

# CARLTON Canine

VOL. 4 UNIVERSITY JUNE 2013

Students maximize  
**Opportunities at every turn**

Panama Canal CEO  
**RE-engineering commerce**

New Cards on campus  
**Kenneth and Nancy Evans**



One of the great privileges of serving as president is the opportunity to attend commencements. In my career I have attended 90 Lamar commencement exercises, and, in my 14 years as president, 30,245 individuals have become Lamar graduates. I have greeted most of them as they crossed the Montagne Center stage. Each passage not only signifies individual achievement, but the significant promise for the future of the region and beyond.



Lamar's next president, Dr. Kenneth Evans, joined me on the platform at spring commencement during a brief campus visit. He will take the reins July 1, and I trust you will join Susan and me in welcoming Ken and Nancy Evans to the campus and community. Together they bring a wealth of perspective on not only higher education but also what it means to be leaders with care and passion.

In this, my final edition of Cardinal Cadence, I want to express again that it has been a tremendous honor to serve. As I step away from the office and Susan and I move into the next chapter in our lives, I look forward to returning to my first loves — teaching and music—and to the faculty of the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music.

During this leadership transition in Lamar's 90th year, I am confident that there are even greater days ahead for our university. That confidence is reflected in the continuing support for Lamar's Investing in the Future comprehensive campaign that is on target to meet, or exceed, its \$125 million goal. We are so grateful for the generosity of so many who have given to better our university and to enrich the lives of our students.

Everyone should have an opportunity to leave a legacy at Lamar, and one way to do so is to participate in the campaign by purchasing a brick in the Cardinal Walk of Honor. Together, we can support the university and enhance the campus quadrangle. These are exciting days.

With Cardinal Pride,

*James M. Simmons*  
James M. Simmons  
President  
Lamar University

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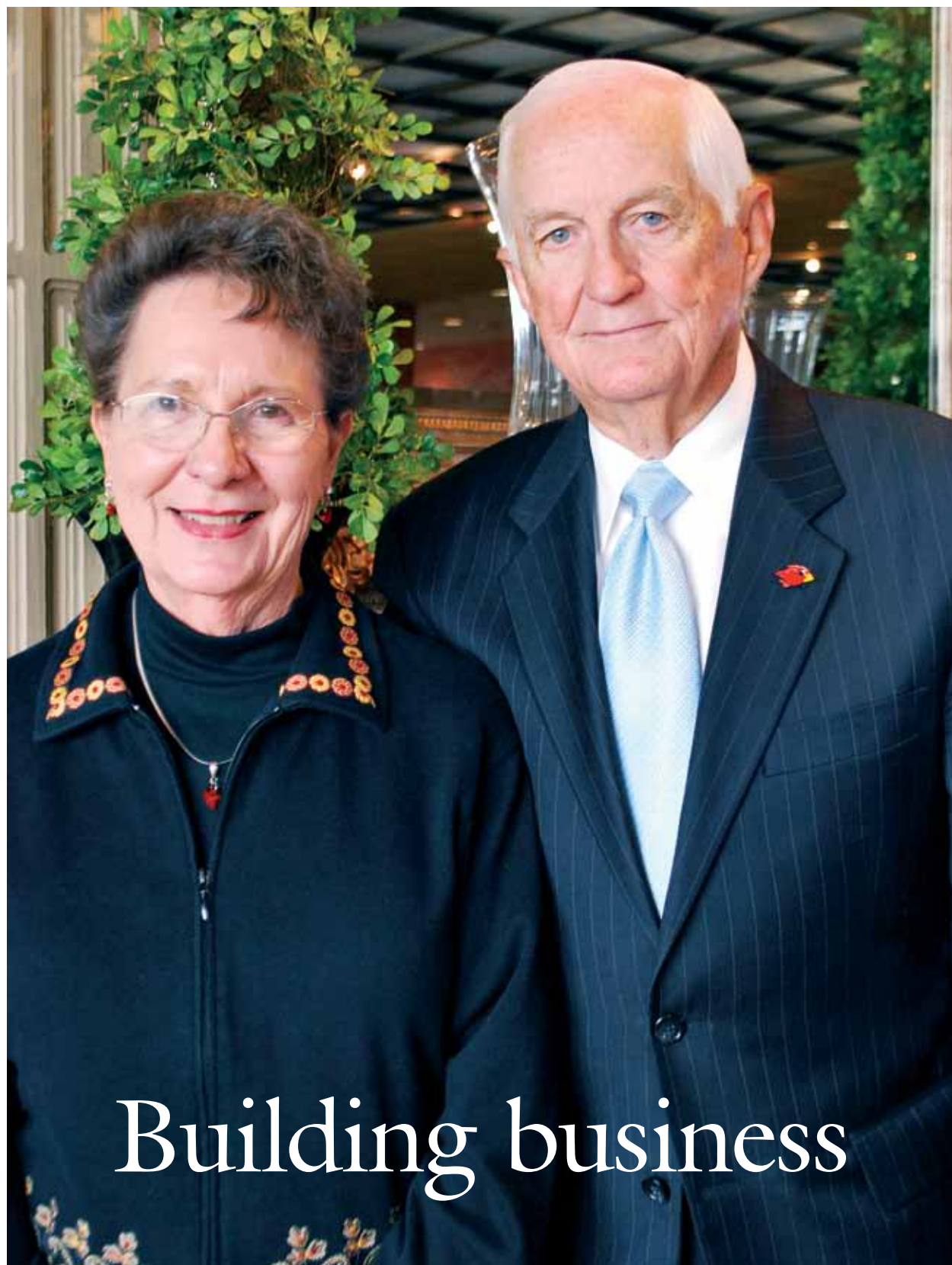


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MAGAZINE DESIGN | Mike Rhodes

ON THE COVER | Kenneth Evans  
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by Larry Acker

For most people, retirement means taking it easy and doing all the things you never had the chance to do during your career. For Gene Arnold '61, '80, his passion has always been business, and retirement didn't diminish that passion. To acknowledge all that Lamar has done for him and wife Elizabeth -64, they have established the Gene and Elizabeth Arnold Innovation Fund in Business and the Gene and Elizabeth Arnold Innovation Fund in Audiology.

Arnold earned a bachelor of business administration degree in accounting in 1961 and an M.B.A. in 1980, both from Lamar. As a certified public accountant, he spent 30-plus years serving various business interests in nearly every senior managerial capacity from controller to stock broker to vice president. His service to Lamar came after his first retirement.

"When I retired, I guess I got bored, so I came out to the Lamar Small Business Development Center to see if there was anything I could do for them. Well, I ended up becoming the director of the center," Arnold said. It was a position he would hold for the next 11 years.

The motivation for establishing the endowed innovation funds rather than endowed scholarships came from Arnold's years of experience in knowing what it takes to fundraise and the challenge of allocating limited resources. The innovation funds may be used to support teaching, research, service and professional development activities of faculty, as well as funding for new programs or for enhancement of existing programs. The fund may also be used for student scholarships or to assist with other student activities.

"There are things you just can't do when you only have restricted funds," Arnold said. "If you have unrestricted funds at your disposal, you can do some really good things at the discretion of the dean."

The Arnolds have obvious ties to the College of Business, but Elizabeth, who has a hearing impairment, has a special fondness for the Department of Audiology. As a client of the Lamar Audiology Clinic, she is very appreciative for the years of care and service in diagnosing and addressing her audiology needs.

Upon his retirement from Lamar in 2005, he still couldn't shake the lure of the business world and started his own company—Gene Arnold Enterprises. Initially, his extensive accounting experience fit a focus on the financial affairs of the businesses for which he consulted, but a unique opportunity arose in 2008 that moved him into the realm of international business.

"I knew an attorney who had received a concession from the government of Peru to mine lime," he said. "He needed a partner and an investment in time, money and expertise, so we formed a

partnership to mine and quarry lime in Peru."

Through an on-site manager, Arnold has spent the last few years constructing the lime processing facility, preparing the quarry and acquiring the kilns and necessary equipment to produce lime oxide and lime hydroxide. Also known as calcium oxide and calcium hydroxide, lime is widely used in building and engineering materials, including limestone products, concrete and mortar. He makes regular trips to Peru each year to manage the business.

Arnold recently started two other businesses in the Beaumont area. He created Armour General Contractors LLC, which builds homes and constructs commercial buildings, roads and other commercial facilities. The other is Cole Creek Materials, a recycling business that takes the residue from demolished buildings, roads and bridges and reprocesses it into fill materials for road beds and other uses.

The Arnold's love for each other began when they started dating in college and has fostered a love for Lamar University as well. An interesting footnote from his tenure as director of the Small Business Development Center, Arnold has the distinction of being the first person to know Jimmy Simmons had been selected as the 14th president of Lamar.

"The SBDC was housed in one of the buildings in the John

Gray Center complex, and the board of trustees was conducting the presidential search interviews in the building next door," he said with a smile. "I walked out to go to lunch and saw Jimmy walking out of the building with his head down

**"He needed a partner and an investment in time, money and expertise, so we formed a partnership to mine and quarry lime in Peru."**

—GENE ARNOLD '61, '80

and a glazed look on his face. I just naturally assumed he hadn't been selected and asked him how it went. He looked at me and said, 'Looks like I'm the new president of Lamar.' He definitely had that deer-in-the-headlights look on his face as he added, 'What have I gotten myself into?'"

Arnold obtained his private pilot's license nearly 20 years ago and has been an avid flyer since. He recently decided it was time to hang up his wings and finally sold his beloved Bonanza v35b, basically replacing the airplane with a new Chevrolet Camaro convertible "with the biggest engine they make."

Devoted Lamar sports fans, the Arnolds have only admiration and pride for the renovated Provost-Umphrey Stadium and Dauphin Athletic Complex. They are long time Cardinal Club members and season ticket holders for football, baseball and basketball and still recall watching the Cardinals play football at the old South Park Stadium.

The couple has two children. A daughter, Lyn, is an attorney in Washington State specializing in environmental law, and a son, Lloyd, is completing his M.B.A. at Lamar. He is involved in all aspects of banking and lives in Tomball with wife, Kathy.





CHRISTOPHER

by Beth Gallaspy

# Sharing success

A successful engineering career starts with a strong engineering education. Larry Norwood '73 credits his industry success to the foundation he received as a chemical engineering major at Lamar University. That's why he and his wife, Cynthia (Smesny) Norwood '72, decided to create the Larry and Cynthia Norwood Chemical Engineering Scholarship.

"We wanted to give something back to the university and to add some scholarships that hopefully will help undergraduate and graduate students pursue a career in chemical engineering, have successful careers and be really great contributors to our society," Norwood said.

The Austin couple's \$1 million gift to the Investing in the Future campaign creates an endowment to provide scholarships for both undergraduate and graduate students in chemical engineering.

Cynthia Norwood said it was important to her to ensure that at least half the scholarships benefit undergraduates. "Graduate students have more opportunities to work as teaching assistants and other avenues. A beginning student needs more help. We wanted to give them a leg up," she said.

As a former teacher, Cynthia understands the value of encouraging students to persist in their educations. She completed her studies at Lamar in three years, graduating with honors in English and history with teaching certifications in both. She then taught junior high English for eight years in Dayton, her hometown.

Larry started his studies at Lamar in 1968, attracted by the strong engineering program, availability of a cooperative education program and the proximity to Cynthia, who was a senior in high school while he was a freshman at Lamar. They had begun dating the year before while he was a senior at Liberty High School. Larry and Cynthia married while both were Lamar students and moved into married student housing on campus, an older building removed about 10 years ago to make room for campus improvements. "It's really interesting to see all the progress and improvements and changes on campus," he said.

During his days as a Lamar student, Larry took a co-op position with Lubrizol Corp. He continued working for Lubrizol through the co-op program, alternating semesters at work with those in the

classroom, until graduation when he went to work for the company full time. Larry advanced steadily through the company from section superintendent to operations manager to works manager to corporate vice president of operations. He retired last year, soon after they relocated from Cleveland, Ohio, to Austin, but he continues to do consulting work for Lubrizol, particularly on projects in China that he had been involved in initiating. "I've been spending probably 50 percent of my time for the past year in China, but we've just about completed the plant. I'll probably continue to do a little consulting on a couple of other projects," he said.

Cynthia took a break from teaching in 1980 when a promotion for Larry prompted their first move from Texas to Ohio. A chance encounter there inspired a new passion, and she never returned to the classroom full time. "We went to the apple butter festival. There was a lady making a rug, and I was mesmerized. That's where it started. I studied under several different teachers and became somewhat of an expert in rug hooking and turned it into a small business," she said.

Cynthia began teaching rug hooking workshops across the country in 1986 and serves on the national board of the Association of Traditional Hooking Artists. Her first book on the art, "Creating an Antique Look in Hand-Hooked Rugs," was published in 2008, and she is working on her second, for which she recently signed a contract, tentatively titled "Primitive Rugs for the 21st Century." Her specialty and favorite style is primitive antique-looking rugs. The art involves dying fabric then cutting or tearing it into strips before using specialized tools to pull the fabric through a linen base to create a unique work of art. "I was always interested in art growing up, but I didn't see that as a career. I didn't want to be a starving artist," she said. "When I got the chance to do art, I was back into it." Cynthia creates her own design and has shared her knowledge with hundreds of students, including an adult niece who is also "hooked" on the craft.

Both Larry and Cynthia have fond memories of the excellent teachers they encountered at Lamar. She cited Winfred Emmons in the English department and Ralph Wooster in history in particular. Larry said Jack Hopper, dean of the College of Engineering, was probably his favorite professor. "I really felt like the professors I had really wanted the students

to succeed. That came across to me," he said. "That was what made Lamar special."

With the scholarship in the Norwoods' name, students now will have an additional tool to help them succeed. Hopper said the fact that it will be available for students pursuing not just bachelor's degrees, but those working toward master's and Ph.D. degrees "makes it a very different and special major gift for us."

"Having support for Ph.D. fellowships will be a first step in a major move toward more support for research," Hopper said. "The university is moving in a direction of more scholarly activity and more research. For that to happen, you have got to have faculty who come in with the expectation of carrying out research and you've got to have significant resources to hire Ph.D. students."

Hopper said he appreciates the Norwoods' support both financially and through Larry's service on the College of Engineering Advisory Council. "Anybody at his level of management can make extremely valuable contributions to giving vision and direction to the college," Hopper said.

The Norwoods said they are happy that, through the scholarship and through Larry's service, they are able to give something back. "Lamar was a place where we felt like we got a great education," Larry said. "It enabled us to have a really good career, a challenging career. We're hoping to help students have a chance to have a successful career like we did."

**"I really felt like the professors I had really wanted the students to succeed. That came across to me. That was what made Lamar special."**

—LARRY NORWOOD '72



Dean Jack Hopper, Cynthia (Smesny) Norwood, Larry Norwood, President James Simmons



# DreamMakers

We express our deep gratitude to the alumni and friends of Lamar University who have recently established endowments and gifts through estate plans. 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 [www.lamar.edu/development](http://www.lamar.edu/development). In this issue of *Cardinal Cadence*, we are honored to acknowledge our Dream Makers.

The **Mike and Pat Aldredge Mirabeau Scholarship** was established in 2008, and the endowment was completed in 2012. This is the fourth endowment the Aldredges have generously gifted to Lamar. Mike ’65 and Pat (Peterson) ’61 both attended Lamar and are long-time supporters of the university. Mike is a Lamar Distinguished Alumnus and past president of the foundation and alumni boards. He now serves on both the Foundation Board of Trustees and the College of Engineering Advisory Council and is Co-Chair of the Investing in the Future Campaign Cabinet.

Gene ’61 and Elizabeth (Muller) ’64 Arnold established both the **Gene and Elizabeth Arnold Innovation Fund in Audiology** and the **Gene and Elizabeth Arnold Innovation Fund in Business**, providing funds for each respective department and college to use to support programs, research, and faculty and student development. Gene holds both a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting and an MBA from Lamar and served as Lamar’s assistant director and director of the Small Business Development Center from 1991 to 2005. Elizabeth also attended Lamar, and both are faithful supporters of the university.

The Southeast Texas Financial Education Institute (SETFEI) endowed the **Bankers’ Financial Education Scholarship in Finance**. This scholarship assists students with an interest in the banking industry. The SETFEI was formed in 1998 to provide education opportunities to the employees of its member banks, providing courses and seminars that would establish the foundation for upward mobility of their employees. When the organization disbanded, they found it appropriate that the funds be used to endow this scholarship.

Karen and Phil Drayer endowed the **Mary Katherine Bell Regents Scholarship in Mathematics** in memory of Mary Katherine Bell and in honor of the enormous difference her influence as a teacher made in Phil’s life both in high school and at Lamar. Phil ’65 holds an electrical engineering degree from Lamar, is a Distinguished Alumnus and serves on the College of Engineering Advisory Council, the Foundation Board of Trustees and the Investing in the Future Campaign Cabinet. Mary Katherine Bell was a highly decorated member of Lamar’s faculty. She received the Regents’ Professor Award in 1974, the Minnie Stevens Piper Professor Award in 1978 and the Emeritus Professor Award in Mathematics in 1979.

Gerard Bonura ’77 established the **Margaret Bonura Memorial and Gerard Bonura Scholarship in Nursing** in memory of his mother, Margaret. Gerard earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from Lamar. His mother, Margaret, lived with him the last seven years of her life, during which time Gerard provided for her personal care. His years of caring for his mother helped Gerard realize the need for future health care providers for the elderly. He honors his mother with this scholarship to provide financial assistance to those who will work in the field of nursing and provide health care into the future. He also supports the Alicia Christine Bonura Memorial Scholarship in Engineering.

The **King A. Campbell Scholarship in Business** will be established through the estate plan of King Campbell ’70, ’72. He earned both a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and an MBA from Lamar. The scholarship will be established in memory of King’s father, Everett A. Campbell and his daughter, Kelly Ann Campbell.

Frederic Day ’60 established the **Ruth E. and Frederic F. Day Scholarship in Sciences** to assist students pursuing degrees in science. Ruth (Findley) Day ’75, a dedicated teacher who spent 29 years teaching at Sam Houston Elementary in Port Arthur, earned a master’s degree in education from Lamar. She died in 2007 and is remembered as a lifelong advocate of education of all kinds and levels. Frederic earned his Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering while working full time at Texaco. His belief in the value of research in all fields of science led him to create this scholarship, so that future students may benefit, as he and his beloved wife, Ruth, did, from attending Lamar University.

The family and friends of Arthur Greenspan ’42 endowed the **Arthur Greenspan Scholarship in Accounting** in his memory. Greenspan began his collegiate years at Lamar with an associate of arts degree and completed his education at the University of Texas at Austin, then went on to earn his license as a CPA for the State of Texas. Recognized as a leader in his community and his profession, he was known, first and foremost, as a loving family man with a sincere interest in the lives of others.

The **Iles Family Faculty Enhancement Fund**, a gift from “Reggie” and Mary Ann Iles, will be used to strengthen the university’s ability to recruit and retain the most able faculty and to build excellence in its nationally recognized curriculum. The Iles’ are concerned and principled members of their community. Both Reggie and Mary Ann have had lifelong connections to Lamar—from their childhood homes near Lamar to their long, dear friendship with John and Mary Gray. Reggie’s dad, Herman, was a Lamar regent. In recognition of their generous gift, and in honor of Reggie’s father, Lamar University named the Herman Iles Building in the John Gray Center.

Dolores (Cuchia) ’50 and Vincent Leone ’47 established the **Dolores and Vincent Leone Scholarship in Engineering**. Both graduates of Lamar University, Dolores earned a degree in secretarial science and Vincent earned an associate degree before earning his bachelor’s degree from Colorado State University. Vincent became a successful business owner, while Dolores worked for Hygeia Enviro-Clean, the company founded by her father. The couple later became the management team for Hygeia Enviro-Clean. Vincent is a retired registered petroleum engineer in Texas and Louisiana.

Larry ’73 and Cynthia (Smesny) ’72 Norwood established the **Larry and Cynthia Norwood Chemical Engineering Scholarship** that will provide scholarship opportunities for undergraduate, graduate or doctoral students. Larry graduated from Lamar with a chemical engineering degree and took full advantage of the co-op program as a student. After graduation, Larry went to work for the Lubrizol Corp. from which he retired as vice president for opera-

tions in 2012. He is a valued member of the College of Engineering Advisory Council, sharing his wealth of experience and knowledge to benefit future generations of students. Cynthia is a Lamar cum laude graduate in history and a successful author, instructor and business owner.

A two-time graduate of Lamar, Yvonne (Smith) Ritter ’67, ’73, endowed the **Yvonne Ritter Scholarship in English and Modern Languages**. Yvonne earned a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Master of Arts in English. After a career as a teacher, Yvonne went on to obtain her real estate license and became an entrepreneur. She retired in 2012 after 40 years as a leader in Southeast Texas real estate. Yvonne credits her liberal arts education at Lamar with providing the tools she needed for success.

**Jimmy and Distinguished Alumnus Susan (Williams) ’68 Simmons**, through provisions in their wills, have provided for a gift to the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music in the College of Fine Arts and Communication. The Simmonses have served as president and first lady of Lamar University for more than 14 years, and their roles of leadership both at Lamar and in the community are too numerous to list. They have served the university for 43 years and will continue as Jimmy Simmons returns to being a professor in the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music.

Patricia A. Snyder ’68 has made provisions through her estate to establish the **Patricia A. Snyder Innovation Fund in Engineering**. A lifelong native of Southeast Texas, Patricia graduated summa cum laude from Lamar with a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics. She taught mathematics at Monsignor Kelly High School for more than 35 years and served as department chair most of that time. Patricia has served on the vestry of St. Mark’s Church and on the All Saints’ school board. She continues to be active with St. Mark’s.

Joe ’58 and Charlotte Ware established the **Joe and Charlotte Ware President’s Innovation Fund**. The president of Lamar will use this restricted fund to further the mission of the university. Joe graduated from Lamar with a Bachelor of Science in Geology. In 1965, he began a career in the pharmaceutical business that spanned more than 35 years. Joe and Charlotte also established a scholarship in earth and space sciences in 2007.

Distinguished Alumnus Michele (Yennie) ’88 and Mitch Smith endowed the **Patsy and Michael Yennie Scholarship in Accounting** to honor Michele’s parents. Michele, a graduate of Lamar with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting, serves on the Foundation Board of Trustees and is a past member of the Alumni Advisory Board. She and Mitch are both attorneys and strong community leaders in Beaumont. They were named 2013 Neches River Festival Citizens of the Year.

*To begin your own endowment or to add a gift to an existing endowment, please contact the Lamar University Foundation at (409) 880-2117.*



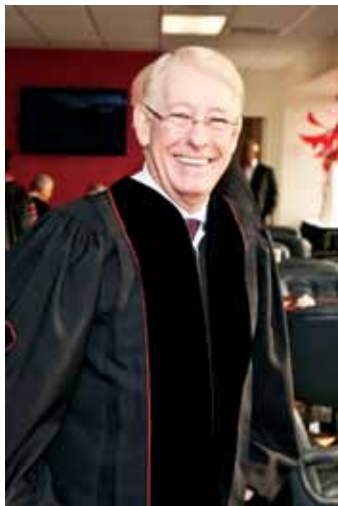


## Gladys City raises a ruckus

Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum was the site of a rowdy and raucous celebration of Southeast Texas' ranching heritage April 20, the Cowboy Ruckus. This rollicking celebration of Beaumont's wilder days

featured world-champion whip cracker and trick roper Chris McDaniel, the Beaumont 1860s Vintage Base Ball Club, the Former Texas Rangers Association, and the Back Porch Friends dulcimer group. The day rounded out

with blacksmithing and printing demonstrations, butter churning, soap making and jewelry demonstrations. Children and adults alike tried their hands at calf roping, old-time games and other contests, including a "cow patty" toss, a pie-eating contest and a tug-o-war contest.



## Lawson receives honorary doctorate

Lamar University awarded the honorary doctor of humane letters to Larry Lawson, president and CEO of eCardio Diagnostics, at fall commencement Dec. 15.

After attending Lamar in the 1960s and switching careers from music to health care 42 years ago, Lawson founded eCardio Diag-

nostics in 2004. Today, eCardio is the leading arrhythmia-monitoring company in America, providing flexible, fast and accurate diagnoses to physicians and patients worldwide, specializing in atrial fibrillation detection and analysis.

His company has been ranked as one of the 50 fastest-growing technology companies in the Houston-Gulf Coast area and in the INC. 500/5000 as one of the Top 500 fastest-growing companies in America from 2009 through 2012. Ernst & Young honored Lawson as its Health Science Entrepreneur of the Year in 2009.

## Online nursing graduate program tapped No. 2 by U.S. News & World Report

U.S. News & World Report ranked Lamar University's online graduate nursing program as second in the nation out of 101 programs evaluated.

The ranking is based on four criteria: faculty credentials and training, student services and technology, student engagement and admissions selectivity. "We are very proud of our well-prepared faculty," said Nancy Blume, director of graduate nursing studies at Lamar. "They are the backbone of our successful program."

"The top score was 75.0, and Lamar scored 74.5. The next Texas school on the list, UT-Tyler, came in at 11," said Brenda Nichols, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "Of the four major areas considered in these rankings, we scored highest in faculty credentials and training."

Lamar's nursing program's second-highest score was in student engagement, a reflection on its best practices, class size, student retention and graduation rates, Nichols said. The program also scored well in the area of student services and technology.

Other Texas school rankings were UT-Tyler, 11, Texas Christian, 25, Texas Tech, 30, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, 31, UT-El Paso, 56, San Angelo, 64, and UTMB, 65.

"I believe that this ranking proves that we have made the best choices for ourselves and our students as we have moved to an online graduate program," Nichols said. "We offer students an excellent education at a great cost and have tremendous faculty."

## Students net top awards in design challenge

Four senior mechanical engineering students won three top awards in the Texas Space Grant Consortium Design Challenge Showcase, held in Houston April 15.

The team, named the "Astro Cardinals" took honors for top design team, top poster award and top presentation award. Taking home the accolades were: team leader Philip Daleo, Beaumont; Mauro Hernandez, La Villa; Don Petry, Beaumont; and David Robinson, The Woodlands.

The TSGC Design Challenge is a unique academic experience sponsored by NASA and administered by the Texas Space Grant Consortium since 2002, offering undergraduate students an opportunity to propose, design and fabricate a solution to a topic of importance to NASA and its mission.



## Banners recognize LU's 90th Anniversary

One hundred big, bright and bold banners decorate the LU campus to mark the university's 90th year. The new banners were made possible with the support of the university's neighbor ExxonMobil.

## New Undergraduate Advising Center opens

The new Undergraduate Advising Center has opened in a renovated suite of offices in the Parker Building where advisors are working to help students stay on track as they pursue their academic and personal goals.

Lamar University began preparing for the Undergraduate Advising Center about a year ago with the goal of providing additional support for freshmen and sophomores to better ensure student success.

"We want to be consistent about the departments our advisors are representing so they truly understand those departments—the faculty members, the student organizations, the events, the degree plans and courses. That way they can make

sure the students they work with gain that familiarity as well," said Daniel Bartlett '97, '99, director of the Undergraduate Advising Center.

"A student who comes in seeking a relationship with faculty and departments will find it regardless," Bartlett said. "But many of our students don't know college. They might not seek those relationships out. These advisors will help facilitate that through proactive advising, reaching out to students and pushing them to get connected to their major, their professors and events in their departments. That's especially important for freshmen and sophomores who often are not taking a lot of courses in their major yet."







## Gubala and springer spaniel honored

Sara Gubala, instructor of political science, and her springer spaniel, Kennedy, have a way of brightening up a room. Through their service in the community, they have brought smiles to children and seniors and helped motivate injured patients toward recovery.

The pair was honored with Lamar University's Julie and Ben Rogers Community Service Award for 2012. "Julie and Ben Rogers have done a lot for the community, and to be put in a category with them through this award is really amazing," said Gubala. "The volunteer work that I have done has always been a part of my life, so it was a real honor to be recognized for that."

Gubala and Kennedy are a registered pet therapy team, certified by Inter-mountain Therapy Animals and Pet Partners, formerly Delta Society. They are also involved with a local volunteer chapter called Paws4Love. The duo volunteers at Baptist Hospital a few days a week on the pediatrics and rehabilitation floors. Gubala said a therapy animal can often motivate patients to perform better during rehabilitation sessions.

"On the rehab floor, she is working with patients who are learning to walk again, who may have had a stroke, and who have limited mobility or communication," she said. "Some patients will walk the entire length of a hallway because they are more motivated by walking a dog."

Kennedy and Gubala have also raised money for cancer research.

## MBA students trounce final eight to win national title

Four MBA students, Chinenye Egele, Hugues Joannes, Lisha Lai and Xurui Fan, have become the US Global Management Champions by winning the world's largest strategy and management competition.

The team, known as "The Conquerors," battled through the three rounds of competition. Their most recent win was captured on the national stage at the New York Stock Exchange March 25. The team faced off against the eight top teams from across the nation and gained the national title.

The Global Management Challenge ([www.worldgmc.com](http://www.worldgmc.com)) is the largest international strategy and management simulation competition in the world. The competition comprises more than 500,000 university students and corporate executives competing in a virtual industry setting, and, after five simulated quarters, the best performing virtual company wins and moves to the next round.

"The Global Management Challenge is a highly competitive strategy and management competition," said Jeff Dyson '82, director of Lamar's MBA Program. "The competition was very fierce with teams competing from 21 universities including, Duke University, University of Virginia and University of Chicago."

## LU announces record-setting 100 Mirabeau Scholars for 2013

Lamar University welcomes a record-setting 100 recipients of prestigious Mirabeau Scholarships to campus this fall 2013. The increase in Mirabeau Scholars coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Honors Program at the university, officials said.

"The Mirabeau Scholarship is one of the most prestigious and competitive scholarships we offer," said Stephen Doblin, provost and vice president for academic affairs. "Mirabeau Scholars are held to a higher level of academic and extra-classroom performance because these students are among our best and brightest."

Each scholarship carries a value of more than \$80,000 over eight semesters of support and covers all expenses. With complete tuition, fees, room and board assistance, plus a stipend for books and supplies, the financial benefit to the students is obvious. The university benefits as well, Doblin said, "from having exceptional students who live on campus, who are involved in university activities, and who hopefully push their fellow students to excel."

Just to be considered for the scholarship, students must achieve an SAT score of 1250 (excluding the writing score) or higher or a composite ACT score of at least 28, and demonstrated excellence in prior academic work. In addition, documented excellence in a variety of leadership, service, and/or creative endeavors is expected.

## AT THE PODIUM

### Lecture focuses on global entrepreneurship



SATTLER

Lamar University's ExxonMobil Entrepreneurship Lecture Series encouraged participants to "Think Global: Embracing International Markets in Entrepreneurship" March 21.

**Roosevelt Petry Jr.**, '96, president and CEO of GP Industrial Contractors Inc., presented the public lecture and spoke in sessions with business faculty and students in the college's MBA program. ExxonMobil sponsors the

lecture series in the College of Business.

GP Industrial, a global company, has been contracted for major refinery expansions at Valero, Motiva, Total, Bechtel and others. (See related story this issue.)

### LU hosts ExxonMobil Scholar in Residence

Lamar University's College of Education and Human Development hosted **Ruby Payne**, expert in educational leadership, as ExxonMobil Scholar in Residence, March 21 and 22.

Payne conducted workshops this spring with ExxonMobil student researchers and staff from Smith Middle School. She also conducted a colloquium with faculty before delivering the keynote address at the 10th annual Lamar University Education Research Conference.

The ExxonMobil Scholar-in-Residence grant is designed to engage students in critical thinking, discussion and writing to allow them an opportunity to test solutions and discuss recommendations with experts.

Payne is an author, speaker, publisher and career educator. "Ruby Payne has made a phenomenal impact on the education of students of poverty not only in the United States, but in Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, China, Hungary, Slovakia and the United Kingdom," said Dorothy Sisk, director of LU Gifted Education. "The two things that move a person out of poverty are education and relationships," Payne said.



SMITH

### Lecture peeled back the blue

The Lamar University chapter of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, hosted **Rikk Kvitek**, professor in the Division of Science and Environmental Policy, California State University Monterey Bay, for a lecture March 27.

Beginning with SCUBA, Kvitek quickly realized that detailed bird's-eye views of the seafloor could do for marine research what aerial photography had done for terrestrial studies, and now specializes in bringing seafloor habitats to life with high resolution remote sensing and 3D visualization. The State of California has undertaken a cutting-edge project to make this possible by mapping the seafloor of all the state's waters. Kvitek directs the university's Seafloor Mapping Lab. In his lecture, Kvitek showed the first images created from his efforts and shared how this new information is being used.



### Erik Qualman explored digital trends

**Erik Qualman** spoke about the power of social media and the digital trends in today's business world in a public lecture April 9 as part of the Lamar University Academic Lecture Series.

"The students were delighted to hear from Erik Qualman," said Henry Venta, dean of Lamar's College of Business. "Our students have grown up with social media and they feel in control of that technology more than any other generation."

Often called a Digital Dale Carnegie, Qualman is the author of "Socialnomics: How social media transforms the way we live and do business." He is the global vice president of online marketing for EF Education, the world's largest private educator. During his 18-year career, he has helped grow the online marketing and e-business functions for several Top 100 brands including Cadillac, Yahoo and AT&T. PC Magazine ranked his blog, [socialnomics.com](http://socialnomics.com), as a Top 10 Social Media blog. His video "Social Media Revolution" was the most-watched video in the world.



ACKER



## LU announces 2013-2014 Ambassadors



Lamar University has selected 12 students to serve as Lamar Ambassadors. They will join 18 returning Ambassadors in representing the student body at official university events during the 2013-2014 academic year.

"The success of the many strong academic programs at Lamar University is due, in large part, to our collaborations with community and civic leaders," said President James Simmons. "Our Ambassadors allow the university to connect accomplished students with these important leaders, strengthening critical bonds and increasing opportunities for all students of our university."

Newly selected Lamar University Ambassadors are Zach Holt, Baytown, chemistry/chemical engineering; from Beaumont, Jeremy Allen, management information systems; Jason Hatton, chemical engineering; Charles Huynh, chemical engineering/pre-med; Lydia Rosario, accounting; Ben Yett, electrical engineering; and Kevin Zabala, chemistry/pre-med; Micah Murdock, Groves, chemical engineering; Morgan Walston, Nederland, corporate communications; Vivian Caloobanan, Lumberton, biology/pre-med; Erica Edgerly, Orangefield, fashion merchandising; and Ayah Hamza, Port Neches, biology/pre-med.

## STAIRSTEP program exceeds goals

LU's STAIRSTEP program, designed to retain students in science and technology related fields and help them advance into professional fields and graduate school, has exceeded its goals in student retention and placement.

Students Advancing through Involvement in Research Student Talent Expansion Program (STAIRSTEP) exceeded its 70 percent retention rate goal by 21 percentage points. As of October, 91 percent of participants retained their Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)-related majors. And, at 83 percent, the program also exceeded its 80 percent goal of transitioning students into graduate school or STEM-related fields within six months of graduation.

Peggy Doerschuk, professor of computer science and director of STAIRSTEP, said the program covers five disciplines: computer science, mathematics, geology, chemistry and physics. Students work together in teams under the guidance of a faculty mentor in their respective STEM disciplines.

### Graduates attest to program success

William Ware, a physics and electrical engineering graduate from Huntington, said the research he conducted during the STAIRSTEP program with faculty mentor Christian Bahrim, associate professor of physics, helped him excel in his coursework at Lamar. Ware received a Plummer award upon graduation from Lamar in May 2012.

"At first, I was a little timid about joining STAIRSTEP," he said. "When I actually got started researching and working with other students, the timidity went away, and I loved it. Studying how light interacts with the world around us gave me incredible insight into various realms of physics and things started to make sense."

Ware began graduate school this fall at Purdue University, where he was awarded the Purdue Doctoral Fellowship. He said he feels the STAIRSTEP experience gave him an advantage over other students during the application process.

"With two years of research experience under my belt, I had a leg up on other applicants," he said. "Now that I am accepted, I feel like I am ahead of my peers because of experiences I have had."

Nick Lanning, physics and mathematics graduate from Orange, presented his research with his mentor, Bahrim, at the 2012 American Physical Society March meeting in Boston, Mass. The conference is the largest physics meeting in the world, hosting as many as 7,000 research presentations.

Lanning earned a Society of Physics Students Undergraduate Presentation Award at the conference for outstanding poster presentation. "I feel that I have developed skills as a researcher, skills necessary to write and communicate my ideas clearly and, the most challenging for me, the confidence necessary to be a good presenter," he said.

## Computer science students place in Top 20

Three computer science majors placed in the Top 20 at the Association on Computing Machinery's South Central Regional Programming Contest at Louisiana State University Oct. 19-20.

The Cardinals team placed 19th overall out of 58 teams from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Mississippi. "In fact, this team outperformed some teams from Texas A&M, UT-Dallas and Rice University," said Stefan Andrei, associate professor of computer science. "The ACM ICPC contest is the most important computer programming competition in the world," Andrei said. The Cardinals team members, Zebulun Barnett of Lumberton, Matthew Williamson of Hardin and Reza Shakouri from Beaumont bettered all teams from McNeese University, Abilene Christian University, Texas Christian University, University of Houston and many more.

## National Merit recognizes TALH students

The 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program has recognized six exceptional students from Lamar University's Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities (TALH): two National Merit semifinalists Anna Buchele from Georgetown and Betty Chen from Plano and four Commended Students, William Brewer of Beaumont; Carol Abousaab, Houston; Donald Case, Point; and Emmie Knobloch, Bowie.

"The Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities is proud of the academic accomplishments of our students," said Ted Stuberfield, TALH director. "To have six students recognized is indicative of the intellectual prowess of our students and the academic rigor provided within the learning community at Lamar University."

To enter and be considered for the program, students must take the PSAT, which is the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

## MBA program named Best Business School

Lamar University has been recognized by Princeton Review's "Best 296 Business Schools: 2013 Edition" for its exceptional MBA program in the College of Business. Of the 296 business schools, 280 were from the U.S. and 16 were international.

"We are among the top 296 business schools nationally and internationally," said Jeff Dyson '82, MBA director. "Management knowledge, organizational perspective, and analytical skill and ability are all important things we focus on for the students in our business school. Our mission is to make students who attend Lamar's MBA program relevant and competitive not only in business, but in life."

The school rankings are derived from an 80-question survey given to students attending the schools and take into account how those students rate their experiences with the institution, MBA program, campus life, student body and faculty.

"Our MBA program is shockingly affordable, and also very diverse and very engaging," Dyson said. "The competitive MBA admission requirements help us ensure that we get the right people in the program."



## Doctoral students net Polyolefins scholarships

Chemical engineering Ph.D. students, Xi Zhang and Qingliang He, recently received prestigious scholarships sponsored by Polyolefin of Society of Plastics Engineers. The scholarships include a cash award of \$1,000 and cover the cost of registration, meals and lodging.

Zhang, awarded the society's conference scholarship in the thermoplastic materials and foams division, received her master's degree in material science and processing from South China University of Technology in 2010. He, awarded in the polymer modifiers and additives division, received his master's degree in safety engineering at the University of Science and Technology of China. Both Zhang and He are research students in the Lamar Integrated Composites Laboratory directed by assistant professor John Guo.





## Mechanical engineering students perform well in Mini-Baja competition

A group of 10 senior mechanical engineering students, also known as “Cardinal Racing,” who designed, built and raced an all-terrain vehicle took first place in a sled-pull event and finished 30th overall out of the 100 teams at the 2013 SAE Baja East competition in Cookeville, Tenn., April 18-21.

The goal of this intercollegiate competition was to construct a functional, durable, versatile and cost-effective vehicle that could be mass-produced by a fictitious firm. To ensure the competition that puts emphasis on driveline, suspension and chassis designs, all vehicles must be powered by unmodified 10-horsepower engines donated by Briggs & Stratton Corp.

Each team puts their vehicle through its paces in a variety of dy-

namic tests; hill climbs, chain pulls, maneuverability, rock crawls, suspension and traction events as well as a four-hour endurance race. In addition to taking first place in sled pull event,

Lamar’s team finished 25th in suspension and traction, 29th in acceleration, 33rd in design and endurance race, 35th in maneuverability, and 61st in cost.

On the “Cardinal Racing” team were Trey Frederick, Jacob James, Garrett Minaldi, Jacob

Porter and Eddie Strickland, all of Beaumont; Adam Tanton, Silsbee; Peter Newell, Baytown; Kyle Horton, League City; and Ryan Clarke and Jude Vidrine, both of Nederland. This is the fifth consecutive year for Lamar University to have a team in the SAE Baja competition. At last year’s event, in Wisconsin, Cardinal Racing scored a 389.39 to finish in 77th place.



## Four pedagogy students honored for excellence

Four professional pedagogy students were honored for excellence by the Center for Research Evaluation Advancement of Teacher Education’s (CREATE) Quest for Quality Teacher-prep in Texas program.

Student teacher supervisors nominated the four students: Lauren Solis of Nederland; Erica Warner, Mauriceville; Lindsey Stephens, Nederland; and Kathryn Renee Vincent, Tyler, for the honor.

“They go out into the field and work with a mentor teacher and eventually take over the class,” said Gayle Lynn Fairley, director of the office of field work in the Professional Pedagogy Department. “It is like an internship program—they don’t get paid for it, but they get credit hours. They take everything they have learned in their university coursework and start applying it in the classroom under the guidance of a mentor.”

All four students currently teach in their own classrooms: Kathryn Vincent teaches seventh-grade math at Marshall Middle School in Beaumont; Erica Warner fourth-grade English and Language Arts and Texas History, Mauriceville Elementary; Lindsey Stephens, first grade, Helena Park Elementary, Nederland; and Lauren Solis, first grade, Tyrell Elementary, Beaumont.

## CS student recognized in international competition

Demetrius Taylor, computer science senior from Dayton, earned third place in international competition at the 44th ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education in Denver, Colo. The annual symposium, sponsored by the Association for Computing Machinery’s Special Interest Group on Computer Science Education, is the premiere showcase for computing education in the U.S.

By presenting his poster entitled “Enabling a resource limited robot to formulate complex plans,” Taylor was selected as a finalist and went on to the next round, an oral presentation of his research. His poster described research he performed last summer as a McNair Scholar under the direction of his faculty mentor, computer science University Professor Peggy Doerschuk. “To my knowledge, this is the first time a LU student has made it to the finals in this international undergraduate student research contest,” Doerschuk said.

## Historical interpreter Bill Barker brings Thomas Jefferson to life

Historical scholar Bill Barker is praised as the quintessential Thomas Jefferson – an interpreter who not only embodies the third president but becomes him.

“Meeting Barker is as close as you can get to meeting Thomas Jefferson,” wrote one reviewer.

Southeast Texans took advantage of the opportunity to meet Jefferson, via Barker, when Lamar University presented “An Evening with Thomas Jefferson on the American Presidency.” The College of Arts and Sciences and Department of History sponsored the presentation. The program was made possible in part by a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Barker, who is associated with Colonial Williamsburg, examined the office of the president in historical perspective through his portrayal of Jefferson. For

more than 25 years, Barker has dedicated his life to educating the public about Jefferson – his ideas, life and legacy.

“Although Barker portrays Thomas Jefferson as president from 1800-1808, many of his topics still resonate today. These include civil liberty, representative government, political parties, the Bill of Rights, presidential power and the relation among the three branches of government.

“The presidential campaign of 1800 was one of the most bitter in U.S. history, and Barker, as Jefferson will explain how negative campaigning, partisan politics and contested elections have been part of our political system since the early days of the Republic,” Scheer said.

Barker interpreted Jefferson without using notes and left the audience with the distinct impression they were in the presence of one of the founding fathers.



## Student chapter named No. 1 chapter by Ducks Unlimited

The Lamar University chapter of Ducks Unlimited is the No. 1 “Sweet 16” university chapter for 2012, the organization announced recently.

Each spring, the international nonprofit conservation organization names the top university programs to the “Sweet 16” for their role in fundraising for the conservation of wetlands and associated upland habitats for waterfowl, other wildlife and people.

Lamar’s Ducks Unlimited student chapter raised \$65,464 in 2012. That accomplishment set a new



record among all “Sweet 16” chapters, said Ducks Unlimited Area Chairman and Lamar Chapter President Jesi Courville. “To add to our achievements, Lamar University ranked 76th among the more than 2,700 Ducks Unlimited Chapters in the nation and are now recognized as one of the President’s Elite Chapters in 2012,” Courville added.

To commemorate the accomplishment and to thank LU President James Simmons for his support of the student chapter, Jesi Courville and chapter members Jami Courville and Eric Payton presented him with a 75th Anniversary Pintail decoy signed by each of the chapter’s members.





## Maxwell to be honored for international achievement

Elisabeth Maxwell, Beaumont biology major and LU Ambassador, has received the Marian Beane/Charles Gliozzo Domestic Student Award for International Achievement.

Phi Beta Delta International Scholars Honors Society gives the award to one student member at the national level. Maxwell accepted the award at the society's national convention in North Carolina April 11-13.

Maxwell spent three months on the coast of South Africa working with a shark conservancy in 2011 and spent the summer in Mozambique working with a Marine Mega Fauna field research station in 2012 as part of her research for the Beck Fellowship, Lamar's most prestigious undergraduate honor.

Maxwell said she was surprised and honored when she received word she was selected to receive the award. "I feel like this award is more about all of the people who have helped me to get to where I am," she said. "I didn't get myself to Mozambique. A lot of others worked really hard to get me there, and I was just able to have the experience."

Catalina Castillon, president of the Lamar University PBD Beta Xi Chapter, said the award is a great accomplishment for Maxwell and the Beta Xi Chapter. "It is a great honor for our Beta Xi chapter," she said. "It fills us with pride and places us on the international map. Elisabeth competed at the national level against students from other universities with PBD chapters."

## Electrical engineering students recognized in national competitions

Nine senior and two junior electrical engineering majors received top honors in a recent competition in Colorado, sponsored by IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers), the world's largest professional association for the advancement of technology. Lamar's student teams from the Phillip M. Drayer Department of Electrical Engineering competed against teams from 12 states including more than 100 colleges and universities. Of the four competitions Lamar's students entered, they won first place in two and second place in another.

Senior Bryan Deagle of Lumberton took first place in the student paper competition. Deagle researched current techniques used to detect and remove ocular artifacts from electroencephalograms, a graphic record of the electrical activity of the brain.

"It was an honor just to go to Denver to compete with so many bright engineers from prestigious universities from across the country," said Deagle. His award is the fifth time a LU engineering student has won first place in this award since 1972.

Juniors Jason Cox, Beaumont, and Aaron Crawford, Buna, took first place in the student ethics competition, the first time Lamar has participated in the event. Teams were required to present a case about real-life situations of questionable ethical decisions to a panel of seven engineers. They then were required to defend their analysis by answering questions from the panel.

Team CREWD, composed of seniors Alan Cleveland, Missouri City; Phillip Huff, Beaumont; Chase Patten, Port Arthur; and Stanley Richardson-Whyte, Missouri City, took second place in the annual Center for the Commercialization of Electric Technologies Student Design Contest. This year's event challenged students to design a lightweight and portable robotic device for removal and replacement of residential kilowatt-hour meters to help mitigate the danger of potential arc flash.

Team SERFE, composed of seniors Tyler Rogers, Johnson Royer, Beaumont; David Stone, Silsbee; and Spencer Wigginton, Lumberton, finished in fifth place in the robotics competition. The aim of this year's contest was to help determine the level of human intervention needed for the re-vegetation of a forest after a wildfire. Each team was required to design and build a fully autonomous robot capable of navigating a simulated forest to collect soil samples.

In other competitions, seniors James Blackshear, Warren, and Derik Kilmer, Vidor, won the technical poster and technical presentation award at the 2013 Trinity College Fire Fighting Robotics contest held April 6 in Hartford, Conn.

Forming the EE team, Blackshear and Kilmer were responsible for the design of robots that can assist the needs of a fireman in real-world situations.

Joseph Hancock, Beaumont, and Kelvin Lai, Houston, won honorable mention in the top overall team award at the NASA Texas Space Grant Consortium Design Challenge held April 15 in League City.

The team's project was to design and demonstrate an adaptive lighting controller that monitors the output light of an LED light source for degradation of light intensity and/or color intensity changes for specific application to future spacecraft conducting deep space missions.

## Celebrating 60 years of Pulse

Pulse, Lamar University's student-created literary magazine, has released its 60th edition. "For more than half a century, Pulse has represented Lamar's commitment to the literary arts," said R.S. "Sam" Gwynn, professor of English and modern languages. "We can be proud of published authors like Leon Stokesbury, a 1968 Lamar alumnus whose work first appeared in its pages. Other participants, like Amber Rigney, a 1998 alumna, have gone on to important editorial positions."

Garry Richards of Port Neches, Pulse editor and English graduate student, said Pulse showcases work from students of different disciplines. "I had the opportunity to see a lot of work from budding writers," he said. "It is good to see we have good writers, not just in the English department, but all over campus." The magazine is funded by donations from patrons of the arts.

Winners for this edition are Quinton Gaines of Beaumont for best undergraduate free verse, Donald Case of Point for best undergraduate formal poem, Kevin King of Vidor for best undergraduate prose, and Tara Tatum of Beaumont for both the free verse and formal graduate poem categories. Alaina Bray of Hamshire won best critical essay. Ashley Cook of Port Arthur, Adam Gorrel of Bridge City and John Jashinski of Silsbee received Lamar-Longman Awards for best freshman critical essay. Jashinski won a second Lamar-Longman Award for an additional essay.

## Jim Armacost named new director of sustainability

Lamar University has created a new office of sustainability with the goal of making the university as efficient and environmentally friendly as possible. Jim Armacost, assistant professor of biology, has been named the university's first director of sustainability.

Armacost has been at Lamar University since 2007 teaching courses in ornithology, conservation biology, tropical forest ecology, avian ecology, bird conservation, and invasion ecology and has served as a member of the Faculty Learning Committee on Sustainability.

The creation of the new office and position is part of Lamar's strategic plan to promote sustainability in all aspects of university life, following Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) principles in renovation and construction projects whenever feasible, and establishing a recharging station on campus.

"Lamar is making efforts to become as sustainable as possible in all of its activities," Armacost said. "This means conserving energy, minimizing the amount of waste we produce and minimizing our environmental impact while still accomplishing the educational goals of the institution."

## MBA students win GAME competition

Three Lamar University MBA students placed first in graduate-level value funds at the Global Asset Management Education (GAME) conference April 3-6 in New York City.

Ashley Angelle '12 of Bridge City; Elly Garner '12, Orange; Billy Pattarozzi '83, Beaumont, and members of the Lamar University Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF) were led by Thomas Thompson, professor of finance.

Garner earned her BBA in general business from Lamar in 2012 and works part time as an accounting assistant at LD Services, LLC. Pattarozzi is a 1983 graduate of Lamar with a bachelor's degree in information

technology and works for MWV. He sees the MBA as a valuable complement to his business and technical skills. A 2012 graduate of Lamar with a bachelor's degree in finance and economics, Angelle is a secretary at Germer Gertz, LLP and plans a career in the finance industry.

Based on approximately 11 percent performance for 2012 and for

the third consecutive year, the Lamar Student Managed Investment Fund placed first for graduate-level value funds. Other graduate level fund winners were Fordham University for growth funds and Rice University for core funds.



From left, Billy Pattarozzi, Elly Garner, Ashley Angelle, and Professor Thomas Thompson.



## FACULTY NOTES

### LU honors Xu as 2013 University Scholar

**Qiang Xu** has been selected as 2013 University Scholar. President James Simmons announced the honor during a ceremony April 10. The University Scholar Award is the most prestigious research honor bestowed upon a faculty member at Lamar.

"The criteria encompass current and continuous exemplary scholarly research and projected future impact for the University. Without a doubt his collaboration on industry projects with five major corporations is exceptional and a role model for public/private research," said Jack Hopper, dean, College of Engineering. "Dr. Xu's scholarly endeavors continue the high standard for outstanding research performance by Lamar's faculty."

Xu's research is in the areas of large-scale dynamic simulation and optimization, production scheduling and planning, multi-scale systems integration, soft-sensor technique development, and industrial pollution. He has published more than 63 peer-reviewed research papers, and has served as principal or co-principal investigator on funded projects totaling in excess of \$1 million. These include funding from the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Defense and leading petrochemical companies.

Xu joined the Dan F. Smith Department of Chemical Engineering in 2005. Four of his recent papers have received best paper awards, from three different American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) divisions. Because of his excellence in research, he has been appointed as the chair-elect of Process Research and Innovation Subdivision of AIChE, and the programming chair of the Green Chemistry and Green Engineering Subdivisions of the American Chemical Society (ACS).

### Curl named Fellow

**Eileen Deges Curl**, chair of the JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing, has been inducted into the National League for Nursing's Academy of Nursing Education with the credential of fellow. She joins the academy's 117 fellows representing nursing schools and programs throughout the United States.

"NLN fellows include nationally recognized leaders in the nursing profession. To be a fellow with these outstanding nurse leaders is an amazing opportunity," said Curl. "Receiving this prestigious honor also brings recognition for Lamar University and the excellent nursing programs we offer. As a fellow, I have a network of leaders in different areas of nursing with which I can collaborate to address important issues or work on special projects related to nursing education."

Curl is known for her work in the public policy arena, with emphasis on nursing education policy. Her work at the national level includes chairing the Committee on Accreditation and Approval of Nursing Programs for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN). She served as

co-investigator of two large research studies that led to a public policy regulatory model recommended by NCSBN and adopted by many states including Texas.

### Guo and Wei net National Science Foundation grant

**John Guo**, assistant professor of chemical engineering, and **Suying Wei**, assistant professor of analytical chemistry, have received a \$84,130 National Science Foundation grant entitled "EAGER: The First Steps toward Giant Magneto-resistive Carbon Nano Composites." Researchers will examine the surface functionalization of commercial magnetic nanoparticles and will evaluate the feasibility of the large-scale production of carbon nanocomposites.

The success of this project will advance the knowledge required to manufacture next-generation GMR materials and will also have potential for device miniaturization and weight reduction.

### ACM recognizes LU's Andrei

The Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) has recognized **Stefan Andrei**, associate professor of computer science, as



a Senior Member. The world's largest educational and scientific computing society, ACM delivers resources that advance computing as a science and a profession. Its international

senior member program, initiated in 2006, includes members with at least 10 years of professional experience who have demonstrated performance that sets them apart from their peers through technical leadership and technical or professional contributions. "I think my greatest reward is actually the fact that I am working with students," said Andrei. "When I see the students happy for their achievements, this makes me feel younger."



### Das recognized for teaching excellence

The Mathematical Association of America will honor **Kumer Das**, associate professor of mathematics, its

2013 Alder Award for distinguished teaching at the Math Fest Ceremony in Hartford, Conn., August 2. Each year, no more than three mathematical science faculty members from the U.S. and Canada are honored with this national award.

His teaching at Lamar University has influence far beyond the classroom. Das' students and colleagues wrote of his extraordinary teaching success in letters of recommendation that accompanied the award nomination. "I am totally honored and immensely grateful," said Das.

One student wrote, "Dr. Das is an energetic, enthusiastic, passionate, sincere, and patient professor. His students value his

classes not just for their educational benefit, but for the overall experience which includes the successful use of technology as both a content delivery tool and a pedagogical tool, his sense of humor, and his extraordinary patience level."

Teaching skills seem to be passed down from generation to generation. "My father was also an awarded teacher in Bangladesh," Das said. "I follow his footsteps and feel very proud."

### Forret provides insight into slavery

**Jeff Forret**, associate professor of history, has published his second book, "Slavery in the United States." The book is part of the "Issues and Controversies in American History" series by New York publisher Facts on File and explores issues

such as the role slaves played in the American Revolution and the implications of the U.S. Constitution upon slavery.

Forret examines religious justifications for slavery, the history of the transatlantic slave trade and other topics. Each chapter is designed around an issue that was debated among historical actors. Forret tells the story of American slavery through the voice of historical agents to capture an authentic narrative about the issues the book addresses.

"The book itself is very much grounded in primary sources," he said. "It uses the words people alive at the time would use to discuss these various issues."

### Alasti named SPME Fellow

**Sanaz Alasti**, assistant professor of criminal justice and a native of Iran, has been named a Fellow of Scholars for Peace in the Middle East. Alasti did post-doctoral research in comparative studies of capital punishment at Harvard School of Law in 2011. She is

the author of several books on criminal law, the criminal justice system, comparative punishment practices and rituals, and criminology.

Alasti will present her research in comparative criminal justice systems in the Middle East at the fifth seminar organized by the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences, in co-operation with the NATO School. The seminar will focus on "Shari'a Law and Military Operations" in the Middle East.

Scheduled Nov. 19-24 at the institute headquarters in Siracusa, Sicily, the seminar will provide instruction on Shari'a Law by international scholars to officials and advisors from NATO member countries. Faculty members are invited from all around the world to cover a broad variety of issues such as crime and punishment in Shari'a Law, law of armed conflict, religiously motivated political violence, women's and minorities' rights and operational issues.

This conference is unique in that it strays from familiar Western law and its surrounding issues to instruct NATO officials in laws of the Middle East and how religious law differs from secular law. "Usually when you attend a seminar or conference, the attendees are scholars, graduate students from my field, or criminologists," Alasti said. "At this seminar, the attendees are NATO officers, legal advisors and judges, so I believe it will be a different experience to work with them as opposed to scholars in my field."



From left, Suying Wei, assistant professor of analytical chemistry; T.C. Ho, chair of chemical engineering; doctoral student Jiahua Zhu; Dean Jack Hopper; and John Guo, assistant professor of chemical engineering



## Le Grand Bal

Alumni and friends came out in style to honor Sallye Jones Keith of Beaumont, a beloved philanthropist and civic leader, for her myriad contributions to Lamar University, the community and the arts. Presented by Lamar University's Friends of the Arts, Le Grand Bal is the major annual fundraiser for the College of Fine Arts and Communication.

- 1.** Karen and Mike Fuljenz. **2.** Jordan and Susan Reese **3.** Regent David '74 and Janet Montagne. **4.** From left, Allison Getz, Sallye Keith '09, Mary Jane Garth, Michael Getz '78. **5.** From left, Mitch and Michele (Yennie) Smith '88, Joey '76 and Paula Blazek. **6.** Sally Bundy, Earl Brickhouse '50.



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**7.** Rod Carroll, Dawn Mathis, James Vanderleeuw and Nick Lampson '68, '74, get together during the 2013 Brooks Conference April 18 at Lamar. The Jack Brooks Chair in Government and Public service hosted the event, which focused on substance abuse. The conference and chair honor the late U.S. Rep. Jack Brooks, who served in Congress more than 40 years. Carroll is Brooks' son-in-law. Mathis, with the Drug Enforcement Administration in Houston, was keynote speaker, and Vanderleeuw, a professor of political science, holds the Brooks chair and is conference director. Lampson was among about 130 participants in the conference.

**8.** John Nguyen of Nederland celebrates the December 2012 graduation of his daughter, Lan Nguyen, a recipient of the Plummer Award.

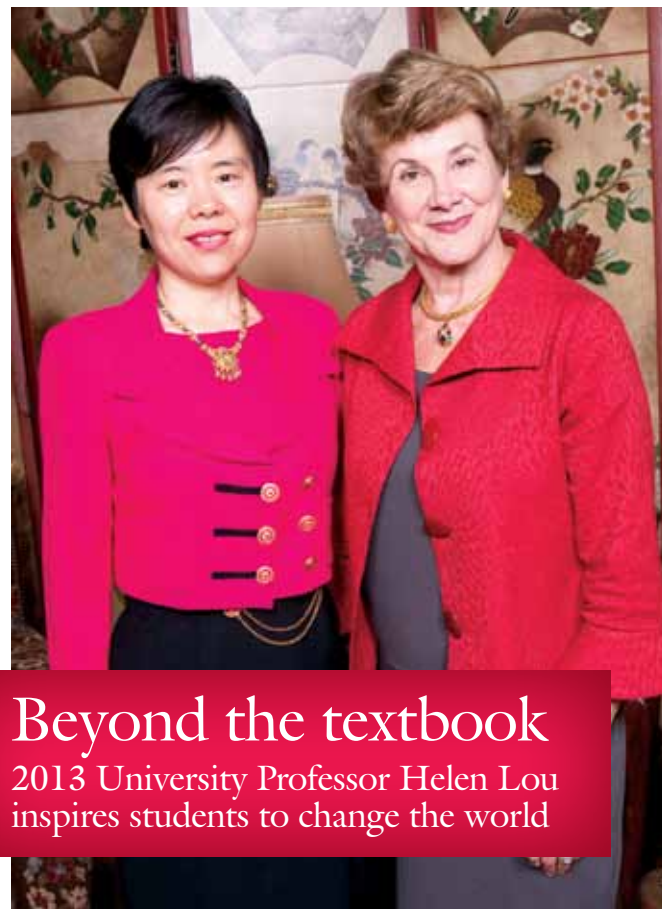
**9.** Supporting CASA of Southeast Texas at the Justice is Served Dinner April 23: CASA board member and LU Dean Henry Venta, left, with President James Simmons; Vernice Monroe, special assistant to the president for multicultural issues at LU, who won CASA Child Advocate of the Year; and Toni Mulvaney, CASA board member and volunteer advocate and professor of accounting and business law at LU.

**10.** The red and white Lamar University flag and a freshly painted crosswalk of the same colors shout victory on Main Street at BP Texas City. Conceived by the Maintenance, Reliability and Projects groups, the month-long contest called "Crossing Main Street the United Way" raised \$13,564, with \$4,020 poured in by graduates of Lamar.

**11.** University professor of earth and space sciences James Westgate was an invited keynote speaker at the 9th International Conference on Hands-on Science in Antalya, Turkey. He also presented a workshop, "You are what you eat: determining the diet of extinct animals," at the first Children's Summit on Hands-on Science and Environmental Education. Kids from across Turkey marveled at the large fossil tooth from a 4 million-year-old, 40-foot C. megalodon shark.

**12.** Provost Stephen Doblin congratulates retiree Ku-Yen Li, professor of chemical engineering, and his wife, Tsong-Dsu "Sherry," instructor of chemistry. The couple was among 14 retirees honored at a reception April 10.





## Beyond the textbook

### 2013 University Professor Helen Lou inspires students to change the world

Lamar University honored **HELEN LOU**, a professor in the Dan F. Smith Department of Chemical Engineering, as the 2013 University Professor, with officials applauding her as one of the world's most productive environmental researchers and an outstanding faculty member who has contributed significantly to the successes of her department.

The professorship, awarded for life, is the most prestigious faculty award conferred by Lamar's academic community. President James Simmons conferred the medallion of University Professor "as a lasting symbol of this high honor and esteemed title."

"I am here today not because of what I do but because of you, who support me, challenge me, push me and love me," Lou said in accepting her award. In teaching, she said, she challenges her students to think beyond the textbook and beyond the numbers. "Together," she tells them, "we can change the world."

This year, Lou also became the second Ann Die-Hasselmo Scholar, made possible by the creation and funding of the Lamar University Faculty Excellence Endowment by Ann Die Hasselmo '66. Honored as Lamar's 1986 Regents' Professor, Hasselmo was a longtime faculty member whose career path later took her to top university administrative positions and other roles devoted to strengthening academic leadership. Hasselmo and her husband, Nils, attended the ceremony, which is underwritten by the endowment.

"Dr. Lou is committed to scholarly activities that foster

knowledge, discovery and innovation in research and engineering education," said Jack Hopper, dean of the College of Engineering. "She is an exceptionally gifted instructor, receiving recognition year after year from her students and professional peers. She is one of Lamar's premier researchers and is recognized widely for her service to the university, industry and the profession of chemical engineering."

Recently, Hopper noted, Lou was listed among the "Top 100 Most Talented" by Shanxi Province in China—a province of almost 40 million people.

"Dr. Lou has been an outstanding faculty member, contributing significantly to the recent successes of the chemical engineering department," said T.C. Ho, her department chair.

Lou has made significant contributions to Lamar, chemical engineering and, most importantly, to her students, said Stephen Doblin, provost and vice president for academic affairs. "In her steady, humble and focused manner, Dr. Lou has grown into one of Lamar's most productive and accomplished faculty members. She is appreciated by her students, admired by her colleagues and respected by her national and international peers. Her standard of excellence is readily evident throughout the university."

Lou is one of the world's most productive environmental researchers, Doblin said. She has published 28 peer-refereed journal articles, authored six book chapters, served on four invited international panels and delivered more than 100 professional papers—in just 12 years of service.

Since 2002, Lou has been principal investigator or co-principal investigator on 33 funded projects. To fund these efforts, she has received more than \$2.1 million in funded research. She was honored in 2009 as University Scholar and in 2004 with a Merit Award.

After receiving a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering from Zhejiang University, she earned master's degrees in chemical engineering and computer science and a doctor of philosophy in chemical engineering from Wayne State University. Early in her career, she was a petrochemical engineer in China, but her true calling was in academics where her areas of interest include momentum and heat transfer, process controls, optimization processes and sustainability.

Lou has received four funded projects totaling \$75,000 to enhance instruction, including two from the National Science Foundation and one from the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance. She serves as faculty advisor for Lamar's chapter of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and as a mentor to undergraduate chemical engineering majors. Lou is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, American Chemical Society, Sigma Xi scientific research society and Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society.

A Registered Professional Engineer in Texas, Lou has held office in professional organizations, has chaired dozens of sessions at professional conferences and meetings around the world and is an editorial board member for several professional journals. She is a proposal reviewer for the National Science Foundation, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation, Texas Emerging Technology Fund, Texas Hazardous Waste Research Center, Gulf Coast Hazardous Substance Research Center and national research agencies in South Africa, Qatar and the People's Republic of China.



From left, Suying Wei, Yunsuk Koh, Alberto Marquez, Amy Smith

## 2013 Merit Awards honor excellence

Lamar honored four faculty members with 2013 University Merit Awards in recognition of outstanding performance in the classroom.

**YUNSUKE KOH**, assistant professor of health and kinesiology. Bachelor of science, Samchok National University, Korea; master of science degrees, Kangwan University in Korea and Mississippi State University; doctorate, Texas Woman's University . . . coordinates undergraduate program in exercise science and fitness management . . . with colleagues, expanded LU Exercise Science Laboratory to test students, faculty and staff . . . mentors undergraduate and graduate students in class-based research projects . . . has published numerous articles and abstracts . . . successfully wrote six grants and contracts to fund research and professional travel.

*"His performance in the classroom, rapport and involvement with students and vital role in the development of the Exercise Science Laboratory are evidence of his commitment to professional growth."*  
—Doug Boatwright, chair, Department of Health and Kinesiology

**ALBERTO MARQUEZ**, assistant professor of industrial engineering. Bachelor of science in industrial and systems engineering and master of science in management science, Monterrey Institute of Technology, Monterrey, Mexico; Ph.D. in industrial engineering and management systems, Arizona State University . . . served as department chair at Monterrey Tech . . . expertise in operations research and computer-integrated manufacturing . . . with colleagues, received \$191,000 grant from National Science Foundation to study use of multimedia on mobile platforms and in role modeling . . . teaches online and in Army's Logistics Leadership Center program . . . sponsor of Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, local chapter of American Society for Quality, Institute for Operations Research and Management Science and Cardinal Tennis Club . . . president of Southeast Texas chapter of the American Society for Quality.

*"Dr. Marquez is a popular and effective instructor. He is widely praised by his students and colleagues. His resume demonstrates his commitment to classroom, scholarship and service excellence."*  
—Jack Hopper, dean, College of Engineering

**AMY SMITH**, assistant professor of English. Bachelor of arts and master of arts in philosophy and Ph.D. in comparative literature, Binghamton University in New York . . . courses include philosophy, English composition, mythology, and British, Asian, African-American and world literature . . . teaches at-risk freshmen, Honors Program students, Mirabeau Scholars and students in Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities (TALH). . . Active and Collaborative Engagement for Students (ACES) fellow and associate director of LU Quality Enhancement Plan . . . assists in production of Lamar Journal of the Humanities and Pulse student literary magazine . . . mentor to TALH, Honors and high school students . . . active in professional and literary circles . . . earned faculty development leave and Research Enhancement Grant . . . author of translations, journal articles, book reviews, book chapter and encyclopedia entries.

*"She has that something special that sets her apart from the rest. She is the kind of teacher that all of us hope to be. It is obvious she puts her heart into what she does."*—former student

**SUYING WEI**, assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry. Bachelor of science in chemical engineering, Sandong University; master of science in applied chemistry, Beijing University of Chemical Technology; Ph.D. in chemistry, Louisiana State University; post-doctoral studies, University of California-San Diego and University of California Los Angeles . . . mixes chemicals—and instructional techniques—to introduce students to chemistry . . . shares research in advanced courses . . . McNair Scholar mentor . . . teaches kindergarten through 12th-grade students . . . more than \$500,000 in research grants, including three from National Science Foundation (NSF) . . . panelist, reviewer and judge for competitions, notably those of NSF . . . on editorial boards of prominent journals and has received fellowships to NSF-sponsored institutes . . . articles, scholarly papers and book chapters . . . when in China, recruits students for Lamar.

*"Her student evaluations are consistently strong, and her excitement for the subjects she teaches is infectious,"*—Paul Bernazzani, chair, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry



## Farewell President Simmons

**A**lumni, faculty, staff, students and friends of Lamar University extended applause and appreciation March 2 for President Jimmy Simmons and First Lady Susan (Williams) Simmons '68, who have ushered in a new era at LU, priming the university for future growth and success. Simmons accepted those best wishes before he returns to the faculty this year after more than 14 years of service as president and 44 years with the university. He will teach as president emeritus in a building that bears his name, with the nearby garden named for Susan, both in tribute to all he and Susan have worked toward and accomplished. "A Standing Ovation for Jimmy and Susan Simmons" began with the Lady Cardinals' and Cardinals' basketball games with special presentations during halftime of the men's game and a reception on the arena floor afterward.

**1.** Celebrating the naming of Jimmy Simmons Boulevard are, from left, LU Ambassador Joshua Barnes, Distinguished Alumna and First Lady Susan (Williams) Simmons '68, Beaumont Mayor Becky Ames, President James Simmons, and Ambassadors Paul Rizk, Rachel Binagia and Daniel Ward. **2.** Mary Ann (Johnson) '65 and Distinguished Alumnus Don Lyle HD '06 with President James Simmons, center **3.** Students jam with Cardinal Spirit at halftime during the LU vs Oral Roberts University basketball game that book-ended the Ovation tribute to the president and first lady. **4.** Distinguished Alumnus Mike '65 and Pat (Peterson) Aldredge '61 **5.** Simmons family **6.** Regent David Montagne '74, Chairman Donna Williams, President James Simmons, Regent and Distinguished Alumnus William Scott '70, Chancellor Brian McCall, former Regent Trisha Pollard, Regent Charlie Amato **7.** Cardinals basketball team Manager Andrew Bohannon, left, with, front row from left, Donley Minor, President Simmons, Keilan Blanks, back row from left, Rhon Mitchell, Amos Wilson and Donnell Minton. **8.** Susan (Simmons) Howlett -65 with her brother, Jimmy **9.** Distinguished Alumna and First Lady Susan (Williams) Simmons '68 and President James Simmons **10.** Vice President for University Advancement Camille Mouton, left, with Distinguished Alumnus Phil '67 and Karen Drayer **11.** President James Simmons, Distinguished Alumna and First Lady Susan (Williams) Simmons '68, Alumni Advisory Board President Ellen (Walker) Rienstra '62, LU Foundation President and Distinguished Alumnus Joe Domino '75 **12.** Senior Donley Minor **13.** Laurie (House) Ritchel '85, Distinguished Alumna and First Lady Susan (Williams) Simmons '68, Sally (McDonald) House '59 **14.** TSUS Regents and LU Ambassadors cheer as Chancellor Brian McCall announces President James Simmons will be honored as president emeritus. **15.** Distinguished Alumnus Dan '69 and Sandra Smith with Distinguished Alumna and First Lady Susan (Williams) Simmons '68





# Preserving history

## Brooks-Shivers Dining Hall: A lasting legacy

The Brooks-Shivers Dining Hall will perpetuate the legacy of two men who were instrumental in efforts to make Lamar a four-year college.

Regents of The Texas State University System unanimously transferred the name from the Brooks-Shivers dormitory, which is being repurposed as a part of campus enhancement.

Their action emphasizes the importance of preserving the history of Lamar while moving forward as a university. The state-of-the-art dining hall opened in 2005.

Brooks-Shivers Hall opened in 1968 after being named in 1966 to honor then U.S. Rep. Jack Brooks and former Gov. Allan Shivers. Two decades earlier, Brooks, as a state representative, and Shivers, as Texas lieutenant governor, played significant roles in the passage of legislation creating Lamar State College of Technology.

Robert Allan Shivers was born on Oct. 5, 1907, in Lufkin and spent his early childhood in the family home near Woodville. After his father moved to Port Arthur, he graduated from Port Arthur High School in 1924. After graduation from the University of Texas, he practiced law in Port Arthur until he was elected to the Texas Senate at age 27, the youngest member ever to sit in that body. Shivers served in the Army during World

War II. He was elected lieutenant governor in 1946 and assumed duties as governor after Jester's death in July 1949, serving more than seven years as Texas' top official. He died on Jan. 14, 1985.

Born in Crowley, La., on Dec. 18, 1922, Jack Bascom Brooks came to Beaumont at age 5. He attended public schools, working as a carhop, grocery clerk, magazine salesman and reporter. He enrolled in Lamar Junior College in 1939 and completed his first two years of college at Lamar in 1941 before he transferred to the University of Texas, earning a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1943. After serving as a Marine on Guadalcanal, Guam, Okinawa and in North China, Brooks was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1946 at age 29. He went on to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives for 42 consecutive years—from 1953 through 1994. Brooks died on Dec. 4, 2012, just short of his 90th birthday. —LW

## Jack Brooks: 'A great friend of Lamar University'

Jack Brooks was a part of history, not only on the national stage but also in the emergence of Lamar University as a major institution of higher learning.

"Jack Brooks' life and service were closely tied to Lamar," said President James Simmons. "He was an alumnus of Lamar, and he never forgot his alma mater. He was instrumental in the growth and development of the university throughout his public service. Jack Brooks was a great friend of Lamar University."

When Brooks died Dec. 4, 2012, at age 89, his family selected the Montagne Center as the site of his memorial service—where a who's who of public figures and those from all walks of life paid him tribute.

Brooks shared the political stage with key political players of the 20th century—from House Speaker Sam Rayburn to Presidents John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. He was in Kennedy's 1963 motorcade through Dallas, and, after Kennedy's assassination, Brooks stood nearby as Johnson took the oath of office on Air Force One.

He earned recognition for the Civil Rights Act of 1964. A decade later, he played a major role in the investigation and impeachment proceedings of President Richard Nixon. He was known as a champion of civil liberties and a watchdog over government spending and operations.

While representing Jefferson County in the Texas House, he authored the bill making Lamar a four-year institution—the first new senior college in Texas in 25 years. That measure alone would have cemented his place in Lamar's history, but his impact on Lamar goes far beyond that moment. His record in Congress was punctuated by his efforts on behalf of Lamar. In addition to his assistance in obtaining federal research and study grants and loans for construction, Brooks lent his personal efforts to help students, faculty and staff.

Lamar honored Brooks as a Distinguished Alumnus in 1975. He and his wife, Charlotte, have been honored as members of Lamar's Spindletop Society, the university's highest recognition of philanthropic support. Brooks' impact on Lamar continues through the Jack Brooks Scholarship in Government and Public Service and the Jack Brooks Chair in Government and Public Service, which hosts the annual Brooks Conference. The Beaumont Foundation of America established a Southeast Texas Legends Endowed Scholarship in his honor. —LW

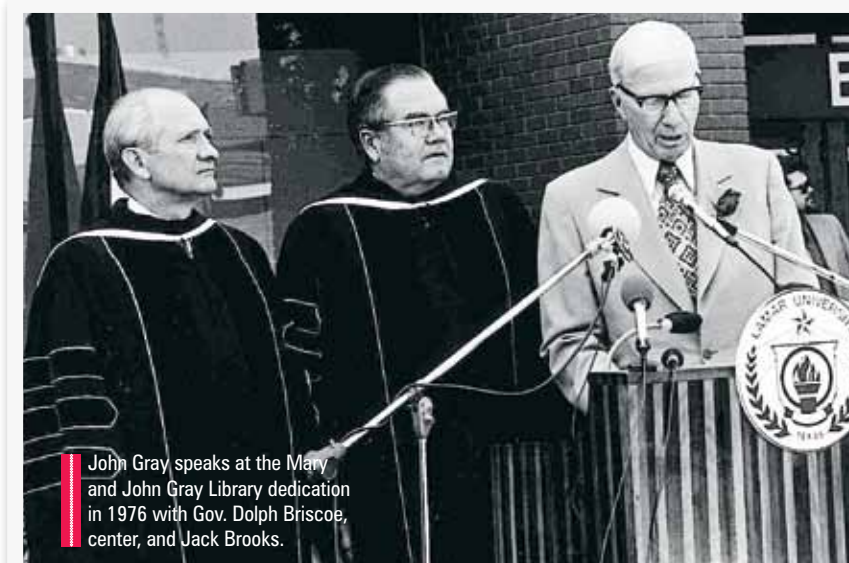
To contribute to the Brooks Scholarship or for information about establishing an endowed scholarship, contact the Lamar University Foundation at (409) 880-2117.



President John E. Gray shakes hands with Governor Allan Shivers as Regent A.M. McAfee looks on for the groundbreaking of a million dollar building program, July 20, 1950.



Charlotte and Jack Brooks attend the 2011 Brooks Conference at Lamar.



John Gray speaks at the Mary and John Gray Library dedication in 1976 with Gov. Dolph Briscoe, center, and Jack Brooks.



# The David J. Beck Fellowships

## Double major pursues healing research

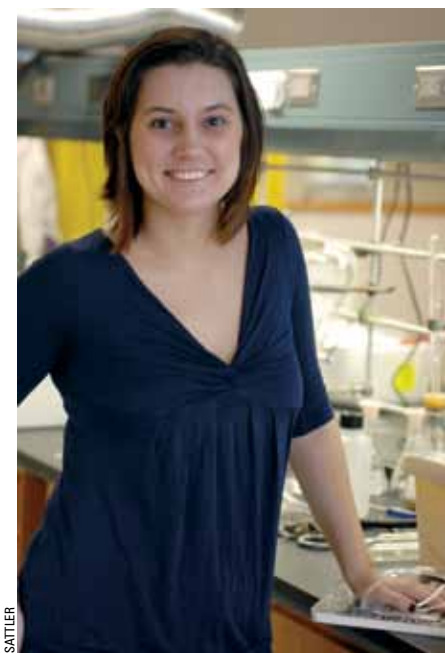
**A** frightening medical diagnosis at age 14 prompted **Crissie Vandehoef** to veer off course academically for a few years. Eventually, she found her way to Lamar University, where a variety of opportunities have put her on the path toward a future as a biomedical researcher.

Vandehoef, a biology and chemistry major from Port Neches, was selected as one of Lamar University's two David J. Beck Fellows for 2013. The Beck Fellowship covers all expenses including tuition, fees, books and on-campus room and board for one year, along with up to \$10,000 for a summer project. Vandehoef will spend her summer as a research assistant at the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) investigating ankylosing spondylitis, the chronic inflammatory disease with which she was diagnosed six years ago.

Vandehoef said she has had trouble finding scientific information on her disease and thought focusing on it as a research interest would be advantageous. "I want to do something to further cures and treatment because I don't like the treatment options that are available," she said.

At NIAMS, she will work with Robert Colbert, deputy clinical director and chief of the Pediatric Translational Research Branch. In researching her disease, Vandehoef came across information on Colbert as a top scientist in the field and contacted him to ask about research opportunities. He invited her to work in his lab for the summer and wrote a recommendation for her fellowship application.

This will not be Vandehoef's first foray into scientific research. After taking a few basics at Lamar State College-Port Arthur, she transferred to Lamar University in summer 2011 and quickly noticed flyers for LU's STAIRSTEP program. That fall, she began participating in the program, which is funded by the National Science Foundation to help undergraduate students in science, technology, engineer-



SATTLER

ing and mathematics improve their research and presentation skills.

With her mentor Christopher Martin, associate professor of chemistry, Vandehoef has worked on green chemistry research to redesign organic chemistry labs to improve yields and reduce waste. Since June, she also has been performing computational chemistry research working with researchers in Argentina on computer simulations to calculate the energy required for a variety of reactions. Vandehoef presented that research in April at the national meeting of the American Chemical Society in New Orleans.

"I want to get more into biology research, but I've already made the connections in chemistry, and you don't want to leave a project open ended," Vandehoef said. "I've asked Dr. Colbert to give me a list of procedures I should know. I'll work with the biology professors at Lamar this spring to get caught up so that when I get to the NIH, I'm starting with something to offer."

Additionally, Vandehoef serves as vice president of LU's Student Association of the American Chemical Society and is a member of the American Medical Student Association on campus. She has also tutored through the STARS and STAIRSTEP programs at Lamar.

Vandehoef's drive and focus today contrast sharply with her life during her high school years when her diagnosis forced her to give up the competitive sports she enjoyed. "I went through some hard times in high school," she said. "I ended up going off the deep end for a while, but I think it has helped me grow."

In applying for highly competitive M.D./Ph.D. programs, Vandehoef expects her research experience and the strong relationships she has built with LU professors to provide a significant advantage. "Getting the Beck Fellowship and the opportunity to work at the NIH has made getting into a program seem like a possibility, not just a lofty goal," Vandehoef said. "With an M.D./Ph.D., you can teach and do your research at a medical school. I've definitely thought pretty hard about that because I enjoy teaching. I enjoy helping people understand things." —BG

## English, Spanish major explores Spain, Argentina

**F**or **Amy Morgan**, studying at Lamar University has provided extraordinary opportunities and exposure to new cultures that she never envisioned while growing up in Silsbee.

An English and Spanish major, Morgan traveled to Salamanca, Spain, in summer 2011 for a study-abroad program offered by Lamar. Recently chosen as one of LU's two David J. Beck Fellows for 2013, she is now planning her second trip abroad. For her fellowship project, Morgan will travel to Argentina for a literary seminar, study and work on a literary translation in summer 2013.

"This time I'm going to be alone, not with a group from Lamar,

which is exciting. I'll get to see how I thrive on my own in a different environment," Morgan said. "I'm also planning to stay with a family in Argentina. This is going to force me to step out of my comfort zone and push myself to really experience the culture."

A longtime love of reading and literature made majoring in English a natural choice for Morgan. "Now it's not just the story. I like the phrasing," she said. "When I read something, I'll think, 'that's a really beautiful way that he wrote that.' It's not necessarily the plot or the characters. The writing itself has started to become more and more attractive to me."

She added a second major in Spanish after taking a few classes to fulfill a foreign language requirement. "It's fascinating," she said. "A huge number of people speak Spanish all over the world. Each country is going to have its own variations of the language, its own culture and history."

The interest in Spanish sparked by her Lamar classes and professors prompted her decision to pursue a career as a literary translator. She applied for the David J. Beck Fellowship as a step toward that goal. During her summer project in Argentina, Morgan will have the opportunity to meet with author and seminar organizer Mempo Giardinelli, whose work she plans to translate into English.

"Getting the chance to meet with the author I will be translating is going to be amazing. Getting to listen to all the different writers and translators and critics from around Argentina will be a really helpful learning experience for me," Morgan said.

"I don't think translators get some of the credit they deserve sometimes. I feel like it's overlooked. With a lot of the literature we have today, it wouldn't be possible for us to read it without translation," she said.

Along with her studies, Morgan has enjoyed her involvement in student



GALLAGHER

organizations at Lamar. She has served as secretary and historian of the Honors Student Association and has enjoyed service opportunities with the Honors Program. She has a campus job in the Honors office. Additionally, she serves as president of Sigma Tau Delta, the English honor society, and is a member of Sigma Delta Pi, the Spanish honor society.

Lamar's proximity to her hometown and good academic reputation made it an attractive choice when she was deciding on a college. She finalized her decision when she was offered a Mirabeau Scholarship. Morgan said she appreciated the opportunity to live on campus and take advantage of the full college experience because of the scholarship.

Perhaps her favorite part of Lamar University has been her classes because of the knowledge she has gained and the relationships she has built. "I really love learning and reading and getting to discuss different things with my fellow students and professors," Morgan said.

Whether in a classroom on campus or exploring another country, Morgan has found multiple windows into other worlds and other cultures through LU. —BG

## David J. Beck Fellowships grow in number

**A** familiar refrain fills the room each year as a committee of Lamar University faculty and staff members reviews applications for the David J. Beck Fellowship: "I wish we had a Beck Fellowship for every one of these students."

Senior Associate Provost Kevin Smith, who chairs the committee, has heard the refrain expressed by every committee member at least once.

"The difference in talent and dreams between the top-ranking candidate and the second, third, fourth and fifth is ever so fine," Smith said.

Although selecting Beck Fellows each year still requires the committee to "split the finest of hairs," the task has become a little easier thanks to a second generous gift from Distinguished Alumnus David J. Beck '61.

Beck, one of the top lawyers in the country, established the unique fellowship program for Lamar University undergraduates with a \$1 million gift to the Lamar University Foundation as part of the Investing in the Future comprehensive campaign. In late 2012, he increased the size of the fellowship's endowment to \$1.5 million with an additional gift of \$500,000.

The endowment will now allow the university to name two Beck Fellows each year. Previously, LU had one Beck Fellow each year from 2009 to 2011. For 2012 and 2013, the endowment supported one fellowship and annual gifts from Beck supported a second.

The David J. Beck Fellowships are designed to reward top Lamar University undergraduates for their achievements while challenging them to push themselves further. Beck Fellowship projects have included a nursing internship in Ghana, independent biology research in Belize, research on sharks in South Africa and manta rays in Mozambique, and a modern pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral in England.

"It's been delightful to spend time visiting with some of our best undergraduates, to listen to their ideas and their dreams, to see their plans and to feel their enthusiasm," Smith said. "The Beck Fellowship truly is a life-shaping, transformational gift. It makes a Lamar University education infinitely more valuable." —BG



# A can-do attitude

## LAMAR UNIVERSITY WELCOMES KENNETH AND NANCY EVANS TO TOP POST

by Brian Sattler



**K**enneth Evans has been selected as Lamar University's 15th president after an intensive national search. Texas State University System Chancellor Brian McCall described Evans as "fresh blood with new ideas" and praised his extensive experience in areas where Lamar wants to grow.

"Lamar University has a great tradition," Evans said. "Nancy and I are excited about the promise of the future for Lamar, and its role in the Beaumont community and beyond."

"I am particularly impressed with the entrepreneurial spirit exemplified by the administrators, students, faculty and staff at Lamar," Evans said. "Nearly 70 percent enrollment growth over the past decade and significant strides in research are amazing. There is clearly a can-do attitude at Lamar.

It is also evident that Lamar benefits from being part of the TSUS. It is embraced by the communities of Southeast Texas and has strong legislative support."

Evans' background portends an impressive array of experiences from which to draw. Evans has served since 2007 as dean of the Michael E. Price College of Business at the University of Oklahoma. He previously served as associate dean of graduate studies, assistant dean of undergraduate studies and chair of the marketing department at the

University of Missouri-Columbia. He has worked in a variety of research, teaching and administration positions at Arizona State University, the University of Colorado and California State University, Sacramento. Prior to his academic career, Evans worked as a consultant and marketing representative at several northern California companies.

Evans, who will take office July 1, looks forward to "talking to university people—regents, administrators, faculty, staff, students, alumni and shareholders—to get a more informed perspective of the issues and opportunities at Lamar."

"We must address the major issues confronting higher education while advancing the quality of our programming and infrastructure as well as the contributions of our research," Evans said. "I am drawn to the challenges and opportunities facing Lamar and, for that matter, universities in general.

"How we address the challenges facing us will be determined by a collective community of the university and external stakeholders working to carve out a clear vision," Evans said.

Recognizing that around 30 percent of Lamar's credit hours are generated through online programs, Evans sees important work ahead in that area to "protect what Lamar is doing in that space. Normally, the best way to protect online space is to grow additional opportunities and to constantly ramp up and stay ahead of the competition." That includes creating courses and programs not yet offered and offering existing programs in new places that result in increased enrollments.

Another area of opportunity Evans sees for growth is providing endorsements of completion. "A lot of people are not necessarily looking to come back to get an additional degree," Evans said. "They are looking for an enhancement of key skills that they need to be competitive." Offering an endorsement of core competency may be attractive to many potential students.

He understands the importance of fundraising and community engagement. "Lamar has done a fantastic job with its first comprehensive campaign," Evans said.

"That really shows the level of support for the university among its alumni and the community."

Selected following an exhaustive national search that yielded more than 70 applications and nominations, Evans holds bachelor's degrees in English and political science from the University of California, Davis, a master's in business administration from California State University, Sacramento, and a Ph.D. in marketing from the University of Colorado. He has conducted extensive research and authored more than 70 journal articles on interpersonal influence, sales management, services marketing, and marketing management and theory.

Evans's teaching and research is extensive, but it is his recent leadership experience that provides a special fit with his future role. As a dean, Evans strove to make "all the pieces work together," providing the right support infrastructure, managing a team, and "helping the division heads recruit great faculty and keep them." That job also included fundraising and finding "opportunities for donors to connect to the college in meaningful ways, such as with scholarships, endowed faculty positions or supported programs."

As undergraduate assistant dean, Evans gained a perspective on the particular challenges faced by freshmen and sophomore students that affect retention and matriculation. "These issues are really, really critical," he said. "In those first couple of years, some navigate with no difficulty at all and others need a little more help."

Born in Pittsburgh, Pa., he grew up in Chicago where he attended public schools through the fifth grade, when the family moved to the San Fernando Valley, Calif. He was the first in his immediate family to earn a college degree. His father served as a radar technician during World War II, then continued working in technology for several major engineering companies, completing his career at Jet Propulsion Laboratories in Pasadena, Calif. "My parents knew the economic value of a college degree though neither had one," Evans said. "They couldn't help me through the process. They did their best, but they had not been there. I am proud to be a product of public educa-

tion; as such, I am committed to working toward its continued success."

Evans considers himself "a big sports nut" and believes trading crimson and cream for red and white will not be hard. He and Nancy anticipate watching the Cardinals on the court and field. "Nancy is a huge basketball fan, so she is very much looking forward to the basketball season," he said. Evans played basketball, golf and football at different points in high school and college and ran daily as part of an active lifestyle.

"I like the outdoors a great deal," Evans said. "When I have time, I enjoy hiking and whitewater canoeing." His hobbies include woodworking and bicycling.

Ken and Nancy met while they were freshmen at University of California, Davis, and married after graduation. A career elementary school teacher, Nancy retired from the Columbia Public Schools when the couple moved to Norman, Okla.

"After I retired, I became a student. I signed up for the docent training program, studio painting and master gardening classes, things I was interested in but had never had time for when I was working and raising our family," she said. "I am looking forward to getting to know the community and exploring Beaumont."

The couple has two sons. Paul and his wife, Ellie, live in New York City, where he is a commercial litigator and she is a professional dancer. Paul graduated from the University of Missouri and Ellie from Washington University in St. Louis, where Paul also earned his law degree. Brian graduated from Berklee College of Music in Boston with a bachelor of fine arts and was then a musician and audio professional. He recently changed tracks and is now working toward a master's in electrical engineering at the University of New Mexico.

While Evans will soon be updating his wardrobe to more reds and whites, it is the figurative donning of a new role he describes: "Right now, I'm looking at the shirt in the package, but I haven't actually unwrapped it yet."

Indications are it is destined to be a very good fit.





GALASPY

## Political science major leads to great experiences

Lamar University's proximity to home and good academic reputation made it an attractive choice for Will Robbins when he was deciding where to begin his college education. "It turned out to be the best thing ever," he said.

After graduating from Monsignor Kelly High School in Beaumont, Robbins planned to attend Lamar for a year, get some college experience and then transfer to another school in a bigger city. "I thought it would be great to stay home at first and get a little experience with college," he explained. "But once I got to Lamar, I loved it, and I never left."

Robbins considers LU as more than just his hometown school. Robbins' grandfather was the chemistry-physics department chair for many years, and both of his parents graduated from Lamar. "I grew up basically on the Lamar campus," said Robbins. "But to me, it is much more than a local university. The people and humanities are great; I never would have imagined all the opportunities Lamar could give." He is a recipient of the Marilyn and Gilbert Adams Jr.

Scholarship and the Carl D. Levy Memorial Scholarship in Arts & Sciences.

As a kid, Robbins always enjoyed movies about presidents and political leaders. "The more and more I learned about it, the more fascinated I got," Robbins said. Majoring in political science was, for him, a natural choice. He also decided to add a minor in history. "In my opinion, you can't really understand the politics of a nation without knowing its history," he said.

Robbins traveled to Europe in May 2011 for a study abroad program offered by Lamar. He first spent a week in Rome with a friend and then moved on to Greece and Turkey with two Lamar professors. The excursion was credited as history and political science classes. Robbins learned the impact those cultures had on the world and also the history of ancient buildings like the Parthenon, Hagia Sophia and the ruins of Ephesus. "It was great to be there, on the spot," Robbins said. "I also spent a lot of time interacting with local people." He is grateful that Lamar gave him this experience. "I had friends in other universities who wanted to study abroad, but the school wouldn't help to pay for the trip," he said. "Because Lamar is a smaller school, students feel special and more taken care of." He

thinks of Lamar University as similar to a big family.

A year after his European trip, Robbins left for Washington, D.C., for an internship with former Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison. "I was supposed to do this internship only during the summer session for my degree," he said. "But the legislative director actually asked me to stay. I ended up interning for nine months. I learned on the job, and I got involved. This was an amazing experience." Robbins got an up-close view of how this country runs by working on taxes, budgets and Social Security issues and by preparing speeches with Hutchison. "Now, I love all those things because I got to understand really what is involved." He said he applied the concepts and political skills that Lamar's professors taught him and he felt prepared. "I learned the theories at Lamar in order to be able to practice them out there, in the real world," he said.

Along with his academic pursuits in and out of the classroom, Robbins has enjoyed his involvement in student organizations. He has been the president pro tem of the Student Senate for almost two years. Also, he is an active member of Circle K International and one of the leaders of the Catholic Student Center and the Lamar Adoration Community Theology and Service (ACTS) retreats. Those activities helped him to make new friends and deepen his faith. Robbins credits his community service, leadership development and friendships made through organizations with helping him grow, develop his personality and improve his social skills.

His future goal is to find a job in the field he loves. He would like to work one or two years to really get an idea of the job he wants to do and maybe later, apply for graduate school. "I have been talking to a couple of law schools and MBA programs, and they all recommend some experience post-graduation," he said.—JA

## Newchurch frames her own future

Ashley Newchurch has always been interested in art and chose to attend Lamar University to pursue her dreams. Her interest in art comes from finding something that she was good at and from enjoying creating things others can appreciate.

A native of Chicago, Ill., Newchurch moved to Houston at age seven to live with her dad and her stepmother, after the death of her mother. Her dad passed away seven years later. "My stepmother has been the main reason I've come so far," she said.

Newchurch first heard about Lamar through her sister, Nekisha Quinney '04, who graduated from Lamar with a bachelor degree in corporate communications. "I would spend some spring breaks in Beaumont with Nekisha," she said. "Lamar University became my comfort zone."

Although she was accepted to other colleges, LU was her top choice. "The art department is what convinced me to stay," she said. "I made so many connections that I felt it was my own special community." She received both the Lorene David Scholarship in Art and the Lee G. Griffin Scholarship in visual & Performing Arts.

Newchurch used to picture herself working as an animator for companies such as Pixar or DreamWorks. "I was told there was a man, Kelly Asbury, who graduated from Lamar and went on to do the animation for the movie 'Shrek'," she said. "So I started off as a graphic design major in hopes of following that dream."

After a few semesters, Newchurch realized the program did not match her interests because it related more to advertising than illustration. "I changed my major to art education, and I fell in love with one of the required courses,

the textile class," she said. "I will be graduating with a degree in fiber arts."

Along with studies, Newchurch has enjoyed her involvement in organizations. She was the T-shirt designer for the poetry association Poetic Souls and was an active member and then the secretary of the Lamar chapter of the National Art Education Association, the leading professional membership organization for visual arts educators. "Those activities were a great experience full of educational

In her free time, Newchurch loves to read and watch movies. "My dad was a movie fanatic; that's where I got it from," she said. "I own hundreds of movies at home, and I love going to the theater."

Five days after graduation, Newchurch flew overseas to visit graduate schools in England, Switzerland and Scotland.

"I would like to thank all of my Lamar professors," she said. "They told me I could go anywhere I wanted. They



AIME

workshops," she said.

Newchurch is now completing an internship at the Dishman Art Museum on campus. "I am currently working on a children's program for the museum," she said. "I also set up and take down art and handle paperwork for events. I learn a lot about the museum side of art."

Newchurch's college experience helped her define and set her goals.

"In art, there are two main options, the curating side and the creation side," she said. "I prefer the creation side of art because it is more of a hands-on experience. I would rather make art than teach it."

put that idea of traveling into my mind, and I can't get it out. The easiest way to travel is through school, so I will try to get accepted for a second degree in textile conservation." Along with applying for graduate school, Newchurch is trying to get a residency at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft.

"Being away from home for five years has prepared me for the future," she said. "In 10 years, I would like to be living somewhere in Europe. It isn't a concern what profession I will be in, as long as I am happy. That is all that matters."—JA





STRANGE

## Engineering, physics major keeps eye on sustainable future

Joshua Barnes has an eye on the future. The Beaumont mechanical engineering and physics major has developed a system to measure the sustainability of the products Americans produce and consume. Barnes said the computer-based program provides a system that allows producers to manufacture more responsibly, while simultaneously giving the consumer the opportunity to purchase more responsibly.

Lamar University seemed like a natural fit for Barnes. Both his parents attended the university, and Barnes said he was attracted to Lamar's strong engineering program.

"I met Provost Stephen Doblin at the open house, and he recommended I look into the Honors program," he said. "From there, the ball just got rolling. I would go by his office every semester to talk about my progress. He is the one who suggested the McNair program to me. I think that relationship has been very instrumental to my success as a student."

The now two-time scholar in the Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program said his interest in sustainability developed during his first area of research with mentor Richard Gachot, associate professor of interior design. Barnes wanted to create a sustainable concept car, but found no existing comprehensive program to measure a

product's sustainability, so he had to create one.

"That is about where my initial research ended," he said. "I never got the car done, but what I did do was create a system that we haven't seen before. It was like a 'eureka!' moment. I realized that everything we do affects the environment, the economy, the quality of life, and even life itself. Becoming aware of that, I realized we need something better in America to fight entropy. And sustainability is a good way to do that."

For his second McNair project, Barnes worked with Zhanhu Guo, assistant professor of chemical engineering, on expanding a sustainability mapping system from his original research. Under Guo's guidance, Barnes created a user-friendly, spreadsheet-based software for consumers and manufacturers to use to compare different products, thereby assessing a product's impact on the environment and human life.

"It brings a lot of things into context," Barnes said. "Not only does it measure the aesthetic elements, but also how it affects the job market, right down to the materials, whether they are recyclable, renewable, or carcinogenic. These terms are built into the program and are given quantifiable distinctions."

Barnes has created an online site for manufacturers to participate in his

sustainability program. He said he hopes his product "goes viral" online until it becomes as common and trusted as the "Good Housekeeping" seal.

Barnes said he has found the Lamar University environment welcoming and conducive to learning. In addition to being a Lamar Ambassador and McNair scholar, Barnes has worked at Cardinal Village as a community leader. He has served on the executive board for the Honors Association, as the telecommunications chair and secretary for the Lamar chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), as vice president of Alpha-Lambda-Delta and Phi-Eta-Sigma, and currently serves as public relations chair of Cardinal Village Residence Hall Association. The McMaster Honors Scholarship is one of several scholarships that help Barnes pursue his studies: Jean and Rudy Williams Academic Enhancement Fund, Charles and Susan and Julia Gordon Gray Memorial Scholarship, Katherine E. and William C. Mundt Scholarship in Engineering and the Nick Salem Endowed Scholarship.

"It's a great atmosphere, from the campus to the students and faculty," he said. "It really feels like home. Where else can you see the president of the university walking down the sidewalk and have him call you by name? It makes you feel really special."

As a Lamar Ambassador, Barnes has had the opportunity to network among students and faculty and build lasting professional and academic relationships.

"I didn't expect for things to happen so quickly," he said. "We discuss things that are kind of 'behind-the-scenes' so that if we are approached by donors or media we can be knowledgeable and confident. It is a lot of fun."

After graduation, Barnes plans to attend graduate school to pursue a Ph.D. in theoretical physics and hopes to teach at the university level.—AS



STRANGE

## Dietetics major aims to educate

Ana Mendez, dietetics major from Marshall, breaks down language barriers. Her goal is to deliver patients the information they need to stay healthy in a way that is easy to digest.

Mendez's interest in dietetics came when her mother developed gestational diabetes during a pregnancy. A native of Monclova, Coahuila, Mexico, her mother spoke little English and asked Mendez, who was 14 years old, to interpret for her and her doctors.

"She had to see a nutritionist to help her manage her diet and her blood sugar and insulin," she said. "I had to translate for her, and I became curious about the field of nutrition. When I came to Lamar, I switched my focus to dietetics because it is a broader field."

Mendez said the experience with her mother made her realize the need for bilingual professionals in the field to help patients with their diabetes.

"I think it is important to overcome the language barrier, but there are also cultural boundaries as well," she said. "Some of the terminology is difficult.

Even if it is presented in your native language, it can be really difficult to process the information and make those changes in your life on your own. It is important to have someone who can interpret the information in a way that the patient can understand and is meaningful to them."

Mendez first heard about Lamar through her high school health teacher, Caren Wonders '00, who graduated from Lamar with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology. She is a recipient of the Tom F. and Ann D. Jones Scholarship and the Dr. Jane O. Hinchey Scholarship in Family & Consumer Sciences.

In her junior year, Mendez was chosen for the Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program, which pairs faculty mentors with students to prepare them for graduate school. Mendez presented her undergraduate thesis, "Patients' Perception of Barriers and Effective Strategies of Diabetes Self-Management in Southeast Texas," at the McNair Research Symposium at Lamar in November. She conducted her research under the guidance of her mentor Jau-Jiin Chen, associate professor of family and consumer sciences.

"It has really opened doors to me," she said. "Not only did I learn about

the research process, but I got to know myself and what I really want to do after graduation. It's made me realize my potential and how much I like learning and doing research."

Mendez said her McNair research helped her to solidify her goal to work in diabetes education. "There is still a lot of research that needs to be done on how to effectively communicate with the patients and help them understand the disease," she said.

Mendez also participates in the Lamar University Honors Program. She said working in the program under the guidance of the director, Kevin Dodson, has helped her realize the opportunities available to LU students who are willing to pursue them.

"I have become more serious about learning and putting a plan together for my future," she said. "You have to be willing to go out there and open doors for yourself. Dr. Dodson always told me that I already have the knowledge, but if I don't apply it, I'll never know where it can take me."

In addition to her work in the Honors and McNair programs, Mendez is a Student Support Services member and secretary of the Lamar chapter of Kappa Omicron Nu, the honor society for family and consumer sciences. She is also a member of the Lamar University Student Dietetics Association and the American Association of Diabetes Educators. She works as a referrals coordinator at the Joslin Diabetes Center Affiliate at Southeast Texas Medical Associates.

After graduation, Mendez plans to work in an internship program while she attends graduate school. "The internship works on a matching system, so I will go to graduate school wherever my resident internship is set up," she said. Mendez hopes to work as a Certified Diabetes Educator. "In the end I would really like to set up my own diabetes education program in a community where it is really needed," she said.—AS



## American Sign Language major seizes opportunities

Adrain “A.J.” Webb, American Sign Language major from Dallas, has an eye for opportunities. During his college career, Webb has become a Lamar Ambassador, a McNair scholar, vice president of the rugby team, Black Student Association historian, president of the sailing club and an LU cheerleader.

Among Webb’s fortuitous experiences was a chance meeting in high school with former Lamar staff member, Kristen Dacres, who served as grant coordinator in the Department of Deaf Studies & Deaf Education. Webb grew up using sign language with his parents, who are deaf. He said the meeting with Dacres introduced him to the idea that sign language can be a useful skill in the professional world.

“My family uses sign language in our everyday lives, but I didn’t really know you could make it a career until I was introduced to Ms. Dacres,” he said. “She really came at the perfect time for me because graduation was coming up and that really helped solidify what I wanted to do.”

The interdisciplinary approach in the Deaf Studies & Deaf Education Department made LU a good fit for Webb. The Bachelor of Arts in American Sign Language track trains students for applications in education and interpreting and leads into available master’s and doctoral programs as well.

Webb started learning sign language right along with English as a child. Despite this early cultivation, he said he still has a lot to learn. “My mother grew up oral,” he said. “Because the majority of us in the house were hearing, we focused more on speaking than on signing.

“I discovered all sorts of internships and other opportunities that I never knew were available,” he said. “There are so many things you can do with ASL:

theatre, education, medical, legal – it just depends on your own personal interests, creativity, ingenuity and determination.”

From technique to body language to interaction with students, Webb said he has great admiration for the Lamar ASL faculty and staff.

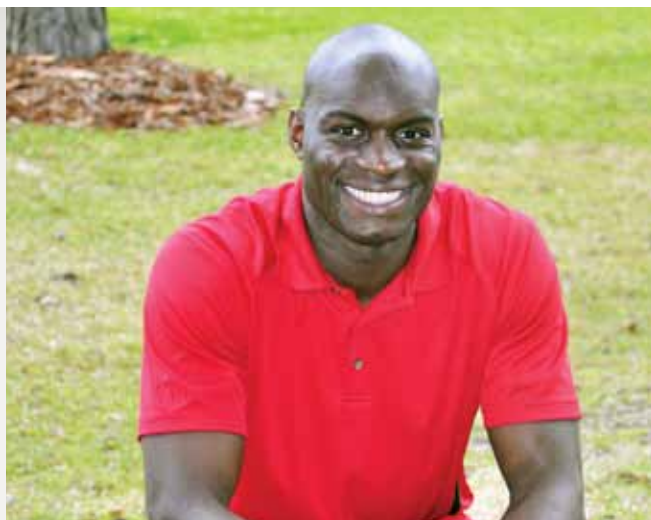
“Andrew Byrne, instructor in the Department of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education, really helped me with technique,” he said. “I love his signing skills. Signing is like any other language, it has its own dialects. Byrne’s signing is very smooth and crisp.”

Webb said it is important to have mentors who are not only proficient in their skills and profession, but who also push and challenge their students.

“Amber Galloway Gallego, interpreter and adjunct instructor in the College of Fine Arts and Communications, has skills that are incredible,” he said. “To see someone that good can be intimidating, but I think everyone should have a mentor like that—someone so good at what they do, you wonder if you can ever get to that level. But they help you along the way until you get there. I love her teaching methods. It is a great way to learn—to have fun and interact with a teacher who is encouraging and helps you build a strong foundation.”

Webb said being a Lamar Ambassador has proven to be an invaluable experience. “I have become aware of a wealth of resources for students on campus, built relationships with faculty, and attended campus and community events as a representative of Lamar,” he said. “You get to network with different people, hear their stories and learn how they got to where they wanted to be.”

The passion Lamar faculty and staff have for the university and its students



GALLASPY

is a big part of what attracted Webb to Lamar. “Lamar’s faculty has a desire to reach out and share their love of the university with incoming students and members of the community,” he said. “They want to have a relationship with you and help you be successful, and they make themselves available and help you discover opportunities on campus that may benefit your education.”

Webb’s experience in athletics at Lamar has helped him form positive relationships while keeping his mind and body both sharp and healthy. Webb’s activity on the Lamar Cheerleading Team helped hone his strength and endurance while promoting friendship and teamwork. He said cheerleading is a fun way to stay in shape and represent the university.

Webb’s experiences have converged to produce a well-rounded student. The skills he learned from his various activities, Webb has applied to other aspects of his life to get the most out of his experiences.

“There are things I have learned in cheerleading that I apply to rugby, but also in life in general, such as organizational skills and teamwork,” he said. “I may not have learned those things in the same way without those experiences.” After graduation, Webb plans to attend graduate school to pursue a degree in audiology. He said his career goal is to work as an interpreter for the Central Intelligence Agency.—AS

## Castillon will focus on ‘Hispanic Literary Heritage’ in fall lecture

Lamar University is honoring Catalina Castillon, associate professor of English and modern languages, as the Distinguished Faculty Lecturer for 2013.

“Hispanic Literary Heritage: An American Experience” will be the topic of her lecture, sponsored by ExxonMobil, to be presented this fall in the University Theatre at a date to be announced. The Lamar University Faculty Senate will host the lecture, which is open to the public without charge.

Castillon is the 27th recipient of the honor—one of the highest accorded a Lamar faculty member. A committee of faculty, staff, students and community representatives makes the selection. A resident of Beaumont, Castillon has been a member of the Lamar faculty since 1991.

“The fact that I was chosen is an incredible honor,” Castillon said. “I hope to live up to the committee’s expectations—and go beyond. I believe my topic is very up to date and accessible to the general public . . . I want to make it entertaining and not just informative. People who come can definitely expect to see something that is extremely cultural.”

Castillon wrote in her proposal: “Hispanic literary heritage is a cultural treasure in the United States that receives little attention. However, when learning about it, we acquire a sense of the American experience. Hispanics in the United States have transformed the culture of this country while contributing to its development . . . It is a heritage that contributes to, enriches and embodies what it means to be American.”

She was born in Cleveland, Ohio, but grew up in Spain, then came back to the U.S. after receiving a scholarship to Mount Holyoke College.

She earned the doctor of philosophy in Hispanic literature and linguistics from the University of Houston in 2007. She has three other degrees: the master of arts in Hispanic literature and linguistics from the University of Massachusetts, master of science in deaf studies/habilitation from Lamar and a law degree from the University de Seville in Spain. In addition,



SATTLER

Castillon earned a certificate of general studies, with distinction, from Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass.

Her Lamar honors include the University Merit Award, College of Arts and Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award, two Distinguished Teaching Bonus Awards and listing in Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers. She is a partner/representative, consultant and participant in the National Endowment for the Arts’ 2012-13 “Big Read” project in Southeast Texas. The Lamar University Modern Languages Competition honored Castillon with an award for “Outstanding Contribution and Dedication.” She earned a Scholar-in-Residence Grant to study Galician folklore and the unedited work of Cipriano Torre Enciso from the Fundacion Torre Pujales in Spain.

Memberships include Sigma Delta Pi national collegiate Hispanic honor society and Phi Beta Delta honor society for international scholars, which she serves as president of Lamar’s Beta Xi Chapter.

Castillon is author of the upcoming monographic volume, *On Galician Folklore*, and co-editor of two other books, as well as having written book chapters and scholarly articles. She has more than two-dozen presentations to her credit. Other professional activities include service as research director for the Beck Scholarship and McNair Scholars programs and Honors Program students at LU. She is sponsor and organizer of Lamar’s Hispanic Cultural Series. —LW



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](mailto:alumni@lamar.edu) or call (409) 880-8421.

## 50s

**Bobby Meynig** '50, A.A. general studies, and his wife, **Patricia (Townsend)** '74, B.S. home economics, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They live in Beaumont.

**Dr. George Gorman** '54, B.S. biology, earned a medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine. He was a chief flight surgeon and chief consultant in otolaryngology with the Air Force in Vietnam and in private practice in Flagstaff, Ariz. He retired and lives in Alpine, Wyo., with his wife, Joan.

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

**Bill Winn** '59, B.B.A. accounting, and his wife, Wilma, celebrated their 60th anniversary. They live in Nederland.

## 60s

**Joe Wilson** '60, B.S. geology, retired as production manager for Hood Packaging Corp. and lives in Tyler with his wife, Judy, of 51 years. They have three sons and five grandchildren. After retirement, he volunteered at White Sands National Monument and Waputki National Monument and worked at the Visitor Center at Crazy Horse Memorial near Custer, S.D.

**Gerald Duff** '61, B.A. English, earned his master's degree from the University of Arkansas and his doctoral degree from the University of Illinois. His book, *Dirty Rice: A Season in the Evangeline League*, was chosen by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch as one of the best 25 fiction books reviewed in 2012. The Philosophical Society of Texas cited his novel, *Blue Sabine*, as the best novel about Texas published in 2011 and presented him an Award of Merit for the book. He lives in Lebanon, Ill.

**Thomas Barton** '62, B.S. chemistry, earned a doctoral degree in organic chemistry from the University of Florida and completed a National Institutes of Health postdoctoral fellowship at Ohio State University. He retired as director of the Department of Energy's Ames Laboratory and is distinguished professor emeritus of chemistry for Iowa State University. He will serve

as president of the American Chemical Society in 2014. He lives in Ames, Iowa, with his wife, Betty.

**Tom Cameron** '62, B.A. English, earned a master's degree from North Texas State University and a doctoral degree from the University of Texas. He is professor emeritus for Olympic College in Bremerton, Wash., where he lives.



### Exhibit features Texas poet and scholar

The Mary and John Gray Library hosted an exhibit recognizing the career of Dave Oliphant '63, author of 28 books and an accomplished poet and scholar. The exhibit, titled "South Park and Lamar Nurture Writer: The Education, Life, and Writing Career of Dave Oliphant," opened Feb. 11.

"As a proud graduate of Lamar University, it was such a great honor for me to have my life and career as a writer recognized and celebrated by an exhibit in the Gray Library of my alma mater," Oliphant said. "It was also deeply gratifying to see photos and memorabilia of my former teachers on display, for they continue to mean the world to me." The exhibit included his diploma from Lamar; a copy of the first publication of "Pulse," Lamar's student literary journal, in which Oliphant was first published; and a manual typewriter Oliphant used to type his early manuscripts.

Born in Fort Worth in 1939, Oliphant's family eventually settled in Beaumont where he graduated from South Park High School in 1957. He attended then-Lamar State Technical College, earning his bachelor's degree in English in 1963. While at Lamar, he played trumpet with the Technicians, a student band named for Lamar Tech. He received his master's degree in 1966 from the University of Texas at Austin before completing doctoral studies at Northern Illinois University. Oliphant began his teaching career in 1967, ultimately spending 30 years at the University of Texas as assistant professor, editor of a scholarly journal, and coordinator of the freshman seminar program.

Oliphant began his writing career by penning a sonnet to a prospective girlfriend during his sophomore year at Lamar. Although the young lady did not fall in love, Oliphant did: with writing. His published works include 28 books, including four books on the history of Texas jazz and three edited anthologies of Texas poetry. He published many translations of poetry by Chilean poets, one for which he was awarded the poetry prize at the 2007 New York Book Festival. Oliphant is also a past winner of the Austin Book Award.

**Joanne (Webb) Davis** '62, B.A. English, '76, M.Ed. supervision, retired and now serves as president of the Texas State Organization of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. She and her husband, Billy, live in Fredericksburg.

**Pat (Stephenson) McFarland** '62, B.S. home economics, retired from a 31-year career in education. She and her husband, Curtis '64, B.S. secondary education, live in Alamogordo, N.M. He retired from a 38-year career in education, and they have two children and three grandchildren.

**Gloria (Chambliss) Russell** '63, B.S. elementary education, '64, M.Ed. elementary education, is church clerk for the Community Church of Norco. She is also administrative board secretary, assistant music director and church pianist. She lives with her husband, James, in Jurupa Valley, Calif., and has four children and eight grandchildren.

During a ceremony commemorating the 150th anniversary of the sinking of the ironclad U.S.S. Cairo, **Stuart Stein** '63, past Alumni Advisory Board member, donated his personal collection of U.S.S. Cairo raising photographs and a cannonball to the Vicksburg National Military Park. During the time of the Cairo's raising from the bottom of the Yazoo River in the early 1960s, Stein, who was an Navy photographer, was dispatched from Fort Polk, La., to cover the raising operations. The Cairo sank in a minesweeping operation Dec. 12, 1862. Stein lives in Friendswood.

**Jimmie Cypert** '64, B.S. electrical engineering, earned a master's degree from the University of Texas. He retired as manager of industry marketing from IBM and lives in Lakeway and Houston.

**Wofford Plott** '64, B.S. physical education, earned a master's degree from Texas State University. He retired from teaching and

coaching after 32 years. He lives in Friendswood, with his wife, Mary Jane.

**Darrell Landry** '65, B.S. industrial engineering, was named Sertoman of the Year by the Port Arthur Evening Sertoma Club. He lives in Port Neches.

**Anita Nugent** '66, B.A. English, has expanded her teaching career to include physics, becoming a national board-certified physics teacher in 2012. She is a mentor for the Harvard Smithsonian Astrophysics Institute pilot program investigating other worlds in space and an instructor of an engineering design class for Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth. She lives in Santa Fe, N.M., and teaches physics, advanced placement physics and forensic science at the high school along with being an adjunct professor of forensic science at Santa Fe Community College and an adjunct professor for the New Mexico State Police Academy.

**Jim Smith** '66, B.S. government, is vice president of acquisitions for Magellan Land Group in Houston, where he lives with his wife, Karen.

**Tom Bell** '67, B.S. industrial engineering, is retired and lives in Hitchcock.

**Donald Stevenson** '67, B.S. electrical engineering, retired and is living in Houston.

**Olan Weeks** '67, B.S. electrical engineering, is executive vice president for Burrow Global Automation. He has 45 years of experience in the industry, including managing Petrocon/ENGlobal Systems. He lives in Orange.

**Nelson Bruns** '68, B.S. electrical engineering, retired as president of M-E-I Consultants. He lives in Houston with his wife, **Jane (Longhurst)** '69, B.S. physical education, '77, M.S. health and physical education.

**Billy Barnes** '69, B.B.A. marketing, retired and lives in Colmesneil.

**Glen Edgerly** '69, B.B.A. marketing, retired as a principal of Results Consulting LLC and lives in Wimberley.

## 70s

**Gary Osberg** '70, B.B.A. general business, retired from Fiserv after a 46-year career. He and his wife, Charlene, live in Village Mills and plan to enjoy traveling, their grandchild and teaching the Bible. Their daughters, **Christie (Osberg) Hendrix** '99, B.A. history, and **Cheri Osberg** '97, B.B.A. office administration, are both Lamar University alumni.

**Wayne Seelbach** '70, B.A. political science, earned a master's degree from Stephen F. Austin State University and a doctoral degree from Pennsylvania State University. He is senior vice president for Collegiate Counsel and lives in Atlanta, Ga., with his

wife, **Virginia (Sheffield)** '69, B.S. government, '73, M.Ed. secondary education.

**Evelyn (Jennings) Miller** '71, B.A. Spanish, earned a master's degree from Stephen F. Austin State University. She retired after a 36-year career in education. She and her husband, Eddie, have one son and two grandsons and live in Ingram.

**Carol (Dyson) Trousdale** '71, B.S. speech, '80, M.Ed. elementary education, retired from a career in education. She lives in Mars Hill, N.C., with her husband, **John** '74, M.Ed. supervision, who retired as a band director in Texas.

**Rodney Bradshaw** '72, B.S. government, '75, M.P.A. public administration, is director for the Gulf Coast Workforce Board in Houston, where he lives with his wife, Susan.

**Jimmy Cheek** '72, M.Ed. counseling and development, was given the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Outstanding Alumni Award by Texas A&M, where he earned his bachelor's degree and his doctoral degree. He is chancellor of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tenn., where he lives.

**Ron Davis** '72, B.M. music education, earned a master's degree in religious education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Freida (Stirling) '85, B.M. music education, '86, M.M. music education, live in Brownwood.

**David Muse** '72, B.S. civil engineering, is chief executive officer for Burrow Global Services. His career includes 32 years with ExxonMobil Development Corp. and a term as chief operating officer for SGC Energia. He and his wife, **Mary Katherine** '72, B.S. elementary education, live in Spring.

**Sally (Smith) Spell** '72, B.S. elementary education, is a licensed dyslexia therapist for the Port Arthur school district, where she lives with her husband, **Mike** '70, B.S. sociology. He retired as supervisor of Child Protective Services for the Texas Department of Public Welfare after a 40-year career.

**Linda (Verrett) Vercher** '72, B.S. secondary education, retired as an educator from Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School. She lives in Orange.

**Jim Goza** '73, B.S. biology, '77, M.Ed. school administration, retired from Executive Outcomes and the Port Arthur school district. He lives in Vidor with his wife, **Trudy (Loyd)** '76, B.B.A. accounting.

**Dr. William Griffith III** '73, B.S. biology, earned a medical degree in pharmacology and toxicology from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. He is professor and chair of the Texas A&M Health Science Center, College of Medicine. He lives in College Station.



Pasadena J. Frank Dobie High School tennis coach **Manuel Moreno Jr.** '79, center, receives the first-ever Ron Wesbrooks High School Invitational Tennis Tournament team trophy from Wesbrooks, left, and Lamar University women's tennis coach and tournament director David Wong, right. Moreno played and coached for Wesbrooks and Lamar from 1976-80 and now is in his 29th year of coaching high school tennis, where he has received a number of coaching awards, including the Texas Tennis Coaches Association Class 5A "Coach of the Year" in 2005, the Jo Lightsey Spring Branch Independent School District Coaches Award in 2009, the TTCA Carey Caldwell Character Award in 2010, and, most recently, the District 22-5A "Coach of the Year" this past fall, when his Longhorns won the district team tennis title undefeated and set a school record with most wins ever (17) while also reaching the Region III-5A Championships quarterfinals.

**Mike Coy** '74, B.B.A. marketing, is state training coordinator and director of recruiting for Aflac Georgia North West. He lives in Kennesaw, Ga.

**Helen (Munden) Hays** '74, B.S. elementary education, '78, M.Ed. elementary education, retired from a career as an educator in the Nederland and Chester school districts. She and her husband, Steve, live in Chester. He is president of Camp Ta-Ku-La Youth and Retreat Center. They love to travel and have two sons, four granddaughters and three grandsons.

**Keith Lindsey** '74, B.S. secondary education, '75, B.S. mathematics, '75, M.Ed. school administration, retired as principal of Little Cypress Junior High School. He lives in Orange.

**David Busch** '76, B.S. psychology, '81, M.S. psychology, earned master's and doctoral degrees from East Texas State University. He is a licensed psychologist for the Wind From The Mountain Renewal Center. He lives in Cherry Log, Ga., with his wife, Cara.

**Ronnie Heiman** '76, B.S. chemical engineering, earned a 35-year service award from the water utility department in Beaumont, where he lives.

**Rocky Martino** '76, B.S. art education, retired from the Air Force as a major and is building inspector for the City of Seabrook. He lives in Dickinson.

**Seyed Abdollahzadeh** '77, B.S. mechanical engineering is senior mechanical engineer for Ensco in Houston. He lives in Katy.

**Deborah (King) Montgomery** '77, B.S. music, has recorded a vocal CD, *Let's Turn the Lights Down Low*. All but one song were written by her father. She lives in La Marque.

**Stephen Collazo** '78, B.A. history, earned a law degree from the University of Arkansas and is an attorney at Collazo Law Office in Tacoma, Wash., where he lives with his wife, Debbra.

**Mark Doumas** '78, B.S. electrical engineering, earned a master's degree from Texas Tech in 1980. He retired after a 32-year career with IBM and lives in Tucson, Ariz., with his wife, Sandy.

**Dr. Jane (Knott) Fitch** '78, B.S. nursing, earned a medical degree from the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in Houston and will become president of the American Society of Anesthesiology in 2013. She and her husband, John, live in Edmond, Okla.



# INVESTITURE OF THE 15TH PRESIDENT OF LAMAR UNIVERSITY

DR. KENNETH R. EVANS

NOVEMBER 7, 2013 | 3 P.M.

MONTAGNE CENTER  
LAMAR UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

*Alumni, friends, students, faculty and staff  
are invited to attend.*

**Scott Nicholson** '78, B.S. civil engineering, earned a master's degree from University of Texas-Arlington and is owner/agent for Boise Valley Commercial Real Estate. He lives in Boise, Idaho, with his wife, **Terri (Jacob)** '78, B.S. elementary education. She teaches at Adams Elementary in Boise, Idaho.

**Brad Penisson** '78, B.A. sociology, earned a 35-year service award from the Beaumont Fire Department. He is a captain and lives in Beaumont.

**Bruce Busmire** '79, B.B.A. accounting, earned a master's degree from Northwestern University and is executive vice president and chief financial officer of Venari Resources. He lives in Houston.

**Paul Cafarella** '79, B.S. civil engineering, earned a master's degree from Troy State University. He retired from the Air Force as a lieutenant colonel and is a pilot for Delta Air Lines. He lives in Las Vegas, Nev.

**Ernestine (Findley) Mitchell** '79, B.S. health and physical education, '81, M.Ed. school

administration, retired from a career in education. She lives in Warren with her husband, Ralph.

**Jim Snyder** '79, B.S. industrial engineering, earned a master's degree from the University of Texas and is vice president of Weston Solutions in San Antonio, where he lives with his wife, Lynn.

## 80s

**Kathleen (Boehm) Alsup** '80, B.S. environmental science, is a senior consultant for RPS in Beaumont, where she lives with her husband, Mark '78, A.A.S. drafting technology.

**Kathy (Weldon) Boehm** '80, B.S. chemical engineering, is a unit manager for DuPont in La Porte. She lives in Manvel.

**Jacque (Broussard) Foreman** '80, B.S. home economics, is part-time adult GED teacher for the Port Arthur school district. She lives in Port Arthur with her husband, Glenn.

**Rick Greig** '80, B.B.A. management, '84, M.Ed. counseling and development, is senior associate director of the Memorial Student Center at Texas A&M University. He lives in Bryan.

**Patrick Abshire** '82, B.S. electrical engineering, is an engineering specialist for Exxon-Mobil Pipeline Co. He lives in Spring.

**Otis Coney** '82, B.B.A. general business-law, is a project coordinator for ExxonMobil in Houston. He lives in The Woodlands with his wife, Sherida.

**Elaine Reeh** '82, B.S. elementary education, retired as an educator from Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School. She lives in Orange.

**Bill Rigsby** '82, B.S. industrial engineering, is a self-employed licensed general contractor. He lives in Orlando, Fla., with his wife, **Lisa (Meneffee)** '83, B.B.A. accounting.

**C.L. Ross** '83, B.S. mechanical engineering, is division chief for the NASA Johnson Space Center quality and flight equipment engineering division. He lives in Pearland.

**Nydia Thomas** '83, B.S. government, is contributing author and editor of Texas Juvenile Law, 8th Edition. She is an attorney and Special Counsel for Legal Education and Technical Assistance at the Texas Juvenile Justice Department in Austin. She lives in Pflugerville.

**Ed Donohoe** '84, B.S. energy resources, earned a master's degree in administration from Central Michigan University and a master's degree in national security and strategic studies from the U.S. Naval War College. He is senior program analyst for Bowhead Science and Technology and lives in Leonardtown, Md.

**Dr. Kevin Magee** '84, B.S. chemistry, earned a medical degree from the University of Texas Health and Sciences Center at San Antonio. He is serving his second term as chairman of the board of trustees for

the Texas Medical Association's Insurance Trust. He is medical director of maternal-fetal medicine at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, where he lives.

**Mark Hogge** '85, B.S. criminal justice, earned a 30-year service award from the Beaumont Police Department. He lives in Beaumont.

**Lucie (Aldridge) Fralicks** '86, B.S. music-instrumental, '87, B.A. psychology, is advertising sales manager for Promotional Products Association International. She lives in Nolanville with her husband, Kevin.

**Danny Miller** '86, B.S. computer and information sciences, is principal and national practice leader for cybersecurity and privacy for Grant Thornton, LLP. He lives in Galveston with his wife, Jayne.

**Diane (Fontenot) Bernard** '87, B.B.A. accounting, is office manager for CMC Coatings. She lives in Midlothian with her husband, **Jeffrey** '85, A.A.S. welding. He is owner of Bernard Pool Services.

**Barry Dubose** '87, B.S. economics, is a board-certified neuro-intraoperative monitor for Neuro Serve LLC. He is president and owner of the company and lives in Beaumont with his wife, **Vickie (Gothia)**, '83, B.S. nursing. She also works for Neuro Serve.

**Scott Hill** '87, B.S. mechanical engineering, is senior project engineer for Universal Pegasus in Houston. He lives in Houston.

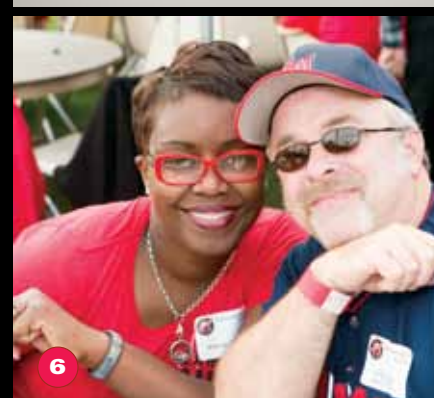
**Mary (Dunn) Hude** '87, M.Ed. special education, retired as a counselor from Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School. She lives in Orange.

**Mary (Harris) Keeler** '87, B.S. sociology, is case manager for American Medical Response, Non-Emergency Transportation in Houston, where she lives with her husband, Scott.

## Baseball Tailgate

LU alumni and parents of current LU students gathered April 26 to see Cardinal victory over Stephen F. Austin at Vincent-Beck Stadium.

**1.** Don Pumphrey '88, H.J. Trahan, Loyce Pumphrey, Joseph Trahan **2.** Jim Hendricks, Roger McCabe, Sharon (Smith) McCabe '83, '89 **3.** Jordan Leventry, Josh Leventry '10 **4.** Ron Bullion '70, Tina (Castaneda) Bullion '70, Linda (Decuir) McFadden '72, Murphy McFadden '71 **5.** Johnnie (Criton) Durden '00; Vernon Durden '04, Alumni Advisory Board president-elect; Juan Zabala '07, associate vice president of university advancement; Peggy Zabala **6.** Sekeia Colvin, C.H. Colvin '89, '90 **7.** Randy Still '80, Maridale (Adams) Still '79, '12 **8.** Carla Viator '05, '12, Darla Eason '89 **9.** Candace Todora, Elise Becker '05 **10.** Billy Cogswell, Ryan House, Dot (Tudor) Cogswell '59, '90; Susan (Blanco) Legnion '69, Sally (McDonald) House '59, '67, Ron Legnion '70 **11.** Kenneth Jackson, Phyllis Freeman-Stewart '67, Tony Stewart '72, Espanola Jackson **12.** Shawna (Powell) Gaines '03, Michael Gaines Jr.



## Spring Community Service Project

Alumni give vegetable plants a healthy start in the garden at The Giving Field and help organize food stores at Some Other Place in Beaumont March 23.

**1.** Debbie (French) Riggs '89; Ellen (Walker) Rienstra '62, '80 **2.** Pat (Gafford) Coldewey '70





## Class of 62

Classmates of 1962 attend events marking their 50-year reunion.

1. Janice (Minter) Kite '62, Jane (Siros) Connelly '62, Linda (Engman) Llewellyn '62, W.C. Hal '62
2. Dan Shaddock '62, Fred Casteel '62, Ellen (Walker) Rienstra '62, '80, Tom Cameron '62
3. Joanne (Webb) Davis '62, '76, Linda (Engman) Llewellyn '62, Priscilla Burrows
4. Nellie Stevens, Jack Stevens '62



**Kenneth Melton** '87, B.B.A. management, is supervisor for AAA Cooper Transportation in Orange, where he lives.

**Vicki (O'Dell) Oubre** '87, certif. office administration, '95, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is senior vice president of human resources for FivePoint Federal Credit Union. She lives in Orange.

The Texas Gang Investigators Association awarded the "Ted Poe Damn Good Judge Award" to 252nd District Court Judge **Layne Walker** '87, B.S. criminal justice. The statewide award is given annually to a judge for his efforts to help combat gang activity. He lives in Beaumont.

**Joyce (Bernas) Billingsley** '88, A.S. law enforcement, earned a 30-year service award from the Beaumont Police Department. She lives in Beaumont.

**Joseph Gunter** '88, A.A.S. business data processing, is owner of Gunter Sewing in Houston, where he lives.

**David Ozment** '88, A.A.S. mid-management, is account executive for Binswanger Glass. He lives in Houston with his wife, Charlotte.

**Willie Mayberry** '89, B.B.A. finance, is senior vice president of business banking for PNC Banks-Georgia. He lives in Marietta, Ga.

**Greg Westbrook** '89, B.S. chemical engineering, is plant manager for DuPont's Ethylene Copolymers plant in Victoria, where he lives with his wife, Amy.

**Gretchen (Derkits) Woodard** '89, B.S. elementary education, was named Teacher of the Year by the Silsbee school district, where she lives.

## 90s

**Chris Champagne** '90, B.S. criminal justice, teaches in the Port Neches school district. He lives in Groves.

**Lola (Midkiff) Dubois** '90, A.A.S. nursing, had a career as a state surveyor for home health agencies as well as working as a hospice and labor and delivery nurse before retiring. She and her husband, Harvey, have five children. One son, **Mark** '98,

B.B.A. marketing, and a daughter, **Michelle** '95, A.A.S. radiology, graduated from Lamar. They live in Orange.

**Gladdie (Plowden) Fowler** '90, M.Ed. school administration, is principal of Dowling Elementary in Port Arthur, where she lives.

**Amilcar Shabazz** '90, M.A. history, earned a doctoral degree from the University of Houston and is faculty advisor to the chancellor for diversity and excellence for the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where he lives.

**Randy Stevens** '90, A.S. law enforcement, '91, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, earned a 25-year service award from the Beaumont Police Department. He lives in Beaumont.

**Ahmal Tuck** '90, B.S. communication, earned a master's degree from Prairie View A&M University in curriculum and instruction/reading and reading disabilities and a master's degree from the University of Houston in educational leadership. He also earned an educational doctoral degree from Capella University. He is owner of Diagnosis Reading Success and lives in Houston.

**Paige (Prouse) Hervey** '91, B.B.A. marketing, is the owner of The Collection Fine Gifts and Accessories. She and her husband, Donald, currently live in Perth, Western Australia.

**Jerald Johnson** '91, B.S. criminal justice, is deputy director at the Jefferson County Community Supervision and Correction Department. He lives in Lumberton.



## Distinguished Alumni

LU honored five outstanding alumni Feb. 22 at the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner. Honorees for 2013 were Wilford Flowers '72, Bob Jones '73, Jerry Reese '66, Bill Scott '70 and Susan (Williams) Simmons '68.

1. President James Simmons, Bill Scott '70, Bob Jones '73, First Lady Susan (Williams) Simmons '68, Jerry Reese '66, Judge Wilford Flowers '72, Alumni Advisory Board President Ellen (Walker) Rienstra '62, '80
2. Kevin Roy '85, '93, Jill (Taft) Roy '90
3. W.S. "Bud" Leonard '50, '53, '76, Johnnie Grantham, Charlene (Matthews) Leonard -53, Randy Babin, Janie (Couvillion) Babin '81, Dale (Martin) Laughlin -70
4. Tom Granger '74, Patricia Adams '70
5. Don Nelson '73, Meri Nelson
6. J.T. Leone '60, Jeff Williams
7. Mary Jo (Lampson) Ford '55

**James Lewis** '91, B.B.A. accounting, is a certified professional accountant for Alliant Group in Houston. He lives in Sugar Land.

**Michele McKinley** '91, B.S. secondary education, earned a master's degree from Sam Houston State University and is director of special education for the Connally school district. She lives in Waco.

**Kelly (Suttle) Coleman** '92, B.S. psychology, lives in Cypress with her husband, Todd. She is an account underwriter for SureTec Insurance Co.

**William Daniels** '92, B.S. kinesiology, '02, M.Ed. school administration, is principal of Atascocita High School. He lives in Humble.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council of Advancement and Support of Education named **Gillian Oakenfull** '92, B.B.A. management, '92, M.B.A., Ohio Professor of the Year. She earned her doctoral degree from the University of Houston and is associate professor of marketing and director of experiential learning for the Farmer School of Business at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. She lives in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Sheri (Strahan) Petersen** '92, B.S. communication, is a realtor for Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate-Gary Greene. She lives in Humble with her husband, Jimmy '91, B.B.A. marketing. He is a sales specialist for AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals.

**Susan (Kelfstrom) Eby** '93, B.S. home economics-interior design, was a nominee for Teacher of the Year for the Little Cypress-Mauriceville school district. She lives in Orange.

**Richard Pence** '93, B.B.A. marketing, is an associate director for Florida Gulf Coast University. He lives in Fort Myers, Fla., with his wife, Marci.

**Fredia (Washington) Simmons** '93, B.S. criminal justice, is principal of Wheatley school in Port Arthur, where she lives.

**Tommy Bertrand** '94, B.S. civil engineering, is general manager for Stewart Buildings. He lives in Pearland with his wife, Yvette.

**Gregory Little** '94, B.S.W. social work, '03, M.Ed. counseling and development, is a regulatory surveyor for the Department of Aging and Disability Services. He lives in Beaumont.

**Andrea (Landry) Wyche** '94, B.S. nursing, is a registered nurse for the Houston school district. She lives in Spring.

**Davilyn (Anderson) Walston** '95, B.S. communication, is public information officer and law enforcement coordinator for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Beaumont. Her husband, **Kent**, '91, is a partner in the law firm, Branick, Walston & Devenzio and is the municipal court judge for the city of Nederland. They live in Beaumont.



## Wine Tasting

Beaumont-area alumni enjoyed a selection of wines chosen by Kandy (Anderson) Daniel '80 of WineStyles to complement sushi appetizers created by Koi owner Tony Nguyen '01 at the March 28 Wine and Sushi Tasting.

1. Ray Satterwhite, Rosalyn Cobbold '08, Patricia Snyder '68, Pat (Holland) Satterwhite '81, Harry Schoppe '93
2. Mandy (Anderson) Street '10, Caitlin Kruger '09
3. Cindy (Thomas) Parish '01, '03, '12, Carolyn (Kelley) Barnes '08
4. Roger McCabe, Sharon (Smith) McCabe '83, '89, Jan (Caldwell) Hallmark '83, Dan Hallmark '65
5. Lauren Austin '11, Dana Guy '12, Tara Trevino '10, '11
6. Adrienne (Smith) Hebert '81, Lloyd Hebert '77
7. Kandy (Anderson) Daniel '80, Tony Nguyen '01
8. Lavanda Shelvin, Antoinette (Motley) Carpenter '00
9. Joe Wood; Gretchen (Wagner) Wood '03



**Mary (Pellegrin) McFarland** '96, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, earned a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from the University of North Texas. She lives in Beaumont.

**Dr. Crystal (Ray)** '97, B.S. chemistry, '97, B.S. biology, and Lance Broussard '97, B.S. chemical engineering, have opened Athena Wellness Center in The Woodlands. She earned her medical degree from the University of Texas-Health Sciences Center in Houston. He is a district manager for Nalco. They live in Spring with their two children.

**Jay McCraw** '97, B.S. kinesiology, '00, M.S. kinesiology, is senior vice president for Invesco. He lives in Charlotte, N.C.

**Mark Dubois** '98, B.B.A. marketing, is chief deputy for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Services Division and is responsible for the aviation division (helicopters/airplane), Regional Crime Lab, budgeting, purchasing, grant writing functions, and police and responder radios. He lives in Lumberton.

**Maria (Cevallos) Gomez** '98, B.S. communication, is a first-grade bilingual teacher in the Houston school district. She and her husband, Pablo '98, B.E.A. graphic design, live in Manvel.

**Pamela Harry** '98, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a surface data engineer/logging geologist with Sperry Drilling. She lives in St. Martinville, La.

**Gary Spears Jr.** '98, B.A. history, is a sergeant for the Rice University campus police department in Houston, where he lives with his wife, **Christina (Steed)** '04, B.S. elementary education, '12, M.Ed. administration. She is a third-grade math and science teacher at Bear Branch Elementary in Humble. They live in Kingwood.

## 00s

**Calvin Carter** '00, B.E.A. studio art, created the 2012 Coastal Conservation Association stamp print for Texas, and his painting of a crappie was approved as the 2013

freshwater stamp for Texas. He has been commissioned for artwork in King Salmon, Alaska. He lives in Jasper.

**Melanie (Musemeche) Claybar** '00, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, was a nominee for Teacher of the Year for the Little Cypress-Mauriceville school district. She lives in Orange.

**Michael Odom** '00, B.S. computer and information sciences, is an IT architect for IBM. He lives in Katy with his wife, **Holly (Tatum)** '99, B.S. communication.

**Courtney (Sturrock) Smith** '00, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, owns Sturrock Montessori Academy in Beaumont, where she lives.

**Dr. Jason Flores** '01, B.S. biology, earned a medical degree in dental surgery from the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in Houston and earned a specialty in anesthesiology from the University of Pittsburgh. He is director of anesthesiology for the University of New Mexico. He and his wife, Amy, live in Rio Rancho, N.M.

**Wes King** '01, B.S. communication, is senior accounts manager for Gow Media. He lives in Missouri City with his wife, Christina.

**Jose Maldonado** '01, B.S. civil engineering, is project manager for HDR Engineering Inc. He lives in Sugar Land.

**Brandon Martin** '01, B.S. communication, is a video producer for Rice University and lives in Houston with his wife, Sally.

**Andrea (Rigsby) Slaydon** '01, B.S. communication, won an Emmy from the National Academy of Television, Arts and Sciences for producing at KTRK-TV in Houston. She works for ABC's national Live Well Network based in Houston/KTRK. She lives in Kingwood.

**Sharon (Jones) DeJohn** '02, B.B.A. human resource management, earned a master's degree from the University of Phoenix and is an English as a second language tutor for the Port Arthur school district, where she lives.



## Golden Circle

LU honored 50-year-plus graduates at its inaugural Golden Circle brunch last November. Alumni of the classes from 1924 to 1962 attended the event, held in conjunction with the 50th-anniversary reunion of the Class of 1962.

1. Billy Davis, Joanne (Webb) Davis '62, '76, Sharon (Compton) Woodhead '74, Ben Woodhead '54
2. Jimmie Adams '61, Janice (Zahn) Adams '58, Mary Jane (Thompson) Ford '44, Roy Culver Sr. '55
3. Concetta (Mazzagatti) Cloninger '38 and her daughter, Julia Shelton
4. Fran (Roush) Massey '62, Brenda (Cascio) Hawthorne '61, Loyd Hawthorne '63, Dixie (Dowden) Tucker '61, Walter Tucker '78





## Alumni Night

Cardinal basketball Feb. 16  
LU vs. McNeese

1. Ellen (Walker) Rienstra '62, '80, Alumni Advisory Board president, presenting the game ball
2. Ready for the game!
3. Lady Cardinal Basketball alumni



## A Dinner & Conversation

During Dinner and Conversation Feb. 5, students and alumni professionals meet for dinner and discuss day-to-day realities students can expect in their chosen fields of interest.

1. Students interested in community service hosted by Don Pumphrey '88
2. Pre-med and nursing students hosted by Brent Bost '78, '92, '96, '97
3. Political science and business students hosted by Doug Matthews '74
4. Engineering students hosted by Soheila Nejad and Devin Jones '06, '07



**Clay Duvall** '02, B.A.A.S., applied arts and sciences, earned a master's degree from Ashford University and teaches in the Humble school district. He lives in Houston, with his wife, Melanie.

**Mary (Fowler) Henry** '02, B.G.S. general studies, is dean of students for the West Hardin school district. She and her husband, **Jason** '95, B.G.S. liberal arts, live in Sour Lake.

**Abdul Kargbo** '02, B.B.A. accounting, '03, B.B.A. finance, is a contract monitoring auditor for the Texas Workforce Commission in Houston, where he lives.

**Dottie (McIntyre) LeBlanc** '02, B.S. communication, is a regional business manager for Reckitt Benckiser. She lives in Gonzales with her husband, Matthew.

**April (Hebert) Vernon** '02, B.S. biology, teaches and directs the dance team at Monsignor Kelly Catholic High School in

Beaumont. She and her husband, **Jacob** '98, B.B.A. marketing, live in Nederland. He is a financial advisor for Edward Jones Investments.

**Wyatt Cagle** '03, B.S. communication, is editor for CGL Studios in Houston, where he lives.

**Wilson Gruetzner** '03, B.S. mechanical engineering, is director of engineering and quality for Rockwell American Manufacturing in Seagoville. He lives in Greenville with his wife, Cameron.

**Nicole (Madden) Lewis** '03, B.S. chemical engineering, earned a master's degree from University of Texas-Tyler and is plant manager for Champion Technologies Inc. She lives in Calgary, Canada, with her husband, **Jacob** '03, B.S. psychology, '10 M.Ed. administration.

**David Paul** '03, M.S. applied criminology, is an associate warden for the Federal Bureau

of Prisons at the correctional complex in Oakdale, La. He lives in Lake Charles with his wife, Pamela.

**Mihir Shah** '03, M.E. chemical engineering, is process supervisor for Total Petrochemicals and Refining. He lives in Beaumont.

**Michelle (Guilbeaux) Williams** '03, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches in the Spring school district, where she and her husband, Chris, live.

**Melissa Ausbrooks** '04, M.S. deaf studies/deaf education, '07, Ed.D. deaf studies/deaf education, is director of research and instruction for Mississippi School for the Deaf in Jackson, Miss., where she lives.

**James Collier** '04, B.B.A. finance, '07, M.B.A. business administration, is a financial analyst for Conn's in The Woodlands, where he lives.

**R. J. Johnson** '04, B.S. communication, teaches in the Port Arthur school district.

He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Hailey.

**Wesley Linder** '04, B.S. chemical engineering, is project engineer for CB&I in Houston, where he lives.

**Travis Maines** '04, B.G.S. general studies, is principal of Vidor High School, where he lives.

**Shashi Papanna** '04, M.E.S. mechanical engineering science, is senior engineer for Technip in Houston, where he lives.

**Andrew Brooks** '05, B.S. political science, is re-entry affairs coordinator for the U. S. Department of Justice. He lives in China with his wife, Rose.

**Justin Fishback** '05, B.B.A. marketing, earned a law degree from Texas Tech University. He works for Shaw Cowart in Austin, where he lives.

**Wade Salazar** '05, B.S. electrical engineering, is self-employed and lives in Houston.

**Amy (Taylor) Collazo** '06, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches special education in the Little Cypress Mauriceville school district. She lives in Port Neches with her husband, Justin.

**Jackie Dotson** '06, B.B.A. general business, '08 M.B.A. business administration, is a financial analyst for Golden Pass LNG. She lives in Beaumont.

**Mollie Goodell** '06, B.G.S. general studies, earned a master's degree in library science from the University of North Texas. She is circulation supervisor for the Mary and John Gray Library at Lamar University. She lives in Beaumont.

**Kimberly Pierce** '06, B.A. biochemistry, is senior staff engineer for Texas United Chemical in Houston, where she lives.

**Kyra (Welborn) Poole** '06, B.G.S. general studies, earned a master's degree from Texas Woman's University. She is an occupational therapist for Baptist Hospital

of Southeast Texas. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Ian.

**Kimberly (Doucet) Sala** '06, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is coordinator of academic partnerships at Lamar University. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Vincent.

**Jason Yeaman** '06, B.S. kinesiology, '11, M.Ed. administration, is assistant principal at Orangefield Junior High School. He lives in Orange with his wife, **Charlee (Lemons)** '06, M.E. school administration. She is assistant principal at Nederland High School.

**Michelle Castolenia** '07, B.A. English, teaches English in the Beaumont school district. She lives in Lumberton.

**Larry Gene Drake** '07, B.B.A. management information systems, is a chief information officer for the Army. He and his wife, Terumi, live in Honolulu.

**Balakanth Gangaji** '07, M.S. computer science, is a senior software engineer for CME Group. He lives in Chicago, Ill.

**Frank Morrell II** '07, B.S. mechanical engineering, is product engineer for American Valve and Hydrant Manufacturing. He lives in Beaumont.

**Andrew Toohey** '07, B.S. industrial engineering, is a technical engineer for turnarounds for Motiva Enterprises. He lives in Orange with his wife, Megan.

**Sam Blanda** '08, B.B.A. finance, '08, B.B.A. economics, is manager of Jack's Pak-It in Lumberton. He lives in Beaumont.

**Amber (Barnes) Elrod** '08, B.M. music, is a band director for Atascocita Middle School in the Humble school district. She lives in Houston with her husband, Cullen.

The University of Tennessee presented **Hash Hashemian** '08, Eng.D. electrical engineering, an Alumni Professional Achieve-

ment Award. He received a master's in nuclear engineering from the university. He has earned doctoral degrees also from Chalmers Institute of Technology in nuclear engineering and applied physics and the University of Western Ontario in electrical and computer engineering. He is president, chief executive officer and co-founder of Analysis and Measurement Services Corp. and lives in Knoxville, Tenn. **Jimmy Cheek** '72, M.Ed. counseling and development, who is chancellor of the University of Tennessee, made the presentation.

**David Sanders** '08, B.S. kinesiology, earned a master's degree in health and human performance - sports administration while working as a graduate assistant manager with the men's basketball team at Northwestern State University. He is the north area representative for the Greater Austin Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He lives in Austin.



**Samuel Stafford** '08, B.S. chemistry, and his wife, **Amy (Belaire)** '09, B.B.A. finance, '09, B.B.A. accounting, live in Houston.

**Mukesh Badgujar** '09, M.S. electrical engineering, is a test engineering for Foxconn. He lives in Houston.

**Dustin Baxter** '09, B.F.A. graphic design, is a graphic designer for Conn's. He lives in Conroe.



**Cody Dishon** '09, B.B.A. general business, earned a law degree from the South Texas College of Law. He is employed by Provost Umphrey Law Firm and lives in Beaumont.

**Kathy (Strickland) Ferrell** '09, M.Ed. administration, is director of elementary curriculum for the Cleburne school district, where she lives.

**Russell Fruge** '09, B.G.S. general studies, is director of merchandising operations for Conn's Appliances in The Woodlands. He lives in Spring with his wife, Becky.

**Cody Heironimus** '09, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a field engineer for GE. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, **Amanda (Manshack)** '10, B.S. communication.

**Chad Helton** '09, B.S. civil engineering, works for the Texas Department of Transportation as a transportation specialist. He lives in Orange with his wife, Ashleigh.

**CiCi (Nance) Russell** '09, B.S. family and consumer sciences-dietetics, lives in Belton with her husband, Cory, and daughter, Isabella.

**Shalayne (Blythe) Stinson** '09, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches first grade/reading recovery for the Fort Bend school district. She and her husband, Josh, live in Fulshear.

**Nischal Thapa** '09, M.B.A. business administration, is a lecturer for the College of Applied Business. He lives in Kathmandu, Nepal.

**Kristin (King) Winzer** '09, B.S. communication, is property manager for Edison Plaza Partners. She lives in Lumberton with her husband, Eric.

## 10s

**Natalia Albacete** '10, B.M. music, was Teacher of the Year at River Pines Elementary in Humble. She lives in Houston.

**Erin Binagia** '10, B.S. biology, '11, M. S. biology, is studying veterinary medicine at Texas A&M. She is from Port Neches.

**Paul Doming** '10, B.S. industrial engineering, is lead project engineer for Titanium Engineers in Sugar Land. He lives in Houston.

**Roy Farias** '10, M.Ed. administration, is assistant principal at Buna High School. He lives in Buna.

**Bijaya Gautam** '10, M.E.S. electrical engineering science, is an engineer with Qualcomm. He earned a master's degree in cyber security in 2013 from National University and lives in San Diego, Calif.

**Jillian (Granger) Gohlke** '10, B.B.A. management information systems, is systems manager for the Beaumont school district. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Derek.

**James Moseley** '10, B.S. communication, completed Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, in Great Lakes, Ill. He lives in Spring.

**Kevin Mott** '10, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is general manager at ENGlobal. He lives in Bridge City.

**Kay (Cearley) Payton** '10, M.Ed. teacher leadership, is choral director and teaches advanced placement for Hendrickson High School in Pflugerville. She lives in Hutto with her husband, Joe.

**Regina (Boulet) Peddy** '10, A.A.S. nursing, is a registered nurse at Christus Hospital St. Elizabeth in Beaumont. She lives in Vidor with her husband, Danny.

**Brian Perdue** '10, B.B.A. finance, '11, M.B.A. business administration, completed Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. He lives in Baytown.

**Kishore Puligundla** '10, M.S. electrical engineering, is a programmer analyst with Saibersys Inc. He lives in Las Vegas.

**Correy Barnes** '11, M.B.A. business administration, is senior associate for Strength Investment Group in Colleyville. He lives in Irving.

**Tammy (Bellamy) Bybee** '11, M.Ed. educational technology leadership, works for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. She lives in Huntsville with her husband, Kellie.

**Sammi Gunter** '11, M.Ed. administration, is a teacher and head tennis coach in the Richardson school district, where she lives.

**Tonya Hanson** '11, M.S. speech-language pathology, is a speech-language pathologist and lives in Houston.

**Alan Kondo** '11, B.S. chemical engineering, is a facilities planning engineer for ExxonMobil. He lives in Nederland. Both of his parents, **William** '78, B.S. chemical engineering, '10, M.E.M. engineering management, and **Donna** '81, B.S. elementary education, are Lamar University alumni.

**Aravind Konduru** '11, M.E. electric engineering, is IT developer for Clinical Cloud in Houston where he lives.

**Amanda Lilly** '11, B.A. political science, is attending law school at the Oklahoma

City University School of Law. She lives in Oklahoma City and is an assistant in the office of the Oklahoma County district attorney's office.

**Rebekah Maxwell** '11, B.B.A. retail management, earned a master's degree in international marketing from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland. She received a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship from the Rotary Club of Beaumont. She is the business services and communication assistant for the Better Business Bureau of Southeast Texas and lives in Beaumont.

**Kemon Neal** '11, B.B.A. management, is a financial advisor for Morgan Stanley. He lives in Beaumont.

**Adelina (Sanchez) Rucker** '11, M.Ed. educational technology leadership, is educational technology specialist in the Pearland school district, where she lives with her husband, Michael. She was named 2011-2012 Elementary Teacher of the Year in Pearland.

**Will Smylie** '11, B.S. industrial technology, is continuous improvement leader for Bell Helicopter Textron. He and his wife, Selina, live in Richland Hills.

**Yanbo Wang** '11, M.B.A. business administration, is in sales for Marine Foods Express in Houston, where she lives with her husband, Eddie Knight.

**Fred Williams** '11, B.S. communication, is an access agent for Johnson Controls. He lives in Dallas.

**Lucas Castle** '12, B.S. mathematics, is a graduate student at North Carolina State and lives in Durham, N.C.

**Jessica Chambers** '12, B.G.S. general studies, is an assistant for a pre-kindergarten class in the Fort Worth school district, where she lives.

**Wayne Childs** '12, M.Ed. administration, is athletic director at Smithville High School. He lives in Smithville.

**Hillary Dean** '12, B.B.A. entrepreneurship, '12, B.B.A. general business, is operations and consumer education foundation assistant for the Better Business Bureau in Southeast Texas. She lives in Beaumont.

**Chikere Isikwe** '12, B.S.W. social work, is a social worker for CSI Investments. He lives in Beaumont.

**Nasim Reza** '12, M.E. mechanical engineering, is a mechanical system engineer at GE Energy. He lives in Houston with his wife, Farjana.

**Nikki (Riccelli) Simmons** '12, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is web specialist for the University of Texas at Dallas, where she lives with her husband, Mike.

## We will miss...

### EMPLOYEE

**Wayne Dyess**, employee, died Feb. 27, 2013.

### RETIREEES

**Janice (Conn) Christopher**, retiree, died Dec. 25, 2012.

**Joye (Wesson) Hasson**, retiree, died Nov. 8, 2012.

**Kitty (Darbonne) Sears**, retiree, died Oct. 14, 2012.

**Ginger (Drake) Wood**, retiree, died Jan. 3, 2013.

### FRIENDS

**Bill Leger** died Dec. 22, 2012.

**Gena (Hawkins) Reaud** died March 23, 2013.

### ALUMNI

**Violette Newton** '31, A.A. general studies, died Feb. 2, 2013.

**Jake Tortorice Sr.** '33, A.A. general studies, died Oct. 24, 2012.

**June (Bubb) Fecel** -34, died, Nov. 13, 2012.

**Elizabeth (Gunn) Schober** '35, A.A. general studies, died Jan. 11, 2013.

**Leonard Fugate** '39, A.A. general studies, died Oct. 10, 2012.

**Dr. William Perkins** '39, A.A. general studies, died Dec. 25, 2012.

**Thomas Smelker** '39, A.A. general studies, died Sept. 16, 2013.

**Earl Spell** '39, A.A. general studies, died April 9, 2013.

Lucille (Beard) Allardyce '40, A.A. general studies, died Dec. 31, 2012.

Mary (Walters) Graves '40, A.A. general studies, died April 10, 2013.

**Jack Brooks** '41, A.A. general studies, died Dec. 4, 2012. Memorial donations may be made to the Brooks Scholarship Fund, Lamar University Foundation, P.O. Box 11500, Beaumont, TX 77710.

**W. S. Edwards** -41, died Feb. 24, 2013.

**Dr. J. C. Frasher** '41, A.A. general studies, died Oct. 25, 2012.

**Dayton Holstead** '41, A.A. general studies, died Nov. 10, 2012.

**Jack Walton** '42, A.A. general studies, died March 30, 2013.

**Ouida Collins** '43, A.A. general studies, died Sept. 25, 2012.

**Danny Dennis** '43, A.A. general studies, '57, B.B.A. accounting, died Sept. 18, 2012.

**Harriet (Perkins) Bergman** '46, A.A. general studies, died Sept. 27, 2012.

**Wilford Morgan** '46, A.A. general studies, '59, B.S. secondary education, died Jan. 15, 2013.

**Carroll Phillips** '46, A.A. general studies, died Sept. 11, 2012.

**Floyd Keeney** '47, A.A. general studies, died Oct. 6, 2012.

**Sam Serio Sr.** -47, died Dec. 26, 2013.

**O. J. Torres** '47, A.A. general studies, died Feb. 12, 2013.

**Don Knapp** '48, A.A. general studies, died Nov. 10, 2012.

**Vernon Pike** '48, A.A. general studies, died Feb. 20, 2013.

**Dr. James Spidle** '48, A.A. general studies, died Oct. 12, 2012.

**Pete Zummo** -48, died, Feb. 6, 2013.

**Richard Bourgeois** '49, A.A. general studies, died Oct. 16, 2012.

**Delores (Montgomery) Bruce** '49, A.A. general studies, died Jan. 11, 2013.

**Aleene Cobb** '49, A.A. general studies, died Oct. 26, 2012.

**Frankie Gardner** '49, A.A. general studies, died Oct. 12, 2012.

**Benjamin Johnson** '49, certif. general studies, '58, B.S. mechanical engineering, died March 10, 2013.

**Ruby Hardy** '51, A.A. general studies, died Jan. 14, 2013.

**Earl Richmond** '51, A.A. general studies, '53, B.S. health and physical education, died Jan. 12, 2013.

**Robert Ponthieu** -53, died Jan. 5, 2013.

**Sara (Greer) Camlin** '55, B.S. art, died Sept. 11, 2012.

**Charles Corgey** '57, B.S. mathematics, '75, B.S. mechanical engineering, '75, M.E.S. mechanical engineering, died Sept. 24, 2012.

**Pat Lennon** '57, B.S. sociology, died Feb. 26, 2013.

**Samuel Tobias Jr.** '57, B.S. mathematics, '57, B.S. chemical engineering, died Jan. 19, 2013.

**Alfred Gaytan** '58, B.F.A. graphic design, died March 27, 2013.

**Paul Gupton** '58, B.S. industrial engineering, died Sept. 21, 2012. Memorial donations may be made to the George B. Tims Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund in Industrial Engineering, Lamar University Foundation, P.O. Box 11500, Beaumont, TX 77710.

**Patricia (Clapp) Smith** '58, B.S. elementary education, died Nov. 29, 2012.

**Albert Craus** '59, B.B.A. accounting, died Nov. 12, 2012.

**Bertal Hjerpe** '59, B.B.A. general business, died Feb. 5, 2013.

**Pat Johnson** '59, B.S. secondary education, died Feb. 5, 2013.

**Leo Luquette** '59, B.S. electrical engineering, died Feb. 14, 2013.

**Clarence Berrio** '60, B.B.A. management, died Feb. 22, 2013.

**Bill Cable** '60, B.S. chemical engineering, '63, B.B.A. business administration, died Nov. 26, 2012.

**Donald Coffey** '60, B.B.A. marketing, died Oct. 21, 2012.

**Donnel McCann** '60, B.A. English, died Nov. 8, 2012.

**Oscar Baxley Jr.** '61, B.B.A. general business, '76, M.B.A. business administration, died Dec. 3, 2012.

**Don Brady** '61, B.S. electrical engineering, died Dec. 29, 2012.

**Ernest Broussard** '63, B.S. mechanical engineering, died Nov. 14, 2012.

**Kenneth Garner** '63, B.B.A. accounting, died Dec. 22, 2012.

**Tim Heckler** -63, died Feb. 4, 2013.

**Charles Heywood III** '63, B.S. mathematics, died Nov. 16, 2012.

**Clara Low** '63, B.S. elementary education, died Oct. 28, 2012.

**Walter Robinson** '63, B.S. biology, '68, M.Ed. secondary education, died Jan. 17, 2013.

**Vera (Rather) Sherrill** '63, B.S. elementary education, died Jan. 6, 2013.

**Ethan Van Meter** '63, B.S. political science, died Sept. 24, 2012.

**Billy Williford** '63, B.S. mechanical engineering, died Nov. 11, 2012.

**Loretta (Lestage) Beresky** '64, vocational nursing certificate, '78, A.S. nursing, died Oct. 18, 2012.

**Palmer Hall** '64, B.S. speech, died Feb. 9, 2013.

**Art Lecoq** '64, B.B.A. general business, died Oct. 10, 2012.

**Gracie (Broussard) Middleton** '64, B.S. elementary education, died Nov. 8, 2012.

**Jack Faubion** '65, B.S. physical education, died Sept. 16, 2012.

**Della (Hall) Rhine** '66, certif. secretarial science, '71, B.B.A. secretarial science, died April 6, 2013.

**Carolyn (Duke) Culver** '67, B.S. elementary education, died March 31, 2013.

**May Dell (Godwin) Dupuis** '67, B.S. speech, '73, M.Ed. special education, died Oct. 10, 2012.

**Victor Herm** '67, B.B.A. marketing, died April 4, 2013.

**Ellery Lacy** '68, B.B.A. marketing, died Nov. 23, 2012.

**Laqueta (Collier) McLellan** '68, B.S. elementary education, '80, M.Ed. counseling and development, died Nov. 4, 2012.

**Ferry Richards** '68, M.B.A. business administration, died Sept. 16, 2012.

**Muriel (Adams) Sherman** '68, B.S. elementary education, '76, M.Ed. supervision, died Feb. 26, 2013.

**Gladys (Whitmire) Baggett** '69, B.S. elementary education, died March 4, 2013.

**Joe Monds** '69, B.B.A. management, died Feb. 9, 2013.

**Jackie Byrd** '70, B.S. secondary education, '80, M.Ed. school administration, died Feb. 13, 2013.

**Jesse Guerra** '70, B.B.A. marketing, died Jan. 29, 2013.

**Henry Nantz** '70, B.B.A. marketing, died Jan. 28, 2013.

**Gary Reavis** '70, certif. industrial electricity, died Feb. 18, 2013.

**Stephen Williamson** '71, B.S. mechanical engineering, died March 6, 2013.

**Betty Womack** '71, B.S. elementary education, died Jan. 10, 2013.

**John Becker Jr.** '72, B.B.A. marketing, died Dec. 3, 2012.

**Jesse Philmon** '72, B.B.A. accounting, died March 6, 2013.

**Jean (Calaway) Runnels** '72, B.S. elementary education, died Nov. 5, 2012.

**Glenn Yentzen Jr.** '72, B.S. electrical engineering, '74, M.E. electrical engineering, died Oct. 13, 2012.

**Eula (Norris) Brittain** '73, B.S. elementary education, died Oct. 13, 2012.

**Tommie Smiley** '73, B.S. health and physical education, died Oct. 10, 2012.

**Mary Jean (Callahan) Begnaud** '74, B.S. elementary education, died March 12, 2013.

**John Berwick** '74, A.A.S. refrigeration and air conditioning technology, died Jan. 19, 2013.

**Kent Conwell** '74, M.Ed. school administration, died Feb. 14, 2013.

**Massie Easley** '74, M.Ed. counseling and development, died Oct. 6, 2012.

**David Shimek** '74, B.S. civil engineering, died Sept. 30, 2012.

**Thelma (McCrary) Bill** '75, B.B.A. office administration, died Sept. 18, 2012.

**Duane Force** '75, B.A. government, died Feb. 11, 2013.

**Lenore (Stewart) Harris** '75, M.Ed. supervision, died April 5, 2013.

**Ester Kelly** '75, B.A. Spanish, died Feb. 3, 2013.

**Marsha Whitmore** '75, B.S. secondary education, '10, M.Ed. administration, died Feb. 15, 2013.

**Deborah (Stapert) Easter** '76, B.B.A. office administration, died Dec. 27, 2012.

**Robert Farmer** '76, A.A.S. mid-management, died Dec. 20, 2012.

**Jeff Gunner Jr.** '76, B.B.A. management, died Feb. 12, 2013.

**Ed Barton** '77, B.S. government, died Dec. 23, 2012.

**Charles Cotton** '77, B.S. health and physical education, died Jan. 18, 2013.

**Edward Orozco** '77, B.B.A. accounting, died April 9, 2013.

**Cheryl Orchin** '78, B.S. elementary education, died Jan. 12, 2013.

**Mary (James) Petry** '78, certif. vocational nursing, '02, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, died Nov. 26, 2012.

**David Bailey** '79, B.S. chemistry, '79, B.S. biology, died Nov. 5, 2012.

**Dr. Daniel Ramsey** '79, B.S. biology, died Jan. 30, 2013.

**Terry Daniels** '79, B.S. civil engineering, died March 25, 2013.

**Sherry (Bilbo) Johnson** '79, certif. vocational nursing, '87, A.A.S. vocational nursing, died Sept. 30, 2012.

**Rachel (Mendez) Morse** '80, B.S. elementary education, '85, M.Ed. counseling and development, died Oct. 6, 2012.

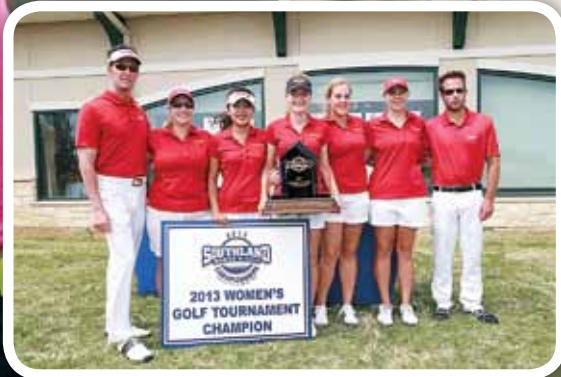
**Rachel (Segrest) Platt** '82, B.S. communication disorders, died Oct. 30, 2012.

**Ronald Barrett** '83, A.S. law enforcement, '83, B.S. criminal justice, died Jan. 26, 2013.

**John Lester** '83, B.B.A. accounting, died March 5, 2013.

**Lori Lyman** '84, B.S. secondary education, died Dec. 27, 2012.





Nghi Ngo

Julie Aime

# Lady Cardinal golfers pick up fourth crown, lead Southland

Lamar University began the final round of the 2013 Southland Conference Tournament four strokes behind leader Central Arkansas, but the Lady Cardinals roared back in blustery conditions to earn their first league title in women's golf since 2006.

The Lady Cardinals closed the tournament from Frisco Lakes Golf Club with a 12-over-par total of 300 for a 54-hole score of 891 (+27) to finish seven strokes ahead of Oral Roberts and Sam Houston State who tied for second at 898 (+34).

Lamar, which won Southland titles in 2003, 2005 and 2006, picked up its fourth conference crown to lead all Southland schools. The Lady Cardinals also picked up the Southland Conference's automatic berth into the 2013 NCAA Golf Championship, earning a trip to the Central Regional.

The Central Regional was played at the Jimmie Austin OU Golf Club in Norman, Okla. It was the third trip to regionals for Lamar, after visits in 1993 and 1995. Each of the three NCAA Regionals featured 24 teams and six individuals, with the top eight teams and the top two individuals not on those teams advancing to the NCAA Championship.

Senior Julie Aime and sophomore Nghi Ngo were each named First-Team All-Southland Conference following an outstanding season.

Ngo tied for fifth place and Aime tied for eighth place at the Southland Tournament. A native of Cannes, France, Aime was named second-team all-conference following the 2011 and 2012 seasons. Aime was second in the conference in scoring average at 74.91 strokes per round and finished in the Top 10 in eight of Lamar's 11 tournaments this year. Ngo averaged 75.50 strokes per round to rank fourth in the Southland, and registered eight Top 10 finishes on the year. A native of Vietnam, Ngo picked up her first career title earlier this year when she won McNeese State's Le Triomphe Collegiate Invitational.

Junior Katelyn McDougal led Lamar with a fourth-place finish at the conference tournament and earned honorable mention All-Southland Conference honors following the season. Freshman Taylor Stockton finished alone in 11th place in her first-ever conference tournament and redshirt junior Lauren Van Gerven tied for 31st place to round out the Lady Cardinals' lineup.

In addition to landing two players on the all-conference first-team, Brian White was tabbed the Southland Conference Coach of the Year for the second time. White, who has also won the honor three times on the men's side, last won the award in 2005. Not only did the Lady Cardinals win the conference tournament, but they picked up three other titles this year with White at the helm.

## Three men's golfers named all-conference

Lamar University was well represented on the 2013 All-Southland Conference Men's Golf Team as **Stephane Dubois** and **Erik Knudsen** earned second-team honors and **Greg Wiggins** was named to the third team.

A junior from Brantford, Ontario, Dubois led the Cardinals with a 74.38 scoring average for 34 rounds. The Wisconsin transfer posted four straight Top 20 finishes to close the spring season.

Knudsen finished just behind Dubois in scoring average at 74.71 strokes per round with three Top 10 finishes on the season. A native of Pocketvalley, Norway, Knudsen placed eighth at the conference tournament and tied for sixth at the Bayou City Collegiate Championships earlier in the spring.

Wiggins earned third-team honors after an outstanding freshman campaign that saw him post a 75.12 scoring average. A native of Hamburg, Germany, Wiggins led the Cardinals with a tie for fourth place at the Southland Conference Tournament.



Stephane Dubois



Greg Wiggins



Erik Knudsen



## Cards look forward to fall

Lamar wrapped up a successful spring football season in April with the third annual Crawfish Bowl. Prior to the game, Lamar held the first Crawfish Cookoff Competition with nearly a dozen teams participating and several hundred people enjoying the good food and fun. The red team won in dramatic fashion on an 80-yard interception return in overtime.

The Cardinals will open the 2013 season at home on Aug. 31 when Oklahoma Panhandle State visits Provost Umphrey Stadium. Lamar will host six games this season, including closing the year with home games against rivals Stephen F. Austin and McNeese State. For the second straight year, Lamar will play a pair of FBS opponents on the road with games at Oklahoma State and Louisiana Tech.

Season tickets are on sale, and single game tickets will go on sale Aug. 1. To order tickets, or for more information, contact the Lamar ticket office at (409) 880-1715 or visit the Lamar athletics web site at [www.LamarCardinals.com](http://www.LamarCardinals.com).



### 2013 LAMAR FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Aug. 31	Oklahoma Panhandle State	Provost Umphrey Stadium	7 p.m.
Sept. 7	at Louisiana Tech	Ruston, La.	
Sept. 14	at Oklahoma State	Stillwater, Okla.	
Sept. 21	Bacone College	Provost Umphrey Stadium	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Grambling State	Grambling, La.	6 p.m.
Oct. 5	Bye		
Oct. 12	at Sam Houston State*	Huntsville, Texas	2 p.m.
Oct. 19	Central Arkansas* (HOMECOMING)	Provost Umphrey Stadium	6 p.m.
Oct. 26	at Southeastern Louisiana*	Hammond, La. (ESPN3)	7 p.m.
Nov. 2	Nicholls*	Provost Umphrey Stadium	6 p.m.
Nov. 9	at Northwestern State*	Natchitoches, La. (SLCTV)	3 p.m.
Nov. 16	Stephen F. Austin*	Provost Umphrey Stadium	6 p.m.
Nov. 23	McNeese State*	Provost Umphrey Stadium	6 p.m.

\* - Southland Conference Game  
Home Games in Bold  
All Times Central and Subject to Change





## Successful debut provides prelude to great season

Softball returned to Lamar University this year for the first time since 1987, and what a debut it was.

The Lady Cardinals ushered in the new era in dramatic fashion as freshman Ashley McDowell hit a walk-off home run to give Lamar a 3-2 win over UTSA to the delight of a standing-room-only crowd at Ford Park.

McDowell's walk-off homer was just one of many highlights from the Lady Cardinals' season. The team shattered many of LU's single-season records, including wins, home runs and runs scored. The Lady Cardinals surprised almost everybody except themselves as they finished fifth in the Southland Conference standings, qualifying for the Southland Conference Tournament.

Lamar gained entry into the tournament in dramatic fashion. The Lady Cardinals swept a three-game series from Houston Baptist on the final week of the regular season. Lamar used walk-off home runs to win both games of a Saturday doubleheader, as McDowell hit the game-winner in the opener and Candyce Carter hit the game-winning blast in the nightcap.

In the final game of the series on Sunday, Carter scored the game-winning run on a wild pitch in the bottom of the seventh to earn Lamar the win and a spot in the tournament.

"This is a team that never gives up," Coach Holly Bruder said of her Lady Cardinals. "They just kept battling all season long, and it paid off. They have done a great job representing Lamar."

Carter earned third-team All-Southland Conference

honors in center field and set a Lamar record with 31 RBIs this season.

McDowell, who clubbed a school-record 12 home runs, was honorable mention at first base. Left-hander Shannon Millman, who set school marks with 17 wins and 136 strikeouts, received honorable mention status as a pitcher. Left fielder Jenna Holland and catcher Beverly Corry also garnered honorable mention kudos.

Lamar's fans were out in droves at home games at Ford Park. Pregame tailgate parties were a ritual in the parking lot, and the fans carried their enthusiasm into the stands, providing a great atmosphere for softball.

The Lady Cardinals fed off the enthusiasm generated by their fans, posting a 16-5 home record.

Offering one of the best playing surfaces in the conference, Ford Park was turned into a Division I facility thanks to the efforts of Bruder and a legion of volunteers and supporters. Plans are in the works to build a permanent softball facility on campus that would allow even more of the Lamar community to enjoy the excitement of the Lady Cardinals.

"We want to build off of this year," Bruder said. "Our goal is not to just to get to the Southland Conference Tournament, but to win it on a regular basis and play in the NCAA Tournament."

After what the Lady Cardinals have accomplished in their first season, that goal is definitely achievable.

Ashley McDowell

## Lady Cards welcome Harmony

A new era in women's basketball at Lamar got under way April 30 as Robin Harmony was named head coach of the Lady Cardinals.

Harmony comes to Lamar with an impressive resume of success as both a player and a coach. The Hershey, Pa., native was a standout player at the University of Miami, totaling 1,308 points, 750 rebounds, 415 assists and 314 steals in four seasons. She still holds the Miami single-game record for assists with 14 and is 10th on Miami's all-time scoring chart and fifth in rebounding. She was the first women's basketball player to be inducted into the university's Hall of Fame.

Harmony was on Miami's coaching staff for 18 seasons, the final 12 as associate head coach. Harmony acted as interim coach for two games in her final season with the Hurricanes, posting victories in both contests. During her time at Miami, Harmony helped the Hurricanes win three Big East regular-season championships, two Big East Conference Tournament Championships, reach the postseason seven times and advance to the Sweet 16 on one occasion.

Harmony left Miami to become the first head coach at St. Thomas University, an NAIA school in Miami. In her six seasons at St. Thomas, Harmony posted a 131-48 record, leading the Bobcats

to three appearances in the NAIA National Tournament. Last season, Harmony guided St. Thomas to a 27-4 overall record and 14-0 Sun Conference record, earning conference Coach of the Year honors for the second time.

"I'm excited to be at Lamar," Harmony said. "I'm looking forward to the challenge. I am thrilled to be back in Division I." Harmony replaces Larry Tidwell, who left Lamar after six seasons to become the head coach at UT Pan American.

Harmony promises the Lady Cardinals will play an exciting style of basketball. "We're going to come out pressing from the start," she said. "We're going to work hard for all 40 minutes."

Harmony's teams were known for their defense at St. Thomas, as the Bobcats twice ranked second in the nation in scoring defense and twice were in the top five for steals per game, 3-point field-goal percentage defense and turnover margin.

"I know you still have to put the ball in the basket in order to win," Harmony said. "We're going to use our defense to create offense."

Last season, the Lady Cardinals were 22-11 overall, advancing to the second round of the Women's Basketball Invitational. "We have good players returning," Harmony said. "I'm very impressed with the talent level here."



### QUICK HITS

#### He just wanted to match his brother

Joe Wade, the twin brother of former Cardinal standout Tom Wade, has had a fantastic final campaign in the Red and White, earning the Southland's Indoor Track Student-Athlete of the Year award in the process. The graduate student out of Isle of Wight, England, has already earned one master's degree from Lamar, and he's pursuing a second with a 4.0 GPA. At February's Southland Indoor Championships, he earned a second-straight mile title to go along with all-conference honors in both the 3,000 meter run and distance medley relay.

"This is something that I've really wanted to get," a smiling Wade revealed. "My brother got it last year, and he got all the awards, so I was really motivated to try and win it this year. In addition to that, it's also the kind of award that will reflect well on me after I leave Lamar."



Joe Wade

#### All-time strikeout leader

Lamar knew that its pitching staff could be something to remember entering the 2013 season, and the experienced duo of Jonathan Dzedzic and Eric Harrington have left little to question as the season winds down.

Dzedzic, a Boston Red Sox draftee a year ago, claimed the top spot on the school's all-time strikeout list on April 5, helping Lamar knock-off then-first place Southeastern Louisiana on the road. The redshirt-junior southpaw out of Humble has over 300 K's for his career, surpassing the previous mark of 271, which was held by William Delage.

Harrington, brother of former Cardinal hurler Allen Harrington, is on track to finish the 2013 season with nearly 400 innings pitched for his career, besting David Poss' mark of 355.2, which was set from 1984-1987. He also ranks high on the all-time strikeouts list, trailing Dzedzic with 257.



Jonathan Dzedzic



From left, Allison Nathan Getz, Sallye Keith, Mary Jane Garth and Michael Getz

## Artful evening applauds icon

The Cardinal Express made a special stop at le Grand Bal March 23 to honor Beaumont icon Sallye Jones Keith—beloved philanthropist and civic leader—for her myriad contributions to Lamar, the community and the arts.

“We selected our theme because our honoree, Sallye Keith, has a lifelong love of trains,” said Bal chair Allison Nathan Getz. “So, in honor of her and her interests, we decided to do a takeoff of the ‘Orient Express’ idea.”

A recipient of the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Lamar, Keith

has been a force in Southeast Texas for more than half a century. A native of Galesburg, Ill., she came to Beaumont in 1957 to become young adult director of the Young Women’s Christian Association, which she now serves as a board member emeritus.

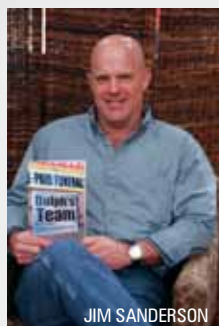
In 1986, she and her late husband, William Carroll Keith Jr., established the Alice Keith Memorial Endowed Fellowship/Scholarship in the College of Fine Arts and Communication, with recipients known as Keith Scholars. An honorary board member of the Friends of the Arts, which hosts le Grand Bal, she is a long-



time supporter of all the arts programs at LU. Lamar Theatre honored her with a star on its Wall of Fame, and le Grand Bal named her its “Sweetheart” in 1997.

“Sallye Keith is one of the most caring and generous people I’ve ever had the pleasure of knowing,” said Russ Schultz, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication. “She cares a great deal about Beaumont, and particularly the people of Beaumont.”

## LITERARY LAMAR



The Texas Institute of Letters honored **Jim Sanderson**, professor and chair in the Department of English and Modern Languages, with the Kay Cattarulla Award for short-story writing. The institute—considered the most prestigious literary organization in Texas—presented the award April 6, at its annual meeting in San Marcos. Sanderson’s award-winning

story, *Bankers*, was published in Descant, the literary journal of Texas Christian University. The award recognizes the best short story written by a Texan or about Texas, Sanderson said.

**Jerry Craven** ’64 was a finalist for *Brenda Without Skin*, which appeared in the Concho River Review at Angelo State University. Craven is editor-in-chief of the Lamar University Press, a literary publisher launched in 2012. The award honors Kay Cattarulla, who started Arts and Letters Live with the Dallas Museum of Arts, which showcases Texas actors reading Texas writers’ stories. Cattarulla previously enlisted Larry Hagman, the late actor of Dallas fame, to read another story by Sanderson, *Ladies Man* . . . **Mary Scheer**, associate profes-



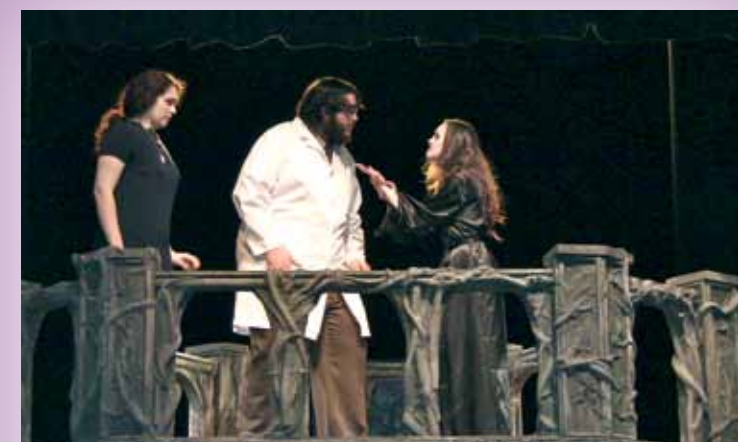
sor and chair in the Department of History, is a recipient of the 2012 Liz Carpenter Award for Research in the History of Women, presented by the Texas State Historical Association. Scheer received the award at the association’s 117th annual

meeting Feb. 28-March 2 in Fort Worth. Scheer was honored as the author of *Women and the Texas Revolution*. **Ralph Wooster**, distinguished professor emeritus of history at Lamar, attended the meeting to chair a session on “Texas Soldiers in World War I.” Scheer’s award honors Liz Carpenter for her commitment to the pursuit of the history of women in Texas and for her lifetime achievements . . . **John Storey**, distinguished professor emeritus of history, published a new book, *Go Tell the Good News*, as part of the 2012 centennial celebration of Central Baptist Church in Port Arthur . . . The Mary and John Gray Library hosted an exhibit showcasing the career of **Dave Oliphant** ’63, author of 28 books and an accomplished poet and scholar. Oliphant spoke at the Feb. 11 opening of the display, titled *South Park and Lamar Nurture Writer: The Education and Writing Career of Dave Oliphant*, which featured a collection of memorabilia. Oliphant’s career included 30 years at the University of Texas as assistant professor, editor of a scholarly journal and coordinator of the freshman seminar program . . . Novelist **Gerald Duff** ’61 visited Lamar April 18 to read from his work and discuss his education and memories of LU. He read from his memoir *Home Truths*, which deals with his days at Lamar. He also discussed recent novels *Blue Sabine* and *Dirty Rice* . . . Historians **William Seale**, a Beaumont native, and **JoAnn Stiles**, a Lamar distinguished professor emerita of history, are contributors to a new book, *Just Between Us: Stories and Memories from the Texas Pines*. Milton Johnson edited the volume.



## Monumental masterpiece

Tractor Fin, a sculpture by Lamar art professor Kurt Dyrhaug, was selected for the 2013 Sculpt EVV Outdoor Sculpture Show and Art and Music Festival in Evansville, Ind. The juried outdoor exhibition celebrates the city of Evansville’s bicentennial (1812-2012), as well as the commitment to an art-filled future. Dyrhaug’s work is described as “a monumental configuration” that could be the rudder and elevator section of a giant’s toy airplane. The sculpture reflects the artist’s exploration of “agricultural and nautical elements from my experience living in Minnesota and Southeast Texas,” Dyrhaug said. “This work evokes form and function from these devices, evoking new associations of meaning.”



## Witches, warfare, murderous ambition, oh my

Tracie VanLaw as the Gentlewoman confers with Michael Underhill as the Scottish Doctor and Natalie Cardona as Lady Macbeth in an updated interpretation of William Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*. The Department of Theatre and Dance presented the classic tragedy Feb. 28-March 3 as the third offering in its “Bard on the Bayou” series. Joel Grothe, instructor of theatre, directed the fast-paced thriller of witches, prophesy, murderous ambition and warfare—a play he describes as “one of the greatest ever written.” The production moved the action to a contemporary setting.

Right: Lady Macbeth (Natalie Cardona) welcomes King Duncan (David Hooker) and the Scottish Lords to the Macbeths’ castle in an updated interpretation of William Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*.



## ARTS NOTES

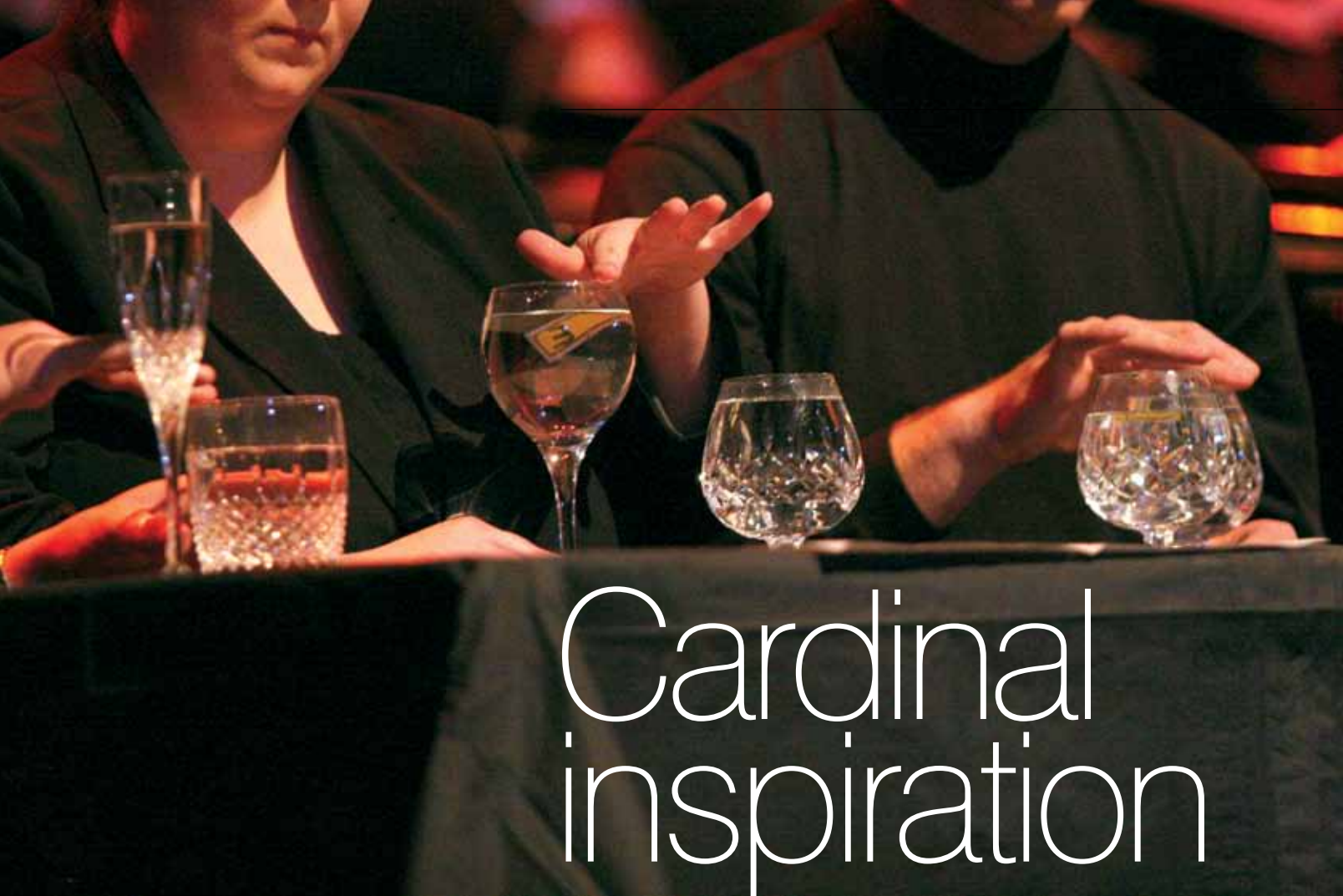
The Lamar Civic Orchestra paid tribute to iconic operatic duo Gilbert and Sullivan in concerts April 16 at Lamar State College-Port Arthur and April 30 at Lamar University. Performances featured selections from *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Mikado* and *H.M.S. Pinafore*. **Kurt Gilman**, chair and associate professor in the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music, conducts the orchestra. Librettist William Gilbert and composer Arthur Sullivan collaborated on 14 operas between 1871 and 1896 . . . The Industrial Carillon, Lamar’s new music ensemble, presented Hindustani music master **Ustad Ghulam Farid Nizami** April 22 in its final concert of



the 2012-13 “Living Composer Series.” A distinguished artist and teacher of sitar, tabla, harmonium and voice, Nizami has toured internationally and performed for three U.S. presidents, Queen Elizabeth and Nelson Mandela. He is a 17th-generation musician, dedicated to preserving and passing on his art through performance and instruction.

**Nick Rissman**, associate professor of music, is Industrial Carillon director . . . The Department of Theatre and Dance closed its 2012-13 season with *An American Sampler: An Evening of Classic One-Act Plays*. The student-directed stagings included William Inge’s *Margaret’s Bed*, directed by **Allison Underhill** of Port Arthur; Tennessee Williams’ *Kingdom of Earth*, directed by **Steven Hoffman** of Elmira, N.Y.; and Susan Glaspell’s *Trifles*, directed by **Sarah Green** of Fort Worth . . . The Dishman Art Museum hosted New York painter **Neil Gehring** for an artist’s talk April 2 as part of opening festivities for an exhibition of Gehring’s recent work. “Brilliant Corners”—featuring bold abstract art—marked Gehring’s first solo museum exhibition.





# Cardinal inspiration

by Louise Wood

**M**usican Joel Love '07 is already acclaimed as a composer, with prestigious commissions, performances and honors to his credit, reflecting an eclectic array of artistic expression. But when he received a commission for a work honoring Wayne Dyess—a friend and mentor—he found the process daunting and uplifting.

“It was an emotional process on many levels,” said Love, whose composition, *A Cardinal's Hymn*, left the *Lamarissimo!* audience in awe at its world premiere March 7. The Lamar Wind Ensemble performed the work in tribute to Lamar's longtime director of jazz studies, who died Feb. 27.

“It was a pleasure and a joy to write it,” said Love, a LaBelle native and Hamshire-Fannett High School graduate and I hope it gave people some catharsis in the wake of Wayne's passing.”

When he began writing the piece, Love said, he came up with a melody that was familiar, simple and strong—and whose defining melodic characteristics reminded him of a famous brass piece by Modest Mussorgsky, *The Great Gate of Kiev*, which he knew Dyess loved.

“After I wrote the opening, my grandfather died, so my life was slightly colored by the sadness of grief, and I couldn't help but imagine a searching soul traveling through the universe. It was my thought at the time that the best way to encapsulate that emotion was to take the main melody and create the subject on an interior fugue, with all its complexity and process.

“Of course, Wayne was always a joy, so the piece had to end with a joyous return of his melody, and the piece closes reverently, meditating on the range of the emotions that took place.”

When Lamar's Gamma Zeta chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi, national honorary band fraternity, commissioned Love to write the work, he said, “I honestly felt humbled by the honor of offering a piece to a man who has deeply influenced innumerable lives, including my own.

“I was overwhelmed by his passing, knowing that a piece I wrote in his honor would be premiered only days later,” Love said. “Because I had such a strong connection to Wayne—being that I played piano in both the Night & Day Orchestra and the Lamar Jazz Band, it was particularly touching to hear the Lamar Wind Ensemble give such a great rendering of the piece.”

“*A Cardinal's Hymn* is spirited, enigmatic, warm and brilliant, all at the same time,” announcer Byron Balentine told the audience. “It also holds a touch of poignancy. Whatever words you can think of to describe Wayne Dyess, you will hear them in this composition.”

Scott Deppe '90, '12, director of bands, conducted the Wind Ensemble in the performance. “It was a real honor to present the world premiere of *A Cardinal's Hymn* in tribute to Dr. Dyess,” Deppe said, adding that it was also a momentous occasion to feature another Love composition, *Aurora Borealis*, which was selected for performance at the 2013 Society of Composers Inc. National Conference in Columbus, Ohio. The Texas A&M University Symphonic Winds recently performed *Aurora Borealis*, which was selected as a finalist in the third international Frank Ticheli Competition, the largest competition for wind ensemble in the world.

Love's music explores an eclectic mix of genres, from short video pieces to works for chamber and large ensembles. It creates colorful landscapes of sound through the use of image, melody and tonality, and seeks to reveal the connection between music and spirituality.

Love began playing music at age 11 and composing at 14. He earned his bachelor of musical composition from Lamar in 2007 and his master of composition from the University of Houston in 2010. He is now completing his doctor of musical arts in composition at the University of Texas.

“My career has been affected by the wide variety of skills I was able to cultivate as a student at Lamar University,” Love said. “I was able to play trumpet in the Wind Ensemble; play piano in the Jazz Band; take piano with world-class teachers (Betsy Hines and Jimmy Simmons); take composition lessons from perhaps the smartest man I've ever met, Nick Rissman;

sing in the A Cappella Choir; work as a sound engineer for the school; and to have my new works read and premiered in all of the above ensembles.

“I would be very surprised if an undergraduate at a much larger institution were able to have the same kind of all-inclusive and rounded experience as I did. I still use the things that were taught to me at Lamar as a foundation for many things that I do.”

Among those premieres was the choir's 2006 performance of *O Nata Lux*, which Love composed for chorus, piano and goblets. “If you run your finger slowly along the rim of a crystal glass or goblet, a high, definite and very ethereal pitch resonates,” Love explained.

Love's Lamar career also included writing the score for a communication department documentary on Hurricane Rita and working as an announcer for KVLU public radio.

Rissman, associate professor of music, recalls: “Every week, in our composition lesson, he would ask me if I had read such and such (Hawking's new book on black holes, Calder's new book on physics, Leonard Feather's new book on Charlie Parker, etc.). Our lessons would run over because we spent so much time talking about books and ideas, as well as composition, and in the process . . . I would rush out and buy the books, just to stay up with him.”

PARMA Recordings, a New England-based audio production house, selected Love's *Synchronicity in Purple Minor* for publication in its 2012 Anthology. *Real Fiction* received a Compositional Excellence Citation from the New York Youth Symphony. Da Camera of Houston presented Love with an Aspiring Artist Award and the commission of *Just One Person*.

Love's works have been performed by The Aura Contemporary Music Ensemble, The Boston New Music Initiative, the Ohio State



Scott Deppe, left, congratulates Joel Love



University Wind Symphony and the University of Texas Wind Symphony. Others have been exhibited at art galleries throughout the United States. His film scores include the documentary *Stitched*, official selection at the 2011 Carmel Art and Film Festival, and a short film, *Kidfellas*, honored as Best Musical Score at Houston's 2011 48-Hour Film Project. Other notable collaborations have featured a citywide public art exhibit with artist Karyn Oliver, *Inbound: Houston*, and a three-month installation by Prince Thomas (associate professor of art at Lamar) *Joy, On Sorrow*, at the Houston Center for Photography, praised by the Houston Chronicle as "a beautiful piece that feels cleansing to watch."

This spring, Love performed his new song cycle, *The Peace of Wild Things*, with soprano Amelia Ciskey at SXSW in Austin, where Capital Public Radio's Nick Broomer, hailed it as a "gorgeous piece

of music, just wafting along into the ether." Love has been commissioned by a duo in Houston, Liminal Space, to write a new chamber work. Violinist Nancy Gaub and violist Ann Rogen, both Julliard alumnae, recently chose to perform *Synchronicity in Purple Minor* at the Roycroft Chamber Music Festival in East Aurora, N.Y. He is writing a one-act opera for his UT dissertation. And, he said, "There are many other things on the cooker."

When Love was a Lamar senior, the first paragraph of a feature article foretold his future: "It happens to all of us. You open your paper and read about someone from small-town U.S.A. who has made a name for himself or herself, earned acclaim and reached the pinnacle of success. Well, heed this: One day, you will read the story of Lamar University student and future hometown hero Joey Love."

## J. Wayne Dyess 1947-2013



J. Wayne Dyess, professor of trombone and director of jazz studies at Lamar, died Feb. 27 at age 65, leaving a legacy spanning the globe and the world of music. Colleagues, former students and friends paid tribute to him as a world-class musician who was an even better human being . . . an influential arranger . . . leader, founder, mentor and friend . . . as an inspirational teacher who made each student feel important . . . as one whose passion for music reached out to his audiences . . . as a great man full of humor and love of mankind.

Dyess had been a member of the Lamar faculty since 1977, when he became assistant director of bands to now-President Jimmy Simmons. "The first thing that distinguished him was his spectacular ability to play the trombone. He was a world-class trombonist," Simmons said. "Moving on, there was his ability to inspire those who worked with him and those he taught. And there's probably not a high school student in the state of Texas and surrounding states who didn't play an arrangement that Wayne wrote. He was a gentle, kind, sincere friend to all."

At a celebration of Dyess' life March 4 at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Nederland, a 20-member Lamar University Trombone Choir and Friends paid him a musical tribute.

Dyess was principal trombonist with the Symphony of Southeast Texas and performed throughout the United States and internationally with groups including Keith Brion's New Sousa Band. He was trombone soloist and section leader of the "World's Finest" U.S. Navy Band. For his jazz concerts, Dyess attracted notable guest artists and paid tribute to musical legends. He performed with world-famous conductors and jazz artists.

"From his humble beginnings in East Texas to his performances with the Navy Band, no performance was ever too grand nor too small for his musical passion to reach the audience," said Scott Deppe '90, '12, Lamar's director of bands. "He inspired and supported all who knew him to try harder, experience more and reach for the sky."

Dyess was the force behind the Night & Day Orchestra, whose members paid tribute to their leader through a concert to benefit the Dr. Wayne Dyess Memorial Scholarship in Music.

To contribute to the Dyess Scholarship or for information about establishing an endowed scholarship, contact the Lamar University Foundation at (409) 880-2117.

## A college love story

It's not unusual for people to meet in college, fall in love, marry, have children and live happily ever after. Although Frederic '60 and Ruth (Findley) Day '75 found each other in college and fell in love, theirs is anything but your typical college love story. Their quest for education brought them together in college, which eventually led to their "happily ever after" and, ultimately, to the establishment of an endowed scholarship for Lamar students.

At a young age, and after nine years of marriage, Ruth (Findley) Evans became a young widow with three children to support. She always wanted to be a teacher, so Ruth set her sights on acquiring a college degree from the University of Texas at Austin to fulfill that dream, as well as to make a living for her young family. Fate, however, dealt her a new hand when she met a dashing young airman, the roommate of a college friend with polio whom she had regularly been driving to school.

"I'll never forget this as long as I live," Fred said while reminiscing about how he and Ruthie met. "I needed to pick up an extra class and asked my buddy for advice. The advice he gave was to talk to his driver, Ruth Evans. So, I called her, and, being an English major, she suggested a literature course. I'd never taken a literature course, but I thought it would be an easy class, so I enrolled.

"The first day of class, just as the professor was introducing the course, the door opened and in walked this little brown-haired gal who sat down in the front row next to me. I quietly slipped her a note that said, 'Hi, I'm Fred.' Not being one for shyness, she immediately blurted out for all to hear, 'Hi, I'm Ruthie.' The professor was less

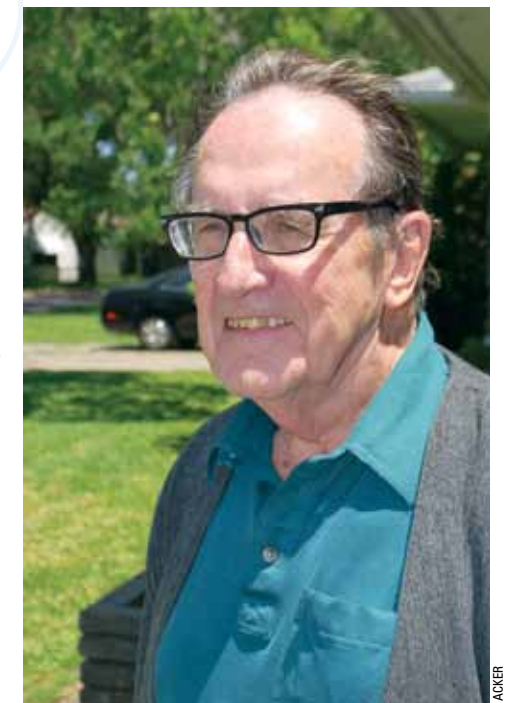
than pleased with us, to say the least. We both made the worst grades of our college careers in that class."

Fred was attending classes at UT while on temporary duty in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He was taking advantage of a degree completion program called Operation Bootstrap. While he was eventually sent back to his base in South Carolina, he stayed in touch with Ruthie through daily letters.

He finally called Ruthie and said, "We have to get married." They tied the knot, but were almost immediately separated by his military obligations. A year went by when he was stationed in New Mexico where he decided it was time to end his military career. By this time, Ruth had completed her bachelor's degree in English and was teaching in Austin. Taking advantage of a job placement program, the new family moved to Port Arthur where she began a teaching career while he went to work as a chemist for Texaco.

"I've always been intrigued by science because, through science, you get to answer the question, 'Why,'" Fred said. "Texaco wouldn't allow me to transfer to the research department without a college degree, so I enrolled at Lamar to complete my degree in chemical engineering."

He spent six years as a chemist while taking college classes at night until he earned his bachelor's degree in 1960. According to Fred, there was no path for professional development as a chemist, but within a month of transferring into the research department he was named a senior chemical engineer. Years later, Ruthie also decided to return to school to acquire her master's degree in English, which she completed in 1975. She



had a 29-year teaching career at Sam Houston Elementary in Port Arthur.

"Ruthie was an extraordinary teacher," Fred said. "She deeply believed in the benefits of an education. She didn't need a master's degree; she just wanted to have one."

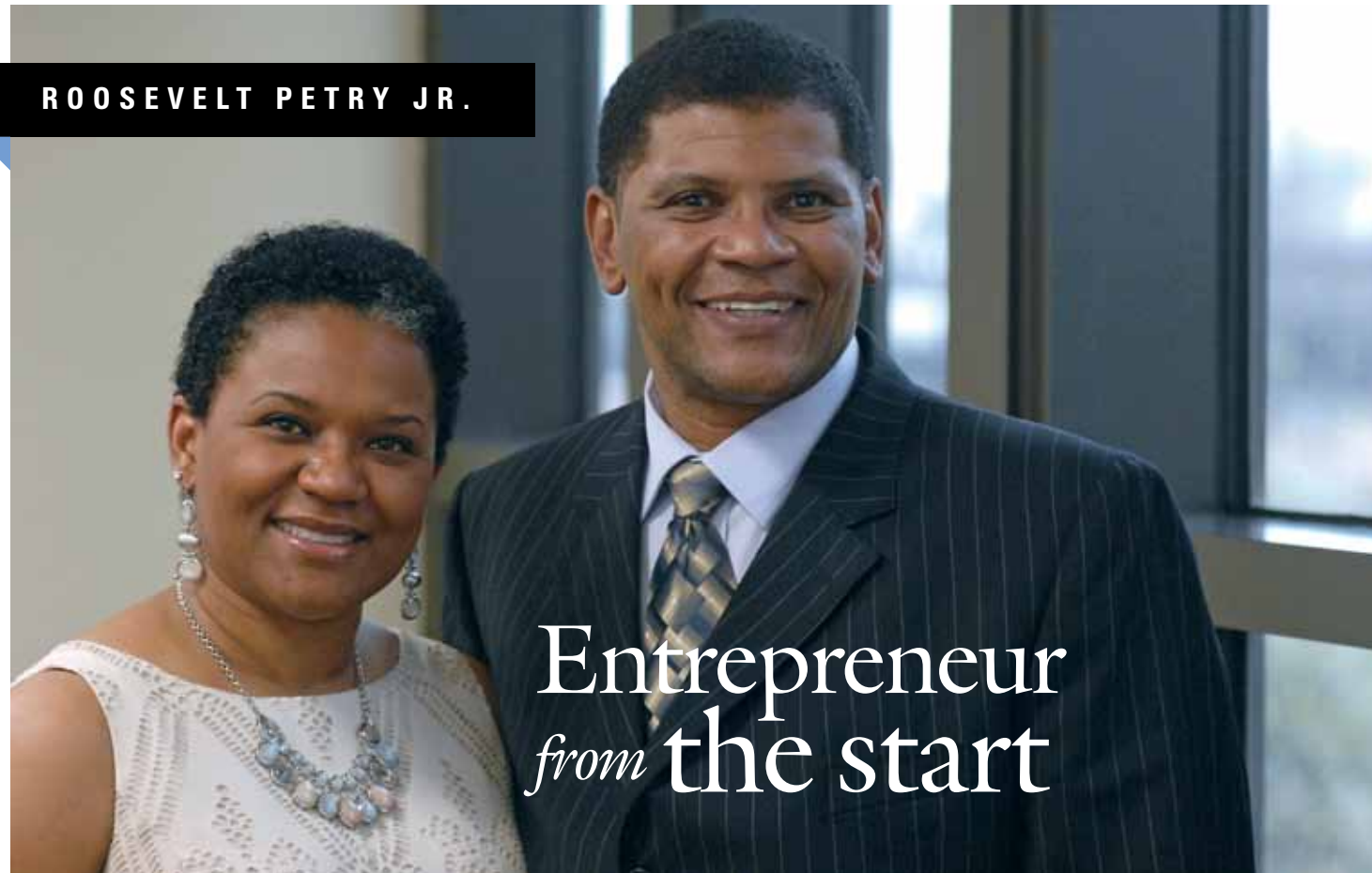
Ruth died in 2007. To honor her memory and dedication to education, Fred established the Ruth E. and Frederic F. Day Scholarship in Sciences. The endowed scholarship was established for Lamar students who plan to major in the sciences: computer science, mathematics, biology, chemistry, earth sciences, physics and geology.

"I wanted to do something good with my assets, and I can't think of a better place to bestow my money than on the students at Lamar," he said. "This country needs scientists, and it just makes me feel good to know this will help."

Fred developed a love for sailing through the years that continues today. He was a sophomore in high school when a teacher invited him on his first sailing trip. Although they spent most of the day drifting and paddling from a lack of wind, he got the sailing bug. Now, even without his first-mate, he still enjoys getting out on the Gulf in his sailboat.

"Sailing is an incurable disease," Fred said with a wide smile. "If you ever catch it, you'll never get over it." —LA





## Entrepreneur *from* the start

by Brian Sattler

**A**s president and CEO of GP Industrial Contractors Inc., Roosevelt Petry Jr. '82, '96, of Port Arthur builds refineries and petrochemical plants. Specializing in piping, steel fabrication, carpentry, janitorial, hole watch/fire watch, warehousing, project management, maintenance and engineering, GP Industrial has served customers in Texas, Louisiana, Oregon and New Mexico, as well as internationally in Canada, India and Belize. Together with his wife, Marlene (Captain) '95, who is senior vice president of the company, Petry has grown the business, become its sole owner and earned a reputation as a force for positive change in the communities of Southeast Texas. "I put my faith in God first because if it hadn't been for him, I wouldn't be doing any of this stuff," Petry said.

Born in Beaumont as the eldest of four children, Petry has had an entrepreneurial bent since childhood. Growing up in nearby Cheek, he and his sister "would find old soda bottles, wash them out and collect the refunds at the grocery store," Petry said.

When he was 9 and his sister 7, the two began a business mowing lawns. "We would cut the grass at the car wash, the neighbor's yards, the convenience store," he said. "It was great because as little kids they'd often give us something to eat or drink, too."

"We were making \$20 a yard, and that was a lot of money back then," Petry said. "So after school, we might cut a couple of yards and on weekends do four or five."

Petry graduated from cutting yards to helping his uncles remodel houses, experience he later parlayed into building houses on his own.

While in high school, Petry developed a new venture—installing peepholes in doors, which later expanded to include installing deadbolt locks and ceiling fans. "I was the kind of kid who would learn how to do something, and then I would get other people to do it for me," he said.

"At one time, I had eight or nine guys installing peepholes. We had tackle boxes with a drill in the bottom, and a tray was full of peepholes to take to apartment complexes in Houston. We'd go knocking on doors and installing peepholes. We easily would make \$400 to \$500 on a weekend."

Petry graduated from Hebert High School in 1980 and earned an associate degree in drafting from Lamar University in 1982. He went to work for Bethlehem Steel, performing piping, mechanical, electrical and structural drafting.

He learned of Marlene through a mutual friend, but the couple first met when he took the initiative and introduced

himself at Howard's Grocery in Port Arthur, where she worked. "Her first words to me were 'you need a haircut,'" Petry said. "I had an Afro at the time. It was working for me, but she thought differently." The couple married in 1987 and made their home in Beaumont.

Soon after they married, Roosevelt built a "snack shack" that Marlene operated, providing hot lunches for students at Port Arthur's Lincoln High School. "We stayed busy, but when they went to a 'closed campus,' that ended," Petry said.

Marlene later decided to pursue a career in nursing and earned an associate's degree in that field from LU in 1995. She went on to obtain a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and a master's degree in nursing education from Regis University. She worked as an intensive care nurse in Stafford and as an education resource specialist at Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston. Today, she is senior vice president of GP Industrial Contractors.

When vinyl siding became popular, Petry was soon working four or five projects at a time, at a price far below the competition, and "still making very good money." He came up with an innovative approach that would enhance the appearance of a one-story home. "From the outside, it would look like it was two-story. It was selling like hotcakes," he said. "People liked that look. We were making \$12,000 to \$15,000 a house, and we did a bunch of houses," he said. In addition, he also worked in an area refinery until an injury there prompted him to return to Lamar, where he earned a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering.

He had his sights set on going to law school, but, four years after graduating from Lamar, he had a conversation with Morris Albright Jr. about the idea of opening up a minority business to help Albright's business, Gulf Copper, secure more work with area refineries and chemical plants. Soon, Albright and Petry joined with Pat (Simmons) Guillory '88 and Joe Deshotel '74 in business.

"You can see that I'm a minority," Petry said. "I don't want to highlight that I'm a

minority. What I want to highlight is that we can get you a competitive price, that we can meet your schedule, that we can get you the quality you're looking for and that we can save you money," Petry said.

"If I got a job because I was a minority, that's a temporary, a short-term relationship. I felt that if I got in because I could save you some money, that I could meet your schedule in a safe way and give you quality work, that's what would build a long-term relationship. That's what has made GP successful," Petry said.

The first partner Petry bought out was Deshotel, followed by Gulf Copper and, eight or nine years ago, Guillory.

Today, GP Industrial Contractors Inc. is headquartered in Port Arthur and has fabrication facilities in Port Arthur, Vidor and Henderson. With more than 76,000 square feet of shop space and 375 employees, the company has done projects for ExxonMobil, Motiva, Enterprise Products, DOW Chemical and many other companies, as well as Houston's Minute Maid Park and Toyota Center. Beaumont residents benefited from GP's work on DeQueen, Fehl-Price and Jones-Clark elementary schools.

"The transition from a strictly domestic company to an international one is a lot of work," Petry said. "Meeting people, building relationships, putting business plans together. I got a lot of help from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and I also took a class on entrepreneurship. One really valuable thing I learned was a strategy to limit risk through business insurance." GP Industrial Contractors has expanded its reach, becoming a global company through projects in Canada, Belize and India.

"Even while you're trying to get your business started, learn to give back," Petry advises. "Don't forget to give back. Make a habit of giving all the time, always sharing. And by that, I don't always mean money; sometimes it's best to give of your time or advice."

Petry takes his own advice to heart. In recent years, he has served as chairman of the Port Arthur Economic Development

Corp., chairman of the Port Arthur Board of Commissioners Housing Authority, vice president of the Construction Board of Construction and Appeals, vice president of the Clean Community Commission, member of the Port Arthur Citizen Advisory Committee,

**During the years, Petry's hard work and community involvement have resulted in numerous honors and awards.**

**Industrial Business of the Year, LSC-PA, 2002**

**Emerging Ten Award, Houston Minority Business Council, 2004**

**Humanitarian Award, Make Ready, Inc., 2004**

**Business of the Year, Port Arthur Economic Development Corp., 2006**

**Businessman of the Year, Score, 2007**

**Humanitarian Award, KSAP 107.1, 2007**

**United States House of Representatives Community Involvement, Congressman Ted Poe, 2007**

**Texas Legislature, Business and Community Service Achievements, 2011**

**President's Award, LSC-PA, 2012**

**Outstanding Texan Award, Texas Legislative Black Caucus, 2013**

**Top 50 Black Professionals and Entrepreneurs, 2013**

National Society of Black Engineers, Ever Ready Lodge No. 506, Port Arthur Rotary Club, and on the board of directors for Junior Achievement and United Way.

Petry recently gave a lecture on campus about what led to his business success. His mother, Cewillow Catherine Richard Petry, attended and has reason to be proud of each of her children. In addition to Petry, all are graduates: Pamela '89 and Mary Yolanda '93 and Eric '95.





# New authority

by Brian Sattler

**A**s civil engineering projects go, the \$5.25 billion expansion of the Panama Canal is far from the largest underway today, but, in terms of impact, the world is taking note. Completion of the project will result in changes in shipping world-wide, creating new opportunities for ports in the U.S. and elsewhere that are preparing to handle the larger post-Panamax class of ships that will be able to use the new locks.

Lamar University alumnus and CEO of the Panama Canal Authority, Jorge Quijano '73, '74, is at the helm of the expansion program.

Considered by many the eighth wonder of the world, the canal cuts through 50 miles of jungle and solid rock, providing a 10-hour shortcut from the Pacific to the Atlantic instead of a two-week passage around South America. The marvel of engineering begun and abandoned by the French, then resumed and completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has been in operation since 1914. Ships are lifted by a series of locks 85 feet to the level of man-made Gatún Lake, then lowered to sea level through a second series of locks. When the canal was opened, it set the standard for ship builders worldwide. In

the decades that passed, a new class of super cargo ships emerged, carrying up to three times the cargo and threatening to relegate the canal to the dustbin of history.

When the U.S. began passing control of the canal to the people of Panama in 1979, a process of restoration of the existing locks and canal began, and the vision of expanding its capacity through a new series of locks to maintain the country's position as a leading player in international commerce was born.

The project will double the Panama Canal's capacity when it begins operation in 2015, allowing more and larger ships to transit. The new locks increase the maximum vessel size from 4,400 TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit used to measure

capacity on the standard 20-foot shipping container) to 14,000 TEU. The project creates a new lane of traffic along the canal by construction of two new lock complexes, one each on the Atlantic and Pacific sides, each with three chambers and three water-saving basins, along with excavation of new access channels, widening and deepening of the navigation channels, and raising the elevation of Gatún Lake's maximum operating level.

Quijano and his wife, Marcia, were in Beaumont in February when he attended meetings of the Civil Engineering Advisory Council and presented a program on the canal expansion to Lamar faculty and students as well as to members of the community, including representatives from the ports of Houston, Beaumont and Port Arthur. During the visit, Quijano received the Texas Industrial Engineering Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his work and dedication to the industrial engineering profession, and was named an Honorary Citizen of Texas by Texas Senate resolution.

During his visit, Quijano highlighted the impact of the Panama Canal expansion on the U.S. Gulf of Mexico ports, focusing on those located in Texas.

"An important number of the vessels of various segments that transit the canal today have as port of origin or destination the U.S. Gulf of Mexico ports. Furthermore, once the Panama Canal expansion is concluded, there

is also a great potential for exports of shale gas from this specific area that could use our waterway to markets in the Pacific," Quijano said.

A native of Panama City, Republic of Panama, Quijano did not find English challenging when he came to Lamar in 1971. His father served in the con-

sular corps for Panama, so Jorge had attended English-speaking schools in Japan and Malaysia where he graduated high school.

Choosing Lamar was partly a question of finances, Quijano said. "My father wanted to send me to the States and said, 'This is your budget.'" So, I had to look for a college supported by the state," he said. He applied to and was accepted by Texas Tech, UT-Arlington and UTEI Paso, but it was the curriculum that attracted him to Lamar.

"College was the experience of leaving home and being on your own on a tight budget," he said. Given one check to cover the entire semester, he knew he would have to make it stretch until time to fly home. That meant living frugally—lots of window shopping and traveling by bus rather than his '65 GTO (at the height of the Arab oil embargo) to visit his girlfriend and future wife in Denton, where she was attending Texas Woman's University.

He first considered majoring in electrical engineering, but several of his cousins who were civil engineers thought opportunities would be better for him in Panama if he earned an industrial engineering degree.

"Industrial engineering requires learning a lot about all the other disciplines," Quijano said. "At Lamar, we had great hands-on teachers that came out of industry. And I had the opportunity to work a little bit in the industry that helped me put all the





things together, the academics with the actual work in the field.” Quijano worked part time for Rucker-Shaffer on blowout preventers in a student assistant job his department chair helped arrange.

His cousin’s advice proved sound. Within 15 days of graduating from Lamar, Quijano had two job interviews and was soon working at the Texaco refinery in Panama. That first job exposed him to many aspects of chemical and process engineering. He also served as the plant’s cargo manager, scheduling just-in-time pickup of excess product that was shipped to the U.S.

He started his career with the Panama Canal in 1975, holding positions of increasing responsibility in the organization, and, in 1999, he became director of maritime operations, the largest department at the canal, the leading interoceanic waterway that serves worldwide maritime commerce.

In 2006, he was designated to manage the Panama Canal’s \$5.25 billion expansion program and was appointed executive vice president of the Engineering and Programs Management Department in 2007. In September 2012, he was named CEO of the Panama Canal Authority.

The increase in the size of the new locks over the old was limited not only by the considerable cost of construction but also by the availability of water. Because fresh water that accumulates in Gatún Lake in central Panama is used to move the ships through the locks, it limits the ultimate number of transits that can be made. Thanks to an ingenious water-saving design, the new, larger locks use a third less water per transit than the old locks. The existing locks will continue to operate alongside the new locks.

“You can manage machines rather well, do linear programming very well and all you need is one guy to make a mess of things,” Quijano said. “So as soon as you become a supervisor of more than three people, you have to invest in updating yourself with the managing of human resources.” He is a graduate of executive management courses at the Federal Executive Institute,



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Charlottesville, Va., and Northwestern University, Chicago, Ill.

Working with thousands of professionals of 36 nationalities and many unions requires thoughtful leadership. “It takes time to build a relationship of trust and construct over that a win-win situation,” Quijano said. “If there’s not trust, you don’t get anywhere. That’s something you don’t get from engineering school.”

Jorge and Marcia’s son earned a degree in Wales and has been practicing maritime law in Panama for more than a decade. Their daughter also works in Panama.

Marcia earned a degree in physical therapy and biology and began working in Panama in bio-tech but later changed career paths, earning an MBA and then a master’s degree in human resources. “The opportunity to help people really enthused me,” Marcia said of her work helping the more than 10,000 employees of the Canal Authority during her 36-year career. She resigned from her position the day before Jorge’s appointment as CEO, and the couple now makes their home in a newly refurbished 1906 plantation home that was the governor’s home overseeing the Culebra Cut through the Continental Divide. The location includes gardens that Marcia looks forward to bringing to life and is a three-minute walk from Jorge’s office.

Completion of the canal expansion has huge implications for Panama’s 3.5 million people, but the transit of cargo is only part of the picture. Panama’s ports on both sides of the country are expanding operations as part of continued growth of the country’s logistics centers, or “Hub of the Americas as we want to call it,” Quijano said. Increasingly, Panama’s ports are used for distribution of cargo from Asia throughout North and South America.

The challenges are tremendous, but the rewards make the effort worthwhile. “I have enjoyed every minute, if not second, of it,” Quijano said of his nearly four decades with the Panama Canal. When the new super cargo ships begin to transit the Isthmus of Panama in 2015, the nation will ensure its place as a leading player in international commerce with the capacity to change the very way we do business around the world for decades to come.

# Keeping everything in balance

At first glance, it’s difficult to imagine that a majorette, drill team sponsor, English teacher, accomplished pianist and a member of multiple local choirs could also be a tough toxic tort and product liability litigator successfully defending international corporations in mass tort litigation. As incongruous as it may seem, that’s exactly the path Sandra (French) Clark ’76 has taken in her career. For her, it’s a matter of keeping balance in her professional and private life.

Although she always wanted to become a lawyer, that wasn’t the first rung on her career ladder. Born and raised in Trinidad, a small East Texas town near Athens, she spent a year at Henderson County Junior College before transferring to Texas Tech, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in English. She is a big advocate for community colleges for their ability to prepare students to attend a four-year institution, especially when they come from smaller communities.

Upon graduating, she accepted a position as an English teacher at Port Neches-Groves High School, where she also served as faculty sponsor for the Indianettes drill team. During her tenure at PN-G, she enrolled in the graduate program at Lamar and earned a Master of Arts degree in English. Attending a year of night classes and two summer sessions, she earned her degree with a 4.0 grade-point average. On a late-night bus trip returning from the football state championship game while chaperoning her share of the 90 or so girls on the drill team, she decided that if she could handle this, she could definitely handle law school.

Clark joined the Beaumont law firm MehaffyWeber in 1980 immediately after graduating from the University of Houston Law Center and has become a leading product liability and toxic tort attorney. She has tried many complex cases and was one of two MehaffyWeber attorneys recognized by the National Law Journal in 2001 for obtaining one of the top 10 defense verdicts in the country that year. Recognized in “Best Lawyers in America” from 2001–2012, Clark was named “Beaumont’s Best Lawyers Product Liability Litigation – Defendant’s Lawyer of the Year” in 2011, an honor bestowed upon only one attorney each year. She is a “Texas Super Lawyer”, “Top 50 Female Super Lawyers in Texas”, named a “Top Lawyer in Houston”, as well as many other “Super Lawyer” designations and awards. She has also served on several prestigious bar committees.



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“Every single contact you make can be the one that gets your foot in the door,” Clark advises young graduates looking for that first job. Recalling her own experience of getting a coveted interview with MehaffyWeber as a summer associate on the recommendation of a law instructor, Clark said, “Sending out tons of resumes in a tough job market isn’t always the most productive way to become employed.”

Ten years of piano lessons, at her mother’s insistence—or assistance, as she corrects herself—led her to play for their hometown church while growing up and, later, for the choir while attending junior college. Playing fueled her love of the fine arts. Clark has funded an endowed scholarship at Lamar in choral music and serves on the College of Fine Arts and Communication Advisory Council. She is a member of the Lamar University Foundation board of trustees and co-chaired the fine arts fundraiser le Grand Bal in 2012. She loves to sing and performs with her church choir at Trinity United Methodist, as well as the Interfaith Choral Society and the Beaumont Symphony Chorus.

“Through these choirs, I met several Lamar choral students and was so impressed with their talent and commitment that I wanted to establish an endowed scholarship for choral music,” Clark said. “I recently attended the annual Scholarship Dinner and it was great to see so many people who are supporting so many students.”

In her spare time, Clark loves to work in her yard, being a self-professed “crazy woman” when it comes to yard work. Hurricanes Rita and Ike wreaked havoc on her beautiful yard, and she is just now getting it back to the show quality she demands. She has one daughter, who is also an attorney, living in Chicago with her husband, who is a writer for the national satire publication *The Onion*. —LA





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House's family moved to the Lamar University campus when her father, Dr. F.L. McDonald, became president the year Lamar became a four-year college. Her parents walked the campus together every night.

House said her sister, Colleen (McDonald) Marks '56 and Colleen's husband, Bobby K. Marks '56, both alumni, plan to buy Lamar bricks for themselves as well, and she's buying one for her daughter, Laurie (House) Ritchel '85.

"A lot of people can't give a lot of money to the university," House said. "But a lot of people can give a little bit that adds up and makes a big difference."

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