizations, departments and community groups. "A university benefits from the strength of its alumni program, just as the value of a person's degree is enhanced by the strength, growth and continued improvement of his or her university," LeBlanc said. LeBlanc also serves as a campus advisor to Lamar Ambassadors and the Delta Sigma Chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority . . . **Jason Henderson**



became director of athletics June 18 after serving as Lamar's associate athletic director for compliance from July 2007 to May 2011 when he was elevated to interim athletics director. Henderson is responsible for the day-to-day operations of Lamar's 17 men's and women's athletics programs. "Jason has been at the heart of so many of the significant accomplishments of Lamar athletics since joining LU in 2006," said James Simmons, president of the university. "He is an outstanding leader and, as interim athletics director, has helped move LU to the next level." Henderson is in his seventh year as a member of the Lamar athletic department, joining the staff in April 2006 as the compliance coordinator. In this role, Henderson oversaw NCAA compliance and scholarships.



LU hosts gO SETX Construction Career Academy

The Texas Workforce Commission Summer Merit Program and Lamar University teamed up with local businesses to bring 40 Golden Triangle students the gO SETX Construction Career Academy. The Texas Workforce Commission funds the program.

Otila Urbina, the gO SETX Academy executive director, said the program is unique because it combines hands-on activities and interaction with real field professionals to give students the best possible learning experience. Contractors from Morganti Texas, APAC and Mid-America Construction participated in this year's academy.

Lynn Whorton, Lamar University director of planning, design and construction, taught the morning blueprint and construction laboratory for the academy. He said his goal was to teach the students real-life skills they can use throughout their career.

"We worked on a little bit of drafting, the basic understanding of how to read blueprints and how to build the frame and subfloor of a house," he said. "They used real tools to cut everything to scale out of balsawood. Hopefully this may help some of them decide on a career in architecture, construction or interior design."

LITERARY LAMAR

English students place first in writing competition



Ruth Grace Megnet



Alaina Bray

Two Lamar University English students won first-place awards in Texas Association of Creative Writing Teachers competition. **Alaina Bray**, Hamshire senior, and **Ruth Grace Megnet**, graduate student from Switzerland, presented their work at the association's annual conference Sept. 28 at University of Texas Pan-American in Edinburg. Both are students of Jerry Bradley, professor of English and modern languages. Bradley and faculty members Gretchen Johnson and Jim Sanderson also made presentations at the conference.

Colleges and universities from all over Texas nominate student writers for undergraduate and graduate contests in fiction poetry and essay on both levels. "We are allowed to nominate one student for each

category," Bradley said. "We had students place in two of the six categories, which is very good for Lamar."

Megnet won first place in the graduate essay category for *The Typewriter*. Bradley said her work in English, a second language for her, is exceptional. "It is one challenge to learn a language, but quite another to learn to write creatively with nuance and allusion," he said.

Being a native of Switzerland, Megnet said she decided to take graduate courses in English at Lamar as a means of improving her language skills. "My hope is to one day write without an accent," she joked.

The Typewriter is a reflection of a 10-year-old Megnet who received a typewriter for Christmas. Megnet said writing the story helped her realize and awaken a dormant

passion from her past. "I didn't realize it, but taking this class brought back a lot of that creativity in a way I never really planned," she said.

Megnet holds a degree in literature, a master's degree in fine arts and a master's degree in visual arts from Lamar. She is an assistant professor of art at Lamar State College-Port Arthur.

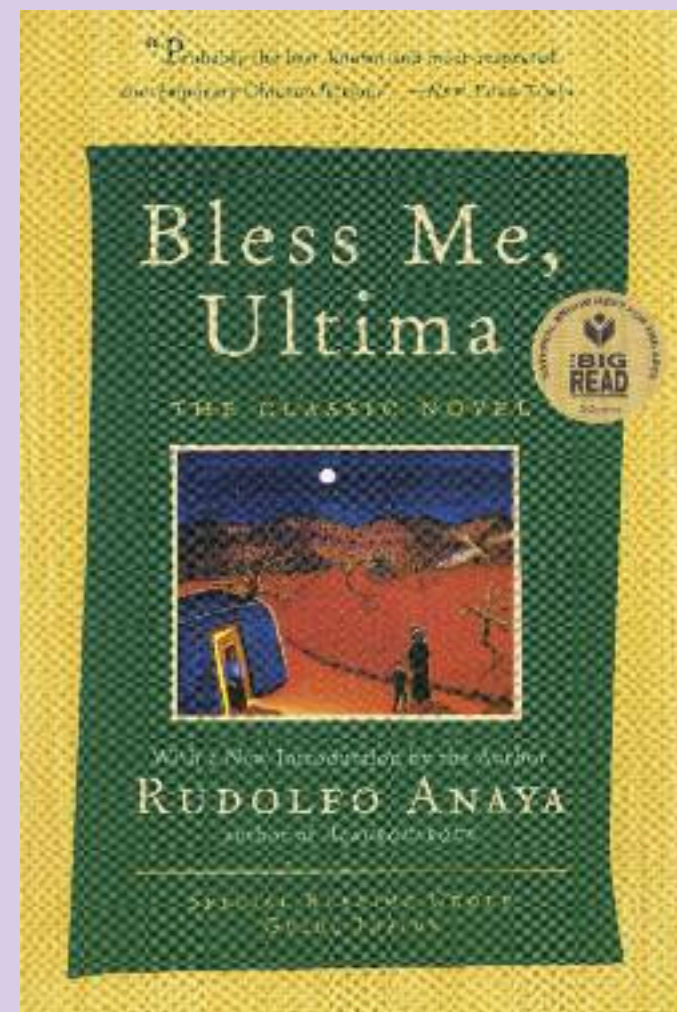
Bray, a former Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities student at Lamar, won first place in the undergraduate fiction category for *Dust*, which tells the story of a young woman struggling for identity in her hometown. After graduation, Bray plans to pursue a Ph.D. in English. She said she hopes to teach at the university level and publish her creative works.—AS

Big Read 'gets people learning'

Lamar University is joining Lamar State College-Orange Ron E. Lewis Library in The Big Read. A project of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the program is aimed at promoting reading for the pleasure of reading. LSC-O received an \$11,200 grant from the NEA to sponsor The Big Read in Orange and Jefferson County communities, focusing on the 1972 book *Bless Me Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya.

Catalina Castillon, associate professor of Spanish in the Department of English and Modern Languages, led a discussion on the book Oct. 11 in the Mary and John Gray Library. The discussion focused on Hispanic culture, identity and literary heritage in the United States.

Future sessions are planned in spring 2013, also in the library. Jim Sanderson, professor of English, will speak April 4 on "History and Cultures of New Mexican-Americans and Texan Americans." On April 11, Castillon will lead a conference on "Anaya's *Bless Me Ultima* and the Literary Tradition of Hispanics in the U.S." The department will collaborate with the Gray Library April 25 for a round table on



Bless Me Ultima and The Big Read.

According to "Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America," a 2004 study by the NEA, people are engaging different forms of media, but reading books less. The NEA began The Big Read as a way to promote reading by giving members of the community an opportunity to read a preselected title and discuss it with their neighbors.

Castillon said *Bless Me Ultima* is a good pick for the program because it touches on relevant topics that engages people in discussion. The coming-of-age book tells the story of a 6-year-old boy in New Mexico during the World War II era. Ultima, a traditional medicine woman, comes to stay with his family, and her practices challenge Marez's Catholic beliefs.

Other partners in the SETX Big Read include the Orange Public Library, Port Arthur Public Library, Little Cypress-Mauriceville CISD, West Orange-Cove CISD, Bridge City ISD, American

Association of University Women Bookends book club and the Stark Museum of Art.

"I am excited to be involved in a project that gets people learning," Castillon said.

Big-Red band salute

President James Simmons received a surprise standing ovation from a band hall full of colleagues – along with red velvet cupcakes with white icing, Big Red sodas, red-and-white mints and Big Red gum. Region 10 band directors in the Texas Music Educators Association hosted the tribute, which attracted about 200 well-wishers.

"It was a grand time," said Diane Baker '72, '86, an organizer of the Aug. 13 salute. "I told the group I'd love to tell a few stories on him, but he had too many on me as well."

Region 10 members hail from across the region—from Baytown to Orange to Jasper and all the school districts in between, Baker said. The group presented Simmons an Academy gift card and a book/clock with this inscription: "Dr. James 'Jimmy' Simmons. The consummate musician, teacher, director and friend."

ARTSNOTES



Cardinal Court debuts Nov. 30 to benefit the Department of Theatre & Dance. The evening of fun and frivolity honors Susan and Jimmy Simmons and will feature dinner, dancing, singing, swordplay, puppetry and other variety entertainment. A queen and king will reign over each night's festivities, which begin at 6 p.m. Call (409) 880-8137 for information or reservations . . . The *Lamarissimo!* concert series' 2012-2013

Lamarissimo! season got under way Nov. 8 with performances by Lamar jazz bands. The series continues with the A Cappella Choir holiday concert, Sunday, Dec. 2; Wind Ensemble and Concert Band, Thursday, March 7; and the Cardinal Singers, Thursday, April 25. The holiday concert will begin at 3 p.m., and others will start at 7:30 p.m., all in the Julie Rogers Theatre in downtown Beaumont . . .

Dishman director sees enhanced potential The



Megan Young

new director of Lamar's Dishman Art Museum looks to achieve a higher level of greatness for the venue. "I am excited about the potential for the Dishman to be more utilized as a teaching and learning resource to the Lamar and Southeast Texas community across different disciplines," said Megan Young, assistant professor of art history, who assumed duties in fall 2012. A native of Gulf Shores, Ala., Young is a doctoral candidate at the University of Kansas and has a master of arts in art history and a bachelor of fine arts in photography and graphic design from the University of Alabama. Before accepting the position at Lamar, she was the Mellon Foundation/Loo Family curatorial intern in European and American painting, sculpture and decorative arts at the Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas. "I consider myself an equal-opportunity art historian," said Young. Her dissertation, "After the Deluge: Contemporary Artists Engage Katrina," examines instances of contemporary art that investigate the ramifications of this catastrophic event in various ways.



Val and Suzi Rose, Susan and Jimmy Simmons

LANDERS PHOTOGRAPHY

Simmons earns place in Bandmasters Hall of Fame

President James Simmons earned another elite honor with induction into the Phi Beta Mu Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame. In selecting Simmons to become part of the 2012 class, the international bandmasters fraternity continues its tradition of "honoring outstanding Texas band directors whose dedication and devotion to their profession was paramount."

Phi Beta Mu made the presentation July 22 at the Texas Bandmasters Association annual convention in San Antonio.

"This is very significant to me," Simmons said. "As I stood before a room full of band directors and colleagues whom I had known throughout my career and for whom I have the utmost respect, being recognized in that manner was extremely touching and satisfying."

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

Val Rose, a friend and colleague for more than 50 years, nominated Simmons for the honor. The two were roommates when Simmons began his college career in 1960; the two were fellow band members and Rose an early mentor.

"He was a very influential band director," said Rose, retired Nederland High School band director. "His bands at Beaumont High and at Lamar – his marching band, concert bands and jazz bands – all were outstanding. He is widely respected for the success of those groups."

"President Simmons' credentials speak for themselves," said Gary Wells, retired Hamshire-Fannett Band director and secretary-treasurer of the Phi Beta Mu Alpha (Texas) chapter. What does not show up on any resume, he said, is the way Simmons helps talented students overcome obstacles.

Citing examples, Wells said, "Dr. Simmons took them under his wing, gave them the encouragement and resources they needed to succeed and then monitored them until they received their degrees. I believe these are the type stories that never end up in print but, nevertheless, reflect the character and caring of Dr. Simmons."

Mother Me Mother You by Anne Smith



Cross My Heart by Judy Martin



Not your grandmother's quilts at Dishman

For more than 30 years, the biennial Quilt National exhibition has showcased the best and most exciting contemporary arts quilts being created around the world. Selections from the 2011 Quilt National show graced the walls of the Dishman Art Museum Sept. 24-Nov. 16.

Quilt National premiered in 1979 at the Dairy Barn Arts Center in Athens, Ohio, in order to promote quilt-making as an art form and to call attention to the transformations taking place in the world of quilting.

Abstraction, variations of geometric design and nature are among prominent themes. The quilts selected for Quilt National had never been exhibited or published before their premiere showing at the Dairy Barn in May through September of 2011. The Dishman Art Museum was the only Texas venue to feature Quilt National '11.

"These quilts range in size from small to quite large and showcase how quilting is a vibrant art form today," said Megan Young, director of the Dishman. "Contemporary crafting is really taking center stage in today's art world, and we see craft being thought of as fine art. These are not your grandmother's quilts."

Quilt National came to Lamar as part of an interdisciplinary view into the world of quilting, presented by the College of Fine Arts and Communication and funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

In addition to the quilt show, the Department of Theatre & Dance collaborated with the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music to present the musical *Quilters* Oct. 11-14. Regional and national quilt artists presented a variety of workshops during the run of the exhibition.

Luanne Rimel, a quilt artist whose works were featured in the show, gave a public talk Oct. 6 to discuss how she integrates digital media into contemporary quilting.

Textile conservator Melanie Sanford spoke at the Dishman Oct. 12 on the care of heritage quilts. The Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum sponsored the talk.

The Dishman also hosted a hands-on quilt workshop Nov. 17, enabling participants to try their hand at quilting and to learn about a variety of quilting styles. The Blockheads Bee of the Golden Triangle Quilt Guild conducted the workshop.



Venetian Stone 2 by Luanne Rimel



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 alumni@lamar.edu or call (409) 880-8421.**

40s

Annie (Baker) Arnold '48, A.A. general studies, graduated from California State University; became a certified accountant and retired at the age of 82. She lives in Portland, Ore.

50s

Eddie Langert '58, B.B.A. general business, is advisor to the president for Taylor Made-Adidas Golf Co. in Carlsbad, Calif. He lives in La Quinta, Calif., with his wife, Jane.

60s

Kenneth Voytek '60, B.S. secondary education, earned a master's degree from the University of Houston, and retired as school superintendent in Dayton. His wife, **Sandra (Abshier)** '60, B.S. elementary education, also earned a master's degree from the University of Houston and retired from the Dayton school district, where they live.

Jack Cockerham '61, B.B.A. marketing, retired and lives in Corsicana.

Pete Dammon '61, B.S. electrical engineering, is president and professional engineer for Dammon Engineering and lives in Slidell, La., with his wife, Maxine.

Sandra (Kiker) Sherman '62, B.S. elementary education, '82, M.Ed. school administration, was named Administrator of the Year by the Texas Computer Educators Association. She is principal of China Elementary School in the Hardin-Jefferson school district and lives in China.

Emil Milich '63, B.A. political science, retired from Huntsman Chemical as a quality control specialist. He lives in Richmond.

Jesse Whitaker '63, B.S. chemistry, retired from Shell Research as a senior staff research chemist. He lives in Rusk.

James Warner '64, B.A. English, '71, M.A. history, earned an educational doctoral degree from Texas A&M. He and his wife, **Linda** '67, B.S. elementary education, '75, M.Ed. supervision, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They live in College Station.

Olan Webb '64, B.B.A. accounting, was reappointed to the Lower Neches Valley Authority board of directors. He is retired and lives in Silsbee.

Jack Randorff '65, B.S. physics, earned master's and doctoral degrees from Texas Tech University. He is owner/president of Randorff and Associates Inc. and lives in Ransom Canyon.

Charles Reaux '65, B.S. chemistry, earned a master's degree from Wayne State University. He is a self-employed and semi-retired certified industrial hygienist and lives in Cave Creek, Ariz., with his wife, Shirley.

Pam (Downey) Moser '66, B.S. biology, is director of training for Sooner Girl Scout Council and lives in Norman, Okla.

Winston Harris '67, B.B.A. marketing, works for Southern Benefits Group of Louisiana LLC and lives in Baton Rouge, La., with his wife, Jill.

Merri (Beatty) Biser '68, B.A. English, earned a master's degree from the University of Kansas. She is retired after working at the U.S. Department of Transportation and teaching at the University of Texas-Tyler, Tyler Junior College and Lamar University. She lives in Houston with her husband, Roy.

Ed de Steiguer '68, B.B.A. economics, earned master's and doctoral degrees in forestry. He has received three literary awards for his book, *Wild Horses of the West: History and Politics of America's Mustangs*. He is a professor of natural resources policy and economics at the University of Arizona and lives in Tucson with his wife, **Pamela (Bearden)** '70, B.S. psychology.

Hoyt Simmons '68, B.S. speech, '71, M.E. counseling and development, retired as principal of Roy Guess Elementary in the Beaumont school district, where he lives.

Darrell Anderson '69, B.S. music education, is editor of TRN Music Publisher Inc. He and his wife, Ann, live in Alto, N.M.

Rosemary Laidacker '69, B.A. mathematics, earned the Houston Geological Society's 2011-2012 President's Award for her work as chairman of the continuing education committee. She lives in Houston.

70s

Tanya (Walker) Goldbeck '70, B.S. elementary education, '73, M.Ed. supervision, earned a doctoral degree from Nova Southeastern University. She received the Arc Lifetime Achievement for Advocacy Award from the Arc of Greater Beaumont. She is assistant professor in the College of Education and Human Development at Lamar University and is owner of Goldbeck and Goldbeck in Beaumont, where she lives with her husband, Marty.

Beverly (Muller) Osowski '70, B.A. English, earned a master's degree from the University

of Texas. She lives in Carson City, Nev.

Gail (Cawley) Showalter '70, B.S. speech, received the Distinguished Toastmaster award from Toastmasters International. She lives in Nederland.

Brenda (Kimbrough) VanDerHeyden '70, B.S. biology, was elected chair of the board of Clinical Laboratory Personnel for the state of Florida. She was appointed to the board in 2007 and lives in Naples, Fla., with her husband, Terry.

Gary Hidalgo '71, B.A. history, '73, M.A. history, is executive director of the Arc of Greater Beaumont in Beaumont. He lives in Sour Lake with his wife, Pam.

Zenobia Bush '72, B.A. mathematics, was elected east regional vice president of the Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members, which includes education service centers 5, 6, 7 and 8. She lives in Beaumont.

Rich Daniels '72, B.B.A. accounting, earned a master's degree in accounting and is chief financial officer for mJobTime Corp. in Beaumont, where he lives.

Walter Jones '72, B.S. mechanical engineering, is manager of the Turnaround Center of Excellence for DCP Midstream in Denver, Colo. He and his wife, **Vicki (Plaia)** '71, B.S. elementary education, live in Parker, Colo.

Eligah King '72, B.B.A. accounting, earned a master's degree from Saginaw Valley State University and is strategic partner for Transformation Point Inc. in Littleton, Colo. He is also an adjunct lecturer for the University of Houston Downtown School of Business and lives in Sugar Land.

Ann (Strange) Woodall '72, B.A. psychology, teaches at Port Neches Elementary School in the Port Neches-Groves school district. She lives in Port Neches with her husband, **Ellis** '71, B.B.A. management. He is a senior buyer for RDS.

Dan McDonald '73, B.S. mechanical engineering, is principal engineer for Chicago Bridge and Iron in Houston. He lives in Katy with his wife, Betsy.

Jill (McCarthy) Avery '74, B.S. elementary education, '87, M.Ed. special education, retired after a 38-year career as a teacher, supervisor and assistant principal in the Port Neches-Groves and Nederland school districts. She was named Teacher of the Year and received the PTA Honorary Life Membership Award for the 2011-2012 school year at Helena Park Elementary School in Nederland. She lives in Groves.

Pat (Townsend) '74, B.S. home economics and **Bob Meynig** '50, A.A. general studies, celebrated their 60th anniversary Aug. 2, 2012. They live in Beaumont.

William Singleton Jr. '76, B.S. criminal justice, retired from the Beaumont Police Department after a 29-year career. He lives in Winnie.

James Broussard '77, B.S. elementary education, retired from the Channelview school district after 30 years of service. He served as teacher, principal and director of human resources. He lives in Channelview and substitute teaches for the district.

Matthew Colletti '77, B.S. computer and information sciences, is president and chief executive officer of Priority Technology Services Inc. in San Marcos, where he lives.

Robby Davis '77, B.S. mechanical engineering, is maintenance planning and scheduling superintendent for Chevron Phillips Chemical Co. in Pasadena. He lives in Baytown with his wife, Debbie.

Christine (Sanders) Juckett '78, B.E.A. graphic design, is senior art director for Jason's Deli and lives in Beaumont with her husband, Howard.

Bill Macatee '78, B.S. speech, earned a multi-year contract renewal with the Tennis Channel. He will continue serving in multiple roles at four Grand Slam events as well as playing a prominent role in the coverage of Wimbledon. He lives in Dallas.

Debbie (Nevills) Sebastian '78, A.A.S. radiologic technology, is staff radiographer for Sabine County Hospital. She lives in Hemphill.

Michael Truncale '78, B.B.A. economics, earned a master's degree from the University of North Texas and a law degree from Southern Methodist University. He is serving his fourth consecutive term on the State Republican Executive Committee. He and his wife, Denise, live in Beaumont.

Sherry (Coffman) Woods '78, B.B.A. accounting, retired as a senior financial analyst from ExxonMobil Chemical. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Larry. Their son, Christopher, is a Lamar student.

Ned Cole '79, M.Ed. counseling and development, retired and is living in Hot Springs Village, Ark., with his wife, Gertrude. Their daughter, **Lezlie (Cole) Crosswhite** '78, B.S. music, is a Lamar alumna.

Jan Fulbright '79, B.S. art, earned a degree in nursing from the University of Texas at Galveston and is an operating room nurse at the Shriners' Children's Hospital in Galveston. She lives in Houston.

Larry Moon '79, B.S. chemical engineering, earned a law degree from the University of Houston-Law Center and is principal for Zephyr Environmental Corp. in Austin, where he lives with his wife, Ann.

Salim Saeed '79, B.S. industrial engineering, earned a master's degree from St. Edward's University and is vice president for Cygnus Sportswear in Buena Park, Calif. He lives in Westminster, Calif. with his wife, Shahina.

80s

Bryan Duhon '80, B.B.A. marketing, is national sales manager for Thermon Group

Holdings and lives in Houston.

Mitch Woods '80, A.S. law enforcement, '82, B.S. criminal justice, is sheriff for Jefferson County. He lives in Nederland.

A poem by **Patrick Allen Wright** '80, B.G.S. general studies, '84, M.A. English, will appear in the 2013 Texas Poetry Calendar. Titled *Aubade*, the poem accompanies the week of April 28-May 4. This is the third time Calendar editors selected a poem by Wright for the volume, published by Dos Gatos Press of Austin. Wright retired from the Lamar English faculty in 2007 and spent 2 ½ years teaching in South Korea. He lives in Silsbee.

Patricia Harrold '81, M.S. audiology/speech-language pathology, teaches history and is department chairwoman for Edmond Public Schools in Oklahoma. She was appointed to the State Textbook Committee representing the 5th Congressional District. She is founder and past president of the National Council for History Education. She lives in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Randy Walker '81, B.B.A. marketing, is director of sales for Wildcat Development in Spring. He lives in Conroe with his wife, Susan.

Lillie Coney '82, B.A. French, '00, M.P.A. public administration, is associate director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center, a public interest research organization in Washington, D.C. She lives in Abingdon, Md.

Lewis Rusche '82, B.B.A. marketing, is sales manager for Howell Furniture in Beaumont, where he lives.

John Moore '83, B.S. electrical engineering, is engineering manager for Texas Instruments in Houston, where he lives.

Karen Nichols '83, B.S. communication, has joined the Lamar University Foundation as senior development coordinator. She lives in Beaumont.

Gay Lyn (Wilson) Burke '84, M.Ed. educational leadership, lives in Brookeland with her husband, Charles, who retired from Lamar University after a 34-year career.

Brent Coon '84, B.S. political science, earned a law degree from the University of Houston and has been awarded a seat on the Environmental Trial Lawyers Association board of governors. He lives in Beaumont.

Bill Dixon '84, B.S. electrical engineering, retired as senior staff systems engineer from Lockheed Martin. He lives in East Fallowfield, Pa., with his wife, Wanda.

Ricky Ryan '84, M.Ed. supervision, coaches girls' basketball in the Little Cypress-Mauriceville school district. He lives in Orange.

Mavis (Treaster) Triebel '84, B.S. political science, '87, M.P.A. public administration, was honored as a Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation Piper Professor. She teaches

government at Lamar State College-Port Arthur and lives in Groves.

Pat Wilson '84, B.S. industrial engineering, is an agent for State Farm Insurance in Nederland, where he lives with his wife, Lisa.

Angela (Allen) Zbranek '84, B.S. elementary education, '85, M.Ed. counseling and development, earned a law degree from the University of Houston Law Center, and lives in Winnie. Her son, Zachary, is a Lamar student.

Rene LeBlanc '85, B.E.A. studio art, '91, M.A. English, earned a master's degree in fine arts from Southwest Texas State University. She is a student development specialist and lecturer for Texas State University and lives in New Braunfels, with her husband, Roger Jones.

Kristy (Cole) Meaux '85, B.B.A. marketing, earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Texas. She lives in Port Arthur.

Lucie (Aldridge) Fralicks '86, B.S. music, '87, B.A. psychology, is advertising sales manager for Promotional Products Association International in Irving. She and her husband, Kevin, live in Nolanville.

Angelia Joseph '86, B.S. elementary education, is an educator in the Beaumont school district. She lives in Port Arthur.

Barry Bennett '87, B.S. political science, earned a law degree from Texas Tech University and was awarded the Chris Quinn Community Service Award by the Jefferson County Bar Association.

Eric Dengler '87, B.S. computer and information sciences, is administrator for Encompass Home Health in Fort Worth, where he lives.

Leslie Landrey '87, M.S. psychology, is director of career planning and job placement for Houston Community College, where she lives.

Debra (Reviere) Oge '87, M.Ed. school administration, '99, B.S. elementary education, is principal at Roy Guess Elementary in the Beaumont school district. She lives in Sour Lake.

Bruce Shields '87, B.S. kinesiology, is an operations supervisor for LyondellBasell in Houston. He lives in La Porte with his wife, Deena.

Melissa (Chesser) Gallien '88, B.S. sociology, '93, M.Ed. counseling and development, is director of admissions for Lamar University.



Reuniting at Homecoming were the 3 L's (Lovely Ladies of Lamar):
1st row: Lois (Witte) Hoyle '61, Hester (Briscoe) Bell '61, Gretchen (Burner) Watson '61, Raynell (Alford) Singletary '58; 2nd row: Jackie (Dezelle) Bean '60, Mary (Blessitt) Fisher '61, Big Red, Lu, Donna (Syphrett) Prince '62, and Ellen (Walker) Rienstra '62.

SAVE THE DATE

Standing OVATION

MARCH 2, 2013 **LET'S PACK THE HOUSE!**
AND GIVE A STANDING OVATION FOR
JIMMY AND SUSAN SIMMONS

MONTAGNE CENTER
4:00 pm ▶ Lady Cardinals vs. Oral Roberts

6:00 pm ▶ Cardinals vs. Oral Roberts
with special halftime recognition

CELEBRATION ON THE ARENA FLOOR AFTER THE GAME*

Basketball season tickets available now LamarCardinals.com
\$1 individual game tickets available January 7

**Please wear rubber-soled shoes.*

Museum of Fine Arts Houston



Museum of Fine Arts Houston

Alumni enjoyed a tour of the Kensington House exhibit after a lecture on the paintings within the collection delivered by Donna Meeks, professor of art, in the Glassell School of Art.

1. Ed '66 and Renee Heathcott and George Moore
2. Ronny '72 and Daphne Dickerson, Julie and Brian Jensen
3. Nancy (Brooks) Neild '78, Kelvin '80 and Lennel Collard, Laurie (House) Ritchel '85
4. Jason '92 and Karen Walker and Juan Zabala '07
5. Benetta Ernesteen and Kiesha Talbert '02
6. Mark Vise '78, Virgil Hydes '72, '75, David Aleman '76
7. Karen and Joy Bernhardt '07
8. Pat Moore, Susan Trimble, Jimmy Simmons and Patti Barkley '78
9. Elizabeth Castro '72 and Ned Levine
10. Janice (Bennett) Trammell '85, '94, Susan (Williams) Simmons '68, Ellen (Walker) Rienstra '62, '80 and Craig Fecel '66
11. Larry '74 and Sandi Dull and Linda (Embs) LeBlanc '75
12. Mike Hlinak '76 and family
13. Jaime Yim-Talbert '00 and Lisa (Goss) Stone '06
14. Stephen '92 and Dana Halderman
15. Brent and Carole (Pastorick) Wells '79
16. Claudia (Owens) Procter '68 and John Schnick '68

CHIRPS

JACK RANDORFF '65, B.S. PHYSICS
PAM (DOWNEY) MOSER '66, B.S. BIOLOGY

We dated for about two years while attending Lamar State College of Technology and then went our different ways. She moved to Norman, Okla. and I to many places, finally landing in Ransom Canyon, Texas. Thanks to your good efforts at the Lamar Alumni Affairs office, we were put in contact in 2011 after I called regarding her whereabouts. We are now engaged to be married. Thank you so much for playing a part in our reunion.

She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Gary.

Lockwood Cox '89, B.S. secondary education, '06, M.S. biology, has been chosen to implement and manage a new energy conservation program for the Little Cypress-Mauriceville school district. He lives in Buna.

Derrick Fowler '89, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, '96, B.S. criminal justice, is a lieutenant in the Beaumont Police Department. He lives in Plainview with his wife, Lucy.

Jay Givens Jr. '89, B.S. computer science, earned master's and doctoral degrees in divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is professor of religion and director of online religion programs for Wayland Baptist University. He lives in Plainview with his wife, Lucy.

Mohd Farid Ibrahim '89, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a contracts engineer for Petroleum Development in Oman, where he lives with his wife, Siti Suryati.

Dr. Randy Manning '89, B.S. biology, earned a medical degree and specialization in anesthesiology from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. He lives in Madison, Miss.

Brian McClelland '89, B.B.A. accounting, is a partner for McClelland Samuel Fehnel and Busch LLP. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, **Michelle (Holbrook)** '90, B.S.W. social work. Michelle teaches fourth grade at Sallie Curtis Elementary in Beaumont.

Rebecca Woodland '89, M.A. history, is convention sales manager at the Beaumont Convention and Visitors Bureau. She lives in Beaumont.

90s

Marty Bilich '90, B.S. computer science, '90, B.S. electrical engineering, works for IIT Exelis as a systems engineer and lab security in Clifton, N.J. He lives in Belleville, N.J.

Paul Bordelon '90, B.B.A. marketing, works for Cummins Mid South in sales in Kenner, La. He lives in Metairie, La.

Trent Devenzio '90, B.S. political science, earned a law degree from South Texas College of Law and is president of the Jefferson County Bar Association. He lives in Port Arthur.

Sheree (Broussard) Downs '90, B.S. kinesiol-

ogy, '11, M.Ed. administration, coaches girls' basketball at Port Neches-Groves High School. She lives in Beaumont.

Rodney Harrison '90, B.S. criminal justice, is a captain with the police department in Little Elm, where he lives.

Joel McBroom '90, B.B.A. general business, is business development manager for Global Voyages Group in Bellevue, Wash. He lives in Kent, Wash.

Denise (Hutto) Smith '90, B.S. elementary education, is a pre-kindergarten teacher for the Brookeland school district, where she lives with her husband, John.

Gary Fairchild '91, B.S. kinesiology, is superintendent of the Evadale school district. He lives in Kirbyville.

Robert Hebert '91, B.B.A. marketing, works for Crawford Electric in San Antonio. He lives in Converse with his wife, Jo. Their daughter, Haley, is a Lamar student.

Jeffrey Kilgore '92, A.A.S. real estate, owns Kilgore Industrial and Ranger Bolt LLC in Beaumont. He and his wife, **Heather (Griffin)** '93, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, live in Lumberton.

Nick Lanning '12, B.S. physics, B.S. mathematics, wrote an article about his participation in the 2012 annual meeting of the American Physical Society Congress in Boston, at which he won an "Outstanding Poster Presentation" award. LU's STAIRSTEP and McNair Scholars programs, funded by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education, respectively, sponsored Lanning's participation. The National Forum of the Society of Physics Students published his article, "The Superposition of Brainwaves."

Billy Walker '92, M.Ed. school administration, '11, Ed.D. educational leadership, is Randolph Field school district superintendent and participated by invitation of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee in a sub-committee hearing on "The Impact of Sequestration on Education." Walker gave a presentation in Washington in July.

Claudia (Mink) Fowler '93, B.S. political science, is a professional service representative for WorkForce Network Inc in Mineral Wells, where she lives with her husband, Jim.

Debra (Hamilton) King '93, B.B.A. general business, is the nursing home administrator for Pine Arbor Healthcare Center in Silsbee.

She lives in Beaumont.

Ivan Watson '93, A.A.S. process operating technology, was ordained to be a permanent diaconate in the Catholic Church. He lives in Port Neches.

Kelly Baker-Neal '94, B.S. nursing, is program manager for the Department of Aging and Disability in Nacogdoches. She lives in Woden.

Amanda (Franke) Eaves '94, B.B.A. accounting, is partner for Whitley Penn in Houston. She lives in Seabrook with her husband, David.

Kristi (Gillette) Heid '94, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is superintendent of the Silsbee school district. She lives in Sabine Pass.

Wayne Jeffcoat '94, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is assistant police chief for the city of Beaumont, where he lives.

Dwaine Augustine '95, B.S. criminal justice, '97, B.A. English, '01, M.Ed. school administration, '09, Ed.D. educational leadership,

is assistant superintendent for research, planning and evaluation in the Beaumont school district, where he lives.

Peter Hu '95, M.S. biology, earned a doctorate in health administration from Trident University International and was awarded one of the University of Texas Regents' Outstanding Teacher Awards. He is associate professor and director of the graduate program in diagnostic genetics and of the undergraduate program in molecular genetic technology at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, where he lives.

S.C. Tan '95, B.S. industrial engineering, earned a master's degree from the University of Adelaide in Australia, where he lives. He works for the United Parcel Service as Asia Pacific regional senior industrial engineering manager.

Lin Yang '95, M.E.S. engineering science, is chief executive officer for SoarLand Global LLC in Irvine, Calif., where he lives with his wife, **Xiaobai** '96, M.M. music.

THE MIRABEAU SOCIETY

Making History Year by Year

Loyal donors are the cornerstone of Lamar University's many successes. Support from alumni and friends of Lamar continues to be a critical component of our mission to prepare students for leadership and lifelong learning in a multicultural world.

In order to show our gratitude to Lamar's most loyal donors, the Mirabeau Society has been established at Lamar University. The Mirabeau Society recognizes donors for the number of years they have given to Lamar. Donors are recognized in six categories, beginning with those who have given in five to nine different years to those donors who have supported Lamar in more than 30 different years.

Please visit advancement.lamar.edu/mirabeau-society to see the full list of Mirabeau Society members.

Lindy (McAnulty) Brand '96, B.S. nursing, works for North Austin Surgery Center in Austin, where she lives with her husband, Jeffrey.

Lance Dale '96, B.S. kinesiology, is assistant football coach at East Chambers High School. He lives in Hamshire.

Ruth (Plair) Daniels '81, A.S. education, '96, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, earned an educational doctorate from Nova Southeastern University. She lives in Beaumont.

Katy Dupree '96, B.S.W. social work, '98, M.Ed. counseling and development, is director of social services for The Bradford at Brookside in Livingston, where she lives.

Candyece (Bergeron) Tompkins '96, B.B.A. office administration, '04, M.Ed. educational technology leadership, is CTE program coordinator for Region 5 Educational Service Center. She lives in Hamshire.

Stacey (Knight) McCall '97, B.S. nursing, earned a master's degree in health care administration from Loyola University. She is a nursing instructor at Lamar University and lives in Orange.

James Owens '97, B.S. computer science, is senior software engineer for Hewlett-Packard and lives in Pflugerville with his wife, Cindy.

Misty (Beasley) Robleto '97, B.S. sociology, is director of community service and service learning at Marymount Manhattan College in New York, N.Y., where she lives with her husband, Fernando. They were married in Cinque Terre, Italy.

Lisa (Legg) Anderson '98, B.G.S. general studies, is owner of Perfectly Bling in Orange, where she lives with her husband, Curtis.

Jeff Collum '98, B.S. kinesiology, earned a master's degree from Stephen F. Austin State University and is superintendent of the Benton, Ark., school district, where he lives with his wife, Cara.

Tim Kimble '98, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a senior engineer for the American Bureau of Shipping in Houston. He lives in Humble.

Amber (McClintock) Rigney '98, B.A. English, earned a master's degree in technical communications from Texas State University. She is supervising editor at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and lives in Austin with her husband, **Neal** '99, B.S. computer science. He works for PayPal as a software architect.

Alex Coveney '99, B.B.A. marketing, is a group truck rental manager for Enterprise Rent-a-car in Iowa. His team was awarded the Exceptional Achievement Award for 2012. He lives in Urbandale, Iowa.

Cindy (Lee) Huff '99, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches in the Nederland school dis-

An evening of jazz

Jake Tortorice '76, owner of Rao's Bakery and Coffee Café, hosted more than 100 alumni at the Beaumont café for food, drink and jazz, courtesy of Lamar Jazz Band, July 26.

1. Daylyn Turner '07 and Vernon Durden '04
2. 1. Gayle (Butaud) Fairley '85 and Wanda (Brignac) Nicklebur '75, '90
3. Beverly (Davis) '77 and Fred Escamilla, Dean Terrebonne '11 and Rusty Chimeno '87, '11
4. 4. Phelicia (Colone) '01, '09, Miles and Veryl Williams
5. 5. Kent '09 and Sally (Edds) Palculict '08, Vanessa (Wilson) '07 and Steven McDowell '08
6. 6. Micki (Stewart) Carpenter '07 and Ronnie Platt '62
7. 7. Tara (Benson) Cook '06, Shirley (Bruce) Benson '71 and Bilalah (Wallace) Turner '06
8. 8. John Jenkins '88, Karen Nichols '83 and Jay Ramirez '92
9. 9. Rickey '72 and Leila (Lockwood) Melancon '76
10. 10. Scott Eslinger and Brandon Gouthier '96
11. 11. Juan Zabala '07, Ronnie Turner '07, Jake Tortorice '76
12. 12. Joe and Gretchen (Wagner) Wood '03
13. 13. Cherrie (McVey) '70 and Alan Hefty '69
14. 14. Ken '06, Sam and Jennifer Parker
15. 15. Adanna '00 and Brittney Berry



trict. She lives in Port Neches. Her grandfather, the late Otis Lee, was one of the co-signers of the bill making Lamar University a four-year university.

Adam Pardue '99, B.M. music, earned a master's of religion from Wayland Baptist University and is pastor at Highland Baptist Church in Lubbock, where he lives with his wife, Angie.

Gregory Roberts '99, B.G.S. general studies, was presented with the Inner Circle Elite Award by Allstate Insurance. The award is for high standards in customer satisfaction, customer retention and profitable business growth. He lives in Beaumont.

Josh Smalley '99, B.A. history, is head football coach and athletic director for the Orangefield school district, where he lives.

Maybelline (Pete) Washington '99, B.S.W. social work, is pastor of Christ Temple New Life Ministries in Port Arthur, where she lives.

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Sanjay Kapasi '00, M.E.S. chemical engineering science, is senior product marketing manager for AMSL. He lives in San Jose, Calif.

Cheree Bolser '01, B.S. kinesiology, coaches in the Nederland school district, where she lives.

Michael Curl '01, B.A. history, earned a master of divinity from the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is associate pastor with students for the First Baptist Church in Mustang, Okla. He lives in Yukon, Okla., with his wife, Rynda.

Sheri (Horn) DelMage '01, B.B.A. management information systems, '03, B.B.A. accounting, has been promoted to shareholder by Edgar, Kiker and Cross. She is president of the area chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants and lives in Lumberton.

Henry Saur '01, B.S. communication, is a group truck rental manager for Enterprise Rent-a-car in Houston. His team was awarded the Exceptional Achievement Award for the second year. He lives in Friendswood.

Stormy (Markham) Thibodeaux '01, B.S. mathematics, earned a master's degree in education from Stephen F. Austin State University. She is coordinator of mathematics for the Goose Creek school district. She and her husband, Robert, live in Crosby.

The Science Teachers Association of Texas selected **Sharon Yee** '01, B.S. interdisciplinary studies as the 2012 Outstanding Elementary Science Teacher in the state. She lives in Beaumont.

Kari (Elliott) '02, B.S. nursing, and **Thomas Dean** '11, M.B.A. business administration, were married March 17, 2012, in Jasper. She earned a master's degree in nurse anesthesia from Texas Wesleyan University and works in Beaumont. He works as a project manager for an environmental firm in Beaumont, where they live.

Greg Ingram '02, B.A. history, is a project estimator for HD Supply White Cap in Beaumont, where he lives.

Katie (Usoff) Kornegay '02, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, was selected to be part of the LiftOff Summer Institute at NASA's Johnson Space Center. She teaches at West Orange-Stark Elementary School and lives in Beaumont.

David Tolin Jr. '02, B.S. communication, earned a law degree from South Texas College of Law. He works for Ford Nassen and Baldwin in Houston as an associate attorney focusing on all aspects of the construction process. He lives in Beaumont.

Kristina (Worthy) Baggett '03, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches in the Dayton school district. She and her husband, **Chris** '04, B.S. kinesiology, live in Dayton.

Tracy Franklin '03, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is athletic director for Kountze school district and head football coach for Kountze High School. He lives in Evadale.

Christa (Wahl) Frassetto '03, B.S. chemical engineering, earned a master's degree from the University of South Carolina and is a group leader in the formulation department at Emerson Resources Inc. She lives in Philadelphia, Pa., with her husband, James,

CHIRPS



EARL THOMPSON '61, B.S. PHYSICS

When I was at Lamar majoring in physics, we were required to also get a major in math. It also paid off well for me during my four years in the Air Force as a research engineer in aircraft navigation and guidance control systems and my 37 years at NASA as a flight controller in mission control for the Apollo, Skylab and Shuttle missions and as a manager for major programs.

and daughter, Skylar.

Jay Killgo '03, M.Ed. school administration, '10, Ed.D. educational leadership, is superintendent of the Vidor school district, where he lives.

Lindi Messina '03, B.S. communication disorders, '05, M.S. speech-language pathology, works for HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Cypress as a speech language pathologist. She lives in Houston.

Lindsay (Feagin) '03, B.B.A. general business-advertising, and David Robins married March 3, 2012. She is a senior paralegal for Mitsubishi Caterpillar Forklift America Inc., and he is manager of credit and financial support at the same company. They live in Houston.

Prashant Ruparel '03, M.E. engineering science, works for Bechtel Power as a control systems engineer. He lives in Frederick, Md., with his wife, Frupa.

Jay Wise '03, B.S. physics, earned a master's degree in health physics and a doctoral degree in soil science from Texas A&M. He works for Shell Oil Co. as an environmental technologist and lives in Houston.

Adam Bell '04, B.S. chemical engineering, is stimulation engineer for Schlumberger. He and his wife, **Danielle (Gilbert)** '02, B.A.

English, live in Leander. She earned a master's degree from University of Houston and teaches at Leander High School.

Edgar, Kiker and Cross has appointed **Megan Gallien** '04, B.B.A. accounting, as firm manager. She lives in Beaumont.

Julie (Bocek) Gentry '04, B.S. health education, teaches special education in Evadale. She lives in Vidor.

Sang Le '04, B.S. political science, '09, B.B.A. accounting, '12, M.S. accounting, is a staff accountant living in Katy.

Nishant Naik '04, M.Eng. chemical engineering, works for Technip and lives in Houston.

Nekisha Quinney '04, B.S. communication, earned a master's degree in sports management from Minnesota State University-Mankato. She is athletics facility and event coordinator for Southwestern University. She lives in Houston. Her sister, Ashley Newchurch, is a Lamar student.

Karen (Bryant) Standback '04, B.S. psychology, earned a master's degree in criminal justice from Sam Houston State University. She is a police officer in Arlington.

Melissa (Simpson) Tullis '04, B.S. nursing, is a registered nurse for St. Luke's Hospital at the Vintage in Houston, where she lives with her

husband, Justin.

Paul Villforth '04, M.S. family and consumer sciences, is a senior engineer/senior fellow at Dalian University of Science and Technology School of Automotive Engineering and School of Aeronautic/Astronautics. He will be teaching two courses and will design and build a prototype urban automobile for the Chinese and export markets. He lives in Dailian City, China.

K. B. Brown '05, B.S. electrical engineering, is a frac-engineer for Cudd Energy Services in Seminole, Okla. He and his wife, Jasmine, live in Ada, Okla.

Jessica Cacioppo '05, B.S. communication disorders, '08, M.S. speech-language pathology, is a speech pathologist for Christus Hospital St. Elizabeth. She lives in Beaumont.

A.P. Castino '05, B.B.A. marketing, is a journeyman lineman for Entergy Texas in Orange where he lives with his wife, Brooke.

Andrew Craft '05, B.B.A. management, is a special field claims representative for Farmers Insurance in Houston. He lives in Baytown.

Jonathan Haskett '05, B.B.A. accounting, B.B.A., marketing, and Megan Gibson were married May 12, 2012, in Beaumont. He is manager of business lending and services for Mobiloil Federal Credit Union, and they live in Beaumont.

Angela Lalko '05, B.G.S. general studies, works for Huntsman as an environmental specialist in Port Neches. She lives in Nederland.

William Mallette '05, B.S. health and kinesiology, is head softball coach at Nederland High School. He lives in Lumberton.

Leonard Weeks Jr. '05, B.S. mechanical engineering, and **Julie (Gregory)** '09, M.Ed. counseling and development, were married July 21, 2012. They live in Groves.

Scott Carver '06, M.B.A. business administration, is a regional project execution manager for AT&T. He and his wife, **Paige (Furlow)** '10, M.Ed. teacher leadership, live in Little Elm.

Santhosh Chikkegowda '06, M.E.S. mechanical engineering, is lead safety and loss prevention engineer for SBM Offshore in Houston. He and his wife, Sushma, live in Katy.

Bharath Eaga '06, M.E. chemical engineering, is technical safety engineer for AMEC in Houston, where he and his wife, Santhoshi, live.

Kendall Gibbs '06, B.B.A. general business, is senior account executive for Moroch Partners in Dallas, where she lives.

Jackie John '06, B.B.A. human resource management, is store manager for On the Run Inc. in Beaumont, where she lives.

Lauren LaFosse '06, B.S. psychology, is a kindergarten teacher for the Cy-Fair school

district. She lives in Spring with her husband, Brett.

Yatara (Route) Martin '06, B.S. criminal justice, is a police officer for the Beaumont Police Department and lives in Beaumont.

Josh Perez '06, B.B.A. accounting, is an accountant for Apache Corp. He and his wife, Mai, live in Houston.

Natosha Samuel '06, B.S.W. social work, earned a master's degree in social work from Stephen F. Austin University. She is LinkAGE manager for the Southeast Regional Planning Commission Area Agency on Aging in Beaumont, where she lives.

George Wood III '06, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, has been ordained a permanent diaconate in the Catholic Church. He lives in Beaumont.

Gerald Chandler '07, M.Ed. school administration, is assistant superintendent for Lumberton schools. He lives in Batson.

William Fuller '07, B.S. communication, is a wine representative for Republic National Distributing Co. He lives in Houston with his wife, Arian.

Julie (Mooneyham) '07, B.S. communication, and Cole Guidry were married June 30, 2012. They live in College Station.

Kristyn Henderson '07, B.B.A. finance, is cheer and mascot coordinator for Lamar University. She lives in Beaumont.

Alisa (Jones) '07, B.B.A. general business, and **Alfred Killen** '07, B.B.A. finance, were married recently. They live in Liberty.

Wiraj Karve '07, M.E. civil engineering, is a structural engineer for Aker Solutions in Houston, where he lives.

Ashley (Anderson) '07, B.S. communication, and Clayton Manzer married April 13, 2012. She is a systems analyst for EMS USA in Nederland, and he works for Beaumont Fire and Rescue and coaches for CrossFit in Lumberton, where they live.

Camille (Boykin) Relford '07, B.S. communication, works for the ExxonMobil Beaumont Refinery as a lab technician. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Frank.

Keith Talbert '07, B.B.A. finance, is the boys' basketball head coach and assistant coach for both football and track and field for the Evadale school district. He lives in Lumberton.

Josh Yawn '07, B.S. communication, will serve as host and executive producer of a new game show, Family Knows Best, to air on Fox 4 this fall. He lives in Beaumont.

Naresh Bachu '08, M.E. electrical engineering, is a java developer for Mayo Clinic. He lives in Rochester, Minn.

Theresa (Strickland) '08, B.S.W. social work, and Malcolm Boucher were married June 30, 2012. She teaches special education in

Baseball Alumni Reunion

Alumni from the classes of 1967-1972 gathered for the LU Baseball Alumni reunion in May.

1. Dan Hetzel, Leldon Ward '71, Virgil Hydes '72, '75
2. David Bernsen '73, Jim Gilligan '69, '70
3. Lynda and Greg Harrop '70 with Jim '69, '70, and Laverne Gilligan
4. Randy -84 and Jannie Cooper



the Vidor school district. They live in Lumberton.

Justin Curran '08, B.S. chemical engineering, is a facility engineer for BP and lives in Anchorage, Alaska.

Melisa (Martin) DeHoyos '08, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, teaches in the Kermit school district. She lives in Jal, N.M., with her husband, Joey.

C. A. Dickey '08, B.B.A. human resource management, is a training coordinator for DuPont in Orange. He lives in Vidor with his wife, Bonnie.

Jesse Ford III '08, B.B.A. management information systems, and **Katie (Wheeler)** '10, B.S. communication disorders, were married on Feb. 4, 2012. They live in Beaumont.

Jennifer (Deaton) '08, B.B.A. marketing, and Samuel Gregory were married Nov. 11, 2011, in Beaumont, where they live. She is controller for JAMA Group LLC, and he is a bartender for the Pacesetter Lounge.

Dawn Katz '08, B.S. communication, earned a master's degree in communication and public relations studies from the University of Houston and is an instructor at Lamar University. She lives in Nederland.

Andrew LeBlanc '08, B.B.A. management, and **Meredith (Hamilton)** were married May 26, 2012. He works for Enterprise Rent-A-Car in fleet management, and they live in Baytown.

Santosh Pola '08, M.E. civil engineering, is a structural engineer for KS Engineers and lives in Harrison, N.J.

Joy (Cross) Schatte '08, B.S. sociology, teaches at St. Mary Catholic School in Orange, where she lives with her husband, Marvin.

Miguel Solis '08, B.A. history, earned a master's degree in education policy and management from Harvard University. He is special assistant to the superintendent of schools in Dallas.

Edgar Thompson Jr. '08, B.B.A. management information systems, is an instructor for Kaplan College and owner of ZZcomputerSupport in Beaumont, where he lives.

Cathy (Seidman) Warmack '08, B.M. music, teaches private violin lessons in the Rockwall school district and plays for the Mesquite Symphony Orchestra. She lives in Mesquite.

Kristen Albright '09, B.A. English, teaches English at Nederland High School and lives in Nederland.

Jonah Cherry '09, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a field engineer for General Electric in Beaumont. He lives in Groves with his wife, Tara.

Matt Gore '09, B.G.S. general studies, is sales and rental coordinator for National Pump and Compressor and lives in Beaumont.

Amanda (DeRossette) Hargrave '09, B.G.S. general studies, is a buyer for Richard Design Services in Beaumont. She lives in

Silsbee with her husband, Taylor.

Jana (McKey) '09, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, and **Cody Harper** '08, B.S. biology, married on March 3, 2012. She teaches third grade in the Port Neches-Groves school district, and he teaches and coaches in the Orangefield school district. They live in Orange.

Himanshi Khurana '09, M.E. chemical engineering, is a systems analyst for the Department of Veterans Affairs in Salt Lake City, Utah, where he lives.

Mark Koller '09, M.Ed. administration, is principal at Pleasant Hill Elementary School in the Leander school district, where he lives.

CHIRPS



GEORGE AUSTIN-MARTIN '67, B.S. MATHEMATICS, M.S., PH.D.

I always thought that I received a first-class education at Lamar. I have taught at other colleges and universities and could not help comparing them with Lamar. They all ranked a distant second. I was saddened to read of Sam Wood's death. He was my adviser while I was at Lamar. Quick story: Lamar had just received its first computer (yes, it was a long time ago), and Sam called me into his office to advise me that computers were the future and I should enroll in a computer class. I said, "Sam, I will never be near a computer." My first job after graduating from Lamar was at Los Alamos National Laboratories working as an electrical engineer and a systems analyst. I would visit Sam each year when I returned home. He always asked me, "George, what are you doing now?" He knew what I was doing. We both got a good laugh at my shortsightedness.

2 0 1 3 Cardinal Adventures



TREASURES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Cape Town, Robben Island, Thornybush Game Preserve, Johannesburg
Rovos Rail journey to Victoria Falls
October 22 - November 5, 2013

NORTHERN SPAIN

Barcelona & San Sebastian
also including Penedes, Zargoza, Bilbao and Pamplona
May 26 - June 4, 2013

JEWELS OF ANTIQUITY CRUISE

-- Cannes to Venice --
cruising the Ligurian, Tyrrhenia, Mediterranean and Adriatic seas
Ports of call along the French Riviera, Italy, Albania, Greece and Croatia
May 28 - June 6, 2013

Advancement.Lamar.edu/travel-programs

CHIRPS



KENNETH H. BAIRD II '69, B.S. GEOLOGY

Having worked for a few exploration and production oil and gas companies during my career, I am currently vice president of Buckskin Petroleum of California LLC. I'm semi-retired and live in the Greenhorn Mountains of Kern County, Calif., on 80 acres northwest of Bakersfield. I have four kids—three boys, one girl—and 4 grand-kids. I enjoy the great outdoors: backpacking, fishing, the scenery, the wildlife on my ranch and working my apple, peach, pear, plum, apricot, nectarine, cherry, prune, almond, walnut, pecan, blackberry, raspberry, and blueberry orchard. I'm also an avid car nut and routinely drive one of my antique/classic cars—'35 Chevy coupe, '35 Chevy pickup street rod (400+ horsepower,) '50 Ford 2-door sedan (the car I drove in high school...I still have it!), and a '62 Oldsmobile Starfire...jet black of course. I really enjoyed my geology professors: Eveland, Tennyson, Aronow, Dean, Davis. Regrettably, some have probably passed on by now, but they were tops! That's why I have done so well throughout my career.

Byron Mason '09, M.Ed. administration, is assistant principal in the Duncanville school district. He lives in Red Oak.

Ketul Ray '09, M.E. mechanical engineering, is a technical executive for Power Build Ltd. in Ahmedabad, India, where he lives with his wife, Gargi.

Matt Ruggles '09, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a fixed-equipment engineer for the ExxonMobil Beaumont Refinery and lives in Beaumont with his wife, **Meghan (Merritt)** '08, B.S. chemistry, '10, M.S. chemistry.

Judy Simon '09, M.Ed. teacher leadership, retired after a 37-year career teaching kindergarten in the South San Antonio school district. She lives in San Antonio.

Donna (Skaggs) Smith '09, M.Ed. administration, is instructional specialist for Richardson school district. She lives in Garland.

Alice (Hubbell) '09, B.S. chemistry, married **Joshua Splinter** '08, B.S. chemistry, May 25, 2012, in Orange. She is attending the University of Texas Medical School in Houston. He is a graduate of the University of Texas Medical School in San Antonio and has begun his residency in family practice. They live in Houston.

Megan Stroder '09, B.S. nursing, is a registered nurse at Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas. She lives in Port Neches.

Kristin (King) Winzer '09, B.S. communication, is director of marketing for Albanese Cormier Holdings in Beaumont, where she lives with her husband, Eric.

Ramesh Asapu '10, M.E. chemical engineering, is an engineer for Mercedes-Benz Research and Development in Bangalore, India, where he lives.

Michaela (McCoy) Bratsch '10, B.S. chemistry, and her husband, **Keegan** '11, B.S. civil engineering, live in Houston. He is employed by Hahn and Clay.

Wayne Bridges '10, M.Ed. administration, is technology training specialist for the Edinburg school district. He lives in Mission.

Rebecca (Wilson) Cullums '10, B.G.S. general studies, teaches in the Port Arthur school district. She lives in Bridge City with her husband, Kurt.

Merideth (Lincoln) Dodd '10, M.Ed. administration, is assistant principal in the Bay City school district, where she lives with her husband, Garrett.

Ashley Gooden '10, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, earned a master's degree in public administration from DeVry University. She is a CPS Investigator 2 for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services in Austin, where she lives.

Lauren (Huebel) '10, B.G.S. general studies, and Bryan Jones married March 3, 2012, in Beaumont. She works for Capital One, and he works for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

Rachel (Mills) Mann '10, M.Ed. teacher leadership, teaches in the Jacksonville school district, where she lives.

Krystle Manning '10, M.Ed. administration, teaches elementary language arts in the Spring school district. She lives in Houston.

Matthew McGuire '10, M.Ed. administration, has been named a financial representative for Country Financial in Houston. He lives in Jenks, Okla.

Brandon Richey '10, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a sales representative for Liberty Mutual in Kingwood. He lives in Humble with his wife, Hannah.

Jeremy Shoemaker '10, B.B.A. marketing, is a police officer for the Beaumont Police Department. He lives in Beaumont.

Aaron Slacum '10, B.S. chemical engineering, is a management associate in quality assurance for United States Steel Corp. He lives in Brenham.

Grant Stuart '10, B.B.A. finance, is a financial advisor for Merrill Lynch in Beaumont. He lives in Lumberton.

Cody Tunstall '10, M.Ed. administration, is director of career and technical education for the Palestine school district, where he lives.

Adam Westbrook '10, B.B.A. accounting, '11, M.S. accounting, is a certified professional accountant for Mazur and Vernon accounting firm in Port Arthur. He lives in Nederland with his wife, **Johana (Wagner)** '09, B.S. communication. She is a math teacher in the Nederland school district.

Laura Whitmire '10, B.A. psychology, earned a master's degree in higher education and student affairs from Baylor University. She is assistant director of student activities and leadership development at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Correy Barnes '11, M.B.A. business administration, is a senior associate for Strength Investment Group in Irving, where he lives.

Carly (Wright) Broussard '11, B.B.A. marketing, is an admissions representative and recruiter for Lamar University. She and her husband, Michael, live in Port Neches.

Nicole Churchill '11, M.Ed. administration, teaches in the Abilene school district, where she lives.

Anne (Bennett) Dickens '11, Ed.D. educational leadership, is HSI STEM grant project director for Galveston College. She lives in Galveston with her husband, **Durrell** '11, Ed.D. educational leadership.

Amy (Parker) '11, B.B.A., accounting, and **Trey Fournier** '07, B.S. industrial technology, were married Jan. 14, 2012, in Beaumont. She works for Scallion Controls Inc., and he works for Reynolds Co. They live in Beaumont.

Gretchen Kloes '11, M.Ed. administration, teaches and coaches in the Conroe school district. She lives in The Woodlands.

Amy Layman '11, M.Ed. educational technology leadership, is an artist for Over The Top in Fort Worth, where she lives with her husband, Nicholas.

Andy Morris '11, B.B.A. management information systems, is consultant for vConstruct in Austin, where he lives.

Alex Murphy '11, B.S. electrical engineering, is an instrument and electrical engineer for Arkema Inc. in Beaumont. He lives in Orange.

Bryan Pauler '11, M.Ed. administration, teaches and coaches in the Buffalo school district, where he lives with his wife, Dixie.

Nicholas Peters '11, B.B.A. finance, is a financial advisor for Merrill Lynch in Beaumont, where he lives with his wife, Erin.

Alan Peterson '11, B.S. mechanical engineering, is maintenance engineer for Centauri Technologies LP in Pasadena. He lives in Kemah.

Timothy Rodgers '11, M.Ed. administration, teaches in the Richardson school district and lives in Mesquite.

Jenny (Blakely) Saavedra '11, M.Ed. administration, is an autism specialist for the Leander school district, where she lives.

Jamie Salter '11, B.S. food and nutrition, graduated from the Texas Department of Public Safety's Training Academy in Austin. She lives in Beaumont.

Heather (DeBord) Sanderson '11, B.S. nursing, is a registered nurse for Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas. She lives in Port Neches with her husband, Will.

Shad Scharlach '11, M.Ed. administration, is assistant principal of Smithville High School. He lives in Wimberley.

Rachael Slinkard '11, M.Ed. administration, teaches fourth grade in the Midway school district. She lives in Waco.

Tiffany Smith '11, B.S.W. social work, is case manager for the Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission Area Agency on Aging in Beaumont, where she lives.

Laura Steele '11, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is an aide in the Port Neches Groves school district, where she lives with her husband, Santiago Gomez.

Diana (Fernandez) Sullivan '11, M.Ed. educational technology leadership, teaches in the Klein school district. She lives in Spring.

Sarah Thompson '11, B.B.A. accounting, is an accountant for ICO Polymers North America in China. She lives in Vidor.

Joey Alvarado '12, B.S. industrial technology, works for Total Safety as an industrial hygiene specialist in Nederland. He and his wife, Tiffany, live in Port Arthur.

Melinda Howard '12, B.A. English, teaches at the WT Hall Center for Education in Houston. She lives in Humble.

Mike James '12, B.G.S. general studies, Lamar's leading scorer in each of the past two basketball seasons, has continued his playing career by signing to play professionally with KK Zagreb in Croatia. As a senior for the Cardinals, James averaged 17.5 points per game on his way to being named First-Team All-Southland Conference. James would also earn Tournament MVP honors of the conference tournament as Lamar rolled to the title to earn its sixth trip to the NCAA Tournament.

Tommy McNabb '12, B.A.A.S. applied arts and science, is an operations scheduler for Cheniere Energy in Cameron, La. He lives in Lake Charles.

Brittany Ruffin '12, B.S.W. social work, is a family advocate social worker for Family Services of Southeast Texas in Beaumont, where she lives.

Cardinals helping the hungry

A number of Lamar University alumni volunteered to organize and pack food boxes at the Southeast Texas Food Bank for delivery to rural areas in Southeast Texas during an event organized by the LU Alumni Office Oct. 6.



We will miss...

Retirees

Virginia (Norris) Anderson, retiree, died April 3, 2012. Memorial contributions may be made to the Virginia Anderson Presidential Scholarship in Family and Consumer Sciences at Lamar University Foundation, P.O. Box 11500, Beaumont, TX 77627.

Dorothy (Forristal) Brown, retiree, died April 4, 2012.

Rosie (Lee) Sibley, retiree, died July 3, 2012.

Lewis Knowles Sr. '35, A.A. general studies, died July 28, 2012.

Neomi (Lancaster) Kavanaugh '37, A.A. general studies, '62, B.S. elementary education, '65, M.Ed. elementary education, died April 25, 2012.

Jeanne (Barkell) Beard '38, A.A. general studies, '74, B.A. French, died July 11, 2012.

Howard Kringle '44, A.A. general studies, '62, B.S. secondary education, died Aug. 3, 2012.

Bettye (Dawson) Richmond '46, A.A. general studies, died June 16, 2012.

Lester Roark '47, A.A. general studies, died Aug. 9, 2012.

Dr. Darrell Perkins '48, A.S. general studies, died May 25, 2012.

Patsy (Brown) Young '48, A.A. general studies, died Aug. 8, 2012.

Edwin Anderson '49, A.A. general studies, '56, B.S. chemistry, died Aug. 21, 2012.

John Hall '56, B.S. geology, died April 30, 2012.

Dr. Doug Mattingly Jr. '56, B.S. biology, died June 1, 2012.

Earl McCallon '57, B.S. geology, died Aug. 31, 2012.

Wilma (Woodard) Nash '57, B.S. elementary education, died July 31, 2012.

Janis (Thomson) Coffey '58, B.S. commercial art, died Sept. 2, 2012.

Archie McDonald '58, B.S. history, died Aug. 16, 2012.

James Pousson '58, B.S. mechanical engineering, died June 5, 2012.

Lillian (Dittmer) Rodgers '58, B.A. English, died May 19, 2012.

Carl VanDevender '58, B.S. biology, '71, M.Ed. secondary education, died June 15, 2012.

James Adams '59, B.B.A. general business, died May 28, 2012.

Dr. Gerry Callas '59, B.S. biology, died Sept. 1, 2012.

Wesley Cawley '59, B.S. mechanical engineering, died July 11, 2012.

Melba (Phillips) Davey '60, B.S. elementary education, died April 6, 2012.

Robert Ward '60, B.S. civil engineering, died July 30, 2012.

Gary Angelle '61, B.B.A., general business, died April 11, 2012.

We will miss...

Karl Baumgarten '61, B.B.A. general business, died June 25, 2012.

Robert Beggs '62, B.S. civil engineering, died Sept. 2, 2012.

Maurice Blackmon '62, B.S. physics, died Aug. 22, 2012.

Robert Edwards '62, B.S. government, '79, M.Ed. supervision, died Aug. 13, 2012.

Dewey Mosby '63, B.S. commercial art, died Aug. 1, 2012.

Leon Collins '64, B.B.A. general business, died July 2, 2012.

George Delamatyr Jr. '64, B.S. mechanical engineering, died Aug. 2, 2012.

Edgar Gutmann '64, B.S. sociology, died Aug. 8, 2012.



A life of art and education

Distinguished Alumnus **Dewey Mosby** '63 died Aug. 1 in New York. Before his retirement in 2004, Mosby spent 23 years as director of the Picker Art Gallery at Colgate University, stewarding the gallery to become one of the premier venues in the art world.

Before his appointment at Colgate, in the village of Hamilton, N.Y., Mosby served as curator of European art at The Detroit Institute of Arts, as assistant professor at the State University of New York in Buffalo and as visiting assistant professor at Harvard.

Born in San Augustine and raised in Orange, Mosby was an art history scholar, specializing in 19th- and 20th-century European art. He authored books and catalogues and organized many important exhibitions, including showcases of the work of Henry Ossawa Tanner at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. In 2004, he organized and served as juror for Lamar’s annual Dishman Competition.

Mosby’s life included many firsts among Black Americans: First to receive a Ph.D. in art history from Harvard University and the first black American to be curator of European art at a major American museum (The Detroit Institute of Art.) He received numerous prestigious international awards and decorations, including the Officier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from the French minister of culture and communications.

Dewey was among the first black students to attend Lamar, where he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in studio art in 1963. At Lamar, he helped form the school’s first black fraternity and attended lunch counter sit-ins to protest segregation. After graduation, he earned a master’s degree in art history from the University of California at Los Angeles and the doctor of philosophy from Harvard University.

Survivors include his two children, Christophe and Veronique, and his wife Rebekah Presson Mosby. The couple lived in Hamilton, New York.

Jon LeSage '64, B.S. mechanical engineering, died May 5, 2012.

Wilford Parmley '64, B.B.A. accounting, died May 16, 2012.

Donald Redding '64, B.A. political science, died July 25, 2012.

Mary (Grant) Murphy '65, B.S. elementary education, '70, M.Ed. elementary education, died July 30, 2012.

Robert Prados Jr. '66, certif. welding, '72, A.A.S. welding, died April 12, 2012.

William Briggs '67, B.S. biology, died April 24, 2012.

Irma (Holland) Cozad '68, B.S. secondary education, '73, M.Ed. supervision, died April 24, 2012.

Theo Stone '68, B.S. elementary education, '69, M.Ed. elementary education, died Sept. 7, 2012.

Allie Callihan '69, B.B.A. management, died May 28, 2012.

Mike Gammill '69, B.B.A. management, died May 13, 2012.

Frank Gerriets '69, B.S. graphic design, died June 2, 2012.

George Shakour Jr. '69, B.S. government, died April 15, 2012.

Roger Cartledge '70, B.B.A. marketing, died Aug. 11, 2012.

Martha (Beckner) Robinson '70, B.S. elementary education, died May 22, 2012.

Barbara (Holcomb) Dunaway '71, B.S. elementary education, '75, M.Ed. special education, died Sept. 1, 2012.

Ronald Hoffpauir '71, B.B.A. marketing, died July 21, 2012.

Esther (Riedinger) Smith '71, B.S. elementary education, died July 26, 2012.

Fred Gunter III '72, B.B.A. accounting, died Aug. 28, 2012.

John Hall '72, B.S. speech, died Aug. 14, 2012.

Demetra (Musgrave) Thompson '72, M.Ed. counseling and development, died May 19, 2012.

Dora (Villarreal) Torseth '72, B.A. political science, died May 14, 2012.

Carolyn (Irish) Bourque '73, M.A. English, died June 13, 2012.

Frederic Madenwald III '73, B.S. industrial engineering, died Aug. 5, 2012.

Alma (LeDoux) Marino '73, B.S. elementary education, died Aug. 10, 2012.

Rosetta (Brooks) Patterson '73, B.M. music education, died May 4, 2012.

Alice (Miller) Spacek '73, M.Ed. guidance and counseling, died April 28, 2012.

Peter Beenen '74, B.A. mathematics, died June 25, 2012.

Gerald Dunaway '74, B.S. civil engineering, died June 23, 2012.

Sterling Arceneaux '75, B.S. studio art, died June 14, 2012.

Juanita (Jarvis) Madson '75, A.S. nursing, died May 30, 2012.

Connie (Dunn) Rogers '75, B.S. elementary education, died June 9, 2012.

Loritha (Kennerson) Bellard '76, certif. nursing, '87, A.A.S. nursing, died April 11, 2012.

Carolyn (Ivy) King '76, certif. vocational nursing, '85, A.A.S. nursing, died May 3, 2012.

Sharon (Ladd) Peltier '76, A.S. nursing, died April 5, 2012.

Willie Wilson '76, B.S. elementary education, died July 25, 2012.

Robert Bittle Jr. '77, B.S. psychology, died April 17, 2012.

MaDeline Savoy '77, B.A. government, died Aug. 5, 2012.

Obie Milton Jr. '78, B.G.S. general studies, died April 13, 2012.

Neal House Jr. '80, M.Ed. counseling and development, died April 26, 2012.

Kathryn (Parrott) Cherry '82, B.S. home economics, died July 19, 2012.

Matthew Huch '82, B.B.A. general business, died June 16, 2012.

Nancy Lawrence '83, B.S. communication, died Aug. 8, 2012.

James McKinney '83, A.A.S. diesel mechanics, '86, B.S. industrial technology, died July 16, 2012.

Charles Netterville '83, B.S. sociology, died May 14, 2012.

Garland Sonnier '83, B.B.A. management, died April 7, 2012.

Bettie (Marshall) Stringer '84, B.S. studio art, died June 5, 2012.

Barbara (Stearns) Hatcher '88, A.A.S. nursing, died June 19, 2012.

Ronald Robertson '90, B.S. criminal justice, died July 29, 2012.

Patricia (Philyaw) Taylor '90, B.S. family and consumer sciences-hospitality administration, died July 6, 2012.

Billie (Denham) Albritton '92, B.S. psychology, '94, M.S. psychology, died June 9, 2012.

Michelle (Smith) Malatesta '95, B.S. nursing, died July 24, 2012.

Laura (Hay) Purkey '04, B.B.A. finance, '07, M.B.A. business administration, died June 29, 2012.

Carl Duhon '09, M.Ed. administration, died May 24, 2012.

Terrence Holmes '12, B.S. political science, died May 9, 2012.



From geological discovery to enlightening young minds

Claudia Ludwig’s first thoughts when contemplating her ultimate career path were directed toward the stars as an astronomer. Her career focus eventually shifted from those ninth-grade dreams of studying the heavens to the depths of the oceans. Oceanography was considered a graduate-level degree at that time and required a bachelor’s degree in a related discipline to qualify for the graduate program. Geology was just such a program and would be her path to the oceans.

“I talked to a family friend from Beaumont who wanted to get a doctorate in geology from MIT,” Ludwig said. “He had contacted MIT to find the best undergraduate geology program that would funnel into their graduate program and was told Lamar was the best. What better recommendation could I have had?”

Armed with a new career focus and a new major, Ludwig began her coursework in geology at Lamar. The 1966 bachelor’s degree in geology led to her admission to the oceanography program at Texas A&M where she earned a master’s degree in geological

oceanography in 1971. Unfortunately, the relatively new field of geological oceanography offered few job opportunities in Texas and those limited opportunities ultimately led to most of her geological discoveries on dry land as a petroleum geologist.

Although she spent the bulk of her career exploring for economic reserves of oil and gas on terra firma, she never gave up her passion for the oceans. A SCUBA enthusiast since her college days, Ludwig is an accomplished diver and underwater photographer. She has assembled numerous presentations on underwater marine life that she has delivered to many school and community audiences. As a member of the Houston Underwater Club, she was recognized as Diver of the Year, a service-related award, in 1989 and 2000.

“Since graduation, I turned my unfulfilled vocation in oceanography into an avocation of SCUBA and underwater photography,” she said. “Most of my dive trips were in the Caribbean: Grand Cayman, Cozumel, Honduras, Belize and San Andres. My favorite destination is the Bay Islands of Honduras.”

Her service activities to the field of

geology and Lamar University include giving her time and talents to the Lamar Department of Earth & Space Sciences Advisory Board and as a member of the Houston Geological Society (HGS) since 1974. She has served on many committees for HGS during her 30-year relationship with the organization, earning the President’s Award in 1989, the Distinguished Service Award in 1994, the Honorary Life Member Award in 2003 and the Gerald A. Cooley Award in 2008, the highest award HGS can bestow.

Encouraging high school students to enter the field of geology has kept her involved with the Science and Engineering Fair of Houston for many years where she has served as president, vice president and as judge. She shares her knowledge and expertise with the Houston Museum of Natural History in the selection of students for the summer internship program sponsored by the Engineering, Science and Technology Council of Houston, of which she is vice president emeritus. HGS honored Ludwig with The Claudia Petra Ludwig HMNS Summer Internship for her continued long-time participation in ECH and the Science and Engineering Fair of Houston.

Ludwig has some candid advice for Lamar students who desire to enter the field of geology. “Be aware that geology, like engineering, has a spectrum of sub-disciplines and applications,” she said. “Historically, most geology students in the Gulf Coast go into petroleum work. Today, however, there are many more opportunities available to you in the non-petroleum arena for our region.”—LA

Orlando Cervantes named women's soccer coach



Athletic Director Jason Henderson named Orlando Cervantes as head women's soccer coach Aug. 16. Cervantes has spent the past two seasons as an assistant coach at Indiana University. "We look forward to great things to come from Orlando

and the women's soccer program," Henderson said. It is the first Division I head coaching job for Cervantes, who has been a head coach at NAIA programs Holy Names University and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

"It's a challenge I've been waiting for. I wanted to be a head coach at Division I," Cervantes said. He becomes the third women's soccer coach in Lamar history. The Lady Cardinals are coming off their best season ever, posting a 9-8-2 overall record and finishing third in the Southland Conference with a 6-2-1 mark.

Prior to his stint at Indiana, Cervantes was an assistant coach at Cal Poly, where he helped the Mustangs win a Big West Conference championship. His first job as a head coach was at Holy Names University for three seasons. Cervantes led the team to a pair of top three conference finishes in his first two seasons.

Topper Cogan named assistant women's soccer coach



Cogan comes to Lamar from Southland Conference rival Sam Houston State University, where he served as assistant women's soccer coach for the past four seasons. He helped Sam Houston qualify for the Southland Conference tournament in three of his four seasons.

Cogan played collegiate soccer at Miami of Ohio and Houston Baptist. At Houston Baptist, he set school records for career shutouts, consecutive shutouts and career goals-against average. Cogan earned his bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in health from Texas Tech in 1997, and earned his master's degree in sports psychology from Texas Tech in 2005. In addition to his duties at Lamar, Cogan serves as the head coach of the Texas Strikers, a professional indoor team that will play in Beaumont starting in December.



Football expands horizons

In 2010, Lamar faced the daunting challenge of fielding a football team for the first time in more than two decades. The challenge continued in 2011 when the Cardinals squared off against a full slate of Southland Conference competition.

Then came the 2012 season when Lamar upped the ante by taking on Football Bowl Subdivision teams for the first time since reinstating the program. Lamar opened the season at former conference rival University of Louisiana-Lafayette and then travelled to Oahu to take on Hawaii for the first time in school history.

While the two games proved to be tough on the field, the experience gained will not only help the

Cardinals this year but in upcoming seasons as they compete against bigger schools.

The trip to Hawaii also allowed most of the players to experience a part of the world that they had never visited and might not otherwise have seen were it not for their association with Lamar football. For many of the players, it was also their first time on an airplane.

In addition to play on the field, the entire team also got a chance to visit Pearl Harbor and see history come to life at the USS Arizona Memorial. Head Coach Ray Woodard stressed the importance of visiting Pearl Harbor on the trip, and the players were able to take away an appreciation for the site.



QuickHits

As Lamar gets ready to host the 2012 Southland Cross Country Championships, the team will be getting familiar with a new distance coach as Head Coach Trey Clark announced the hiring of Darren Gauson in September. Gauson, a native of Edinburgh, Scotland, previously coached and competed for Butler, helping them to a 14th consecutive Horizon League Men's Cross Country title. He'll be looking to do the same in Beaumont as the Cardinal men have six in a row. He'll also coach the women, who are looking to return to the form that helped them win three straight titles from 2004-06.



Jim Gilligan and the Lamar baseball staff are excited about the 2013 season, and with strong summers from Jude Vidrine, Garret Autrey and Brad Picha, they have reasons to be. The trio turned heads in the Texas League and Valley League, and Perfect Game USA named them among the top prospects in their respective league. Vidrine starred for the Victoria Generals in the Texas League, earning a spot and homering twice in the All-Star Game. Both Autrey and Picha competed for the Winchester Royals.

Senior golfer Julie Aime picked up her third career victory as she took home medalist honors at the ULM Fred Marx Invitational Sept. 25. A two-time, All-Southland Conference selection, Aime finished with a 2-under-par 214 total at Bayou Desiard Country Club.

Aime continued her strong play with a tie for second place just one week later as the Lady Cardinals took home the team title at the Bob Hurley Auto ORU Shootout. Lamar won the tournament by 24 strokes over host Oral Roberts as Aime, junior Katelyn McDougal and sophomore Nghi Ngo each finished in the Top 10. It is the third tournament victory for Lamar in its last seven events.

Lamar University enjoyed yet another exceptional golf season in 2011-12 capped off by a run to the NCAA Championships from historic Riviera Country Club. With senior M.J. Daffue successfully defending his Southland Conference individual title, Lamar University won its unprecedented 24th team title in men's golf to qualify for the NCAA Greensboro Regional.

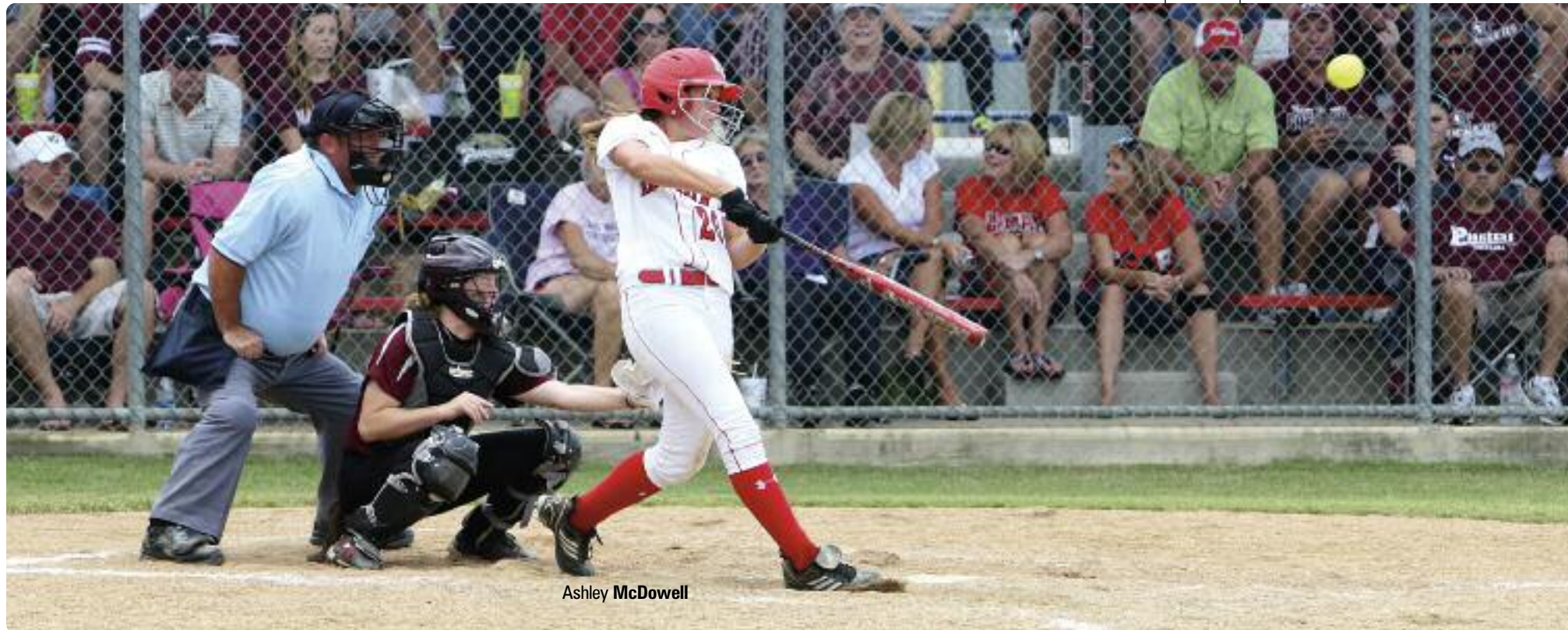


Once in Greensboro, the Cardinals would put together an impressive three rounds to finish fourth in the regional. Lamar shot the best round of the final day to secure its first trip to the national tournament since tying for third place in 2007.

Luke Jerling, who was named the 2012 Southland Conference Freshman of the Year, was the Cards' top finisher in his first-ever regional appearance with a tie for seventh. Daffue tied for 13th at the Regional and was named to the Division I PING All-Central Region team after putting together a stellar senior campaign.

Against a star-studded field at the NCAA Championship, Lamar would finish 25th nationally to finish ahead of programs such as TCU, East Carolina, Memphis and UAB. Daffue would close out his impressive three-year Lamar career with a tie for 29th in the elite field of 156 golfers.





Ashley McDowell



Jenna Holland

Lady Cards hit it out of the park

The return of softball to Lamar University got off to a rousing start as a standing-room only crowd packed Ford Park Sept. 22 as the Lady Cardinals hosted Texas Woman's University in an exhibition doubleheader.

Lamar, which will play a full schedule this spring as a member of the Southland Conference, earned a tie and a win against Texas Woman's University in the doubleheader, the first softball games for the Lady Cardinals since Lamar dropped the sport after the 1987 season.

"It was like Christmas in September for me," Lamar softball Coach Holly Bruder said. "I was so excited to finally be able to coach in a game again. It was a fantastic atmosphere, and I was happy with the way we played."

The Lamar roster features 19 players from eight states. The Lady Cardinals have 11 freshmen and eight transfers from the junior college ranks.

"We're definitely a young team," Bruder said. "But what we lack in experience we make up for in work ethic and enthusiasm. We're going to keep getting better."

While plans call for an on-campus softball field in the near future, the Lady Cardinals will play all of this season's home games at Ford Park,

off of Interstate 10 in Beaumont. Bruder and assistant coach Allison Honkofsky spent much of the past spring and summer transforming one of the diamonds into one of the best facilities in the Southland Conference. Ardent Lamar supporter Rich Courville donated plenty of time and resources to help get the field ready for the opener.

"I am really happy with how it turned out," Bruder said. "This is a field we can be proud of. Of course, I am looking forward to having our own field on campus. We're going to do that right."

The Lady Cardinals are scheduled to play more than 50 games this spring, starting with the season opener on Feb. 9, when UTSA comes to Ford Park for a doubleheader. Lamar will play in-season tournaments at South Alabama, the University of Texas and UT Arlington. In addition to Southland Conference opponents, Lamar will face such non-conference foes as Houston, Louisiana-Monroe and Bucknell.

"I like our schedule," Bruder said. "We have some big challenges, but I think we will be competitive. We are definitely going to be fun to watch."

“
It was like
Christmas in
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me . . . It was a
fantastic atmosphere,
and I was happy
with the way
we played.”

— COACH HOLLY BRUDER



Stephanie Meeuwsen

LU wins men's all-sport trophy

With first-place finishes in cross country and golf, Lamar University earned the top spot in the Southland Conference Commissioner's Cup Men's All-Sport standings for its best finish since placing second in 2008.



The Cardinals edged Stephen F. Austin 67.5-65.5 to win the Men's All-Sport trophy. Combined with the 61.5 points scored by the Lady Cardinals, Lamar finished fourth overall in the Southland Conference Commissioner's Cup standings.

"We are very proud of the year that all of our student-athletes had," said Athletics Director Jason Henderson. "We are proud of the work done on the field and especially in the classroom by our student-athletes. It is a great sign of the quality student-athletes, staff, and coaches that we have at Lamar and the support of Dr. Jimmy Simmons and the entire Lamar family for our continued success."

The Southland Conference all-sports trophies are awarded annually for men's and women's competition based on a 12-point system for all conference sports. Point values are 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1, pending place of finish. Regular-season standings are used for sports that have a conference tournament. The Commissioner's Cup is awarded to the university compiling the highest combined total of men's and women's all-sports points.

Lamar, which also picked up a third-place finish in men's basketball, won its league-leading 24th title in men's golf and its sixth-straight championship in men's cross country.

The Lady Cardinals were fifth overall in the Women's All-Sport standings after getting third-place finishes in soccer, cross country and golf for their three highest league finishes. Lamar will also be able to add points starting next spring when softball officially begins play.



Season ticket information will be announced soon.
See the schedule | Get ticket information
(409) 880-1715 | LamarCardinals.com



Boomtown boom

by Louise Wood

From Wildcatter Weekends to daily forays into living history, Lamar's Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum is the place to be for education and entertainment. Cardinal Cadence asked museum director Mark Osborne for an update on growth, outreach and innovations at the museum.

Q: What is the significance of the museum?

A: The discovery of oil at Spindletop on Jan. 10, 1901, truly was epic. Texas emerged as an industrial powerhouse, fueling everything from cars to trains to ships and factories. The story we tell at the museum is also epic with great characters, like Patillo Higgins and Capt. Anthony Lucas. While the ideas are somewhat early in development at this time, we will be growing in ways that, ultimately, will make us even more significant to the university and the surrounding community.

Q: What are the most important accomplishments since you became director in March 2011?

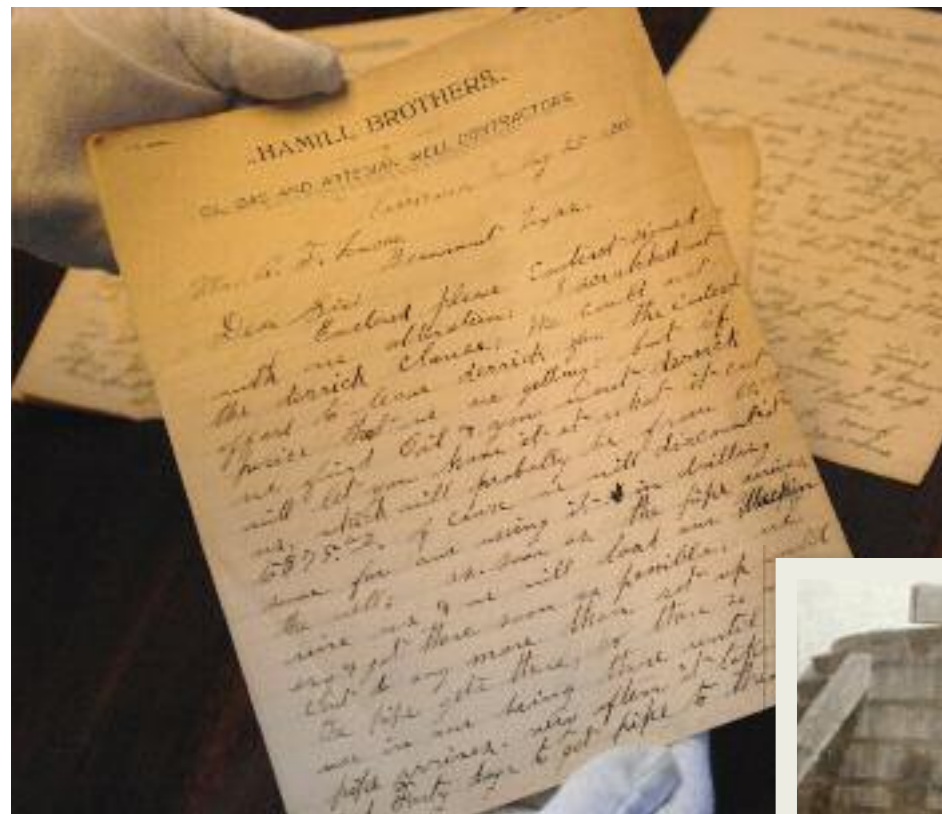
A: The accomplishment that is most important to me is putting together a community of people who work to make the museum the very best. Besides our paid staff, we have a small, but active, group of volunteers. Plus, we have reconvened a museum advisory council, which will begin meeting in November. Then there are friends and advocates in the community like our museum and tourism colleagues who have supported and promoted what we've been doing.

Q: How has the number of visitors increased?

A: By the end of fiscal year 2012 (August 2012), we counted 8,500 visitors – a 30 percent increase over fiscal year 2011. The increase is, in part, a result of a major increase in special events, advertising, media attention and a general openness, if you will, to be available as a meeting space, especially, to Lamar students, faculty and staff.

Q: What are some of the events you have instituted?

A: When I arrived at the museum, I often heard that people didn't know we were even open. So, with the help of our education coordinator, we put together the monthly Wildcatter Weekends, which centered on a theme, like buttons or cars or kites. This year, the Wildcatter Weekends are more about the Spindletop story. In October, we celebrated the Hamill Brothers, talking with children about



setting goals and, like the Hamills, never giving up. Other events include the annual Spindletop Anniversary Celebration in January, which will have a novel twist in 2013; The Boomtown Ruckus in April celebrating Beaumont before the oil boom; and Great Outdoors Day in June will get families outdoors, flying kites, playing

games and more.

Q: What is your vision for Gladys City?

A: Ultimately, the vision for the museum will need to come from a conversation with our many stakeholders, but, for now I want us to

be the very best we can be. Conservation efforts are a first step. Over the next year, we will be doing much to improve the overall guest experience through better exhibits and programming. In the long-term, Gladys City can, and should be, a real asset to Lamar. I can see a day when the museum functions as a living laboratory for Lamar students and faculty across disciplines, including history, the arts, business, consumer science, engineering and education.

Preserving the past

The primary purpose of any museum is stewardship.

“Our job is to care

for the objects – and, in our case, buildings – so that they may continue to educate and be used by future generations,” said Mark Osborne. “Our goal this year is to improve all aspects of conservation and care.”

First, the museum repurposed the old information center/gift shop into a Conservation Lab, a semi-public space where museum staff can update collections records, perform minor cleaning and repairs of objects and educate guests on conservation efforts and challenges in the museum. In October, as part of this effort, the museum hosted a textile conservator who assessed the condition of more than 100 pieces of clothing, quilts, needlepoint work and more.

“In early 2013, we plan to have a wood conservator on-site to assess all of the wood furnishings in the buildings,” Osborne said. “Likewise, in the spring, we will be installing high-quality window

shades in most of the buildings to cut down on the amount of UV light to which the objects are exposed.

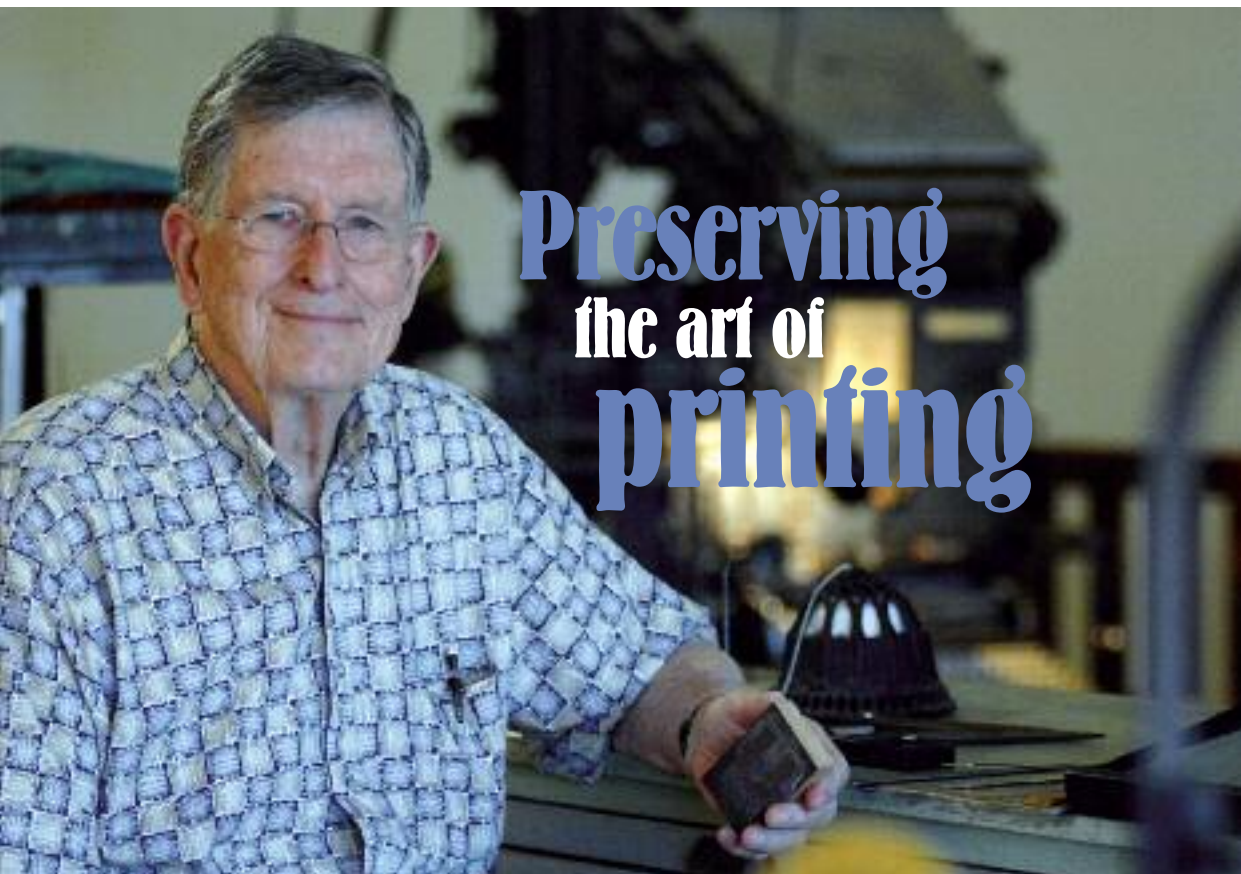
Another Lucas ‘discovery’

A fortuitous discovery added a whole new dimension to a weekend honoring Capt. Anthony F. Lucas—namesake for the history-changing oil gusher that blew in Jan. 10, 1901, at Spindletop.

During Anthony Lucas Day Sept. 8, Lamar's Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum celebrated Lucas's Sept. 9, 1855, birthday with an exhibit of some of his recently discovered correspondence and photos, dating from 1899 to 1910. Lucas was a mining engineer considered to be the father of modern petroleum reservoir engineering.

“These papers had never been seen before by the public,” said Osborne. “It wasn't until we started reading through them that we came across letterhead showing they were from other historical figures from Spindletop, including the Hamill brothers, who actually did the drilling.”





Preserving the art of printing

restoration of antique printing equipment and an educational presentation.

“Moving in has been a big chore,” Lamb said. “Every piece is heavy and awkward, so it was hard to move and handle. But we had a professional company move it for us and they did a marvelous job. We have been working on the equipment for months, mostly cleaning and some repair. It is all as our company used it. Some of it easily goes back to the early 1900s.”

The exhibit features two hand-fed Chandler and Price platen jobbing

presses, a functional Linotype, two stone composition tables, the extensive engravings collection, as well as a binder, punch, perforator and other machines used in the print shop. The largest and most technologically advanced machine is the Linotype, which would create a casting of a full line of type in lead in a process known as “hot metal” typesetting.

“It is an absolutely amazing machine,” Lamb said. “Ottmar Mergenthaler invented it in the 1880s, and the newspapers were quick to snap up Linotype machines because it was so much faster. Thomas Edison is credited with calling the Linotype the eighth wonder of the world.

As printing moved to offset, Lamb said, “You no longer needed all these cases of type and the great time it took to put together a printed piece.

“For future generations it will be important to understand how the evolution of printing occurred,” Lamb said. “I heard on the news that the state of Texas was talking about going to e-books and doing away with textbooks. I don’t know how many generations it will be before they won’t ever hold a book to read.” —BKS

The heritage of T.A. Lamb & Son, Printers – founded six years before the Lucas gusher of 1901 – lives on in a new exhibit at Lamar’s Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum.

Thomas K. Lamb Jr., the last president of the family business, preserved a full set of printing and typeset machines in hopes of finding a place to display and educate future generations about a dying trade.

Four years ago, Lamb received support from the university to open a “print shop” in the museum and immediately began working toward that goal. The project received broad support, with contributions from individuals, members of the Lamb family, businesses and local foundations, including the Mamie McFaddin-Ward Heritage Foundation, Foundation for Southeast Texas and H.E. & Kate Dishman Foundation.

“It’s a great historical exhibit and it presents the heritage of our family in Southeast Texas,” Lamb said. “The history is important because of the evolution of printing.” The

exhibit celebrated its grand opening Oct. 27.

The Lamb family arrived on the shores of Texas in 1875 and two decades later opened a printing shop in downtown Beaumont. Through five generations, Lamb’s helped businesses and individuals with their printing and office furniture and supply needs. “Lamb’s Printing was in business in Beaumont for more than 70 years,” Lamb said. “In the ’70s, we stopped printing

to concentrate on office supply and furniture.”

“This new addition will help us tell more of the Spindletop story as well as expand our discussions about technological advances of the late 19th century,” said museum director Mark Osborne. “Having opened six years before the Spindletop discovery, Lamb’s printing would have done a lot of work related to the oil boom.”

Since H.B. Neild & Sons completed the 1,200-square-foot building in spring 2012, work has continued on installation and

“For future generations it will be important to understand how the evolution of printing occurred.”

—TOM LAMB

Doing things her way

After more than 25 years of moving from associate to shareholder to department chair in other law firms, including a stint as assistant attorney general in the Finance Division of the Texas Office of the Attorney General, Elizabeth Marsh ’81 unleashed her entrepreneurial spirit and established her own Austin-based law firm in 2010. The Marsh Law Firm specializes in labor and employment law, however, specializing in such a broad field of law often leads to a natural overlap into commercial law as well.

“I enjoy the freedom of having my own boutique practice and running my own firm the way I think is best,” the Port Arthur native said. “As a business owner and the wife of a business owner, I certainly understand the challenges my business clients face in today’s volatile global economy, and I am proud to be able to offer my clients the attentive service and experienced advice they desire.”

A 1981 accounting graduate and a 1984 graduate of Baylor Law School, she isn’t the only Lamar graduate in her family. Two older siblings are also Lamar alumni—Nancy (Nisson) ’75, also an accounting major, and Earl Marsh ’71, ’82, who graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering. He returned in 1982 to become the third member of the Marsh clan to earn the bachelor of business administration degree in accounting from Lamar.

“We attended Lamar basically because it was close to home, but we later found out the individual attention and guidance we all received was invaluable for us,” she said. “The faculty in the accounting department in particular was such a positive influence on us in so many ways.”

Marsh is one of only a handful of attorneys who is board certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in both labor and employment law and civil trial law, a designation that indicates she has specialized knowledge and a proven high level of expertise and experience. Her expertise was a factor in gaining the highest AV Martindale-Hubbell ranking possible; a peer-reviewed ranking resource

for “go to” lawyers in cities across the country indicating high ethical standards and professional abilities. She has been recognized as a Texas Super Lawyer for the years 2003, 2004 and 2008-2012, a distinction that represents only the top five percent of all attorneys in Texas. Marsh also made the list of Texas Super Lawyers for the years 2009-2012 in the Corporate Counsel Edition.

Contemplating the future of the firm, Marsh says the next natural progression will be to hire additional attorneys to handle more cases. The recent recession and the resultant high level of unemployment have provided a significant increase in labor and employment law cases. The process of identifying attorneys with the credentials and experience she demands has already begun. Her goal is to expand the personnel at the firm during the first half of 2013. In preparation for the expansion, Marsh recently purchased an office building in downtown Austin that gives her firm room to grow and is conveniently located near the state and federal courthouses.

When time permits, she enjoys traveling with her husband, Bill Einhaus. He founded a successful company that imports and exports flooring products from around the world. His business has broadened Marsh’s legal practice and exposed her to a variety of interesting international legal and business customs, especially in China. They are looking forward to traveling to China early next year to attend the international floor show in Shanghai, one of the most unusual places they have visited, she said. Her most memorable excursion was their honeymoon in France. She described driving through the French wine country and the French Alps as a “magical experience.” A close second would be a trip to Scandinavia with



her mother shortly after graduating from Lamar. Her mother’s Norwegian descent gave the experience a special significance. Aside from also enjoying cruises with day trips to Honduras and throughout Central America and to Italy in the Mediterranean, they also enjoy traveling a little closer to home.

“We have always enjoyed taking the Harley for long rides through the Texas Hill Country in recent years,” she said with a chuckle. “But, now that I have a convertible, the Harley has some serious competition.”

One of her many favorite memories about Lamar was a particularly influential Spanish instructor who was originally from Cuba, she said. She was invited to his home on several occasions for traditional Cuban meals with his family. Those experiences afforded her the opportunity to learn more about the Spanish language and culture. According to Marsh, that is just one of the many examples of how her Lamar education was so much more than just the traditional lessons in a classroom. —LA

Spark of invention burns bright

by Brian Sattler

It is an entrepreneurial epicenter—a world-class business with far reaching implications—found in unpretentious buildings that belie the cutting-edge research and state-of-the-art manufacturing within.

That business is Helena Laboratories Corp., whose research and product development has led to more than 200 patents, touched the lives of millions, and sparked break-through discoveries that have shaped modern medicine.

Helena Labs was founded by Tipton '62 and Ann Golias and is the premier manufacturer of automated gel electrophoresis systems for serum proteins, immunofixation, cholesterol and hemoglobin analysis and more. Helena products have helped test a half-billion people for blood disorders.

Tipton Golias grew up in Galveston, and the family moved to Beaumont in 1956 where he began attending French High School. He graduated in 1959, and thanks to the generosity of well-known Beaumont entrepreneurs and philanthropists, the Rogers family, he began attending Lamar on a chemistry scholarship. “I will always appreciate what the Rogers brothers did for me and for Beaumont,” Golias said.

Golias enrolled in Lamar’s pre-med program as a biology major. He’d married his high school sweetheart and with a growing family was eager to get through college quickly. He attended Lamar full time, worked as a lab technician afternoons and evenings at Hotel Dieu, a 175-bed hospital that was the precursor of Beaumont’s Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital, and took night calls. “I basically didn’t get any sleep,” Golias said.



He graduated in three years, but his responsibilities at home proved a stumbling block when he applied for medical school. Despite having the second highest score among the applicants, “They were concerned about my ability to finance my way through medical school with a family. They weren’t ready to take me under those conditions and wouldn’t let me attend and work at the same time. So I decided to go to work for a year or two and reapply. I never did.”

The family moved to Michigan where Tipton joined Aloe Scientific. He later worked for other companies in laboratory products

before starting his own company in the basement of his Detroit suburb home in 1966.

“I don’t know how I had the entrepreneurial spirit, but I did,” he said. “The company I worked for turned down my ideas. They had other interests that they thought were better for them, and they probably were.”

He named his company Helena Laboratories after his wife, Helen Ann. Not ready to relinquish the security a steady job seemed to provide, it took three discussions before she gave her blessing to Tipton’s desire to start the company. “The first answer was ‘No’, then ‘Maybe’ and finally, ‘Okay, just don’t let the

kids starve,” Golias said.

His first product was a hemoglobin electrophoresis buffer. Electrophoresis is the movement of dispersed particles in a fluid under the influence of a spatially uniform electric field.

“I introduced this product because it did not exist,” Golias said. “I packaged the chemicals ready to mix, making it very easy for a lab to have the very best. It was consistent, easy to use and the best anywhere.”

Three years later, with five employees, he discovered that he needed a very controlled environment to manufacture the cellulose acetate membrane needed for electrophoresis and that he would need to build his own building to make that possible. Realizing the significant investment it meant, he intended to build it only once in his lifetime; the location would be permanent.

“In the ’60s, California seemed to be the place that you ought to be,” Golias said. “Ann went along with the plan of California right up to the day before I would be taking a plane out to Los Angeles to look for a specific spot. But then, she just causally said would I mind moving to Texas instead.”

Her question, compelled by a desire to live near family, prompted a ticket change. After meeting with a Houston architect, Golias drove to Beaumont to visit with Ann’s parents for the evening. He shared the rough plans with his father-in-law, Oway Mayes, who said he could build for half the cost in Beaumont. Golias took him up on the challenge and, after finding two lots off Lindbergh on Beaumont’s west side, construction began in late 1969. The building was ready in May 1970. Several rental truck trips later, Golias had moved the plant, and production in well-controlled conditions was underway.

When Helena Labs came to Texas it had about 50 products in its catalog. Today, the catalog offers more than 1,000 items. The two lots on Lindbergh have grown to 13 where the

company administration and marketing is housed along with research, production and order fulfillment. Another facility on Washington Boulevard houses equipment manufacturing, electronic development and more research.

More than half of the company’s \$100 million annual business is international, Golias said. Helena has been awarded the U.S. Secretary of Commerce “E” Award for excellence in contribution to the American economy through export operations. Helena has plants in England, Holland, Japan and Australia. The company facilities in England and Japan nearly replicate the Beaumont plant. Helena’s plant in Holland produces machines and supplies for capillary electrophoresis, while its presence in Australia is focused on sales and service. The company is also beginning to supply the Chinese market.

Several product areas drive the company. Foremost is electrophoresis. Helena makes electrophoresis products “that identify any disease state where you could see the process in a blood protein such as infectious diseases, liver diseases and some genetic diseases,” Golias said. “Many of these generate blood proteins that we can see that help us to diagnose or monitor the disease.”

The number one product in the electrophoresis area is immunofixation that helps diagnose many types of cancers, primarily those related to bone cancer. The process helps physicians diagnose and identify the biological process, which types of cells are malignant, and that determines the treatment.

Another important product is hemoglobin electrophoresis. Hemoglobin S, the type present in sickle cell disease, and Hemoglobin C, a type that does not carry oxygen well, are the most common types of abnormal hemoglobin that may be found by an electrophoretic test. “I developed the products that made sickle cell screening happen,” Golias said. “Before I got involved there wasn’t sickle cell screening. Those

products started my company, and its still a major area today. My products and methods made sickle cell screening a reality.”

Golias is excited about the company’s work in lipoproteins, a promising area for accurately diagnosing the risks of heart disease or stroke by targeting specific lipoprotein cholesterol beyond the commonly known HDL and LDL. “We have methods that allow laboratories to identify and assay various lipoprotein fractions,” Golias said. “We’re a leader in developing Lp(a) technology. It has taken the last 10 years or more for the medical community to recognize Lp(a) as a major risk factor but they are seeing it now. We are one of the leading companies in developing assays and monitors for Lp(a).”

In 2011, he was presented the coveted Lipid Award for specific improvements for lipoprotein electrophoresis methods. He also received the National Van Slyke Award in 2010, the highest award available in the field of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine. An avid runner, Golias has also competed in more than 15 marathons and is a champion bridge player, competing with other champion card players via the Internet.

Golias cites two major reasons for Helena’s success—innovation and efficiency. And, he adds, “We treat our customers like we would like to be treated ourselves.” No stranger to innovation (his name is on 40 of the company’s more than 200 patents), he also recognizes that great ideas “for a product can come from an employee, a research scientist or a customer.”

“Our formula is really simple,” Golias said. “We believe in working hard. We are quick to develop and get a product to market. And, we back up our customers in the field.

“We have a lot of good people,” he said. He is quick to credit Lamar with a role in their excellence. Of around 450 employees in Beaumont, Helena Lab has 52 LU graduates and many others who have taken courses, are currently enrolled, or have spouses or children at Lamar.

The company is also close to releasing a revolutionary hand-held device that can test a drop of blood for 10 different hemostasis assays. The device is steadily moving through the FDA approval process and the promise is very bright.

What does Golias expect for Helena Lab in the next decade?

“We expect to see 50 percent growth or more,” Golias said. “There are very significant things ahead.”



LU salutes exceptional Cardinals

The Alumni Advisory Board's Distinguished Alumni Awards Committee selected five outstanding alumni as recipients of the prestigious annual award. These five exceptional Cardinals will be honored during a ceremony Feb. 22: Judge Wilford Flowers '72, Bob Jones '73, Jerry Reese '66, Bill Scott '70 and Susan Williams Simmons '68.

Lamar University alumni and friends submitted nominations based on criteria that include notable accomplishments in the nominee's chosen profession. The honorees also display integrity and character that inspire pride in the university and its alumni and have demonstrated recognition of the importance of Lamar in their careers, deeds and actions. The committee meets in mid-September each year to select the honorees; nominations are accepted year round at: Alumni@Lamar.edu.



JUDGE WILFORD FLOWERS '72

Wilford Flowers was born in Port Arthur, Texas, and is married to Simone Talma Flowers. He earned his B.B.A. in economics from Lamar University in 1972 and his J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law in 1976. Judge Flowers served as assistant district attorney for Travis County, assistant attorney general for the State of Texas and first assistant county attorney for Travis County. He was in private practice in

Austin until Oct. 1, 1987, the date of his appointment as judge of Travis County Court at Law No. 6. As the result of the 1990 elections, Judge Flowers began his first term as judge of the 147th District Court in Travis County on Jan. 1, 1991, serving until his retirement Dec. 31, 2010. He now serves by assignment in Texas as a senior district judge. In 1986, the Austin Young Lawyer Association named him Outstanding Young Lawyer; in 2009, he received the Outstanding Jurist Award from the Texas Bar Foundation; and in 2011, he received the Distinguished Lawyer Award from the Austin Bar Association. Throughout his career, Judge Flowers has been involved with numerous activities associated with his profession and the community: Criminal Justice Act Committee, U.S. District Court Western District of Texas; Austin Lawyers Care, vice president 1985-1987; American Inns of Court, Robert Calvert Inn, president 1996-1997; Austin Museum of Art board of trustees; Texas Center for the Judiciary board; life fellow, Texas Bar Foundation and Austin Bar Foundation; Court of Criminal Appeals Rules Advisory Committee member and chairman of the Criminal Justice Legislative Committee-Judicial Section of the State Bar of Texas; Lola Wright Foundation board.



BOB JONES '73

A native of Port Arthur, Bob Jones graduated in 1973 with a B.S. in civil engineering with the environmental track and later earned his master of engineering degrees from UT in Austin. The Texas Water Quality Board hired him in July 1973. Jones advanced at the state, eventually becoming chief engineer of the Construction Grants and Water Quality Planning Division. In 1976, Bob met and married Beth, his wife of

37 years. The couple has two children. Recognizing the opportunity to create a business helping industry and local governments deal with the ever-increasing volume of environmental regulation, Jones left the state in 1982 with another engineer and formed the consulting company, Jones and Neuse. By the early 90s, it was one of the largest independently owned environmental consulting companies in the state, with more than 250 employees in seven offices, including offices in Louisiana and Mexico. The company was purchased and merged with another engineering company, RMT. Jones stayed with RMT for two years, and, in 1997, Jones and a friend formed another consulting company, JD Consulting. JDC grew to be a preferred provider of environmental services to many Fortune 100 process industries, including most of the big industries in southeast Texas. In 2007, the London-based international consulting company RPS purchased JDC. Jones stayed with RPS until February 2012. In March, Jones formed RSJ Consulting, and began working part-time for some of his long-time industry clients. During the last 30 years, Jones has been active in Boy Scouts, YMCA and Oak Hill Pony Baseball, as well as in numerous other Austin-area organizations. He serves on the College of Engineering Advisory Council, as a trustee of the Lamar University Foundation, and was a member of the Lamar Board of Regents from 1993 until 1996.



JERRY REESE '66

Jerry Reese is an entrepreneur who started his first business, Collegiate Diamonds, while he was still a student at Lamar University. Reese established Bo-Mac Construction Co. in 1966, the year he graduated from Lamar University with his B.B.A. in economics. He built the company into a hugely successful and diverse business enterprise, selling it in 2007. Reese has been

actively involved at Lamar University since his graduation, both as a donor and a volunteer. He currently serves on the following Lamar University boards and cabinets: Investing In The Future Campaign Cabinet, Lamar University Foundation board of trustees, College of Business Advisory council, Friends of the Arts board, the Reese Construction Management advisory board. He and wife, Sheila, were the Le Grand Bal honorees in 2007 for their work with Friends of the Arts. Reese has also been an active member of his community and has served on the boards of the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce, St. Elizabeth Hospital and the Art Museum of Southeast Texas. Reese is also involved in dozens of business, culture and social organizations in this region. In 2007, recognizing the need for market-responsive programs that reflect southeast Texas perspectives, Reese donated the funds to establish the construction management program at Lamar University. The unique nature of this program allows Lamar to provide construction management graduates with the education to compete nationally for careers in the field. The program was developed in response to regional market needs and as a way to further enhance the national reputation of Lamar University. The combination of Reese's entrepreneurial spirit and his commitment to his alma mater led him to make his timely and generous contribution. The establishment of this program will have a lasting and profound effect on Lamar University. Jerry and Sheila Reese live in Houston. They have three children and 11 grandchildren.



BILL SCOTT '70

Bill Scott earned his bachelor of science in government at Lamar University in 1970 and has maintained strong ties with LU as a member of the Lamar University Investing in the Future Campaign Cabinet, Lamar University Foundation board of trustees and the College of Business board of advisors. In 2010, the governor appointed Scott as a regent for The Texas State University System. In 2008, Scott

and his wife, Gay, were recognized by their alma mater as Le Grand Bal honorees. Beginning with the startup of the railroad construction business in the mid-70s, Scott has for more than 30 years focused his time on identifying, developing, owning and operating marine bulk terminal facilities, serving companies including Shell Oil, Mitsubishi, ExxonMobil, Cemex, Lyondell Citgo Refining, Valero Refining,

ConocoPhillips/PDVSA (Merrey Sweeny, LP), Vulcan Materials, Martin Marietta Aggregates and Total Petrochemicals USA Inc. In addition, during the years Scott created 50:50 joint venture companies with Mitsubishi Corp., Cementos Mexicanos and TCP Petcoke for the transportation, handling, purchase and export of solid bulk products to world markets. In 2005, Trans-Global Solutions sold its bulk terminal handling assets to Kinder Morgan Energy Partners (KMP) and entered into a terminal development agreement between TGS Development LP and KMP to develop new bulk terminal assets along the Gulf Coast. TGS Development has successfully completed several terminal developments since 2005, including a bulk terminal completed in 2010 to serve the Total Refinery in Port Arthur. Scott is active in numerous civic and charitable endeavors, including service as chairman of the board for the Jefferson and Orange County Pilot Commission, past president of the Three Rivers Council Boy Scouts of America and as board member of the Foundation for Southeast Texas, Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas, the Symphony of Southeast Texas and the Texas Energy Museum. He and his wife of 32 years, Gay, have three children and one granddaughter.



SUSAN WILLIAMS SIMMONS '68

Susan Simmons is a 1968 graduate of Lamar University. She earned a B.S. in elementary education, and, after graduation, taught at Fletcher Elementary in Beaumont until she founded her own retail operation, The Caterpillar, a children's specialty store that she managed for eight years. She then moved on to serve as vice president in charge of decorating and space planning for CODA, the family construction company

owned and operated by her husband, James. For the last 25 years, Simmons has been a highly successful Beaumont Realtor. Her most dedicated efforts and greatest impact, however, has been with Lamar University. She has been actively involved in the life of Lamar University since 1970, when her husband accepted his first teaching position at LU. The list of the areas that have benefited from her involvement and engagement are literally too numerous to name. She has served as a tireless ambassador for Lamar University throughout the community and has worked with faculty, students, alumni and friends of LU to enhance the impact of Lamar University on students' lives and on the larger community. Simmons has dedicated thousands of hours and used her vast knowledge of decorating and design to ensure that remodeling and construction projects meet exacting standards and that individual project design and layouts have the greatest impact and serve to complement the campus as a whole. Her dedicated efforts have literally transformed the face of the University and have helped to create an un-matched university learning and living environment. She and Jimmy have three children and six grandchildren (with three more grandchildren due in early 2013).

The Lamar University Distinguished Alumni Awards is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 22, 2013. Tickets for the dinner will be available beginning January 7, 2013, by visiting Lamar.edu/Alumni.