

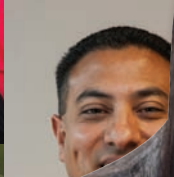
A P U B L I C A T I O N O F L A M A R U N I V E R S I T Y

CADENCE

CARDINAL

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM™

VOL. 42, NO. 2 DECEMBER 2014





24
40 under 40
Transforming degrees to careers



- 4 **President's Letter**
- 10 **Rudy Williams' generosity preserved through student accomplishment and building naming**
- 12 **Jack '58 and Linda Gill gift encourages and supports entrepreneurship**
- 18 **Donors gather to commemorate inaugural President's Circle**



64

6
Breaking ground
Wayne A. Reaud Administration Building and Reaud Honors College



10



82

- 49 **Dan Hallmark '65 becomes Hall of Famer**
- 60 **Jon Huntsman Sr. shares story as Fisher Lecturer**
- 61 **Student- and alumnus-designed app makes secure saving a snap**
- 62 **Beck Fellows: Kahler and Townley-Smith seek and find ways to excel**
- 64 **Study abroad retrospective: Porter in London**
- 66 **2015 Distinguished Alumni announced**
- 82 **Students flock to thank a donor**



- 14 **Dream Makers**
- 20 **Cardinal Views**
- 50 **News around campus**
- 68 **Class Notes**
- 84 **Annual Giving: Your gift helps students. Send it today.**

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President Ken Evans and First Lady Nancy Evans hosted the inaugural President’s Circle Dinner on Oct. 10 in the University Reception Center on the eighth floor of the Mary and John Gray Library. The event honored founding members of the President’s Circle, a recognition society of supporters promoting excellence, facilitating growth and developing distinction in the educational experience at Lamar University.



As the semester comes to a close and we look forward to the coming year, it is important to pause and remember the events of 2014 and celebrate the support we receive from our wonderful Lamar University family.

It was an exciting day when we broke ground on the new Wayne A. Reaud Administration Building that also will be home to the Reaud Honors College. This magnificent building is the result of exceptionally generous gifts from Distinguished Alumnus Wayne Reaud ’71 and Jon Huntsman. Earlier, we welcomed Mr. Huntsman to campus as our Judge Joe J. Fisher Distinguished Lecturer and learned of his inspirational life and career.

You can read about another Southeast Texas icon, the late Rudy Williams, father of former LU First Lady Susan (Williams) Simmons ’68, in this issue of *Cardinal Cadence*. One of the buildings at the John Gray Center is named in his honor as a long-time supporter of education and Lamar University.

We celebrated a generous gift this fall from LU Distinguished Alumnus and entrepreneur Jack Gill ’58 and his wife, Linda. Their support will fund the Gill Chair in Engineering and programs of the Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship.

In the inaugural gathering of the Lamar University President’s Circle, we honored and recognized a number of individuals whose commitment to the success of our students is exemplary. These leaders in philanthropy are making so many important differences to the university and its future.

In this issue, we also highlight 40 young alumni who, while early in their careers, are doing great things to help their communities. This sample of talent and determination represented by our young alumni is truly inspirational.

As one of Lamar University’s prestigious scholarships, the David J. Beck Fellows program continues to provide unparalleled opportunities for LU students. In this issue, you can read about the summer experiences of our 2014 Beck Fellows.

Our Study Abroad program enriches the student experience in unique and lasting ways. We are putting new emphasis on this program and have welcomed our first full-time director. We anticipate finding new ways to build our offerings. In this issue, we have included the story of one student’s curriculum experience in London, arranged with the help of our Office of Study Abroad.

We also celebrate in these pages the lives and work of Distinguished Alumni David Bernsen ’73, Sandra Clark ’76, George Dishman ’49 and Roosevelt Petry ’82, ’96, as well as the newest member of the College of Business Hall of Fame, career banker and long-time LU supporter, Dan Hallmark ’65.

Lastly, this semester our students gathered to express their appreciation of Lamar University’s donors at the “Thank a Donor Day.” As always, we thank you for your continued support of our students and your university. Your support is a difference that changes lives forever.

Kenneth R. Evans
Kenneth Evans, President



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★

REAUD,
HUNTSMAN
GIFTS
CREATE NEW
ADMINISTRATION
BUILDING,
HONORS COLLEGE

by Brian Sattler

Lamar University and Texas State University System officials broke ground this fall on a new administration building. The project that officials are calling “transformational” is made possible by gifts that also allow the university to upgrade its long-standing honors program into the Reaud Honors College.



From left, President Emeritus James Simmons, TSUS Regent David Montagne, Jon Huntsman Sr., Wayne Reaud, Jon Reaud, LU President Ken Evans.

The gift from Wayne Reaud '71 and an additional gift from Jon Huntsman Sr. are "real game-changers for Lamar University," said LU President Ken Evans. "This is the very definition of a transformational gift."

Joining in breaking ground were Reaud, Evans, Huntsman, Jon Huntsman, TSUS Regent David Montagne and LU President Emeritus James Simmons.

The Wayne A. Reaud Building will become a part of a new gateway to campus on the corner of Jim Gilligan Way and Rolfe Christopher Drive.

"Today, universities find themselves in competition for students, especially the best and the brightest," Reaud said. "I believe this facility, coupled with our honors college, will make us much more competitive than we've ever been before. It will give us the opportunity to really grow and take Lamar to another level."

"Lamar really gave me an opportunity

that a poor kid like me would not have had. Without it being here, I may not have gone to college," said Reaud, who received a bachelor's degree in political science from Lamar in 1971. "I am very thankful and appreciative of Lamar."

"For many, many years, we were the largest employer in Southeast Texas in the chemical business and virtually all of our supervisors and senior management had done work at Lamar," said Jon Huntsman Sr. during a visit to campus earlier. "It really has been a tremendous university for helping to train people going into energy-related fields. When our board saw what we were doing, it was logical that we would participate in something like this in honor of Wayne but also of Lamar and our great association through the years. It's a great honor for our company and our family."

"If you took a poll of our board of directors and our family, there isn't a man that we admire more," Huntsman said of Reaud. "He's

part of the family and also one the great legal minds in America. We've won two of the three largest out-of-court settlements in America thanks to Wayne Reaud."

As one of the most successful trial lawyers in the U.S., Reaud is renowned for his litigation work in asbestos and tobacco cases and for his representation of major national corporations. Reaud's visionary approach to bridging the "digital divide" led to the landmark settlement in the Shaw v. Toshiba America Information Systems Inc. case through which \$400 million was directed to the Beaumont Foundation of America.

He is a life fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, fellow of the International Society of Barristers, past president of the Southeast Texas Trial Lawyers Association, Jefferson County Bar Association and of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association.

“

Lamar really gave me an opportunity that a poor kid like me would not have had. Without it being here, I may not have gone to college.”

—WAYNE REAUD '71



The Wayne A. Reaud Building

The new three-story building will be a state-of-the-art facility for university administration offices as well as Information Technology, Human Resources and other administrative functions. The ground floor of the building will be home for the university's growing honors college that celebrated its 50th anniversary last year.

The building will become the cornerstone of the redefined formal campus entrance, a new gateway to the Lamar University campus. The presence of many essential and central campus activities in the Reaud Building will create a sense of arrival for visitors to campus and will serve as the catalyst to connect the campus with the community.

The project will encompass approximately 45,000 square feet. Page Southerland Page is architect for the project and SpawGlass will serve as construction manager.

The new building will be on the site of the former Brooks-Shivers dormitory that was demolished earlier this year. The university had previously named its dining facility the Brooks-Shivers Dining Hall to retain the names of former U.S. Congressman Jack Brooks and former Texas Governor Allan Shivers on the campus.

Reaud Honors College

Establishing the Reaud Honors College at Lamar University will provide a clear indication to high-ability students of our commitment to provide them with the highest-quality education, well suited to their needs, capabilities and aspirations, said Steve Doblin, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

"I believe that the honors college is going to be a wonderful addition to Lamar," Reaud said. "It is my dream, my hope, my desire, that students who pass through this institution will not just be educated but



will be challenged to change the face of the age."

Founded in 1963 with just a handful of students, the program has grown to be one of the most vibrant and attractive programs on campus with enrollment of around 300 students, said Doblin.

With this gift, the Reaud Honors College will become the ninth honors college in Texas, joining those at Baylor University, Texas State, Texas Tech, the University of Houston, Prairie View A&M, the University of North Texas, the University of Texas at Arlington and the University of Texas at San Antonio.

"The additional development of Lamar University honors education through this generous gift by Mr. Reaud will serve to enhance student success and leadership development," Doblin said. In a typical year, more than half of the university's honors graduates continue their education in graduate or professional school, he said.

Reaud's philanthropy has benefited hundreds of organizations across the nation. His commitment to education is reflected in scholarship programs he has established in higher education throughout Texas, including many at Lamar University, said Juan Zabala, vice president for university advancement.

The recent gift is a continuation of Reaud's strong support for Lamar University, including the Gena and Albert E. Reaud Scholarship valued at \$1.6 million and the Reaud Scholars Program. It also encompasses the \$1.6 million Southeast Texas Legends Endowed Scholarships that honor Major T. Bell, Jack Brooks, Don Burgess, Dr. Joe Dickerson, Everett Lord, Gilbert I. "Buddy" Low, George McLaughlin, Hubert Oxford III, Carl Parker Jr., James M. Simmons, Ward Stephenson, Joe H. Tonahill, John G. Tucker, Walter Umphrey and Bob Wortham.

Rudy C. Williams Building named at John Gray Center

Officials, family and friends gathered Aug. 26 to formally dedicate the Rudy C. Williams Building at the John Gray Center complex to honor Williams for his contributions to higher education at Lamar University. Williams, 92, died Oct. 10 after a brief illness.

"It is most fitting that the building be named in his honor," said Ken Evans, president of the university, at the event attended by a large number of family and friends. "Generations of Lamar University students and faculty will benefit from his generosity. Now his name will forever be alongside those of several great leaders in Lamar's history—John Gray, Herman Iles, Elvis Mason and Richard Price."

Williams established the Jean and Rudy Williams Academic Enhancement

Fund at Lamar University to provide scholarships and academic enhancement funds for faculty and students. Three quarters of the money generated by the gift will be distributed as scholarships to help the university recruit and retain students of the highest quality, and the remainder will be used at the discretion of the president for university academic enhancement.

The gift was made in memory of Williams' late wife, Jean, who died in 2005. Rudy and Jean were the parents of Distinguished Alumna Susan (Williams) Simmons '68, wife of LU President Emeritus James Simmons. Rudy married Helen Hatchell Freeman in 2006.

"Education was very important to my dad," Susan Simmons said. "Although he didn't have a formal education, he felt that it was very important for his children to go to college."

Williams followed through on that conviction through the years by providing educational opportunities for many other young people, Simmons said.

The Rudy C. Williams Building was formerly Building B. The other major building in the John Gray Center complex was named for Herman Iles in September 2013. "Dad and Herman Iles were very good friends," Simmons said. "In fact, Dad took Herman hunting shortly before he died." Inside the Rudy Williams Building is a tribute to another of Williams' friends, Elvis Mason, for whom a conference room is named.

"This is a legacy for my children and grandchildren, and it means a tremendous amount to me personally," Simmons said, "because Lamar University is where I earned my degree and Lamar has been so much a part of our lives through the years."

by Brian Sattler

"I hope people will recognize how much Rudy did for others throughout his life," Simmons said. "He was a humble man whose legacy will now be a part of Lamar in perpetuity."

Born at home on Aug. 27, 1922, in Milam, Texas, to Vessie and Lily Williams, Rudy was the youngest of four children. He recalled that his family, living on the farm, did not have electricity, running water or indoor plumbing until the early 1940s. The Deep East Texas Electric Cooperative first brought electricity to Sabine County in 1938.

Williams attended Geneva Grammar School in Geneva, Texas, and graduated from Hemphill High School in 1940. He lettered in basketball and made spending money raising and selling tomatoes. At 15, he worked at a tomato shed in Hemphill.

After graduating high school, his sister Carra Cates convinced their father that Rudy should not stay on the farm. He took \$35 that their father had given him for a car and rented a room in Beaumont where he attended Chenier's Business School. While attending classes, Williams worked every day at the San Jacinto Drug Store as a short order cook, sold shoes at Rosenthal's Department Store and worked at Tyrell Hardware on the weekends doing odd jobs.

In 1941, his first "real" job was with Atlantic-Gulf and Pacific Dredging Co. First, he worked as a payroll clerk for this company that dredged up and down the Intercoastal Canal from Mobile Bay to Corpus Christi. He learned as many skills aboard the barge as he could, and by 1942 the company classified him as a civil engineer. In 1944, he was employed as an assistant purchasing agent for the Lummus Co. in Port Neches, Texas. Then he went to work for the Defense Plant Corp. (a part of the U.S. Government). This corporation coordinated materials to build chemical plants and refineries in the Port Neches, Port Arthur and Beaumont areas. In December 1944, he married Jean Hilliard, and they had three children: Susan, Reed and Richard.

In 1945, Roy Manes and Williams started Gulf Supply Co. From 1944-1970, he and his family lived in Beaumont, where he was a charter and active member of Trinity United Methodist Church. In 1950, he served on

the building committee for the church, and he helped to organize the fundraising committee for the television broadcasting system at the church.

In 1951, Williams became executive vice president of Gulf Supply. In 1967, he became president and CEO of the company, which became a nationally known industrial distributor of piping and related materials. Later that year, Williams, John Duncan and others bought Roy Manes's interest in Gulf Supply, and Gulf Supply became Gulf Consolidated Services. Williams became president and CEO of that company also. In 1970, Williams and his partners moved the company to Houston. His company bought/merged with several companies, and eventually, as CEO of Gulf Consolidated Services, he operated 21 divisions throughout the world and employed 1,600 people. Also, in 1970, Rudy and Jean built a lake house in Livingston, Texas, which became their weekend place.

In 1977, Williams and his partners sold Gulf Consolidated Services to the Mead Corp. From 1977-1985, he served as consultant for the Mead Corp. In 1985, he started another company, Oil Company Specialties, and then sold this company to John Mecom in 1988. That year, Williams retired, and he and Jean bought a house in Beaumont where they lived part time and part time at the lake. While living in Livingston, he was very active in community affairs. He helped organize the fundraising drive to build a new facility for Livingston's First United Methodist Church. He also served on the board and the building committee for the county hospital. In 1999, Jean and Rudy returned to Beaumont to live. Jean died in 2005, and Rudy married Helen Hatchell Freeman the following year.

An avid sportsman and "farmer," Williams enjoyed fishing, hunting, golfing, working in his yard, managing his investments and talking about his travels. He especially enjoyed his visits to the Middle East: Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran. In his later years, Williams still enjoyed watching basketball and golf and telling "tall tales." His favorite saying was "Life is good."

“He was a humble man whose legacy will now be a part of Lamar in perpetuity.”

—SUSAN (WILLIAMS) SIMMONS '68





Gill's million-dollar gift supports LU's entrepreneurial enterprise

by Brian Sattler

SATTLER

“I am very excited by the steps taken at Lamar and remain an avid supporter of the CICE.”

—JACK GILL '58

The Gill Foundation of Texas, founded by Jack '58 and Linda Gill, has given \$1 million to support innovation-based entrepreneurship programs at Lamar University. Jack Gill, who is 1989 LU Distinguished Alumnus and holds a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Indiana University, was on campus recently to announce the gift.

Half of the gift will add support to the Jack M. Gill Endowed Chair in the College of Engineering and half will support LU's Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship (CICE).

A successful technology entrepreneur, venture capitalist, educator and philanthropist, Gill said, “This contribution from Linda and me is a vote of confidence in the capacity of universities to accelerate entrepreneurship in society. Entrepreneurship drives the economy and brings advances in science, engineering and medicine to market so everyone can benefit.”

The gift will enhance the capacity and reach of the CICE to foster innovation at Lamar University and technology entrepreneurship across the region, said Center Director Paul Latiolais. Part of the donation will be used to create student internships and cross-disciplinary teams to support new ventures in a “learning lab” environment in the new Business Accelerator scheduled for completion in early 2016, added Latiolais.

The donation will help accelerate student learning, encourage innovation among faculty and students, and support fast-growing economic sectors through technology development and entrepreneurship, he said. The funds will help meet the growing needs of the CICE, and help develop new entrepreneurial programs, student internships and technology-to-business teams.

“I am very excited by the steps taken at Lamar and remain an avid supporter of the CICE,” Gill said.

The gift also adds support to the Gill Chair in the College of Engineering held by David Cocke, an active researcher and professor in the Dan F. Smith Department of Chemical Engineering. Cocke is an expert in environmental and surface chemistry and catalysis, advanced materials and biomedical research. He is a member of the American Chemical Society, Electrochemical Society, Society of Applied Spectroscopy, National Association of Corrosion Engineers, Materials Research Society and American Institute of Chemical Engineers.



President Ken Evans, left, and Jack Gill

► Jack M. Gill

Jack Gill is the founder and managing partner (retired) of Vanguard Ventures in Palo Alto, Calif.. During his career, Gill has earned distinction and honors as a scientist, senior executive, entrepreneur, venture capitalist, university professor and philanthropist.

Gill has more than four decades of experience working in Silicon Valley and Boston as a company founder and venture capitalist. Gill has founded and financed start-up companies in the instrumentation, computer, communications and medical industries. Vanguard Venture's first five funds invested \$155 million in 107 start-ups and generated more than a \$1 billion return to investors.

In 1998, Jack and Linda established The Gill Foundation of Texas. In 2000, he joined the faculties of Harvard Medical School and MIT and served as senior advisor to the Center for the Integration of Medicine and Innovative Technology. Since 2007, he has been professor of the practice of entrepreneurship at Rice University. He has taught scientific, medical and entrepreneurship courses at 12 major universities. He is now working on converting his experience and the course materials into several books.

Gill is a past president of the LU Foundation and member of Lamar University's College of Engineering Advisory Council. Jack and Linda Gill support students in many ways, including recently sponsoring LU MBA students' participation in the Ignite! Entrepreneurship Conference at UC-Davis. The Gills are members of Lamar's Legacy Society in recognition of their support to the university. In 1999, he received the prestigious Horatio Alger Award for Distinguished Americans.

DreamMakers

We express our deep gratitude to the alumni and friends of Lamar University, known to us as Dream Makers, 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 LU's history. To learn more about how you can begin your own giving plan, we invite you to visit lamar.edu/development. In this issue of *Cardinal Cadence*, we are honored to acknowledge our Dream Makers.

The **Sierra Leigh-Anne Phillips Scholarship in Journalism** is an endowed scholarship created in memory of Sierra Phillips, a young lady who had a passion and gift for writing. The scholarship has been established for students in the College of Fine Arts and Communication. Through this scholarship, her family wishes to honor her memory and pass on her legacy with those who share the same love for writing.

Willa Nelson Ross established the **Willa Nelson Ross and Ruby Nelson Shirutis Scholarship in Civil Engineering** to honor her sister, Ruby Nelson Shirutis, and encourage students studying civil engineering. Ross, along with her husband, Charles, has dedicated much of her life to education, teaching in colleges and elementary schools.

James Mellard '60 and his wife, Sue (Gilbert) -58, have established the **James M. and Sue Gilbert Mellard Endowment in the College of Arts and Sciences**. This endowment will support *PULSE* magazine, a literary

magazine sponsored by the Department of English and Modern Languages. It contains poetry and prose by students from a variety of disciplines on campus and celebrated its 60th edition in 2014. James and Sue were instrumental in the birth of *PULSE* magazine as students.

The **Ed Hughes Memorial Regents Scholarship** is an endowed scholarship open to students from Nederland and established in memory of Ed Hughes, a longtime Nederland resident and entrepreneur. Hughes was the first recipient of the Mr. Nederland award and a loyal booster of Lamar University and all its programs. He especially enjoyed cheering for the Cardinal basketball teams. A founding partner of the Market Basket grocery chain, Hughes was gratified that many young people used their Hughes Market Basket income to help meet college expenses.

Members of the Night and Day Orchestra established the **Dr. Wayne Dyess Memorial Scholarship in Music**. Friends and colleagues funded

the endowment in honor of Dyess, who founded the ensemble orchestra and led the group for many years. The scholarship will benefit students in the College of Fine Arts and Communication. Dyess was director of jazz studies, professor of trombone and assistant director of bands at LU. He was also the principal trombonist with the Symphony of Southeast Texas.

George Hirasaki '63 has endowed the **George J. Hirasaki Scholarship in Chemical Engineering**. Hirasaki earned his undergraduate degree in chemical engineering from LU and his doctorate from Rice University. He worked for Shell Development and Shell Oil Co. for 26 years before joining the Rice University faculty in 1993. He holds the title of A.J. Hartsook Professor Emeritus of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering.

The **TIEP at Lamar Scholarship** is an annually funded scholarship for the benefit of any Lamar University student earning a certificate in this program. TIEP, the Texas Intensive English Program, provides English as

a Second Language instruction to international students from around the globe. In 2011, the Texas International Education Consortium, an independent, self-funded, non-profit corporation opened a branch campus of TIEP at Lamar University.

The Gammill family established the **Michael Jay Gammill Presidential Scholarship in Business** to benefit students striving for an education in business. A lifelong resident of Beaumont, Gammill '69 graduated from Lamar University with a marketing degree. He co-founded Associated Tool Specialties Co. in 1976 and Gammill Pneumatics in 2005. His wife and three daughters established the scholarship in his memory because Mike often worked several jobs to maintain his studies while attending Lamar.

Ynhi Doquang Nguyen endowed the **Dr. Hai H. Nguyen Memorial Scholarship in Chemical Engineering** in memory of her late husband. Hai Nguyen was the first recipient of the doctor of engineering degree conferred at Lamar University in 1975. Through this scholarship, Ynhi Nguyen wishes to encourage worthy students to pursue a course of study in chemical engineering.

Jackie (Dezelle) '58, '60, and Raymon Bean -60 established the **Amie Lynn Bean Memorial Scholarship** in memory of their daughter Amie, who lost her battle with leukemia in 1991. The Beans attended Lamar University between 1956 and 1960. Amie was a senior specializing in health care at Texas A&M when she received her

diagnosis. The Beans hope this endowed scholarship in the College of Arts and Sciences will pave the way for caring and dedicated nursing students to achieve their goals of serving others and helping those in need.

Srini Chittaluru '90 endowed the **Srini Chittaluru Graduate Research Scholarship in Engineering** because he received a scholarship while earning a master's degree in engineering at Lamar University. The scholarship helped him pay tuition and living expenses, which assisted him in successfully earning the master of engineering degree that, in his words, "has transformed his career."

Pat '71 and Melody (O'Reilly) Parsons '71 endowed the **Pat and Melody Parsons Innovation Fund in Business** to support teaching, research, service and professional development activities in the College of Business. Pat is a 30-year veteran of the banking industry and one of the driving forces behind the founding of what is now one of the largest locally owned financial institutions in the region, CommunityBank of Texas.

Diane (Keating) Woodcox -62, who studied English between 1960 and 1962, endowed the **Diane Keating Woodcox Scholarship in English and Modern Languages** within the College of Arts and Sciences. Her generosity follows a family tradition of supporting Lamar University with endowments she created through a family foundation. She has honored her brothers Thomas '67 and Calvin Keating '73 with endowed memorial scholarships supporting industrial

engineering and business, respectively.

Karen (Brownlee) '67 and Glenn Smith '67 endowed the **Juanita Brownlee Memorial Scholarship for Mathematics Teachers** in memory of Karen's mother, Juanita, to honor her many years as a math teacher. The scholarship was established in the College of Arts and Sciences. Brownlee '63, '73, earned a bachelor's degree in home economics and a master's degree in education. She authored the textbook *Tangram Geometry in Metric*.

Anita Riddle '93, '96, created the **Dr. Anita L. Riddle College of Engineering Innovation Fund** as a "strong vote of confidence for Dean Jack Hopper, as well as the fine leaders who will succeed him in the future." Riddle earned a master of engineering management degree and her doctorate in engineering, both from Lamar University. Riddle and her husband, Dr. Steven Schmidt, have generously supported educational excellence in the areas of faculty enrichment and scholarships for the Society of Women Engineers. Dr. Riddle serves as a trustee for the Lamar University Foundation and as a member of the College of Engineering Advisory Board.

Jimmy Booker '55, '56, has established the **Merle Merritt Booker Scholarship in Art** to honor his wife, Merle '58. She earned her bachelor's degree in commercial art at LU. The scholarship is an endowment created in the College of Fine Arts and Communication. Jimmy has served Lamar University for many years in multiple areas, including on the LU Alumni

Advisory Board, Cardinal Club Board, Industrial Engineering Advisory Council and the LU Foundation Board. Merle served on the Class of 1958 Reunion Steering Committee. The couple previously established the Cynthia (Booker) West Memorial Scholarship in Art in memory of their daughter Cynthia '84 who succumbed to breast cancer in 1999.

Planned Gifts

The Moss Family Scholarship is an endowed scholarship created through a planned gift from the estate of Jessie Mae Moss. The scholarship recognizes her father's dedication to education and will benefit West Hardin High School students from the Batson and Saratoga areas, her father's parents' hometowns. Jessie was a graduate of South Park High School and attended the University of Texas. Moss was an avid collector of antiques, art, dishes, dolls and many other collectibles.

A planned gift from the estate of Samuel Gerard Bonura will enhance the **Margaret Bonura Memorial and Gerard Bonura Scholarship in Nursing**, an endowed scholarship. Gerard Bonura '77 established the scholarship in memory of his mother. In 1965, Margaret, affectionately called Maggie, was unexpectedly widowed after 23 years of marriage. A devout Catholic, she never remarried and devoted herself to her three sons.

Elaine and Thomas Cameron established the **Elaine and Thomas Cameron Scholarship Fund** to benefit

Lamar University students. A planned gift from the Elaine Cameron's estate created this endowed scholarship. Thomas was plant superintendent for Tennessee Gas Transmission Co. for 25 years. Avid boaters, the Camerons were active in the Lake Charles chapter of the United States Power Squadron. They met while attending Port Arthur College.

The **Hermie "Boots" Hefty Scholarship in Nursing** and the **Bessie McVey Scholarship in Education** are endowed scholarships created through a planned gift from the estate of Alan R. '69 and Cherry Ann McVey Hefty '70. Alan earned a bachelor of business degree in accounting and is member of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity. He is president of Alan Hefty & Co., CPAs. Cherry earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She is a member of Alpha Delta Pi Sorority and taught school in Port Arthur ISD, Beaumont ISD and Monsignor Kelly High School before retiring.

Dr. John Mark Honea Jr. '69, '75, has created the **John Mark Honea Jr. Scholarship in Education**, an endowed scholarship created through a planned gift from his estate. Dr. Honea earned a bachelor's degree in government and a master's degree in secondary education. In recognition of his service as director of basketball operations for LU, the weight room in the Montagne Center is named in honor of his parents John M. and Ruth W. Honea. Dr. Honea has had a strong relationship with LU for many years.

A planned gift from the estate of Larry W. Lawson -67 has established the **Larry W. Lawson Research Fund in Electrical Engineering**. Attending Lamar from 1963 through 1967, Lawson was elected cheerleader, played trumpet with the jazz and marching bands and performed throughout Southeast Texas. He grew up in Bridge City, where he learned to play piano at age five, wrote music and copyrighted his first songs at 13. Lawson founded eCardio Diagnostics in 2004. Today, eCardio is the leading arrhythmia-monitoring company in the U.S.

A planned gift from the estate of Ronald '65, '73, and Charlotte (Cupit) Graves -85 has created the endowed **Ronald and Charlotte Graves Memorial Scholarship**. Ronald Graves received scholarship assistance for books, tuition and fees for the entirety of his undergraduate career at Lamar University. The Graves want to afford students the same level of educational fulfillment Ronald experienced, and Charlotte also greatly benefitted from her studies at LU.

The Lamar University Foundation has received a gift from the estate of **Lorenzo McCoy** in memory of his wife Koreen. The McCoys said they were proud to live in a community where students are educated and trained by high-quality professors and programs are administered by people of integrity. Because Mrs. McCoy loved music and played the piano, a portion of the funds will support the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music.



A sense of security

Yanni Thomas enrolled as a freshman with 30 hours of college credit under her belt thanks to a dual-credit program she entered while in high school in Deer Park. Looking back, she remembers LU being represented among the alma mater flags and banners displayed by many of her high school instructors. Because of her interest in Lamar University, a family friend introduced her to a recruiter, and she scheduled a campus visit.

"I had been accepted to five schools when I got ready to choose a college," Thomas said. "I really liked

the way the Lamar campus looked, and the class sizes really appealed to me. I was worried that when I got to college I would be in classes with 200 other students. It's so nice to be able to get to know your instructors and let them get to know you."

A senior majoring in applied arts and sciences, Thomas has plans to become an optometrist upon graduation in May 2015. Becoming a physician had always been the aim of the Deer Park native, but when that journey seemed a bit daunting, she changed her major to nursing. After two years in the nursing program and a conversation with her own doctor about a career in medicine, she decided

optometry would be a better fit for her future.

"As soon as I changed my major, so many things started to happen," she said. "My doctor has a colleague in Houston who is an optometrist, and I've had the opportunity to shadow him for the past year or so."

Thomas is the recipient of an endowed scholarship, the Charles and Susan Gordon and Julia Gordon Gray Memorial Scholarship. According to Thomas, the scholarship provided an opportunity for her, as a first-generation university student, to push past her boundaries and excel more than she thought possible. "This scholarship came as a blessing and reprieve to my family, who were ecstatic that I had a chance to broaden my horizons but were wary of the price of higher education," she said. Throughout her time at LU, the Gordon scholarship has remained a constant and given her a sense of security that proved priceless when times were tough, she said.

Thomas is a member of the Lamar University Ambassadors, a group that represents the student body at official university events. She also plays the flute for the Concert Band and is a member of the band sorority.

"There was only one other person from my high school who came to Lamar, so that was a little scary," she said. "But, I've made so many new friends and connections while here, and these are people you will know for the rest of your life."

Thomas said she would encourage any student considering LU to enroll. "I don't think you could do any better than Lamar," she said. "The instructors are so approachable and that makes a big difference in being successful." —LA

To begin your own endowment or to add a gift to an existing endowment, please contact the Lamar University Foundation at (409) 880-2717.



President's Circle

Oct. 10 marked a milestone in Lamar University history—the inaugural year of the President's Circle. President Ken Evans honored more than 157 founding members of the prestigious group during a dinner in the University Reception Center, thanking them for their loyal and forward-looking support. These special alumni and friends of LU have dedicated—and continue to generously give—time and treasure to scholarships, endowments and more with the aim of extending a helping hand to our students. Each of them keenly recognize what a fundamental difference an education can make to quality of life—and LU, with gratitude, recognizes them as President's Circle members who are helping students meet their goals and fulfill their dreams.



First Lady Nancy Evans, left, with Kim and Roy Steinhagen



TSUS Regent and Distinguished Alumnus Bill Scott '70 and Gay Scott '80



Phillip '81 and Cheryl (Spencer) Fuller '82



Alumni Advisory Board President and Distinguished Alumnus Vernon Durden '69, '04, and Johnnie (Criton) Durden '00



Gene '61 and Elizabeth Arnold -64, left, with Distinguished Alumnus Mike '65 and Pat (Peterson) Aldredge '61



Regina Rogers, left, with Mike '72 and Jo Beth Jenkins



Mike '77 and Joanne Bonura, left, with Interim Dean Vic Zaloom, College of Engineering



TSUS Chancellor Brian McCall and Big Red



Sina '80, '81, and Soheila Nejad



Distinguished Alumnus Bob '73 and Beth (Thompson) Jones '61



President Ken Evans, left, with Chuck '72 and Becky (Dickson) Mason '71



Terry and Lee Ann (Dean) Garth '79, left, with LU Ambassador Micah Murdoch



Floyd and Patti McSpadden, left, with S.L. and Natalie Greenberg

WIND ENSEMBLE CONCERT

Scott Deppe, director of bands, conducts the 56-member Wind Ensemble this past spring as part of the *Lamarissimo!* Concert Series at the Julie Rogers Theatre. The group is one of only four bands invited to perform before the Texas Music Educators Association's 2015 Clinic and Convention in February.



CONCERT IN THE PARK

The Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music held its second annual old-fashioned Concert in the Park this past April on the Plummer Building grounds. Lamar's Wind Ensemble and Concert Band performed music from Disney's "Frozen" and "The Lion King," the overture to Hector Berlioz's opera "Béatrice et Bénédict," popular marches, and many other light classical, jazz and pops selections.

ANTON IN SHOW BUSINESS PRODUCTION

Tracie VanLaw of Winnie, foreground; Shelby Dryden, Vidor, left; and Lexi McDonald, Austin, right, are shown during Jane Martin's *Anton in Show Business*, a satirical look into the world of theatre as three women pursue their dream of performing a play by Anton Chekhov in Texas. Instructor Brian LeTraunik directed the production, which opened the 2014-2015 season.



VETERANS DAY

Tiemeyer "Slim" White, president of the LU Veterans Organization, the 23rd Cardinal Command, hosted a Veterans Day observance Nov. 11 to honor military veterans for their service and sacrifice.



CARDINAL WALK OF HONOR

During the brick dedication ceremony Nov. 1 in the Quadrangle, many alumni and friends photographed their engraved pavers among the many bricks laid in honor and in memory of almost 1,000 Cardinals to pave the Cardinal Walk of Honor.



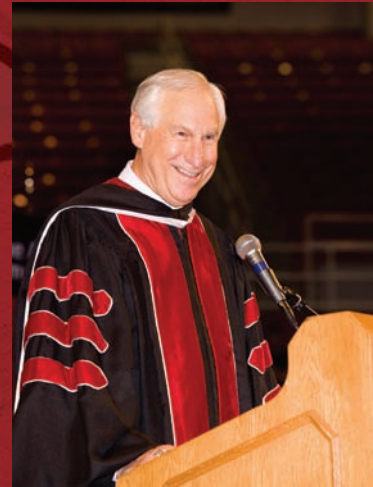
SOFTBALL GROUNDBREAKING

President Ken Evans and Athletics Director Jason Henderson joined in breaking ground for the new 650-seat softball stadium, scheduled for completion spring 2015. The natural-grass facility will have field lighting, bullpens, dugouts, an enclosed hitting area, an electronic scoreboard and a press box.



MAY AND AUGUST COMMENCEMENTS

Lamar University conferred 683 degrees during the Aug. 16 commencement ceremonies, keynoted by Texas State University System regent and San Antonio-based entrepreneur, Charlie Amato.



Distinguished Alumnus and sports broadcaster Bill Macatee '78 delivered the commencement address May 18 before 1,655 graduation candidates. Macatee has anchored network coverage of the Olympics, covered 24 Masters golf tournaments, 24 US Open Tennis Championships and has called 16 years of NFL play-by-play for CBS Sports, among many other sports and network broadcasts he has anchored.

ELEEMOSYNARY PRODUCTION

Sydney Haygood, Friendswood, left, and Hannah Barker, Beaumont, perform a scene from LU Theatre's production of Lee Blessing's *Eleemosynary*. Directed by department Chair Deena Conley, the production ran in early November in the Studio Theatre.



CARDINAL SWAP

President Ken Evans attended morning classes as a student while applied mathematics major Madison Trevino took over LU presidential duties during the April 17 Cardinal Swap, an outreach program of the LU Rotaract Club.



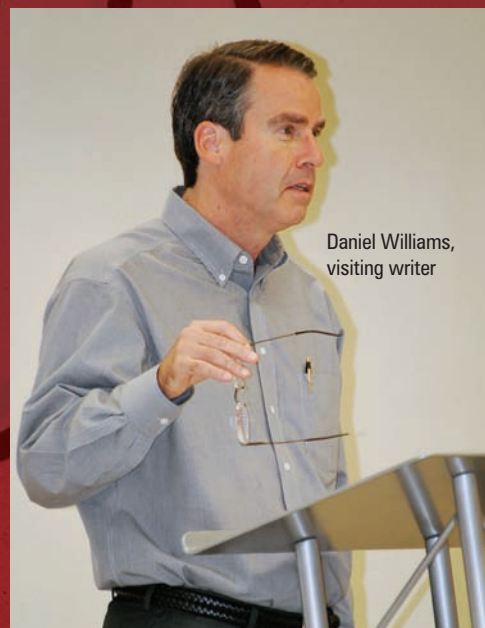
INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Students from more than 60 countries, faculty and staff enjoyed foods and performances representing cultures from around the world during International Cultural Festival Nov. 7.



LITERARY FESTIVAL

The Lamar University College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of English and Modern Languages hosted 14 writers from around the country to talk with faculty, staff, students and the community about writing and publishing during the annual Literary Festival Nov. 13-14.



Daniel Williams,
visiting writer



Jim Sanderson, chair, Department of
English and Modern Languages



Lynn Hoggard,
visiting writer



40 UNDER 40

With more than 77,000 Lamar University alumni around the world, tens of thousands are under age 40. Yet these young alumni, not too far removed from their undergraduate experiences, are doing incredible things, making their mark in varied fields and inspiring others.

We've gathered "40 under 40" in a sampler of the impressive breadth of talent and passions represented by younger LU alumni. This new generation of leaders on the wing is made up of game changers. Innovators. Entrepreneurs. They are talented. Generous. Creative. Analytical. Successful. And best of all, they're just getting started.

No doubt many of our readers will think of other alumni who are doing remarkable things. We'd love to hear about their accomplishments. Send suggestions to Cadence@lamar.edu.

LOU ANN BATES

Where there's a need, there's a way

Lou Ann Bates '11 always knew she wanted to open a private therapy practice with her twin sister in their hometown of Port Lavaca after they both completed graduate school. She just did not expect it to happen so quickly.

After earning her master's degree at LU in speech language pathology, Bates worked in nursing homes, hospitals and a private clinic in the Brownsville area gaining additional knowledge and experience. But friends and physicians back home kept asking when she and her sister, Sandy, an occupational therapist, would follow through on their long-term goal and establish their own practice. In April 2013, they opened BATES Place for business.

The sisters, now 27, turned their last name into an acronym—Benefitting All Teens and Tots Every Season—for their therapy practice, which serves mainly pediatric patients. Already, the practice has a busy roster of patients and is growing. They hired an assistant in early summer and by early fall were interviewing for a second assistant. They also are adding a home health component to their practice—BATES Place On Wheels.

"We've found in the year and a half we've been open that some families have transportation issues," Bates said. Others have to travel long distances or have multiple children and were

reluctant to bring siblings to the waiting room during appointments. "If we can go and service the home, we would be able to reach more children. We see there's a need."

Recognizing the need is what drew Bates to speech therapy from the start. At age eight, she asked her mother why her cousin talked and moved differently from other children. Her mother explained that the cousin had cerebral palsy and the family had no insurance to pay for therapy to help. Bates said she and her twin both decided then that they wanted to help people like their cousin, which led to their complementary career choices.

The twins knew they wanted to make an impact in the community where they were raised. Before BATES Place opened, Port Lavaca families in need of speech or occupational therapy had to drive to Corpus Christi or Victoria for services, which led to less frequent appointments. Now, Bates and her sister are able to provide effective therapy close to home for a full caseload of patients. She credits her clinical and classroom



experience at Lamar University with preparing her to assist patients with a variety of needs.

Bates said she is proud that she and her sister have been able to establish and manage

a successful business while still providing quality therapy to their patients, which is the most important aspect of what they do. "We have parents who say they've seen more progress here in eight months than they have in eight years somewhere else," Bates said. "My biggest accomplishment would be being able to change the quality of life for a lot of children here in Port Lavaca. Since it is a small town, we actually know a lot of the parents and encourage them and see the difference in these kids. It's miraculous. It really is."—BG

DESMOND BERTRAND

Never stop growing

Desmond Bertrand '10, '14, has a love for education and an entrepreneurial spirit that manifests itself in helping others. Born in Mamou, La., Bertrand was raised in Houston where he excelled in school. He was accepted at the High School for Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, one of the top magnet schools in Houston. After graduating in 2003, he began his college career at Xavier University in New Orleans to pursue a medical career.

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina abruptly changed his plans so Bertrand moved back to the Houston area and earned a bachelor's degree in applied arts and sciences from LU. He earned a Master of Business Administration degree from American Intercontinental University in June 2012, and continued his educational career by pursuing a master's degree in educational leadership at LU, which he completed last May.

In the midst of his academic career, Bertrand was motivated, along with his partner, Justin Pitts, to begin a non-profit organization called M.E.N. Incorporated dedicated to mentoring, educating and nurturing young men regardless of ethnicity or sexual orientation. The goal of the organization is to partner

with school districts across the nation to offer that extra motivation some young men need to succeed.

"M.E.N. Inc. is a platform that will allow many young men to be motivated, educated and nurtured in a way that will change their lives for the better," Bertrand said.

His passion for entrepreneurship began at the retailer Target in New Orleans, where he quickly advanced to team leader after transferring to a Houston store. He sharpened his abilities at other retail chains, customer care centers, Arbitron Ratings and ultimately as office manager of The Buffalo Soldiers National Museum in Houston. There he continued a family legacy since it was his paternal grandfather who was founder and curator of the museum. While there, he gained experience in non-profit management, marketing, gift shop management, inventory, advertising, accounting and other facets of operating a not-for-profit business.

Bertrand has begun a career as a professional



educator at Lone Star College as an adjunct instructor in the college of education. He is also in the early stages of developing his second business venture, 4.0 Consulting Services, which is a consulting business that assists small

business owners in beginning their own entrepreneurial journey.

"I've always been very passionate about education, giving back and making a difference in the world," he said. "I think it's important to leave a positive mark on those around you and your community."

In his spare time, he writes poetry, songs and short stories. He has three godchildren he loves as his own, all boys: Jaden, eight; Eric, seven; and Kalib, six.—LA

CRYSTAL BROUSSARD

Passion for patients

Dr. Crystal (Ray) Broussard '97 knew she wanted to be a physician, but she found her special passion for medicine from a personal experience. When she was pregnant with her first child, she gained 70 pounds. From the education and effort to lose weight for herself, she decided to shift her practice from family medicine to weight management. She is now board-certified in both obesity medicine and family medicine.

"I have a fantastic job," she said. "I get patients off medicine instead of putting Band-Aids on the problems they have such as heart disease and high blood pressure. We actually get to fix the problem. I never meant to own my own practice, but found my personal and professional calling."

Broussard opened Athena Wellness Center in The Woodlands two and half years ago, offering medically supervised weight management. She has seven employees, and the clinic group as a whole sees approximately 400 patients a week. Broussard customizes weight loss and management plans for her patients. In addition to her own practice, she volunteers to educate other physicians to understand obesity issues. Third-year residents from Conroe Regional Medical Center have a rotation at her center as part of their training.

"It is an absolute necessity that we have

physicians trained to treat obesity," she said. "We have more medication becoming available to treat obesity, but we're not educating our professionals."

Broussard grew up in Port Neches with the intention of one day attending medical school. She chose Lamar University because of the high acceptance rate of the university's students by professional schools.

"I was looking for a more personal experience, also," she said. "My upper-level classes at Lamar had about five to 10 students in them. My friends who went to bigger schools had 100 or so students in a class. At Lamar, we got a lot of one-to-one time with our professors."

Broussard pursued double degrees in biology and chemistry. After graduating, she attended the University of Texas-Houston for medical school and did her residency at Conroe Regional Medical Center. She now lives

with her family in Spring. She and her husband, Lance Broussard '97, have two children, Brianna, age 11 and Kincaid, age 8. When she's not working, she's involved with her children's activities including football and softball. Her personal passion is weight training. When the clinic closes for lunch each day, she takes her whole staff to the gym to lift.

The Broussards met in high school and were Homecoming King and Queen together at Lamar. The personal experience of a family-like environment is one of the things she most appreciated about her time at Lamar.

"What stands out in my memory is the student camaraderie," she said. "I was in a sorority, and it was possible to be involved in many things at one time because it was a small school and everybody knew each other."—CPR



JOHN SOENNING

Education engineers bright future

While attending Lamar University, valedictorian of the May 2000 graduating class Johann “John” Soenning discovered his passion—chemical engineering.

“When I toured the campus, I took an assessment test that pointed me to the chemical engineering field,” Soenning said. “Later on, my professors helped me realize my passion. After completing four co-op terms with the Dow Chemical Co., I knew that chemical engineering was absolutely the right path for me.”

After earning his bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering, Soenning accepted a job with BP, where he worked as a professional engineer and a technical supervisor.

“Before I graduated, a team of BP engineers conducted recruiting interviews of Lamar students,” he said. “I interviewed and was offered a job. While working there, I became the lead for the Lamar recruiting board out of our Houston office. We were exposed to the top students, often identifying interns in the process. I discovered that about a quarter of BP engineers are from Lamar. There is a lot of spirit and young energy among the Lamar graduates at BP.”

Living in League City with his wife and two young daughters, whom he credits for his motivation, Soenning now works as a director of operations for Plains All American Pipeline, a company involved in transporting and storing fuels.

“When a former BP manager asked me if I would be interested in coming with him to work for Plains Pipeline, I agreed,” he said. “Because of his genuine character, I decided to take the leap. In this new position, I have taken everything previously learned and implemented it in a strategic manner. Success in this current role will unlock other possibilities.”

Since graduating from LU, Soenning has continued his involvement with the university by serving on the Chemical Engineering Department Advisory Council and speaking at the 2010 American Institute of Chemical Engineers



SATTLER

Southwest Regional Conference hosted at Lamar University.

“When I served on the board, comprised of workers from local industries, we would meet with Lamar seniors involved in leadership, and we would hear about changes occurring in the department and curriculum,” he said. “We would have an open discussion and tell the students our opinions about how they should prepare for the work force.”

Soenning said his takeaway from a well-

rounded LU curriculum continues to assist him in achieving success.

“Lamar does a great job exposing chemical engineering students to the information they will need in their future profession,” he said. “I worked hands-on alongside professors who had industry-specific knowledge, and, moreover, they utilized this real-life experience in the classroom. That experience was invaluable and helped students identify present real-world problems.”—KT

WYATT CAGLE

Apprenticeship leads to studio

Wyatt Cagle ‘03 is CEO and owner of CGL Studios, a production and post-production house in Houston making commercials, reality television, as well as feature film and indie films. He also is a member of the team of SWD Productions, which focuses on TV, film and commercial work.

Cagle holds a bachelor’s degree in communication in which he focused on film and television production. His first professional work came in 1999 and after graduating from Lamar when he had opportunity to produce a travel documentary in Warsaw, Poland. After returning to Texas, he began doing post-production work as an apprentice, then assistant editor, in Houston at a firm specializing in high-end commercial work, as well as some music videos. He served as an assistant editor on four films in his first year.

Soon he moved on to other Houston companies, but, in 2005, he was hired by an Austin-based company to direct and edit high-concept corporate videos. There, he worked for clients like HP, 3M, Texas Instruments and Apple, but “decided to go a different way because I found myself not wanting to do corporate video the



wardrobe director who would become his wife three years later. The two have a 15-month old son.

Soon, he received a call from Greg Scheinman, whom he had worked with in Houston, with an offer to partner in a line of DVDs for children. Together they created TeamBaby Entertainment, which was later bought out by Michael Eisner after he left Disney. “We became his first acquisition,” Cagle said. “I stayed with the company a couple of years and helped grow it to a couple million dollars.” But after another acquisition, he decided to part ways and joined with Scheinman again in a venture to produce “a show that we had talked about doing years earlier,” Cagle said. “We thought it would be cool to interview entrepreneurs, artists, sports

rest of my life.”

After putting his things in storage—“your entire life in a 10-by-10 room”—he hit the road working movie sets as an assistant director and other positions for a year gaining experience and making connections. The most significant connection he made that year was with April Marchant, an assistant

people, cool people that would be interesting subjects—just spend the day with them and do a day in the life. We had some money, time and a bunch of gear, so we did that and it ended up that PBS picked it up for two seasons.” The show ran in 15 markets. Meanwhile, Cagle continued to grow his business, adding clientele and agency work.

“I ended up doing a lot of television commercials for larger companies, as well as some national and international commercials,” Cagle said. Currently, most of his business is on post-production or high-end production for large commercial work, representing brands like Walmart, United Airlines, Dr. Pepper and Miller Lite.

One key to the work is flexibility and availability. “I’m an editor that they can call to work at different facilities under their umbrella,” he said. Cagle will often join in a production in New York, edit the commercial there and then return to Houston to edit a Spanish version.

Cagle enjoys staying connected with the communication department at LU where he has been a guest lecturer. “It is always a great thrill to be able to bring in the latest gear and show students,” he said. “Knowing the directorial, the theoretical, the breakdown of film, my education from Lamar has been invaluable.”—BKS

FRED VERNON

When a door is opened, run through it

When Fred Vernon ‘12, ‘13, started his trucking company in his Cardinal Village dorm room in 2012, he knew his Lamar University accounting education would drive his success.

“Anybody who is considering a major should consider accounting,” the CEO and founder of Houston-based KLV Ventures recommended. “Accounting is the language of business.”

The young entrepreneur earned a bachelor of business administration and a master’s degree in accounting in 2012. He earned an MBA with an accounting concentration in 2013. After graduating, Vernon worked as a valuation analyst with PricewaterhouseCoopers until last April when he decided to focus all his efforts on his growing trucking company.

KLV Ventures currently has nine trucks and 10 employees and works as a contractor with FedEx Corp. as well as hauling freight for other companies. Vernon eventually wants to be in the oil fields transporting oil to refineries. Projected revenues for 2014 are \$750,000 to \$1 million and for 2015 are \$1.5 million, he said.

The Port Arthur native, the first in his family

to attend college, believes his education at LU and the opportunities he was given helped him become a successful entrepreneur. Lamar University professors nurtured his entrepreneurial spirit and put him in touch with alumni who could help him. “You get a lot of opportunities that come your way,” he said. “I never say no to an opportunity. God opens doors, and you run through them.”

Vernon’s favorite part about attending LU was his relationships with his peers, faculty and staff. The Accounting Department faculty encouraged him to pursue accounting as a major and go on for his master’s degrees. James Simmons, president emeritus of Lamar University, personally helped him obtain a scholarship, he said. He stays in touch with some of his former professors and attends alumni events.

“I unequivocally recommend Lamar University to others,” he said. “It was a great place for me. The university will invest in students if students will invest in themselves.”



SATTLER

When he’s not focused on where to take his company next, Vernon harbors a preference for non-fiction reading, gaming and historical documentaries. He also exercises regularly and wants to learn to play the piano. “It’s the best instrument to express your mood,” he believes.

As for the trucking company he started in his dorm room, the accountant-turned-CEO aims to grow revenues to \$30 million and take KLV Ventures public within the next 10 years. “I want KLV Ventures to be branded as a premier transportation company,” he said.—CC

RONNIE TURNER JR.*Carving his
niche in law*

Ronnie Turner Jr. '07 decided at a young age growing up in Houston that he wanted to be a lawyer. When it was time to settle on a university, he chose Lamar University to help him achieve his goal.

Turner earned a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in political science. He began majoring in political science but switched to psychology because, as an attorney, "a lot of what you do is try to read people," he said.

After graduation, Turner was accepted to Baylor Law School where he became a member of the nationally recognized Baylor Mock Trial Team and a finalist in the Top Gun Intramural Mock Trial Competition. He earned his law degree in 2010 and joined Provost Umphrey Law Firm where he is a non-equity partner. He primarily practices in areas of personal injury, premises liability and product liability cases. He's on the board of the Foundation for Southeast Texas and the Jefferson County Young Lawyers Association.

At LU, Turner developed his interest in student governance, becoming Student Government Association president for 2006-2007 and serving as

vice president of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. He was vice chair of the Student Advisory Board to the Texas State University System Board of Regents in 2004-2005. "Lamar gave me a chance to hone my leadership skills," he said.

Under his administration as SGA president, he supported and voted for bringing the university's football program back, and the student body followed his lead. He was also proud to give a speech at the opening ceremony for the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center in April 2007.

Turner stays involved with LU by serving on boards and committees. "I'm on the Alumni Advisory Board," he said. "I've just been nominated to be on the Strategic Planning Committee."

Turner would "absolutely" recommend a Lamar University education to others. "No. 1 is that Lamar is a great education for the price," he



confirmed. "No. 2 is that Lamar gives you a great opportunity to succeed." He notes the easy access to professors and administrators who are always willing to help and the plentiful opportunities to enhance your education. "You will get as much from Lamar as you put in," he said. "College students want to find good jobs after they graduate, and Lamar University professors help facilitate that goal."

The bachelor likes to keep physically active when he's not practicing law. "I like to build my own furniture and play soccer," he said, adding that his father remodels homes for a living, so wood-working runs in the family. "I find it to be relaxing," he said.—CC

LESLIE SOLIS*Chemist keeps composition in balance*

After eight years at Valero's Port Arthur refinery, Leslie (Prejean) Solis '01 still enjoys her job as a chemist. "It's something new every day. It's not boring or monotonous at all. Every day, there's a different challenge, and I have a really good team to work with. That makes it enjoyable to go to work."

Solis, 36, majored in chemistry at LU and feels fortunate to have worked in her field since graduation. She started out as a contract lab tester at ExxonMobil before moving to Huntsman as a chemist for about five years. That assignment allowed her to expand her quality management skills by working with computer programmers and information technology professionals to scrub data and upload information as the entire company migrated from an existing LIMS (laboratory information management system) to a module within a larger enterprise resource planning software solution. Eight years ago, she joined Valero as a refinery chemist, later moving up to a senior chemist and also serving as LIMS administrator to ensure that the refinery's testing products, specifications and

schedules stay up to date. On a day-to-day basis, much of her responsibility is ensuring that all instrumentation used to test the refinery's finished products of jet fuel, diesel and gasoline is properly calibrated and working well, and correcting any problems that might occur.

"Obviously, all the chemistry courses and labs I had at Lamar have helped me in my career, but the extracurriculars I was involved in—Alpha Delta Pi, the Dance Team and the Student Government Association—have helped me develop professionally and get along with many different types of people," Solis said.

Volunteering remains important to Solis. She serves as corresponding secretary of Valero's volunteering council to let other employees know about opportunities to help out in the community.



She also enjoys chairing the company's Salvation Army's Angel Tree project each Christmas season. "That's one of my favorite projects," she said. "We load up a trailer with all the gifts employees bought and deliver them to the Salvation Army."

Solis enjoyed her involvement with Alpha Delta Pi at Lamar and remains a strong supporter as an alumna, attending events when she can and helping with donations, especially during rush. She met her husband, Steve '00, who played baseball at LU, at a sorority mixer.

Despite her professional success, Solis counts her most important accomplishment to date as being a mom to her 5-year-old daughter Mia, who keeps her busy with dance, soccer and other activities. "It's very trying, but it's rewarding at the same time," she said. She and her husband are expecting their second daughter in February.—BG

ELIZABETH THOMAS*Dream made reality*

Dr. Elizabeth (George) Thomas '00, began her love affair with medicine as a nurse but, the dream of becoming a doctor remained in the back of her mind.

"I distinctly remember at the age of 16 shadowing a pediatrician at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston and thinking to myself, 'That is what I want to do!'" she said. "The gentle way this particular physician spoke to the child, examined him, and developed a diagnosis and treatment plan appeared amazing to me."

As an osteopathic physician today and fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Thomas has worked with Children's Health Pediatric Group in Dallas since 2010. Osteopathic medicine allows her to take a holistic approach to young patients, and family education emphasizes preventative measures to promote safety and healthy habits.

"It is the first and only place I have practiced

as a pediatrician," Thomas said. "I truly enjoy my career and feel that God has brought me here for a purpose."



Born and raised in Houston, Thomas moved away from home after being accepted in the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities (TALH) at Lamar University. Through the program, she completed her junior and senior years of high school along with her first two years of college simultaneously. Her mother's experience as a registered pediatric nurse helped Thomas decide to pursue a nursing degree at LU. In addition to her nursing curriculum coursework, she completed a

few pre-requisite courses for medical school with the intention of applying at some point.

"God was in the center of my life through nursing school, and I know that it was only through Him that I completed this competitive program," she said. "It was a challenging time, but

it allowed me to step into the world of medicine."

She worked as a registered nurse in Houston for a couple of years before applying and eventually gaining acceptance into medical school at Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in Fort Worth.

It was the shadowing experience at Texas Children's Hospital that led Thomas to become a pediatrician. She enjoys the opportunity to build relationships with children and their families that last for years. She plays a vital role in helping them make crucial decisions that can influence their lives, whether it is in regard to food choices or how to prevent bullying.

"One of the most rewarding things about my career is witnessing a child's life changed by the advice and recommendations that were provided during a visit," Thomas said. "It reminds me that simply encouraging someone can have a great influence on his or her life."

According to Thomas, her greatest blessing is to be a wife and mother. She is married to an "amazing husband" and they have two beautiful children, a 3-year-old daughter and a 1-year-old son.—LA

TINA BUNNELL*Bunnell runs the numbers*

For Tina Bunnell, crunching numbers comes naturally. Now the director of finance for the City of San Angelo, Bunnell graduated from the College of Business with a BBA in accounting in 2006.

"I've always had a strong appreciation for Lamar and for the business department," she said. "They were so supportive, and I don't know if I would have gone as far as I did as quickly without that support and encouragement."

When she graduated, Bunnell received the Wall Street Journal Student Achievement Award, the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants Accounting Education Foundation Award, the Ben J. Rogers Outstanding Business Student Award and the Plummer Award.

Bunnell also served as president of the business fraternity Beta Alpha Psi, president of the Lamar Accounting Society, treasurer of the LU Society for the Advancement of Ethics and treasurer of Rotaract during her time at Lamar.

"Graduation was a very special time for me because of the recognition for achieving my goals and doing it in such a great way," she said. "I believe the College of Business, especially the accounting division, was very strong and very encouraging. I feel like my education and my



success were always at the forefront of their minds."

After graduating, Bunnell was hired by KPMG LLP, a U.S. audit, tax and advisory services firm and a Big Four accounting firm.

"Any accounting major that wants to go anywhere or be anything is striving to get a job offer from one of the Big Four firms when they graduate from college," she said. "It's high-stress and a lot of work once you get in there, but it gives you a foundation and a background that you need

to pretty much do anything you want."

While working for KPMG LLP, Bunnell sat for the Certified Public Accountant exam, becoming a certified public accountant in 2008.

"I'm glad I earned my CPA within my first year while working at a Big Four firm," she said. "That's an accomplishment not many people are able to experience."

Bunnell then worked for the Department of the Army as an accountant in internal review and later worked at Eckert & Company, a San Angelo

accounting firm, before becoming director of finance for the City of San Angelo.

"Having graduated less than eight years ago, obtaining a director of finance position for a city of nearly 100,000 people is a pretty big accomplishment for me," she said. "I also became a certified government finance officer during my first year working for the city."

As the director of finance, Bunnell oversees the divisions of budget, accounting, purchasing, IT, and billing and receipts. Under Bunnell's supervision, the department has won several awards, including the Government Finance Officers Association Budget Presentation Award, the Gold-Level State Comptroller Leadership Circle Award, and the Government Treasurers' Organization of Texas Investment Policy Award.

"I love working with my employees and helping them and the city find new ways to do things," she said. "We try to find new ways to make sure that we're efficient, serving the taxpayers in the best way possible and being good stewards of those resources."

Outside of work, Bunnell serves as the treasurer for the San Angelo Federal Credit Union. Also an avid runner, she serves as treasurer for the San Angelo Road Lizards, a local running group. She has three children: Lacey, 17; Kelsey, 14; and Bryce, 6. —MP

REBEKAH MAXWELL

Being social

Rebekah Maxwell '11 started her marketing consulting business as a small side project in the summer of 2013 to help a few Southeast Texas business owners she had met find ways to use social media effectively for their companies. After a little more than a year, her evening project, supplementing her full-time job at the Better Business Bureau of Southeast Texas, began demanding more and more attention. In August 2014, Maxwell decided to flip her work priorities. Her marketing consulting company, ReStep Marketing, is now her full-time job, and she cut back to part-time hours in her position as director of the In Pursuit of Ethics program for the BBB.

Since turning more of her time and energy to ReStep, Maxwell, 26, has picked up new clients and new assignments from existing clients. Much of her focus is on developing and implementing social media plans as part of a comprehensive marketing strategy. Maxwell began developing her expertise in social media for businesses as part of her studies and dissertation work for a master's degree in international marketing from University of Strathclyde in Scotland, which she completed in 2012 on a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship.

"One thing that's fun with social media is it's always changing, which is challenging and

frustrating sometimes, but there's always something new coming out or a platform being developed that could be useful in a year or two," Maxwell said. "A lot of business owners don't have the time or energy or don't want to learn about social media for their businesses, but they know it's important. I like being able to educate them and show them how they can improve something for their business that can be beneficial for them to bring in new customers or help with public relations aspects of their business."

Maxwell also has an educational role in her work for the BBB, which she joined two years ago. As In Pursuit of Ethics director, Maxwell presents programs on ethics and ethical decision making to middle school, high school and college students and related workshops for businesses.

In addition to her professional commitments, Maxwell is active in the community as a member of LU's Alumni Advisory Board and of the Young Professionals of Southeast Texas. She has also remained involved in Rotary, an interest that began as an LU student when she was a member of the campus chapter of Rotaract and part of an



international service trip to Belize. While a graduate student in Scotland, Maxwell became involved in a community Rotaract Club in Glasgow. After returning to Southeast Texas, she worked with other LU alumni to form a community chapter of the club to provide another outlet for service on the local and international levels.

As to what the future holds, Maxwell said she hopes for continued growth. "I would love to see ReStep grow and get to the point where I could create jobs in Southeast Texas. I plan to continue to try to make a positive impact in the community."—BG

YANCY SCOTT

Small town boom



When he began his civil engineering studies well over a decade ago, Yancy Scott '01 imagined himself as a future bridge designer. Since graduating, however, Scott, 35, has been able to put his engineering knowledge and credentials to work

in a much wider array of projects large and small in both the public and private sector.

As assistant county engineer for Waller County since 2008, Scott has had a hand in helping the small county in the booming Houston metropolitan area manage its rapid expansion. Waller County borders Harris County to the east, Montgomery County to the northeast and Fort Bend County to the south.

"We're getting all that growth and trying to figure out how to put the county in the best

position to receive it, figure out how the county wants to grow sustainably," Scott said. Along with reviewing plans and overseeing permits for residential and commercial development, Scott works on changes to regulations occasionally and ensures compliance with floodplain requirements, using his background as a certified floodplain manager.

Transportation planning is a critical need in the greater Houston area, and Scott is heavily involved in that issue as chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Houston-Galveston Area, which serves a 13-county area.

As his career has progressed, Scott has enjoyed watching the planning he employed in previous job assignments come to fruition as tangible projects constructed in the Houston area. His first job after graduating from LU was with MWH Global, an international engineering company that had contracts with the City of Houston to improve wastewater treatment plants and distribution systems. After identifying problems in the system and proposing solutions for a few years, he moved into the company's

construction division and worked on a new water purification plant on Lake Houston that now meets the water needs of much of Harris County. Then, after obtaining his professional engineering license, he moved on to a smaller firm where projects included the civil design of an elementary school and of several rail lines for the Metropolitan Transit Authority. Seeing those lines being constructed in the areas around Northline Mall and Texas Southern University has been gratifying, Scott said.

Outside his work, Scott volunteers as a minister in area prisons and enjoys spending time with his family. His wife, LaQuitta (Samuel) '03, received her nursing degree from LU, and they have two children, daughter Yanaia, 7, and son Yancy II, 5, nicknamed Deuce.

Scott is not sure what will come next for him. "I just want to continue growing as an engineer and helping in whatever capacity I can wherever I am," he said. "Lamar gave me a good springboard for that."—BG

REBECCA BURLESON



Rebecca Burleson with her Malawian counterpart, Madalitso Saiwa, showing reusable sanitary pads they learned to make so they can implement the "Pad Project" in their village. Many teenage girls in Malawi miss several days of school each month because they don't have access to feminine hygiene products. The Pad Project uses locally available materials to make effective, reusable pads.

Serving in the 'Warm Heart of Africa'

Rebecca Burleson '11, '12, arrived in Malawi in March and will serve there in the Peace Corps until May 2016 as a community health advisor at a rural health clinic in the village of Kasinje. There, her primary project areas include malaria prevention outreach, water and sanitation hygiene, and female empowerment.

"I also do a lot of other projects with existing groups in my area," she said. "Most of this work is nutrition education and cooking demonstrations." Nutrition is her specialty, but she's learning to adapt her knowledge to the culture and challenges of life in Malawi.

A Beaumont native, she earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in dietetics from Lamar and completed a dietetic internship at LU as well. She then worked as a clinical dietitian at Texas Specialty Hospital and Mesquite Specialty Hospital before beginning her Peace Corps training.

"I've always felt very privileged to grow up in America with so many opportunities, education among them," Burleson said. "Peace Corps was a chance for me to share these opportunities, through my knowledge and skills, with others who have been less fortunate. While my views on the world and development work have definitely evolved this year, I still return to this original senti-

ment; it's my constant motivation."

Today, Burleson is one of more than 130 Peace Corps Volunteers serving in the country that is about the size of Pennsylvania and home to more than 16 million. Peace Corps volunteers often serve in villages where modern conveniences such as running water, refrigeration and electricity are scarce. Although this presents difficulties, it also propels the volunteers to focus on basic needs and to experience a simpler life style. Requisite attributes of a Peace Corps volunteer include a sense of adventure, patience and resilience.

Burleson explains that most travel is on public minibuses—which can mean sharing the ride with chickens, produce and lots of passengers because "in a minibus, there's ALWAYS room for one more."

She describes a typical day in the village beginning before dawn because the roosters make sure sleeping late isn't an option. Water is always precious, even more so with a balky well making bucket baths and other water-saving measures essential. The days are full of activity and work, but evenings are peaceful. Without widespread electricity, activity centers on visiting with neighbors, or relaxing. With only a single fire, she says, preparing the evening meal is

slow, but "has become a bit of a therapeutic activity. Malawian style cooking requires time and patience, but it affords one time to think, listen to music, text American and Peace Corps friends, and journal. Only being able to cook one dish at a time used to drive me nuts, but now I enjoy the process!"

After four months adapting and learning her community, Burleson is at work on several projects, including nutrition workshops, small business training, and HIV/AIDS and malaria awareness. "I have just started a 'Wall of Fame' project, going door-to-door in the villages to discuss the use of bed nets. We assist with net hanging if needed, and take pictures of families who are properly using their nets." These photos will be displayed in the health center as good examples of malaria prevention. "The aim is behavior change by providing incentive to other community members to begin using their mosquito nets every night," she said.

Although English is widely spoken in Malawi, she is learning to speak Chichewa on a daily basis. "I am far from fluent though, and Chichewa is a challenging language to learn. 'Chichewa chovuta' or 'Chichewa is troublesome,' is what I tell Malawians when they ask how my language learning is going," she said. It is worth the effort because learning the language enriches the experience and makes her a more effective volunteer, she said.

Burleson also has worked as a counselor for Camp GLOW, a girls' empowerment camp for girls from all over Malawi. "I have met some young girls that fill me with hope for the future of this country," Burleson said. "These girls were such an inspiration to me. They've faced violence, every type of abuse you can imagine, as well as just living in a culture that believes they are good for nothing except carrying water and having babies, and yet here they are, fully prepared to change their future and that of their country."—BKS

JENNIFER LANDRENEAU



“The fellowship experience helped me professionally by making me more culturally sensitive.”

Compassion is universal

Helping tiny babies and nervous parents is rewarding work for Jennifer (Mikel) Landreneau '11, a registered nurse at the neonatal intensive care unit of Christus Hospital-St. Elizabeth in Beaumont.

Growing up in Sweeny, Landreneau thought she wanted to be a dancer, but when she changed her plan to nursing, she knew Lamar University's program had an excellent reputation.

“The nursing school became my second family,” she said. “The faculty became my mentors and counselors. I don't know if you would get that at any other university, the way my professors still want me to succeed and are still supporting me even though I'm not a student anymore.”

Landreneau has been in her current role for three years and says she is still learning new things daily. In the neonatal ICU, she tends to babies that are 28 weeks old and up. She is also involved in the Nightingale Experience, a collaboration between the JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nurs-

ing and Christus hospitals to introduce local high school students to job opportunities in the nursing profession. Landreneau credits Gina Hale, nursing instructor and Nightingale Experience project manager, with offering support and helping her stay focused during and post-school.

While at LU, Landreneau had a unique opportunity. She was the recipient of a David J. Beck Fellowship, which, in addition to providing scholarship funds, grants recipients \$10,000 for a project to further their educational experience.

“Through the fellowship, I was fortunate to go to Hohoe, Ghana, in Africa for six weeks,” Landreneau said. “I served as a medical volunteer/intern at the hospital in Hohoe, where I saw how the medical field can be so different around the world, but how some diseases are the same no matter where you go. Seeing children sick solely from malnutrition made me realize I took even the smallest necessities of life for granted.”

The opportunity had a lasting impact and

influences how she approaches her daily job.

“The fellowship experience helped me professionally by making me more culturally sensitive,” she said. “Being thrown into a totally different country on a different continent can be a little unnerving at first. Whenever I am taking care of patients and families from a different country or culture than what I'm used to, I remember how I felt at first being in a strange place surrounded by people I didn't know. I learned empathy for those situations. I saw that compassion for your patients and their families is universal. I would not have traded my experience for anything in the world. It has taught me to not be afraid to take risks, to be confident in the woman that I am and to be accepting of others' beliefs and values.”

Outside of the hospital, Landreneau and her husband, Craig '14, enjoy running and cycling together. The couple have already planned to participate in three half-marathons next year in Austin, Houston and Beaumont.—CPR

CHARLOTTE JUNGEN

Counting on a great career

Financial planning professional Charlotte Jungen '97 believes she developed her money sense from her stay-at-home mom and her working dad who had to stretch their pennies to raise nine children in Bridge City.

Jungen earned her bachelor's degree in accounting and is a client service manager with Goodman Financial Corp. in Houston where she helps people with money management and financial planning. She's a certified public accountant and a certified financial planner. “I started off doing traditional CPA work like taxes and accounting,” she explained, “but transitioned to financial services.”

She credits her seventh-grade math teacher for sparking her interest in number crunching. “Once I got to high school, I figured if I enjoyed math, I needed to either be an accountant or an engineer,” she remembered. “I hated science, so that ruled out engineering. I took an accounting class my senior year in high school and, as nerdy as it sounds, I found that I loved the symmetry of debits and credits.” Accounting fit her personality of wanting things in balance and made sense to her. “Now, of course, I know accounting is so much more than debits and credits and math,” she said, “but it is what originally sparked my interest and made me choose accounting as my degree.”

Lamar University provided Jungen with a great

education, she contends, but even more importantly, LU's Accounting Department faculty maintained strong relationships with potential employers both in Beaumont and in Houston. “Through those relationships and the networking opportunities Lamar provided through various organizations and events, I was able to obtain an internship and ultimately a full-time job after graduation,” she said. “The connection that Lamar actively maintains with the local community and potential employers of their students is invaluable.”

Jungen served on the Alumni Advisory Board and is currently on the Accounting Advisory Board. “I stay in contact with a lot of Lamar alumni,” she said. “I am very passionate about Lamar.”

The accounting graduate's passion includes giving back to the university. “I was fortunate to receive a full academic scholarship to Lamar,” Jungen said. “I am mindful that I was only able to receive such a great education because of other people's generosity, so it is important to me to pass that legacy on to others.” Because of that, she made a planned gift to establish an accounting



scholarship and became the youngest member of Lamar's Legacy Society. “I encourage all LU alumni and friends of Lamar to consider how they might be able to help future generations of students as well,” she said.

Although high finance is a major part of her life, the single financial professional likes to read, play piano and watch movies to relax. She also enjoys going places. “I like to travel,” Jungen said. “And I like to eat out. I enjoy the many fabulous restaurants in Houston.”—CC

BRIAN HURTADO

Good Chemistry

In any relationship, it's important to have good chemistry. For Brian Hurtado '99, that meant pursuing a bachelor of science degree in chemistry at Lamar University.

The Sugar Land native has two older brothers who graduated from LU and encouraged him to check out the university. “I always enjoyed math and science,” Hurtado said. But it was the positive relationships he had with his professors that encouraged him to pursue a future in the field. “When I took chemistry at Lamar, I enjoyed how it was being taught, and the professors were top notch,” he said. “They kept me wanting to learn more, which drove me to get a degree in chemistry.”

Hurtado, an operations manager for surfactants and amines production units at Huntsman Corp. in Port Neches, says his time at LU prepared him to be a chemist and a leader. He served on several student committees and was president of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity in 1997. His leadership skills made him popular with the student body, and he was elected Student Government Association president for the 1998-1999 academic year. Serving as president for those

two organizations was a highlight of his time at LU, he confirmed.

In 1998, as SGA president, Hurtado interviewed university presidential candidates including James Simmons, then dean of LU's College of Fine Arts and Communication and the interim executive director of University Advancement. Of course, Simmons was the favorite choice. “It was a unique opportunity for a student,” Hurtado remembered.

But it wasn't all business for the chemistry major and student leader. He also enjoyed student social activities such as homecoming events, and, in 1998, Homecoming King was added to his list of titles. “It was just an overwhelming experience,” he says of the opportunities he had at Lamar University. “They were my glory days.”



The chemist stays involved with LU by going to alumni and sports events. He previously served on the Alumni Advisory Board. He also helps to recruit LU graduates to Huntsman. “We stay active,” he says of himself and his wife, Randa (Tooke) '97, who is also an LU graduate.

Lamar University is a great school with small classes and excellent professors, Hurtado emphasized. He also encourages students to take advantage of the plentiful opportunities

made available through LU the way he did. “You get out of it what you put into it,” he said.

Hurtado lives in Fannett and enjoys spending time with his family, which includes his 4-year-old son, Braxton, and his 2-year-old daughter, Preslee. “If I'm not playing golf,” he said, “I'm with my family.”—CC

MELINDA HOPPER*Translating passion into success*

Homecoming Queen Melinda (Oknefski) Hopper '08, '09, who earned a bachelor of science in interdisciplinary studies and her master of science in deaf studies and deaf education, said she discovered her passion in middle school.

"I first learned American Sign Language from a deaf family friend who was a deaf education and ASL instructor," Hopper said. "A coach I had in middle school, who at the time was taking deaf education graduate classes, also inspired my love of ASL. She passed away my freshman year, the same year I took an ASL class and fell in love with the language and culture."

After the birth of her daughter, Hopper began working as a part-time ASL interpreter for Sorenson Communications, a company that offers the Deaf community the ability to communicate using video relay service.

Hopper has previous experience interpreting, having been a sign language interpreter for Lamar University while a student. "My role included



interpreting for Lamar students and faculty as well as for Lamar events," she said. "The role helped me gain valuable experience and helped pay college costs."

As one of the few universities in the country that offered a deaf studies/deaf education degree, LU provided Hopper a grant to cover her tuition and a perfect place to pursue her master's degree.

"In my graduate studies, I was prepared to work with students in a wide variety of settings," she said. "While improving my signing skills, I learned about the culture and history of the Deaf community, was able to

share classes with deaf professors and students, and was taught the different way deaf children learn and how to meet their needs as a teacher."

Planning to return to teaching when her daughter is older, Hopper said her former professors were instrumental in helping her find teaching jobs after graduate school.

"When I saw an opening at a district I was interested in, both Dr. Mary Ann Gentry and Dr. Kristen Jackson Dacres wrote me references and helped me in preparing for the interview," she said. "When I was hired as an itinerant deaf education teacher, both professors not only were knowledgeable about the position, but they found articles and books to help me prepare."

Hopper credits the smaller setting of Lamar University as giving her an awareness of campus organizations, leading to her involvement as member and president of Zeta Tau Alpha, which she said taught her leadership skills as well as the importance of organization and time management.

"During my time at Lamar, I felt more plugged in," she said. "I really got to know my professors and make great connections that are lasting today."—LA

SCOTT SHERIDAN*The lay of the land*

For Scott Sheridan '05, his eye for surveying and civil engineering runs in the family.

"My father owned a land surveying company, F.M.S. Surveying, and he has really motivated me," he said. Sheridan earned a B.S. in civil engineering and says he was first drawn to LU because of the strength of the civil engineering program.

"Professionally, I wouldn't be where I am now, designing subdivisions and getting surveys without my degree and my education from Lamar," he said. "I think the professors were very good in teaching us the basics and the foundation of what we needed to succeed."

As a student, Sheridan was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, as well as the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. "I feel that the Civil Engineering Department

has helped me succeed professionally," he said. "I use that information every day."

After graduating in 2005, Sheridan obtained his professional engineering license. He also received his registered professional land surveying license in 2009.

"I enjoy designing something and being able to see the finished project after it's constructed," he said. "Seeing it function like it was originally designed is what I enjoy the most."

Sheridan began working for Bryant Civil Engineering in 2006. In 2007, Sheridan and his partner left to found their own engineering firm, Daniel Scott Engineering.

"On the engineering side, we do municipal consulting for cities, and we design civil infrastructure, like roads, bridges, sewer systems and water systems," Sheridan said. "On the surveying side, we provide bound-

ary surveying and topographic surveys for special projects."

In 2012, Sheridan, along with his brother Jason took control of their father's land surveying company, F.M.S. Engineering, which their father founded in 1978. Sheridan is now president of the company and lives in Alvin with his wife and son. Outside of work, he most enjoys spending time with his family, deer hunting, duck hunting and fishing, as well as taking his son on boat rides and trips to his deer lease.

"I think the greatest achievement in my career is probably being able to be self-employed for the past eight years in surveying and engineering," he said. "The ultimate goal was to run my own company. I think I've succeeded in that."—MP

LIVONIA MITCHELL*Soaring to new heights*

From Nigeria to Norway to New Jersey, Livonia Mitchell '07 has traveled the world.

"What you choose to do with your potential and your drive determines your success and future paths," Mitchell said. "It's what you do where you go that counts. At Lamar, I learned the importance of multi-tasking, process improvement and time management. Those skills are applicable to everything in work and life, no matter what your job title is."

After earning her bachelor of science in industrial engineering from LU in 2007, Mitchell obtained a master's degree in industrial and systems engineering from Rutgers in 2011.

"I only knew I would go into engineering a couple of months before graduating high school," Mitchell said. "My AP Calculus teacher told me about her husband who was an industrial engineer. After looking up industrial engineering in one of Lamar's brochures, I was impressed by the flexibility and versatility the career offered. When I knew which major I wanted to pursue, Lamar became my obvious choice."

Previously, Mitchell has worked as a field maintenance engineer in the United Kingdom and Nigeria, a drilling and measurements field

engineer in Mexico and a process engineer in Sugarland. She has also worked in Norway, Australia and Malaysia. Currently, she is an InTouch engineer at Schlumberger Limited one of the world's biggest oilfield services company, and works in Princeton Junction, New Jersey, as a liaison between experts and field operations, providing technical support, facilitating collaboration between groups, coordinating field tests and identifying areas for improvement in training and product design. "Process improvement is the fundamental definition of an industrial engineer's job," Mitchell said. "You learn how to look at the entire picture and how each element fits into it. Afterwards, you take steps to make it better based on time, cost and impact."

Mitchell's success has inspired family members to follow her path.

"Both my sister and cousin are planning to pursue industrial engineering careers at Lamar," Mitchell said. "By witnessing my professional achievements, my sister and cousin are encouraged at what awaits them after college. It is



rewarding that my foundation at Lamar is an inspiration to my loved ones."

Mitchell serves on LU's Advisory Council for Industrial Engineering. "My role

in the council is to give feedback about what I would like to see from Lamar regarding the industrial engineering field," Mitchell said. "I use my experience as a basis to recommend which courses students should be proficient in to be successful in their future profession."

"Southeast Texas is huge for oil and gas, so a university right in the middle of the action was perfect," Mitchell said. "At Lamar, my professors came from a diverse set of career backgrounds with industry expertise that proved invaluable when discussing future career possibilities."

Mitchell said LU set her on a higher plane for success. "Lamar has the same value and same impact as larger schools," she said. "I graduated with zero debt and had no financial concerns holding me back. Because of Lamar, I entered my field prepared for the jobs I have experienced."—KT



"Professionally, I wouldn't be where I am now, designing subdivisions and getting surveys without my degree and my education from Lamar."

JASON DUGAS



"Almost overnight, I saw success."

Flying high

An electronics engineer and project manager at NASA Johnson Space Center, Jason Dugas '01 is responsible for planning, design, development and testing of high-reliability power electronics for the International Space Station and other NASA programs. One such project that Dugas heads is the International Space Station Power Inverter project that converts the DC power used on the station to AC power like that found in our homes. "The idea was that we could build an inverter that would allow astronauts to use commercially available, consumer-grade equipment for non-critical experiments," Dugas said. "We've flown iPads, iPhones, GoPro cameras, all kinds of interesting things," Dugas said. "We've also been able to use crew

comfort and scientific experimental equipment without having to develop customized power converters. We are able to drastically reduce cost for a lot of activities on the International Space Station."

After beginning his undergraduate education at another university, "I didn't feel like I was being successful enough," Dugas said. "So I looked at Lamar."

"Almost overnight, I saw success," Dugas said. "It was a combination of things—the change in environment, the professors and the whole culture at Lamar was more suited towards engineering education." He credits much of his success to classes taught by Robert Carlin. "I owe everything to that man," he said.

While studying at Lamar, Dugas became interested in the Reduced Gravity program under the guidance of Jim Jordan, professor and chair of the Department of Earth and Space Sciences, whom he credits with reawakening his childhood interest in space. "He really convinced me that I could do this," Dugas said. "The last year of my degree, I decided I would really like to work for NASA."

Remarkably, despite having no formal contacts and on the heels of a series of hiring freezes, "the stars lined up," and he was offered a position in 2001 during an ever-so-brief hiring window.

After working several years as a NASA staff engineer, Dugas won a fellowship to earn his master's degree at the University of Houston—Main Campus. "It was close to the Space Center and had the hardware focus that made sense as I wanted to continue in the power area," he said. "To get the fellowship was a blessing in no uncertain terms." Dugas earned his master's in 2009.

Since that time, he has seen his work shift gradually from engineering to project management. "First it was small technology development projects and moved on later to more space-flight hardware project management," Dugas said. "I am also doing some larger-scale technology development." One of those projects is the development of lightweight wiring in spacecraft power systems that reduces weight by 30 to 40 percent. "We are working on getting those systems qualified for human space flight."

He also has been working with the SpaceX Corp.'s Dragon capsule and Falcon rocket that are used to resupply the ISS. "SpaceX is a very vibrant company in terms of the average age of the employees and the whole culture. It has been a real treat for me to go up there and see that and become a part of it."

Today, Dugas serves on the Earth and Space Sciences Advisory Board and on the Electrical Engineering Industrial Advisory Board. "I support Lamar and pull for them, advocate for them whenever I can," he said. "I still have a big spot in my heart for the school."—BKS

PORCIA DAVIS

Davis encourages everyone

Porcia Davis '03 has combined a love of fitness, wellness, beauty and style to embrace an entrepreneurial passion for helping others. A native of Austin now living in Houston, she graduated with a bachelor's degree in health education. Through a steady progression of leadership roles in the healthcare industry, she has been inspired to found her own business with an interest in building a family dynasty.

After graduating from LU, she began her career in network management and operations in the managed care industry. Her role supported the underserved populations of Medicare and Medicaid recipients and led to a position as a community relations representative with Texas Medicaid & Healthcare Partnership in Houston.

Davis accepted an opportunity of greater responsibility with Humana as a provider network consultant, assisting network providers to resolve all contractual methodologies and claim payment



SATTIER

She combined her leadership skills, healthcare background and natural eye for beauty to establish her own business—Davis Dynasty Designs—becoming a master-certified makeup artist. The company offers statement fashion accessories for men and women—from signature jewelry to clothing accessories designed to enhance the styling desire of her clients.

"I have always had an eye for fashion and an

inner spirit for overall health and wellness," Davis said. "I have always been driven by life-transforming ventures that help others."

Davis Dynasty Designs is expanding its reach. With a new certification in high definition makeup, she now offers her clients beauty and cosmetic consultation. The company will live up to its name when Davis begins a collaboration and partnership with both her sisters and mother in 2015, when they hope to take Davis Dynasty Designs to the next level.

Her vision for the family-led business is a one-stop shop business model for styling and image consulting services through fashion blogging, closet organization, personal shopping, personal dressmaking and custom clothing designs. Her business model also includes health and wellness consulting through fitness training, customized meal planning and healthy lifestyle alternatives.

In the spirit of building her own family dynasty, Davis contributes to an educational fund for her two nephews. She says her desire is to encourage others to adopt the concept of building their own dynasty while supporting confident lifestyles through fashion, styling and wellness.—LA

CHRIS DAVIS

A stroke of good fortune

A talented tennis player, Chris Davis '03 had recruitment offers to attend a number of universities on an athletic scholarship. However, Davis had developed a new passion—golf.

"I fell in love with golf the summer before my junior year in high school and became a scratch golfer in a matter of years," Davis said. "My mentor was Mike Smith, the head pro at Idylwild Golf Club. He played at Lamar University on the great golf teams of the '80s. He introduced me to the then-head golf coach, Brad McMakin, who let me walk-on to the team. I redshirted my freshman year and then earned an athletic scholarship."

Davis had a long connection to LU. His family never missed a game of Lamar basketball. Both his elder siblings, Clay Davis '96 and Kelly (Davis) Lietzke '99, had preceded him at LU, as had good friend and basketball player, Kenyon Spears '01.

"I always felt like I would go to Lamar," Davis reflected. "I always knew I would study business, because I knew I wanted to be a financial advisor."

Now the first vice president of UBS Financial Services in Beaumont, Davis said his

academic and athletic experiences at LU had a symbiotic impact on his career.

"The relationships I made at Lamar absolutely built my business," he said. "My first clients were my golf coach's parents. One of my best clients today is a golfer I met through Lamar golf."

At the business school, Davis remembers the influence of Robert Swerdlow and Russ Waddill. Davis was a student in the first entrepreneurship class Waddill taught, a course that left a lasting impression on Davis.

As a student athlete, Davis' favorite memories of his time at LU involve the camaraderie of the athletic dorm. The golf team won three Southland Conference titles and had four NCAA regional appearances during Davis' tenure. Davis had just played in the NCAA regional at Kansas State in 2003 when he got the call offering him a job at Merrill Lynch. He worked there until joining UBS Financial Services in 2008.

Davis briefly toyed with the idea of pursuing professional golf, but he said having future



PGA standout Chris Stroud '04 as a roommate helped give him perspective on his own talent. He is grateful now that he pursued his business career instead, though he still plays serious golf, having qualified and played in the U.S. Mid-Amateurs Golf Championship twice recently. Davis maintains a close relationship with Coach Brian White, who was an assistant coach when Davis was a student. His company, UBS Financial, is also a sponsor of an annual wine-tasting event to support the Dishman Art Museum on campus.

Davis enjoys his role as a financial advisor, helping clients with their financial needs and estate planning. "I've been very fortunate in the last 10 years to build on some of the relationships from Lamar," he said. "It's in my nature to help people. I get a lot of satisfaction from helping clients navigate their financial issues and goals."

Davis and his wife, Kristin (Adams) '06, have one daughter, Palmer, who just turned 1 year old. "Lamar will always be a part of my life and I would be proud to see my children go there," Davis said. "It's a great place that produces great people."—CPR

D'JUANA DAVILLIER*Planning well can lead to poetic results*

Ever since her first job at age 16, D'Juana Davillier '03, '07, has had a knack for attracting the right kind of attention from employers. During high school and while working on her bachelor's degree in social work at LU, she moved easily from one retail position to the next, with prospective employers noticing her work ethic and offering new opportunities. After graduation, her boss and her mother urged her to go to graduate school in business. She took their advice, which led to the perfect job for her.

Davillier, 33, has been transportation program manager for the South East Texas Regional Planning Commission since 2008. While the accounting firm she worked at during graduate school was auditing the Planning Commission, she learned of a full-time staff position, applied for it and got the job. "It's a family atmosphere here. It's nice to be in an environment where people really care about what we do," she said.

As transportation manager, Davillier oversees the South East Texas Transit program, which provides low-cost rides for residents of rural areas of Jefferson, Hardin and Orange counties.

"I like the fact that I'm able to utilize both of my degrees. I'm helping provide a service that is necessary and is some people's lifeline. But in addition to the social work aspect, I handle the accounting and management of this service, ensuring that our sub-contractors are following all federal and state guidelines," she said. "This is vital service to a lot of people because they have no other means of transportation."

In 2013, the federally funded program provided approximately 63,000 one-way

trips. Many of the participants are senior citizens, low income or have disabilities, but the service is available to all as long as rides originate in a rural area of one of the three counties.



SATTIER

Davillier is proud of the work she does, but counts her greatest achievement since graduation as her growing interest in travel. "I'm getting to see how cultures and people outside of our area behave and eat and think," she said. "It's really eye opening for me. Some people have a small mentality of the world. My biggest accomplishment is opening my mind to the fact that the world is much bigger than Beaumont."

Her time at LU, where she first encountered diverse people from varied cultures, began that process for her. A classmate in the MBA program taught her to plan trips and have the confidence to travel alone. She also appreciated the expertise and effort her professors showed. "They expected the best from you and worked with you to make sure you could do your best," she said.

Outside work and travel, Davillier volunteers her time on the advisory board of the Art Museum of Southeast Texas, by delivering Meals on Wheels at least once a month, and at Peaceful Rest Baptist Church, where she serves as Sunday School superintendent, teaches Sunday School and is secretary of the building committee. She also writes poetry and enjoys participating in poetry events whenever she can.—BG

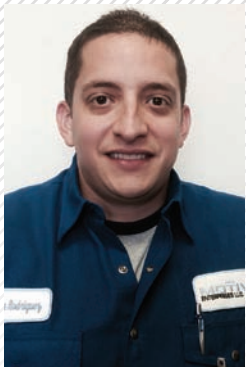
RENE RODRIGUEZ*Taking control of his career*

When it comes to a career, Rene Rodriguez '02 knows the importance of seizing opportunities and taking control. He works at Motiva Enterprises LLC in Port Arthur as a control systems team lead. "I supervise nine Motiva employees—four are control system engineers, and five are instrument inspectors," he said.

Rodriguez also understands that all work and no play can make Rene a dull engineer. Luckily, his education at Lamar University offered him the best of both worlds.

The Beaumont native earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 2002. "I was always passionate about math and science, and my older brother, Jose, graduated with a civil engineering degree in 1991 from Lamar, so I knew engineering was a natural fit," Rodriguez said. "Since I have always been fascinated by electronics, it was an easy choice to pursue electrical engineering."

He remembers one of his favorite instructors, Dewey Carlin Jr., who retired the year



L. Rodriguez

Rodriguez graduated. "He was strict but passionate about students learning," he recalled.

LU offers a more personal touch, Rodriguez said, adding that professors at the university are accessible. He believes Lamar University's engineering college is "first-class" and produces graduates who help run the industries in Southeast Texas and beyond.

The most important point that the engineering faculty taught him was that you have to take advantage of opportunities and take charge of your future. "You have to take control of your own career and your own success," he said. Professors encouraged students to pursue internships, which could be stepping stones to job opportunities. Rodriguez gained confidence at LU through his education and interaction with other professionals.

As a junior, he recalls, he had a tough year taking a heavy course load and working part time. When he made it to his senior year, he knew he was almost finished with his coursework and took 12 hours in the fall semester and nine hours in the spring semester. He could finally take some time to relax and used it playing table tennis between classes in the Setzer Student Center. "I had fun at Lamar," he remembered.

Rodriguez is married to Nina (Tong), a 2005 LU alumna, and they have a son, Evan, 5, and a daughter, Layla, 3. He recently took up coaching soccer for Evan's team. Riding his bicycle, working out and enjoying time with his family are favorite activities. "I also like cooking," he said, adding that he tries new recipes often.

Staying involved with LU is important to Rodriguez, and he keeps in touch with Harley Myler, chair of the Phillip M. Drayer Department of Electrical Engineering. Part of his job is to bring in new hires, and he's helped recruit LU graduates to join Motiva. He also attends occasional football games. —CC

COURTNEY KING*A dream realized*

Since her early days growing up in Beaumont, Courtney King '09 always had a distinct love for the arts. Whether it was performing with the Lamar University dance team as a communication major or taking adult dance classes in circus arts, her desire to merge her passions with her career landed her at one of the most up-and-coming performing arts centers in the nation, The AT&T Performing Arts Center in Dallas.

"It's different every day because we're constantly presenting a new show. As soon as one show leaves town, you start working on another one. I could be doing comedy one week and ballet the next," she said. "During my last semester of college, I actually watched the center being built by viewing the construction cameras they had



online, and I just knew in the back of my mind that I would end up there some day."

As the marketing and promotions manager, King's favorite performances have always been the Broadway shows because of her passion for musical theatre. From the traditional productions like *Hair* and *Phantom of the Opera* to edgier shows like *The Book of Mormon* and *The Blue Man Group*, "you still get to see the latest and greatest without having to travel to New York,"

King said.

Just before graduating with honors from LU, King worked for the Southeast Texas Arts Council, a non-profit arts organization dedicated to supporting other arts- and humanities-related

organizations in Southeast Texas.

King also spent a semester with Disney College. "I went with a couple of other friends from Lamar to live and work at Disney for a semester in Florida while getting college credit," she said. After returning from the internship, she spent several semesters as a Disney College campus representative for Lamar University where she helped to recruit other students to enroll in the same program. "At every job interview I went to after college, they all wanted to know about Disney," she said.

King values her education and attributes a lot of her success to the hands-on approach that her professors advocated. "I'm still in contact with a lot of the professors that I took classes with at Lamar," she said. "You get that hands-on learning experience that extends beyond the classroom with people who really know that particular industry."—DM

ALISA FRYAR*An unexpected expert*

called to speak before the state commissioners of higher education at their leadership meeting. "It was a little surprising at first because you never expect to be an expert," she said. "That just kind of sneaks up on you."

Fryar, who earned a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University in 2006, has research interests in higher education policy, representation, public management, and minority politics and policy. She was recently invited to be a part of a project of American Enterprise Institute on comprehensive universities, that is, public regional institutions like Lamar University. "For obvious reasons, I am very passionate about the topic," she said. "It was such a great experience." Of the 30 or so participants involved, Fryar found that she was one of only two who graduated from a comprehensive university. "I had the opportunity to see the problems that our leaders face," she said. "Policymakers regularly make decisions about what should happen to universities like Lamar, but how many of them have a personal connection to any of these institutions?"

"Universities like Lamar are the backbone of higher education," Fryar said. "They are doing the heavy lifting. They educate the most students. They even educate the most graduate students, which a lot of people don't realize." Some of her work will appear as a chapter in "The University Next Door" to be published in 2015.



As an associate professor of political science at the University of Oklahoma, Alisa (Hicklin) Fryar '02 has had the opportunity to be engaged in conversations at both the state and national level on issues related to affordability and success in higher education.

In her research, Fryar examines college graduation rates and "ways in which policies can either help or hinder efforts to improve affordability for college students." She was recently

Her passion for LU was evident while she was an undergraduate student. She was president of the Student Government Association and homecoming queen. On the night she was crowned, she was busy on the basketball court serving as Big Red, the LU mascot. "My students just can't imagine me being a mascot," Fryar said. "For some of my Lamar friends, it's the thing they remember most, but for my students, it seems completely incomprehensible."

When not researching, she is teaching undergraduate and graduate courses, and supervising master's thesis and doctoral dissertations. "I love being part of a university," she said. "They are such great places to be, and I really enjoy getting to teach and work with students." In particular, Fryar finds satisfaction in getting students engaged in projects and helping them learn about opportunities in local government and non-profit organizations. To that end, she is working on a proposal to expand the university's course offerings in non-profit education and training.

"A lot of our students are interested in the non-profit community," she said. "And non-profits are looking for people who have the skills they need to be successful." She has served as a faculty mentor for the Oklahoma Group, a student-run, student-lead organization that does free consulting for non-profit organizations. "Students can do so much more than they think," Fryar said.—BKS

CHERIE OUBRE



Keeping astronauts healthy and safe

"Every day is something different," said senior scientist Cherie (Morgan) Oubre '99. "Sometimes you get bogged down in the day-to-day operations, but then you step back and think, 'I get to help people go into space.'"

Oubre is employed by Wyle, a leading provider of specialized engineering, professional, scientific and technical services to the federal government. At the NASA Johnson Space Center Microbiology Laboratory, Oubre is involved in a diverse blend of research, operational and science management activities with the goal of maintaining astronaut health and safety. Her research activities and interests include the evaluation of beneficial probiotics, monitoring changes in the human microbiome, and development of future spaceflight microbial monitoring hardware.

Oubre and her team examine microbes on the International Space Station and perform environmental analysis "to keep the crew safe." Microbe-immune interactions are important in human health. The body's response to microorganisms, both harmful and beneficial, has an impact on immune function and plays a role in overall health, Oubre said.

She also is helping develop future spaceflight hardware. "Right now, we do

classic microbiology, which is time consuming and takes a lot of materials. Anything that takes crew time or requires a lot of bulky supplies to be flown in space is expensive. So, we are exploring next-generation molecular technologies to develop advanced ways to identify microbes in flight," she said.

Oubre supports current NASA-funded spaceflight research activities, including a study that is evaluating the changes in microbial flora resulting from spaceflight. Closer to home, she works directly with astronauts as one of the microbiology instructors for a crew training session designed to demonstrate microbiology techniques and theories. In addition, she is supportive of education and outreach activities, including participating as a judge in local school science fair activities. She also is working with NASA collaborators and Houston-area hospitals "to decrease microbial load on equipment."

Oubre graduated from Lamar University with a bachelor's degree in biology and continued her education at Texas A&M, conducting research focused on evaluating microbe-immune interactions using the chicken as a model organism. She earned her Ph.D. in microbiology in 2005.

Oubre was a post-doctoral scientist with Hyperion Biotechnology, a defense

contractor, in the Air Force Research Laboratory, School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio. There, her research focused on the identification and mitigation of risks to war-fighter health through the development of a probiotic that could be used by troops to mitigate gastrointestinal distress that commonly occurs during initial deployment. Oubre also studied wound care and healing using hyperbaric treatment and biomarker development to identify warfighter fatigue.

However, with the closure of Brooks AFB, the position was moved to Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio. Instead of moving, Oubre sought work in Texas where her husband, Cullen, could continue his teaching career. Her mother, Barbara Morgan, who earned an LU communications degree in 1998 and now works at NASA, saw the position opening at Wyle. Oubre was selected for the position, and the couple soon moved to the Clear Lake area.

"At Wyle, I have the best of all worlds," she said. "I get to do science management with NASA and with the microbiology team to guide what research needs to be done for crew health and safety. I also get to work on safe flight operations, both those occurring now and those planned for the future."—BKS

LEATHA HALLMARK

Co-opting in

Cherry trees in bloom always remind Leatha (Hughes) Hallmark '04 of her time at Lamar University. Not that she is a stranger to the campus, since she returns every fall and spring as a lead recruiter for Marathon Petroleum, where she is employed as an engineering supervisor at the Texas City location.

Hallmark became interested in engineering when she was in junior high, thanks to a science teacher in her hometown of Channelview. As a high school senior, she tagged along with some friends on a college tour that included a stop at LU.

"The actual faculty of the engineering department gave me a personal tour," she remembered. "I liked the family environment of the school."

Hallmark received a scholarship to study mechanical engineering. While a student, one of her favorite experiences was the Pun'kin Chunkin' contest because it required students to use their engineering skills in a fun, collaborative and competitive way. She also participated in three co-op experiences, but still graduated in four and a half years.

In her current role at Marathon Petroleum, Hallmark supervises engineers that are responsible for a portfolio of projects that run a total budget of approximately \$200 million annually. She is responsible for leading and training a team of project en-

gineers, cost analysis and budget. She also does some of her own project management.

"I knew I wanted to be in the petrochemical industry, and Lamar caters to that industry," she said. "Lamar prepared me for what to expect, particularly by promoting the co-op program, which makes a huge impact by giving you real-life experience."

Hallmark now lives in League City with her husband, Kevin, and two young children, Sadie, 3, and Brady, 2. Life away from the office is centered on the children: play time, dance class and the occasional motor home trip. If Hallmark does steal a few minutes of her own to chill between work and family, she enjoys reading.

As an alumni recruiter for her company, she strongly encourages LU students to focus less on a specific graduation date and more on getting experience. Hallmark visits with students at the career fairs sponsored by the university, and, as a fellow Cardinal, she is able to guide students in their career prospects.



"Focus more on what you need to be a good employee when you graduate," she said. "Any big company isn't going to hire you without co-op or intern experience. Also, another challenge we have as an employer is employees willing to relocate. We have seven refineries in addition to our home office.

For career experi-

ence, relocation is the best thing to do. It will make you a well-rounded engineer and increase your credibility. Sometimes you have to go outside of your comfort zone."

Hallmark came back to campus in November when IEEE hosted a softball tournament for the engineering school students, which Marathon Petroleum sponsored, providing the food and an LU alumni team of Marathon Petroleum employees.—CPR

JOEL LOVE

Composer lives for the music

For Joel Love '07, music is a way of life. He earned a bachelor's degree in music composition and now works primarily as a composer.

"At about 16, I became enamored with how music could elicit a primal emotional response," he said. "Ever since then, I have wanted to capture and recreate that response."

Love entered Lamar University on a trumpet scholarship and earned an additional piano scholarship after his first year. He played trumpet in the band and piano in the jazz band, sang in the choir and composed music for the ensembles. In his junior year, he earned a spot on the Phi Mu Alpha Honors Recital playing Franz Liszt's "Un Sospiro." He also was a member of the Gamma Zeta chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi, an honorary band fraternity.

"My experiences with Lamar were extremely well-rounded," he said. "I also had a chance to work with some great mentors. All of my private teachers, Dr. Rissman, Dr. Hines, Dr. Simmons and Dr. Ornelas, were all exceedingly encouraging and models on how to be professional as well as



supportive. These influences continue working in my life every day."

Love also composed two choral pieces while attending LU, which helped him transition to graduate school: "Musica Dei, donum optimi," or Music, Gift of the Highest God, and "O nata lux," or O Born of Light. He performed "O nata lux" in Panama while touring with the A Cappella Choir.

Love later earned his master's degree in composition from the University of Houston Moores School of Music in 2010 and doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin Butler School of Music in 2014.

"I am most proud that my music seems to touch people and sometimes transports them into a place where they enjoy being," he said. "I am also proud that I can do some novel things with my music while simultaneously maintaining an emotional appeal and an aesthetic of beauty."

Love has won numerous awards for his work. He is the two-time winner of the PARMA Recordings Composer Competition, the winner of the John Swain Memorial Prize for Wind Ensem-

ble Composition, a finalist in the third International Frank Ticheli Composition Contest and winner of Best Original Score at Houston's 2010 48-Hour Film Project. He received honorable mention for the New York Youth Symphony's First Music Commissions. Artist James Turrell recently commissioned a work from Love to accompany his Austin Skyspace. "His art and mission, 'a string presentation of the sublime,' mirrors what I strive for in my work," Love said.

He now regularly composes and performs as well as teaches music privately.

"I love composing because it's an activity in which I can get completely lost and lose track of time," he said. "I love it because I get the very special responsibility, privilege and challenge to create something new and unique that expresses emotions and thoughts that are very personal to me."

Love lives in Austin with his fiancé, Amelia Ciskey, and his dog Amity. He enjoys riding his bike around the city, cultivating his hobby of photography and reading as many books as possible.—MP

STEPHANIE MOLINA



There's a niche for everything

Search alligator farm or muffler men and Beaumont will appear in the top results, two of the many Southeast Texas tourism themes Stephanie (Dollar) Molina '00 keeps her eye on as director of marketing for the Beaumont Convention and Visitors Bureau. Beaumont's two muffler men, larger-than-life advertising sculptures, are popular roadside attractions, in addition to Gator Country's alligator and the world's third-largest fire hydrant in downtown Beaumont. "There are people that travel all over the world to view muffler men," she said. "We have two of them here and get a lot of hits from that. We have an eclectic mix."

That eclecticism keeps Molina's job interesting. Each day brings a new challenge, but she applies what she learned through participation in the LU chapter of the American Advertising Federation as a business major with her natural artistic talent and skills honed by her work first as an intern and then later as an employee with advertising agencies. As a student, she was "fascinated by psychology and sociology," but her heart craved art. When she discovered that a business degree's advertising communication track combined business, psychology and art, "I loved it and thrived," she said. Several of the friends she made then are now in the tourism industry, and those connections still flourish as she works to promote Beaumont and the surrounding area.

From road trips exploring destinations through a tourist's eye to creating a new meeting campaign for an organization that has selected Beaumont for its convention, Molina says she never knows what she is going to walk into each day. "That's using a little hyperbole, but it's exciting," she said. Her first day on the job as marketing director coincided with the 100th anniversary of

Spindletop and saw her fielding media inquiries. "Everybody was there, including Pres. George Bush, and I thought, 'I am going to love this industry.'" More recently, her team completed market research for developing Cattail Marsh, including construction of boardwalks, birding lines and directional signage, as part of a master plan to promote Beaumont as the hub of a regional birding destination. "It's a huge market, and the economic impact that market leaves on an area is substantial. Beaumont is strategically placed to benefit a great deal. It is perfectly positioned to be the overnight stay for birding visitors."

With a myriad of associations looking for meeting destinations, the bureau sales team stays busy booking business. Molina steps in to develop a theme for the event and helps design the promotional materials and strategies—whether it's creating a visual brand for the National Baton Twirlers Association or a user-generated photo and video social media contest for a national softball competition.

Although she travels a lot for work, Molina still looks forward to joining her husband, Shawn, and children, ages 8 and 11, on family trips. "I enjoy taking them to new places I've discovered or read about. I like to take pictures. I still love to do artwork, but family time is definitely a priority when I'm off."

Molina spent most of her early youth growing up in the Kentwood and Bogalusa areas of Louisiana a little more than an hour north of New Orleans before the family moved to Vidor where she graduated from high school. Those Louisiana memories contribute to her feelings of kinship for Southeast Texas with its strong Cajun influences. Here in Southeast Texas, "we can claim the best of both worlds," she said.—CH

BRYAN GRAHAM

Solving problems comes naturally

Since childhood, Bryan Graham '98 has been fascinated by chemical processes.

Graham earned a B.S. in chemical engineering from LU in 1998 and now works as an asset director for DCP Midstream.

"I've wanted to be a chemical engineer since I was in the sixth grade," Graham said. "One of my teachers was married to a chemical engineer, and I used to babysit their children. I met him one night, and he said that he solved problems every day. He didn't mix chemicals in labs, but he found ways to mass-produce them. He used math and science to solve problems, and I just thought that was in line with what I would like to do in school and what I wanted to do in my life. I was sold on engineering ever since."

While attending Lamar University, Graham received the Katherine E. and William C. Mundt Student Engineering scholarship. He received a nationally competitive Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship and was chosen for the Donald F. & Mildred Topp Othmer Scholarship Award program in his sophomore year.

"I grew up in North Texas," he said. "I had never heard of Lamar until I started looking for chemical engineering programs. I saw it and

thought a chemical engineering, Gulf Coast school that was right in the heart of the chemical industry would be a great match. Certainly the class sizes and industry ties of the faculty were a big plus as well. I participated in a co-op with Lyondell when I turned 19, had great experiences with all of my teachers, and I love Lamar."

Graham worked for Lyondell, now LyondellBasell, and its predecessor companies after graduating until 2012. He began working as a chemical engineer on production units and planning assignments and later became a manager for laboratories, engineers and manufacturing operations groups. He transitioned to his current position in management as an asset director for DCP Midstream in 2012, responsible for natural gas processing plants, storage facilities and pipelines



in Texas and Louisiana. "I'm making decisions on safety, environmental quality, costs—everything to optimize the business," he said. "There's no boring day. You're always trying to improve in some area."

While working for LyondellBasell, Graham received multiple awards for championing community involvement. He has also been involved with many project teams which were recognized for operational excellence.

Graham lives in Carthage with his wife and two daughters. In

his spare time, he works as an engineering duty officer for the U.S. Navy. He enjoys travelling, hiking, playing sports and listening to music.—MP

KATIE KORNEGAY

A classroom of her own

Katie Kornegay '02 had a dream to be an elementary school teacher most of her life. At 23, she fulfilled that dream and became a full-time mathematics and science teacher of fifth-grade students at Lorena Oates Elementary in West Orange. She has since moved to West Orange-Stark Elementary to become the lead science teacher for the campus.

"At the age of eight, my third-grade teacher, Mrs. Beverly Morris, inspired me to become an elementary school teacher," Kornegay said. The Nederland High School graduate earned a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies at LU. Through the Texas Regional Science Collaborative, a program of the Region V Education Service Center, she began to network with teachers throughout Southeast Texas, and began to mentor other science teachers.

Now in her 10th year of teaching, Kornegay says her goal is to "inspire students and to spark an interest in life-long science learning." Toward that end, she has mentored more than 30 elementary science teachers and presented

numerous faculty workshops and training courses. She is currently a member of the Area V Science Teacher's Association of Texas' steering committee for the area's Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching.

She sponsors an annual Family Science Night on her campus which allows students and their families to experience science firsthand through interactive exploratory activities. These events generally draw 400-500 participants each spring.

She has written numerous successful grants, enabling her to take her students to the Johnson Space Center, the Natural Science Museum of Houston and Moody Gardens in Galveston. Additionally, she has brought representatives from these organizations to her campus to expand on the science curriculum for other grade levels.

Kornegay coaches the elementary extracur-



ricular robotics team, which has advanced to state competition for the past three years against elementary and middle school teams. Her fifth-grade windmill design team won first place the past two years at the Shangri La Botanical Gardens Annual Windmill Com-

petition against other area schools, and she also coached the campus UIL Number Sense team and the Maps, Graphs and Charts team. A strong believer in life-long learning, Kornegay is a NASA LiftOff alumna, a highly competitive, prestigious program sponsored by NASA at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

"I hope to inspire my students to love learning, and especially science, just as Mrs. Morris inspired me," she said.—LA

JOSH DASPIT



Giving business the family treatment

Dinner tables and arranged marriages. Adoptions and business management. For Assistant Professor Josh Daspit '04, these seemingly unrelated topics are like pieces of a puzzle slowly revealing a larger whole as he delves into the dynamics of family business management at Mississippi State University.

"There's still a lot to be understood," he said. "For a long time, no one looked at the differences between family businesses and other types of firms. I can probably name on one hand the number of people who are doing research in family firm innovation." His interest in the topic came built in: his grandmother owned a florist shop, an uncle founded an air conditioning business and another family member owned a jewelry store. "My mom and I often joked because she worked for my uncle, who was a dentist, about some of the interesting things that happen when you mix family and business," he said.

Currently, Daspit is working on a project focused on succession in family business and how catastrophic the lack of a plan can be, the leading reason why many family firms don't survive across generations. Researchers are exploring ways to help managers be more proactive in making those plans so firms remain viable, Daspit said. His reading shows that, in

Japan, managers are choosing to inject fresh ideas into tired, generations-old businesses through modern-day arranged marriages for new vitality. "Then, in some cases," Daspit said, "they will formally adopt a future successor so that he or she accrues those family connections rather than having an outsider they've hired run their firm." Research shows, Daspit says, that when family members run a firm, additional value is created in terms of commitment to quality, care for employees, long-term focus, and strength of customer and community relationships.

Family business research explores an important area of commerce. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that about 90 percent of American businesses are family owned or controlled, accounting for half the nation's employment. "We're starting to look at how to create a sense of cohesiveness in non-family firms because there is certainly value in not only being family but also in feeling like a family," he said. "At the end of the day, it's all about how we can help family and non-family firms perform better, both financially and non-financially."

Daspit says he couldn't have made a better career choice. He enjoys both the intellectual challenge of research and teaching

students, helping them make discoveries and determine their own future paths. After LU, he earned his MBA in international management from the University of St. Thomas, followed in 2012 by his Ph.D. in strategic management from the University of North Texas. Now, he is well on his way to academic success at the halfway mark to tenure with a portfolio of more than 12 publications and numerous presentations.

As an undergrad, Daspit struggled to decide between public service and law until one pivot point came through insight he gained as student government president at LU, serving on university committees like the long-range planning committee. "The average student doesn't see those things," Daspit said, recalling his seat in the president's boardroom as the only student in attendance. "They were discussing issues that, as a student, I never realized were so complex, and it was at that moment that the behind the scenes effort peaked my curiosity. Having exposure to the other side of academia was something that changed the trajectory of my professional pursuits."

Daspit finds digging into an emerging area of research to be energizing. He said, "I just can't wait to see what the next discovery is going to be."—CH

NICOLE LEWIS

Managing a pathway to success

When Nicole (Madden) Lewis '03 began her undergraduate studies, she was uncertain of which direction to follow.

"Originally, I began at Stephen F. Austin State University, and I wasn't sure what I wanted to do," Lewis said. "One of my family members was a Lamar alumnus, and she connected me to a Lamar dean who helped me solidify my career pursuits. With the benefit of smaller classroom sizes and a close proximity of the university to the industries that were pertinent to my major, I knew Lamar was the right fit for me."

While working toward her chemical engineering degree, Lewis completed four co-op terms with LyondellBasell Industries, a multinational chemical company.

"The co-op experience allowed me to connect book smarts to the real world," Lewis said. "During this process, I was able to see the realities of the field I was entering. One of the LyondellBasell recruiters, also an LU alumnus, became a mentor of mine. He was passionate about his work, and he taught me fundamental tips such as how to plan and prioritize tasks—tips I utilize today."

After graduation, Lewis earned her M.B.A. from the University of Texas at Tyler and accepted a job at LyondellBasell where she would eventually take on the roles of project manager, production engineer and foreign trade-zone engineer.

"Coming to work straight out of college, I was appreciative of how well co-op prepared me for a full-time job," Lewis said. "In my career, I have worked in capital projects, engineering roles, supply chain roles and international compliance. Throughout my various jobs, I have implemented the basic skills I learned at Lamar, setting a foundation for the rest of my career."

Currently, Lewis works as a plant manager at Athlon Solutions in Houston where she oversees all manufacturing processes as well as customer demand.

"Part of my job as plant manager is to ensure safety and make sure we are being efficient, environmentally friendly and meeting customer demands," Lewis said. "Also, one of the important facets of my job is creating goals and career development plans for employees. How I was developed while at Lamar has been an inspiration for how I develop employees."

Lewis has continued her involvement with the university by helping recruit LU students and supporting the Society of Women Engineers.

"Lamar set the foundation for my career by



teaching me I needed to work hard and by helping me transfer this work ethic to my professional career," Lewis said. "My professors served as incredible mentors, challenging me to be successful and giving me the chance to show my potential. My participation in university organizations and co-op taught me the importance of perseverance and facilitated a smooth transition to the work force. The skills I learned at Lamar have played a tremendous role in my professional success today."—LA

CODY DISHON

Resolved at young age, Cody Dishon '09 had a plan and executed it with smart strategy and hard work. His goal was to become a trial lawyer in order to help ordinary people solve problems at difficult times in their lives. He achieved that vision and is now an attorney for Provost Umphrey Law Firm in Beaumont. Lamar University was an important step in his career journey.

Knowing that graduate school would be required to reach his dream profession, Dishon was looking for a college that would be both affordable and reputable. The then-Bridge City resident didn't have to look far to find the right fit.

"By attending Lamar, I could commute to school and get a quality education," he said.

Dishon studied business administration at



Vision accomplished

LU and, although he began with no advance credits, he finished his degree in three years. He compliments the College of Business faculty on their helpfulness and recalls particularly enjoying James Slaydon's finance class because of the practical applications to life and Jeff Dyson's entrepreneurship course. Today, he uses those business skills in a real estate venture, Dishon Investments, which he shares with his father, John Dishon.

After graduation, Dishon earned his law degree from South Texas College of Law in 2012. He now has a busy case load with the Provost Umphrey firm and is actively involved with

Jefferson County Young Lawyers Association. He also takes on some pro bono work.

LU offered one more important legacy for Dishon—his wife, Julia (Tran) '12. They were married in December 2013 and have a toy poodle named Justice that Dishon says they treat like their child. "Julia came up with the dog's name," he said. "I argue my case, but she is the one who

makes the final decisions."

Dishon loved Lamar basketball as a student, and, when he wasn't studying, he was watching basketball. In fact, when he remembers his students days, the Montagne Center is front and center of his memories. With his case load and Julia's graduate school program, he doesn't get back as often as he'd like, although he catches the occasional football or basketball game. When they can find time, the Dishons enjoy attending Houston Rockets or Houston Texan games, catching live music concerts and going to the movies.

Dishon, who clerked in Houston while earning his law degree, encourages current students to gain practical experience in the field or industry tied to their degrees while still in school.

"Internships open up doors, demonstrate your work ethic and distinguish you from other applicants," he said. "It's important to know what you want to do and then you can develop a roadmap. Research and find something you're passionate about. It can take hard work, dedication and sacrifices, but Lamar University will put you in a position to succeed. You just have to put in the work."—CPR

JULIE RODRIGUEZ

Engineering solutions for company and community



Working hard to achieve her goals is nothing new for Julie Rodriguez '09, so it comes as no surprise that she has successfully navigated a variety of assignments at ExxonMobil Corp. Rodriguez, 32, started with ExxonMobil in five rotations as a cooperative education, or co-op, student while pursuing her mechanical engineering and mathematics degree. After graduation, she joined the company full time as a machinery engineer. She then moved on to a position as a reliability engineer at the Mont Belvieu plastics plant. This fall, she transitioned to a new job as a project engineer for Baytown Area Projects where she looks forward to continuing to develop her leadership abilities by managing multi-million dollar capital projects.

"I have the opportunity to impact the community, and that's very important to me," Rodriguez said. "I enjoy solving problems, helping engineer solutions and working with teams to implement those solutions, being able to see ideas from concept to fruition."

Rodriguez has

remained involved with LU as a member of the Mechanical Engineering Department Advisory Council and the Alumni Advisory Board. She also is on ExxonMobil's recruiting team for Lamar University, which allows her to return to campus during career fairs and interview current students for employment opportunities with her company.

"I'm proud of being a Lamar Cardinal. I want to help the university continue to be successful in any way I can whether by recruiting students or placing their graduates," she said. "I understand being a non-traditional student, being a first generation college student, and there are students at Lamar that have the same challenges. I find great satisfaction in helping students."

Rodriguez came to the U.S. from Mexico at age 15 for a summer vacation. Her mother decided she should stay, and she ended up completing high school and learning English while living with a foster family. After high school, she worked two full-time jobs for three years to save money for college before starting a few classes at night. Eventually, she was able to reduce her work schedule and become an active, full-time student.

Rodriguez enjoys giving back to her community. Until recently, she served as the Junior Achievement coordinator between ExxonMobil Mont Belvieu Plastics Plant and Barber's Hill High School, working with more than 20 volunteers and multiple teachers to educate students on economics, investments and production. During her tenure, the program almost doubled in volunteer participation and expanded into the junior high school. "While I'm in the classroom, I get to talk to them about my job," Rodriguez said, noting that she hopes those encounters help students to start thinking about their own career goals.

When asked where she sees herself in the future, Rodriguez, currently pursuing an M.B.A., said she has worked on a five-year plan in college and during her career. However, life experiences have taught her that she must be flexible in modifying that plan depending on circumstances. "Whatever I'm doing, it will be something that I enjoy, otherwise I'm not going to be doing it," she said. "I'd like to continue to have the opportunity to influence people. As long as I continue to grow, I'll end up where I'm supposed to be."—BG

KENNON COTTON



At National Instruments, Kennon Cotton '98 believes he has found the right match for his equal interests in computer hardware and software, putting his double major in electrical engineering and computer science to work as a senior software group manager. He credits Lamar University's College of Engineering and his co-op experience while a student with preparing him for the "real world."

"Lamar had and continues to have a very good engineering program," he said. "While at Lamar, I was challenged by the classes I was taking and felt I was getting a good education. I learned a lot that has directly applied to my work in the industry."

Cotton decided on LU after attending a spring open house. The double major then available in

Based in Austin, National Instruments' hardware and software is used by scientists and engineers to automate testing and measurement systems, enabling them to more efficiently develop the products they are producing. One of NI's core products is LabVIEW software. Cotton started at the company in the Engineering Leadership program in 1998. Soon after, he joined the LabVIEW software development team as a software engineer. Within a few years he began managing a portion of that team. Now he writes less code, but supervises the project management of several products produced by the team. Some LabVIEW customers and applications include LEGO Mindstorms products, the world's largest particle

On top of technology

electrical engineering and computer science appealed to him and he was able to secure a full scholarship. Being from Vidor, Lamar University also offered the option to live away from home without being far away from home.

"When I think of Lamar, I think of some of the excellent professors I had," he said. "One in particular, Mr. Carlin, was tough in class, but very helpful outside of class and made sure we were well-prepared for our future careers."

accelerator and research involving 5G wireless technologies.

Cotton returns to campus frequently as both a recruiter for NI and as a member of the Electrical Engineering Advisory Board, providing input on industry trends and feedback to the faculty. When he interacts with current students, he always encourages them to take advantage of the co-op experience. He also encourages the electrical engineering majors to do more programming and the computer science majors to learn more about hardware.

Through his work, Cotton and his family have taken some international trips to places such as Australia and France, but they also like to hit the road for cross-country road trips. The next stop is Disney World later this year. Cotton married his high school sweetheart, Edan. They have four children—Coralee, 10; Lincoln, 7; Lauramae, 5; and Witten, approaching his first birthday. Cotton spends most of his free time being an involved dad—coaching soccer and football teams, leading Sunday School at church and working on a long list of fix-up jobs around the house.

"After working at a company with engineers from dozens of universities around the world, I definitely feel the education I received at Lamar University was every bit as good as, if not better, than anywhere else," he said.—CPR

MEGAN ROMERO

Behind the scene

Megan (Barrett) Romero '11 has loved theatre since she was very young, developing her interest first in high school theatre at Westbrook in Beaumont and then at the collegiate level at LU as a theatre major. She later earned a master's degree in stage management from the California Institute of the Arts.

Romero's favorite production to work as stage manager for Austin's ZACH Theatre was *Gospel at Colonius*, a gospel version of Sophocles' tragedy, *Oedipus at Colonius*. "It was absolutely breathtaking and had a wonderful cast," she said.

Her most recent production was a one-hour children's play, *A Year with Frog and Toad*. By the time the production's run ended, more than 15,000 students from the Austin area saw the show. "I'm so excited that I get to make the magic happen behind the scenes for them," Romero said.

As a student at LU, Romero spent a few semesters as a Lamar University Ambassador, one of an elite group of students who represent LU at events and in the community. "It really helped me to refine my communication skills and interact with donors and people within the community," she said. "I've been able to take what I learned from that experience and apply some of those skills in theatre because we are a non-profit organization."

Romero enjoyed the size of LU. "All of my professors knew me by name, and that was a huge plus," she said. She made the most of classroom and production opportunities, gaining experience with stage

management, acting and the technical trades of the industry as well.

Romero's favorite professor was assistant professor and director of technical theater Jeff Wisor, who died early this year. "He was the most influential person in my career, and he was actually the person who led me to become a stage manager," she said. "I was so blessed to be able to have him as one of my mentors."

Robero anticipates the day she reaches her long-term goals: to receive her equity card from the Actors' Equity Association and eventually become a teacher in higher education. "I definitely want to teach stage management on a collegiate level and look forward to those days," she said.—DM



BRANDAN STILL

After an early run on a three-mile trail in Memorial Park with his wife Jena (Verrill) '06, attorney Brandan Still '06 completes his morning ritual and walks through the downtown Houston doors of Simpson Thatcher & Bartlett law firm, happy to be working back home.

The son of LU alumni Maridale (Adams) Still '79, teacher and current LU doctoral student, and Randy Still '80, engineer, he grew up in Beaumont, Harvard law followed on the heels of LU graduation, and his success there earned him a place at the internationally known Ropes and Gray firm headquartered in Boston. Still spent his first year of practice in Boston working with CAPLAW, Community Action Program Legal Services, as an attorney dealing with issues ranging from federal grant law to employment law in the administration of community service block grants. In October 2010, he joined the New York offices of Ropes and Gray, where he worked until this past February when he accepted a position with another international firm, New York-based Simpson Thatcher & Bartlett. This one afforded him the opportunity to help build a newly established Houston office back home in Texas and be closer to family.

Still represents mostly private equity firms investing in oil and gas exploration, helping guide financing for those deals and serving clients in the oil and gas, energy and related industries. "It's



SATTLER

Pushing past limits

exciting to be a part of something that's growing," Still said. "We have a unique blend of expertise because we have been doing private equity work as long as that's been a practice area, and in Houston we've developed an energy expertise to go along with that."

Still's love of the law cemented early when he began thinking about a career and participated in a high school mock trial.

"Growing up in the Beaumont area, I knew a lot of attorneys as friends of my parents. They're really great people, and they were protecting people's rights. I thought that was really an interesting and honorable profession to be a part of."

With the encouragement of his parents, he decided to attend LU after speaking with faculty. "A lot was happening at Lamar, and I got the sense that really good things were happening with the business school. That, indeed, turned out to be the case." He took several law classes at LU to complement his economics degree with "some very, very good professors," but his Honors Program experience as a freshman at LU stands out as notable when Donna Birdwell, program director at the time, suggested Still should apply for a national Rotary

Ambassadorial scholarship. He applied, interviewed and won the scholarship. "That proved to me that I was in a place where good things could happen for me personally at Lamar," he said. "It let me know that, down the road, I would be prepared to compete for other opportunities."

He is grateful for his post-LU learning and professional experiences, but enjoys being closer to both his family and his wife's. Buna native and communication disorders alumna Jena met Brandan at LU. Today, she is a speech-language pathologist with Houston school district and a "driving force" for Still. "I look at the work she does every day, and she's so fulfilled by it and so passionate about doing a good job by being an advocate for students," he said.

What keeps his blood pumping is the feeling that he is constantly at the edge of his ability, finding his limits and then pushing past them. "That's part of the challenge and part of the joy. You get as much responsibility as you can handle plus a little bit so that you're testing yourself," he said. "It is exciting, and the satisfaction of getting some of these deals across the finish line is just huge."

The view from his office window is of Minute Maid Park. "I'm glad to be home near my Astros and to be able to catch a Lamar game more often than I've been able to," he said. His office relocates next year from the 14th floor to the 50th floor. For Still, that's as good as moving forward, which he believes to be the key to success. He just hopes he gets to keep his ballpark view.—CH

STEPHANIE GLOVER*Doctor and teacher*

A natural leader with a combined love of medicine and teaching, Dr. Stephanie (Cryer) Glover '05 has created a career for herself that allows her to teach best practices while helping others. Originally from Liberty, she attended Lamar University as a pre-med major. Active in the Honors Program, Baptist Student Ministry, Ambassador Program and Pre-Medical Society, she earned a bachelor's degree in psychology.

Glover spent six weeks in Nepal on a medical mission trip through the Baptist Student Ministry the summer between her junior and senior years. Alongside other students, she worked in a hospital near Khatmandu and taught English to local nursing students. She defines the global experience as life changing and treasures it.



"I kept a journal about everything that touched my senses, from all the wonderfully different smells to the diversity of the people, she said. "I go back and read the journal from time to time and am reminded of the wonderful people of Nepal."

She continued her education at Texas Tech Health Science Center School of Medicine in Lubbock where she continued her love of teaching and leadership. She was involved in the Pediatric Interest Group, Student Council and Ambassador Program. Medical school defined her future in two momentous ways: She met her future husband, Dr. Mark Glover; and "due to an inspiring pediatric attending, the most intriguing thing I learned in medical school was that I was interested in being a teacher," she said.

The couple was fortunate to be able to complete their respective residency programs in

2009 in Memphis, Tennessee, where they lived for five years. She worked at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis for Pediatric Residency where she served as chief resident from 2012-2013. During that year, she enjoyed being involved in hospital committee work, teaching, scheduling and helping to road map future visions for the program.

Glover is now a neonatal hospitalist in the neonatal intensive care unit at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. She works with newborn well babies and their parents and late pre-term infants who require a short NICU stay to get the best start in life. She particularly enjoys teaching the families of her patients as well as budding pediatricians and medical students. Glover remains involved in academic medicine, which is central to her love of research and managerial roles that complement the clinical care she gives. She and Mark have two daughters, Gemma and Juniper.—LA

"I owe Lamar so much. Anything I can do to return the favor, return the support that I've had, I would certainly be willing to do."

—DAN HALLMARK '65



SATTLER

**Dan Hallmark
joins Hall of Fame**

The College of Business recently inducted successful banker and dedicated community patron Dan Hallmark '65 into the college's Hall of Fame.

The tribute recognizes alumni who have excelled in business and is the highest accolade possible for graduates of Lamar University's College of Business. Members of the Hall of Fame serve as outstanding role models for current and future students, said Dean Enrique "Henry" Venta. "Dan Hallmark is an individual worthy of this recognition," said Venta. "In addition to having accomplished much in the banking world, he is involved in community and professional organizations and has played a long-term, significant role in the history of the university."

If not for Lamar University, Hallmark believes he never would have found a successful career in banking. He has worked over the years to return the favor. "I guess almost from the day I graduated, I've been a contributing alumnus," said Hallmark, who earned a B.B.A. in management. "I owe Lamar so much. Anything I can do to return the favor, return the support that I've had, I would certainly be willing to do."

Hallmark paid for his education with a scholarship from American National Bank and a loan from First Security

National Bank, both attained with the help of Lamar administrators. Still, he had no interest in banking as a career until his senior year when Dean J.D. Landes urged him to interview for a management training program at American National Bank. Out of respect for Landes, Hallmark met with bank leaders. He decided banking sounded interesting after all.

"I worked for the bank in that same building for 38 years, through many name changes," Hallmark said. Hallmark spent the majority of his career at Texas Commerce Bankshares. He eventually retired from JP Morgan Chase as chairman and chief executive officer of the Southeast Texas region and then from Hibernia National Bank as regional president.

A 2002 Distinguished Alumnus and past president of the Lamar University Alumni Association, Hallmark has worked to strengthen Lamar programs as well. He served as a Texas State University System regent, advocating for creating additional residence halls for Lamar University. He is a member and past chair of the College of Business Board of Advisors and created the Dan S. Hallmark Endowment in Business to provide the dean with a discretionary fund for scholarships, salary supplements and other purposes. —BKS

University posts record enrollment

Official figures for the fall 2014 semester taken on the 20th class day show the highest enrollment in Lamar University's history.

Record headcount was set with 14,889 students, up 6.1 percent over last fall. Credit hours are also up, totaling 140,626, up 4.07 percent, the second most in LU's history (second only to Fall 2010). In large measure, the growth was a result of sharp jumps in international students, graduate engineering enrollments, and online graduate education students.

This fall saw increases in new first-time-in-college freshmen (up 1.2 percent over last fall), transfer students (up 32.8 percent), and graduate students (up 119.1 percent). The total of non-Texas resident students, including international students, grew 56.1 percent, and those from other states grew 6.8 percent. The numbers of Hispanics students increased 24.5 percent, Asian Americans increased 5.2 percent, multiracial students increased 22.9 percent, and international students increased 57.3 percent.

The *Chronicle of Higher Education* ranks Lamar University 11th among public doctoral institutions in its "Fastest-Growing Colleges, 2001-12," based upon an increase of 45.8 percent.

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INCREASE

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INCREASE

international students

Math Department provides free tutoring

The Department of Mathematics is providing free math tutoring for students in grades K-12 each Wednesday evening from 6-7 p.m. at the R.C. Miller Library in Beaumont. The program began Sept. 3 and currently serves approximately 100 students per week.

"I am getting calls from other libraries in southeast Texas to begin similar programs," said Kumer Das, associate professor of mathematics.

Beaumont ISD recognized student volunteers with an award presented during the district's Nov. 17 board meeting.

There are 20 LU faculty members and students who regularly help with the clinic, but any individual with pertinent math skills is welcome to volunteer. Volunteers are needed for the growing number of students and may contact Das at kumer.das@lamar.edu or (409) 880-7947.

Choreographer Judith Jamison visits campus

Judith Jamison, artistic director emerita of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, spoke to a large campus audience Nov. 10 as part of Lamar University's Academic Lecture Series. American dancer and choreographer Jamison is an icon in the performing arts world. In her decades at the helm of one of the most respected dance companies in the country, she has taken the company to unprecedented heights and received numerous honors, including an Emmy Award, an American Choreography Award, the Kennedy Center Honor and a National Medal of Arts.



SATTLER

MBA students win first place at GAME conference

Four members of the Lamar University Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF) placed first in one category of the Student Managed Portfolio Competition at the annual Global Asset Management Education (GAME) conference. The 2014 GAME conference, which hosted more than 1,000 students from universities in the U.S. and abroad, was held at Quinnipiac University in New York City.

The four students who participated were Katherine Brockett of Geelong, Australia; Sijie Sun of Hehehot, China; Thomas David of Lumberton; and Clayton Owen of Port Arthur. Since January 2009, the Lamar University SMIF has nearly doubled an original allocation of \$250,000 on behalf of the Lamar Foundation, said Tommy Thompson, LU associate professor of economics and finance. "MBA students in two classes conduct security analysis and make purchase and sale recommendations," he said. The students were awarded first place in graduate-level growth funds, the fourth consecutive year in which Lamar students have won first place in a graduate-level category.



Marching band selected for UIL exhibition honor

LU's marching band, the Showcase of Southeast Texas, performed by invitation as the exhibition band at the University Interscholastic League's Area F Conference 6A marching contest Oct. 25 in Galena Park, a first-time honor for LU. The band is composed of 156 students from several different colleges and majors throughout the university. They performed "Country Show," which included "The Devil Went Down to Georgia," "I'm in a Hurry" and "Ring of Fire."



LU cracks Top 10 for upwardly mobile grads without debt

The latest Social Mobility Index published by CollegeNET ranks Lamar University in the Top 10 percent of universities in the nation. Lamar University was listed 49 out of 539 universities in the nation on the index.

According to the website, “The SMI rankings are meant to highlight schools that do the best job of helping disadvantaged students graduate with the ability to start a career free of crushing levels of debt. Five criteria determine the SMI rankings: tuition, percentage of the student body from low-income households, graduation rate, salaries of grads once they start working, and the size of each school’s endowment.”

“This methodology points out the importance of keeping higher education accessible and affordable, while providing high-quality programs that prepare our graduates for rewarding careers,” said Kevin Smith, senior associate provost. “Lamar University continues to be accessible to many first-generation students and students from lower-income families and, as such, is vital to creating opportunities that enrich lives.”

The CollegeNET listing is not the first time LU has been recognized for its return on investment. In a similar study in 2013, PayScale Inc. ranked LU as a top school for return on investment when Lamar’s engineering graduates were tapped 11th nationally, just behind Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The Social Mobility Ranking can be found at www.social-mobilityindex.org.

Celebration x 2

Reaching the pinnacle of graduation after years of hard work and dedication demands the maximum recognition. And now, students, their families and friends have double the opportunity to celebrate one of life’s major milestones. December marks the inaugural addition of afternoon College Conferment Ceremonies following the morning University Commencement Ceremony as LU joins many of our fellow universities in the tradition. Visit lamar.edu/commencement for details.

LU appoints first Study Abroad director

After an extensive national search, Lamar University has appointed Jeffrey Palis as the university’s first director of study abroad. Palis has served in a variety of positions related to his new role at Lamar: interim director of international studies and administrative coordinator of study abroad and exchange programs at Georgia Southern University, a trade assistant intern at the American Chamber of Commerce in Vienna, Austria, and the internship coordinator and education specialist in the Office of Cooperative Education at East Carolina University. He has experience designing, marketing, leading and evaluating study abroad programs, creating legal and risk management guidelines, and developing and coordinating exchange programs.



As the principal investigator of a U.S. Department of Education grant, he coordinated student exchanges in Canada and Mexico, and he has professional experience in many of the world’s cities, including Beijing, London and Paris. He has led study abroad programs in Poland, the Czech Republic and Latvia (which he visited as a Fulbright Scholar while finishing his dissertation). In addition, Palis has close professional ties in numerous other countries, including Bosnia-Herzegovina, Botswana, Ireland and Japan.

Palis holds a doctorate in curriculum studies with a concentration in multicultural/international studies from Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Ga. He holds a master’s in international studies with concentrations in international trade and German from East Carolina University, Greenville, N.C., and a bachelor’s in geography with a minor in psychology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

More students will study abroad

Lamar University has joined the Institute of International Education Generation Study Abroad initiative. Although the campaign seeks to double the number of students studying abroad by the end of the decade, Palis aims to double the number of LU students studying abroad by the end of 2016. The initiative also is focusing on increasing the diversity of the students who study abroad, ensuring quality and removing barriers to participation.

Currently, fewer than 10 percent of 2.6 million U.S. college students study abroad at some point in their academic career. LU’s goal is to ensure that students from all backgrounds and in all fields of study have the opportunity to gain this important experience. Palis intends to remove barriers to participation. His plans include advisement and workshops about nationally competitive and campus study abroad scholarships, fundraising and grant writing for future scholarship funds, better visibility for study abroad on campus, and a greater diversity in academic coursework offered within programs. For 2015, new study abroad initiatives are being planned in criminal justice, theater, hospitality administration, psychology and geography, among other areas, to enhance existing LU programs in art, health sciences, business, biology and Spanish. More information is available by visiting lamar.edu/studyabroad.

Dodson becomes founding dean of Reaud Honors College



SANTIER

Following a national search, Kevin Dodson, professor of philosophy and interim dean of the Lamar University Honors College, has been named founding dean of the college that serves more than 300 students.

“I’m incredibly excited about the future, and I’ve been thinking a lot about how to further develop opportunities for our students beyond what we’ve already done to elevate the honors program, so I’m thrilled,” Dodson said.

Dodson received his bachelor’s in philosophy from the University of Washington and his doctorate in philosophy from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He began working at Lamar in 1991 as an assistant professor of philosophy and became a full professor in 2003. In 2004, Dodson became the assistant director of the Honors Program, now the Reaud Honors College. Dodson became the director of the program in 2008.

As the founding dean of the college, Dodson will facilitate the transition from the program to a college. The program, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2013, was inaugurated in 1963 and is the oldest honors program in the Texas State University System. The Reaud Honors College officially opened its figurative doors in fall 2014. Physical new doors will open when construction of the new Wayne A. Reaud Building is completed in Spring 2016. (See the related story in this issue.) “We’ll have a larger student lounge, so hopefully we can have more meetings there,” Dodson said. “We’re going to have two classrooms, both of which can probably hold about 25 people. We’ll also have a computer area and a study area. It’s going to be a beautiful building and a beautiful space.

“There are two main things that an honors college is about: academic excellence and community engagement,” Dodson said. “We’re going to pursue both of those, and we’re going to use the Reaud Honors College to lift the profile of Lamar University.”

Some of the changes to the college have already been implemented, such as graduation requirements for its students. “We’ve added an additional requirement of high-impact educational practice for our students,” Dodson said. “Students have to participate in one of four: study abroad, undergraduate research, internships and co-ops, or service learning. Whenever a student comes to Lamar, they will be asked to do more academically. They also will have the resources available to them so that they can do more.”

Math, computer science major wins statistics award

Chelsea Boling, a math and computer science major, won best undergraduate poster award at the 2014 Conference of Texas Statisticians.

Named as a 2014 grant recipient by the Office of Undergraduate Research, Boling plans to conduct her undergraduate research on high dimensional data. She is also an ASCENT scholar, a program where selected math and computer science

students are awarded scholarships for up to four semesters. During the first summer, students take a class and engage in a research project with mathematics and computer science faculty.



LU to select student commencement speakers

At each December and May university commencement ceremony, a selected representative of the student body will deliver a commencement address to the graduating class. The university adopted the new initiative beginning with December 2014 commencement. Penny Finch ’13, who earned a Master of Education degree in school counseling, delivered the inaugural address Dec. 13 in the Montagne Center. The privilege is recognized with a \$500 honorarium.

To be eligible to deliver the student commencement address, the applicant must meet certain requirements and complete an application, both available at <http://facultystaff.lamar.edu/academic-affairs/forms/index.html>. The nomination committee, appointed by President Kenneth Evans, reviews finalists’ applications, judges auditions, interviews candidates and makes a recommendation to the president, who makes the final selection. The deadline for May application is March 2.



Interim Dean Vic Zaloom, Prof. Brian Craig, Provost Steve Doblin



Prof. T.C. Ho, Associate Professor John Guo, Provost Steve Doblin

Two University Scholars named

Lamar University honored two faculty members with the University Scholar Award this past spring: Brian Craig, professor and department chair for the Department of Industrial Engineering, and John Guo, associate professor for the Department of Chemical Engineering.

The University Scholar Award is the most prestigious research honor bestowed upon a faculty member. The award recognizes an individual for their outstanding contribution to scholarship, research, grant writing and/or creative activity. The University Scholar Award is a career lifetime achievement, recognizing the recipient’s body of work.



Brandon Price featured lecturer for IES Lecture Series

Emerging Innovations in the Life Sciences (and Why You Need to Think Like an Entrepreneur) was Brandon Price's topic of discussion for the Entrepreneurial Lecture Series Nov. 4 in Landes Auditorium. The series is sponsored in part by ExxonMobil and hosted by the Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies.

Price has more than 30 years in the biopharmaceutical industry and co-founded Biogenin, a Mexican company that develops and licenses human and veterinary pharmaceuticals for Latin American markets. He has been CEO of four biotechnology start-ups and has worked for Cardinal Health and Ortho Diagnostic Systems.

Texas Secretary of State Nandita Berry visits campus



Lamar University students and faculty welcomed Texas Secretary of State Nandita Berry to campus Aug. 29. Berry met with faculty member Sara Gubala, a political science instructor, to discuss the practices LU has instituted to educate students about voter registration and the election process while encouraging students to exercise their right to vote.

Secretary Berry is the first Indian-American to hold the office. Texas Gov. Rick Perry appointed Berry as the 109th Texas Secretary of State. In her official capacity, Berry serves as the state's chief elections officer, the governor's liaison on border and Mexican affairs, and Texas' chief protocol officer for state and international matters.

Juan Zabala tapped to head advancement

Juan Zabala has been named vice president for university advancement after a national search. He continues in his role as chief executive officer of the Lamar University Foundation. "How fortunate we are that our expansive

search yielded a vice president who also has strong connections with Lamar University alumni and donors and in the communities in which they live and work," said research committee member Terry Garth.

Zabala has served in varied capacities at Lamar University since 2003, including executive director of alumni affairs and advancement services, associate vice president for university advancement and executive director of the Lamar University Foundation. Prior to his time at LU, he was at the University

of Texas in Austin for more than 15 years. During this time, Zabala worked at the institution's College of Engineering, School of Law Library and within the School of Law itself as the assistant dean for administration and executive director of the Law School Foundation from 1993 to 2003.

Presently, Zabala is working towards his doctorate in education in Educational Leadership. He holds degrees from Brigham Young University Idaho and Sul Ross State University and an MBA from Lamar University.

Online industrial engineering B.S. first in country

This fall, the Department of Industrial Engineering began offering the Bachelor of Industrial Engineering as a 2 + 2 online program, which allows students to complete the final two years of an industrial engineering degree online with minimal travel.



"The program is designed for students who are unable to attend a traditional IE program due to geographic location and scheduling issues," said Professor and Chair Brian Craig, who developed the program. LU's is the only online BSIE program in the country and the only online engineering degree program in Texas.

The degree earned with this delivery method is identical to the degree earned by on-campus students. The program also offers a low cost approach to becoming an industrial engineer. The 2 + 2 online program is designed for students who have completed the first two years of an engineering program at a community college or four-year institution and want to complete an industrial engineering degree online. All junior and senior courses are delivered via online instruction, except for a three-day manufacturing lab that requires one weekend visit to campus.

Hall of Honor welcomes 2014 class

Legendary coach Pat Foster, pitching ace David Smith and Olympian Yamelis Ortiz were inducted into the LU athletics Hall of Honor during the regular-season finale against Incarnate Word in the Montagne Center Nov. 15.

"It is our privilege to add these three individuals into our Hall of Honor," said Athletics Director Jason Henderson. "They exemplify success at the highest level of their respective fields. Due to their hard work, they helped build a tradition of success that future athletes strive to achieve."



LU joins ecosystem studies unit

Lamar University was recently accepted into the Gulf Coast Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (GC-CE-SU), a network designed to encourage educational opportunities and provide a platform for partners to coordinate research.

"Joining gives Lamar faculty and students the ability to get involved with research at a lower cost, which enables us to be more competitive for research grants," said Paul Nicoletto, chair of the biology department.

Established in August 2002, the GC-CESU is a partnership among federal agencies, universities and other non-governmental organizations that are committed to studying the human and natural environment across the region and beyond. The GC-CESU is a part of the national CESU network which covers 17 biogeographic regions across the U.S.

Lamar is now one of approximately 40 university members and 100 federal agency members who benefit from improved access to federal resources to conduct projects of mutual interest. More information on the unit is available by visiting <http://gccesu.org/>.

"CHASING QUICKSILVER: FROM AN EMPEROR'S TOMB TO THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT"



Chasing Quicksilver Jerry Lin 2014 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer

Lamar University honored Jerry Lin, professor of environmental engineering, as Distinguished Faculty Lecturer for 2014. "Chasing Quicksilver: From an Emperor's Tomb to the Global Environment" was the topic of his lecture in the University Theatre. Lin is the 28th recipient of the honor—one of the highest accorded a Lamar faculty member. He has been a member of the faculty since 1999.

"The lecture presented a historical overview on the relationship between human activities and mercury distribution in the environment," Lin said. He detailed the discovery and industrial use of mercury, the release of mercury into the environment and its associated impacts.

"In ancient China, mercury was thought to be a medicine that prolonged life," Lin said. "The first emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang, was allegedly killed in 210 BC by continuously taking mercury pills as an attempt to gain eternal life."

Lin was named the 2008 Uni-

versity Scholar and 2012 University Professor and Ann Die-Hasselmo Faculty Scholar. He was the recipient of the Chi-Epsilon, the civil engineering honor society, James M. Robbins Excellence in Teaching Award in 2008. His areas of expertise include fate and transport of atmospheric mercury, water and wastewater engineering and air quality assessment. He is a principal investigator for 55 environmental research projects in excess of \$5.5 million.

Lin is a world-renowned researcher in environmental mercury. His work in the chemistry and modeling of atmospheric mercury provides important insights to the fate and transport of mercury in the global environment. The kinetic and mechanistic parameters of mercury reactions he proposed are widely implemented in regional and global atmospheric models. His critical analysis on the scientific uncertainties of mercury models has led to new efforts in bridging the knowledge gap.

McNeil appointed VP for Division of Student Engagement



A nationwide search identified Vicki McNeil as the top choice for vice president of the division of student engagement. McNeil began her tenure with Lamar June 16 after serving as associate vice chancellor for student affairs for the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Her resume includes strategic planning, assessment, crisis response and budget management of more than \$40 million.

Prior to her service in North Carolina, she was vice president for student affairs at Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, Georgia, and also served for 18 years as associate vice president for student affairs at Loyola University in New Orleans. Her background and experience includes directing the evacuation of Loyola students to Baton Rouge prior to Hurricane Katrina making landfall in 2005.

"Loyola had never evacuated in the face of a hurricane and we had made the decision to stay put during Hurricane Katrina," McNeil said. "We expected a Category 2-3 hurricane, but when Katrina spun up to a Category 5 storm we quickly made the decision to go. We spent two nights at a Baptist church in Baton Rouge with more than 200 students...quite an experience."

McNeil is originally a native of Pawnee, Oklahoma, and attended Oklahoma State University. She earned the bachelor of music education degree in voice and piano in 1977 and is an accomplished pianist. She earned a master's degree in curriculum and instruction in education with an emphasis in music in 1978 and her doctorate in student personnel administration with an emphasis in leadership, career counseling and development in 1981 from Oklahoma State University.

"I'm so excited to be here in Beaumont and at Lamar," she said. "Lamar has changed so much in such a short time, and I believe the experience I bring to student engagement will fit in well with where Lamar is heading as a university."

LU offers computer game development course

The Department of Computer Science is offering a new course, Introduction to Computer Game Development, designed for students interested in learning more about the game development industry. The course is required as part of a new computer science game development concentration, which began this fall.

"The computer game industry is the fastest-growing segment of the entertainment market and an excellent field for career advancement," said Timothy Roden, associate professor of computer science. "The course surveys important topics such as the history of electronic games, player motivation, elements of games, the development process, team composition and roles, programming, art, audio and marketing. Roden said that the course is open to any major interested in learning more about the game development industry. No programming knowledge is necessary.

Statistical researcher discusses reliability of literature claims

Stanley Young, assistant director for bioinformatics at the National Institute of Statistical Sciences in Research Triangle Park, N.C., visited campus last spring to discuss the reliability of claims coming from human medical observational studies. Many of these studies only replicate 10-20 percent of the time, whereas randomized clinical trials replicate more than 80 percent of the time. Young discussed the systematic problems with how observational studies are conducted.

According to Young, vitamin E was widely reported to protect against heart attacks. However, large, well-conducted randomized clinical trials failed to replicate the claims. Likewise, similar claims were made concerning individuals with a so-called type-A personality having a greater predisposition for heart attacks. The claim failed to replicate in two separate studies.

Young discussed how technical changes, managerial changes, funding agencies and journal editors can repair this broken process and lead to more reliable claims along with fairer ways to judge their reliability.

Fregia keynotes ExxonMobil Executive-in-Residence program



Paul Fregia '81, LU 2009 Distinguished Alumnus and founder of Grandma Maud's Inc., was keynote speaker Sept. 23 for the LU College of Business ExxonMobil Executive-in-Residence

program. Fregia earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Lamar University and an MBA from Purdue University. He loved the food his maternal grandmother Maud

served from her kitchen, and, in 1994 he began Grandma Maud's Inc. as a tribute to her memory and in response to the increasing popularity for southern-style comfort food.

His extensive experience in both entrepreneurial and corporate management includes tenure as a vice president for one of McDonald's national suppliers for more than 10 years and management positions with Damron Corp., Container Corp. and Hewlett-Packard.

While at Lamar, he helped establish a chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers that would give minority students an opportunity to study together. Since then his student activism has helped many students succeed. "I would not be who I am today without the skills ingrained in me at Lamar," he said.

Student sweep

At the recent Texas Association of Creative Writing Teachers' Student Contest, students from the Department of English and Modern Languages nearly swept the top awards: In the Undergraduate Fiction competition, Skyler Williams, an English major from Groves, won first place, while Michelle Lansdale, an English major from Bridge City, won second place. In Graduate Fiction, Melissa Becker, an English graduate student from Beaumont, took first place, and in the Undergraduate Poetry competition, Ashleigh Ray, a liberal arts student in the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities from Rowlett, placed first.

Jerry Bradley named 2014 Piper Professor

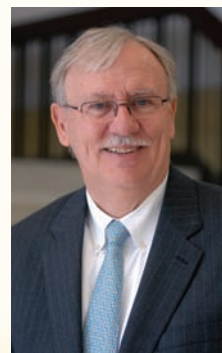
Jerry Bradley joins an elite group of educators as a 2014 Piper Professor in recognition of his dedication to the teaching profession and his outstanding academic and scholarly achievements.

Bradley, university professor of English and modern languages, is one of 10 faculty members in Texas to be honored this year by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation—and the 13th Lamar faculty member to receive the honor since the program began in 1958.

President Kenneth Evans presented by colleges and universities.

Bradley with the \$5,000 honorarium, certificate of merit and gold commemorative pin that accompany the honor.

Bradley is the first Lamar University faculty member to be honored as a Piper Professor since 2011, when the foundation recognized James Westgate, university professor of earth and space sciences. The Piper Foundation presents the awards annually to professors for superior teaching at the college level, making its selection based on nominations submitted



Reese Construction Management Program earns national accreditation

The Reese Construction Management Program has earned national accreditation from the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE) after evaluation of its organization and administration, continuous improvement, curriculum, faculty, staff, students, facilities, services and relations with key members of industry.

The Reese Construction Management Program is one of 110 four-year construction management programs in the nation and one of 74 with accreditation from ACCE. Part of the College of Business, the Reese Construction Management Program formed in 2008 with a generous donation from Sheila and Jerry Reese to address the growing demand for construction managers. The program has a 100 percent placement rate of graduates in industry-related jobs. "Extensive, hands-on education plus a required internship make our graduates competitive in the marketplace," said Steve McCrary, director of the program.

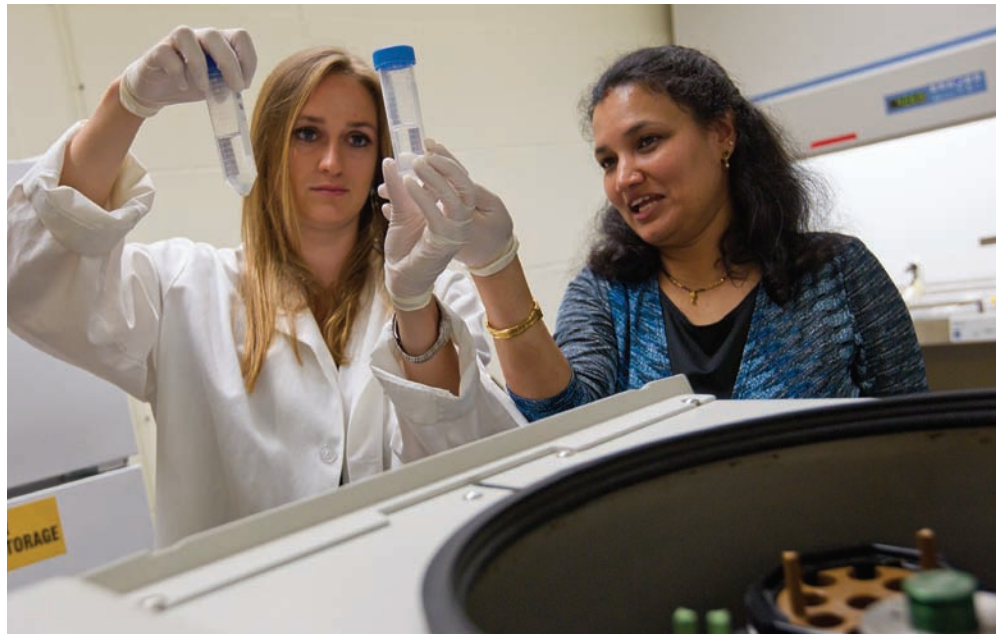


Microbiology professor receives NHARP research grant

Ashwini Kucknoor, assistant professor of microbiology, received an \$85,000 Norman Hackerman Advanced Research Program Grant for the 2014-2015 academic year to study *Tritichomonas foetus*, a sexually transmitted disease that causes trichomoniasis in cattle. The disease causes abortion, as well as numerous reproductive diseases in females.

“Given the swift competition and tight funding situation, receiving this grant is very rewarding,” Kucknoor said. “I feel awesome. I am also happy for Lamar and the biology department in particular.”

“Regardless of control methods, *T. foetus* infections still run rampant where natural breeding, as opposed to artificial insemination, is allowed,” Kucknoor said. “However, reports suggest that artificial insemination is not completely foolproof in prevention. This project will look into a new group of proteins called rhomboid proteins and their role in *T. foetus* pathogenesis, with the long-term goal to explore the possibility of using these proteins as a therapeutic target.”



The grant will also provide funding for Kucknoor to hire a graduate student and four undergraduate students and finance the students' presentations of the research at conferences.

The grant was one of 11 successful proposals of 256 submissions. Universities represented include Baylor College of Medicine, Rice University, Texas Tech University, the University of Texas at Arlington, the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Texas at

Dallas, the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and the University of Houston.

“The outcome from this research will help the field of *T. foetus* pathogenesis and the cattle farming industry,” Kucknoor said. “Any new information gained will also help the field of *Trichomonas vaginalis*, the human STD causing pathogen as well.”



Engineering student helps develop TXDOT device

Encouraging students to participate in faculty research and innovation is a hallmark at LU. This past summer, Tyler Mackey, sophomore electrical engineering major from Vidor, worked on a project with Harley Myler, professor and chair of the Phillip M. Drayer Department of Electrical Engineering at Lamar.

Mackey, a Mirabeau Scholar, assembled the circuit for a special device suggested by the Texas Department of Transportation to assist law enforcement in verifying proper permitting of trucking as well as oversize/overweight loads on Texas roads.

“The goal of this device is to enable law enforcement to be able to verify proper permitting without having to make traffic stops,” Myler said. “This would save time not only for the officers, but also for the drivers, conserving resources. It would also enhance safety by significantly reducing the frequency of highway stops.”

The user will connect the patent-pending device to the Texas permitting system via the Internet. Once proper permits are verified and the data uploaded to the device, it is returned to the vehicle. On the road, the device can be activated by radar gun. This challenge-response will give law enforcement an instant answer on whether a particular truck has proper permitting, Myler said.

This semester, Mackey participated in a co-op with Valero and the current team will be incorporating the printed circuit board that he designed over the summer into a proof-of-principle prototype of the permitter device that should be ready by the end of the spring semester.



Entertainer, educator celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

In recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, Jesus “Chuy” Negrete presented “A Celebration of Hispanic History and Culture through Storytelling and Music” Oct. 1 before a crowd of 250 in the Science Auditorium. A nationally recognized entertainer and educator, Negrete is the founder of the Mexican Cultural Institute.

“He incorporates storytelling in a performance presented in both English and Spanish,” said Vernice Monroe, liaison to the president on University Multicultural Enhancement. Incorporating songs, slides and images of Mexican labor in the U.S. to portray his viewpoint of Mexican history, Negrete discussed the history of Mexican-Latino experiences ranging from pre-Columbian times to present.

Online MSN ranked No. 4 nationally for veterans

U.S. News & World Report ranked the online graduate nursing program fourth in the nation specifically for veterans.

“This designation joins three others recently where the magazine has noted the quality of our online Master of Science in Nursing program,” said Paula Nichols, executive director of distance learning. The JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing program was tapped No. 2 overall in 2013 and placed in the Top 20 in 2012 and 2014 by *U.S. News & World Report*.



The university itself was recognized as a “military friendly” school and included in the “2014 Guide to Military-Friendly Colleges and Universities” released by the *Military Advanced Education* magazine.

U.S. News & World Report released the 2014 Best Online Programs for Veterans on usnews.com.

The rankings, now in their second year, are designed to help veterans identify high-quality online degree programs that suit their educational needs. Lamar University is a member of the Service members Opportunity Colleges Consortium and the SOC Degree Network System.

EDA innovation grant to strengthen economy

Lamar University is one of 19 universities awarded a grant in a national competition to advance and strengthen regional economies. LU will use the \$102,590 grant to accelerate student learning, encourage innovation among faculty and students, and support fast-growing economic sectors through technology development and entrepreneurship.

The Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce provided the funding for the University Center Economic Development Program Competition. A total of \$2.5 million in grants was awarded to support initiatives focused on advancing regional commercialization efforts, entrepreneurship and a high-skilled regional workforce.

Paul Latolais, director of the Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship at Lamar University, said, “This grant from the EDA helps support the university’s role in creating and sustaining a healthy and growing economy in Southeast Texas.”

EDA-funded university centers provide business solutions and technical assistance to public- and private-sector organizations and conduct other activities with the goal of enhancing regional economic development.

FacultyNotes

The American Institute of Chemical Engineers honored **Helen Lou**, University Professor of Chemical Engineering and Ann Die Hasselmo Scholar, as recipient of the 2014 Sustainability Education Award. ★ The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration awarded \$1.4 million to the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program in the Department of Counseling and Special Populations to fund its proposal, “Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training for Professionals and Paraprofessionals.” Others receiving awards include Michigan, Johns Hopkins, LSU, NYU, Connecticut and UC Berkeley. Principal investigator is **Carl Sheperis**, associate professor and chair of the department.

★ The Texas Council of Professors of Educational Administration has named **Sandra Harris**, professor of educational leadership, “Educator of the Year.” ★ In its Recruitment and Retention Competition, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board awarded **Monica Bellon-Harn**, associate professor and chair of speech and hearing sciences, and **Rebecca Frels**, assistant professor of counseling and special populations, a 2014 Minority Health Research and Education Grant for the project, “Quality care: A model to increase underrepresented minorities in speech and hearing professions.”

★ The National Science Foundation awarded a research grant to Associate Professors **Bo Sun**, computer science, and **Qin Qian**, civil engineering, to fund “MRI: Acquisition of equipment to develop a ubiquitous wireless sensor network for measurement, modeling and prediction in water resource management.” The three-year, \$200,000 award will help revolutionize modeling to provide more accurate prediction for water sustainability management.

Huntsman becomes 11th Fisher Lecturer

Philanthropist, industrialist and author Jon M. Huntsman visited Lamar University this past spring and spoke on the topic “We are not put here to fail,” becoming the 11th guest in the Judge Joe J. Fisher Distinguished Lecture Series.

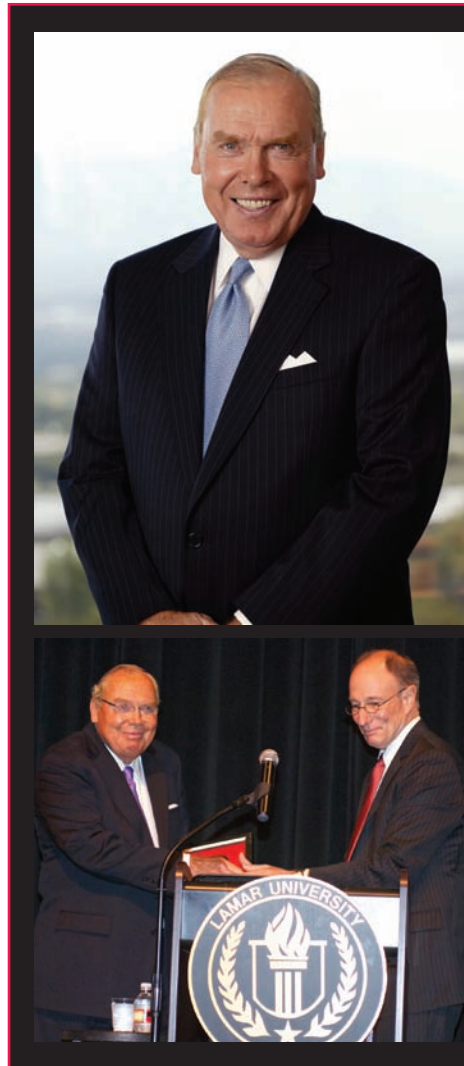
“We were delighted to have Mr. Huntsman as our guest,” said Kevin Smith, senior associate provost and chair of the Judge Joe J. Fisher Distinguished Lecture Series committee. “Known worldwide as a leader in industry, his phenomenal business success is matched by his equally incredible generosity. On every level, his is an inspiring story.”

The series was created in 1986 to honor Judge Fisher’s many contributions to Southeast Texas and Lamar University. The people of the community established the series to benefit LU students and to honor the longtime federal judge who died June 19, 2000.

Past lecturers in the Fisher series are former President Gerald Ford, Larry McMurry, Vladimir Sakharov, Stephen Jay Gould, Linda Ellerbee, Antonin Scalia, Arthur Schlesinger Jr., former Prime Minister Shimon Peres, James Watson, and former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Huntsman is founder and executive chairman of Huntsman Corp., a global manufacturer and marketer of specialty chemicals.

Forty years ago, he began a small entrepreneurial plastics packaging business. Originally known for pioneering innovations in packaging and, later, for rapid and integrated growth in petrochemicals, the company has grown to manufacture chemical products used in a wide range of industries, with more than 12,000 employees and multiple locations worldwide. The



company’s 2012 revenues exceeded \$11 billion.

Huntsman also served as a U.S. Naval Gunnery Officer, Special Assistant to President Richard M. Nixon and as White House Staff Secretary.

Huntsman authored a book on corporate ethics entitled, *Winners Never Cheat: Everyday Values We Learned as Children (But May Have Forgotten)*. The second edition, *Winners Never Cheat: Even in Difficult Times*, made the *Wall Street Journal*’s best sellers list.

Widely recognized as one of America’s foremost concerned citizens and philanthropists, Huntsman’s lifetime humanitarian giving, including contributions to the homeless, the ill and the under-privileged, exceeds \$1.4 billion and has assisted thousands, both domestically and internationally.

He was a member of the American Red Cross Board of Governors from 1997-2005 and from March through October 2013. He also serves on the board of the Beaumont Foundation.

The *Chronicle of Philanthropy* placed him second on their 2007 list of largest donors. In 2011, *Forbes Magazine* counted him among the 18 “most generous givers on the planet.”

Huntsman and his wife, Karen, founded the Huntsman Cancer Institute in 1995 to accelerate the work of curing

cancer through human genetics. The institute is now one of the country’s major cancer centers dedicated to finding a cure. The combined facility features leading edge research laboratories and a state-of-the-art hospital treating cancer patients.

A recently announced \$100 million expansion will double the laboratory space and create the Primary Children’s and Families’ Cancer Research Center, which will focus exclusively on inherited and childhood cancers. —BKS

“Known worldwide as a leader in industry, his phenomenal business success is matched by his equally incredible generosity. On every level, his is an inspiring story.”

—KEVIN SMITH, SENIOR ASSOCIATE PROVOST



Marketing major, alumnus release biometric app

Matt Bukovicky, a senior business marketing major, and Charles Teel ’11 have launched LockBoxDSB, an application for iOS devices, with help from LU’s Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship.

LockBoxDSB, available now in Apple’s app store, is a document and file storage application that uses biometric data to provide a higher level of security for files stored on the Internet. The “DSB” stands for Documents Stored Biometrically. The app works with Touch ID, the fingerprint recognition feature designed and released by Apple Inc. and currently available on the iPhone 5s, iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus.

Touch ID is heavily integrated into the Apple operating system on these devices and allows users to unlock the device, as well as make purchases in the various Apple digital media stores by touching the sapphire fingerprint sensor. LockBoxDSB taps into the power of Touch ID to safely store information on the Internet, Bukovicky said.

“LockBoxDSB uses Amazon servers off-site and is encrypted with the biometric fingerprint

that you have to have in order to access the information,” he said. “The app utilizes a major feature that Apple brought out for developers in this last development kit.” He expects Touch ID to also be available in new versions of the iPad and other products Apple may release in the future.

Bukovicky conceived the idea of always having access to important documents without having to have his wallet, or remembering complicated and ever-changing passwords. He joined with Teel, who earned an LU MBA in 2011 with a concentration in entrepreneurship, to create the app. Teel is owner and founder of Pocket Watch LLC, a developer of mobile software for business and home users.

Bukovicky and Teel worked with LU’s Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship in developing the app and business plan. “Having access to resources and expertise has been a tremendous help,” Bukovicky said. “There is no doubt the CICE has helped us move forward much more quickly than we could have otherwise.” —BKS





Beck Fellows leave classroom behind

by Larry Acker

Exercise science and pre-med major Kollin Kahler of Waco and Keeley Townley-Smith, a Lumberton physics and electrical engineering major, were selected as 2014 recipients of the David J. Beck Fellowship. Only two fellows are named each year, making the award one of the most highly competitive and prestigious honors for undergraduate students at Lamar University. Key to their selection as fellows were their proposed summer projects, a requirement specific to the rigorous Beck Fellowship application process.

Ireland welcomed Kahler

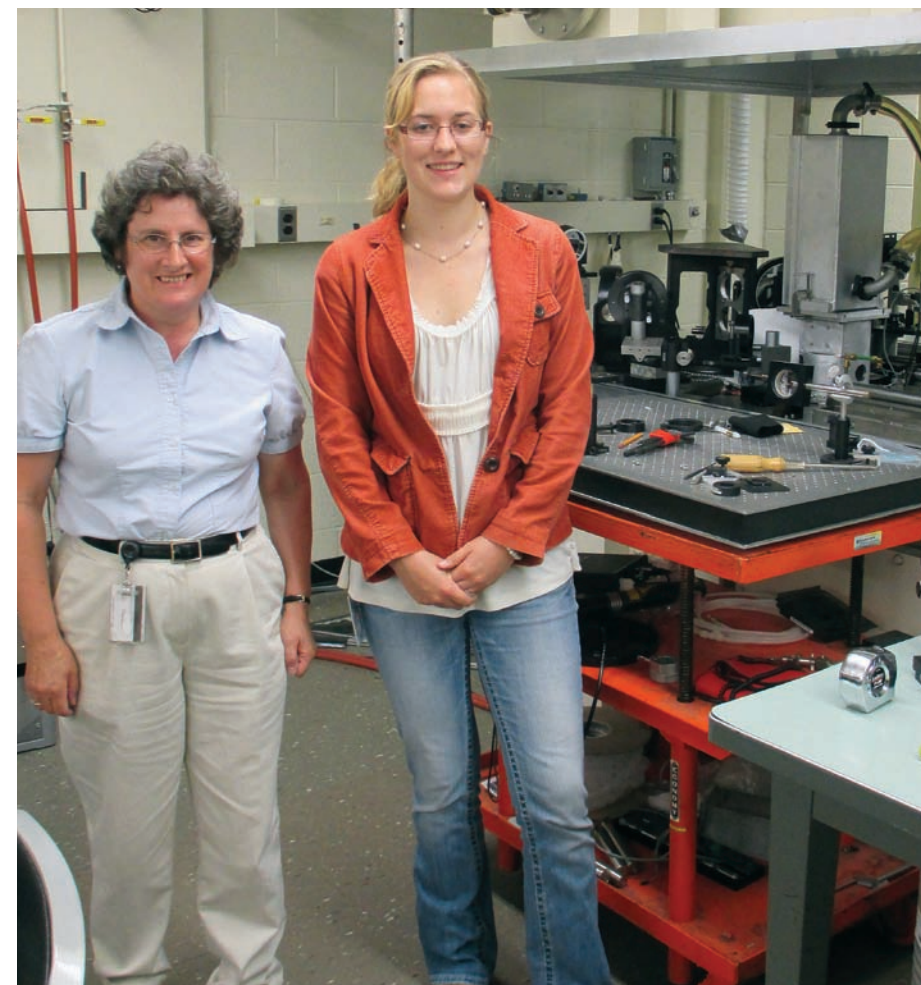
Kahler chose to study advances in rehabilitative surgery and therapy for sports injuries at the Sports Surgery Clinic in Dublin, Ireland, after an Internet search of “the best sports medicine clinics in Europe.” Kahler learned best practices and techniques from leading researchers and physicians. He chose the clinic not only because of its prominence but also because there was no language barrier, although Irish slang did take some getting used to he said.

“In Ireland, I participated in everything pertaining to sports medicine,” Kahler said. He shadowed several physicians and observed more than 60 surgeries. The invaluable opportunity helped him gain perspective on physician consulting, physiotherapy,

strength and conditioning, biomechanical analysis and magnetic resonance imaging, he said.

While at the clinic, Kahler concentrated on biomechanics and the aims of rehabilitation techniques to repair athletic groin injuries and tears in the anterior cruciate ligament. Being able to get an all-around experience with research and surgeries was a perfect fit for his future goal of attending medical school.

“The experience confirmed my passion for medicine and provided me the experience of a lifetime,” he said. “I was able to gain a unique perspective on medicine and acquire knowledge from the finest surgeons in Europe and the world’s leading researchers and physicians in the area of groin injury.”



Townley-Smith worked at atomic level

Townley-Smith completed an 11-week internship at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, Md., with its atomic spectroscopy group. The group compiles wavelengths, energy levels and transition probabilities that support numerous applications in industry and the scientific community.

Townley-Smith joined the group to study light emitted by atoms to better understand their dynamics on a quantum level. Some of the most important work of the group is the maintenance of the online Atomic Spectral Database that provides information about the energy structure of the elements. Scientists worldwide use those structures, which have applications in industry and astronomy. The scientists in the group try to engineer new types of atomic systems and discover their properties. They also study plasmas, which are increasingly useful in the nuclear fusion process for cleaner energy.

“It’s amazing just to be able to go and do this type of research with scientists of such high caliber,” Townley-Smith said. “Lamar University has provided me countless opportunities to do research as an undergraduate and participate in several conferences.”

Beck Fellows receive full academic scholarships covering all tuition, books, fees and on-campus room and board. Additionally, each fellow receives up to \$10,000 in funding for a summer project, which may entail research, an internship or international study.

First awarded in 2009, the fellowships are made possible by a generous gift from prominent attorney and LU Distinguished Alumnus David J. Beck ’61, founding partner of Beck Redden LLP in Houston. The David J. Beck Fellowships reward outstanding academic achievement in any discipline and allow top students to further challenge themselves with unique opportunities for undergraduate research and creative study.





by Molly Porter

English major explores British literary legacy

Reading has always opened doors for me to new worlds and experiences, but this took on new meaning for me when I travelled to London, England this past summer. I participated in the British Studies Program offered by the University of Southern Mississippi with the help and guidance of the Lamar University Study Abroad Office.

I've wanted to go to England since I was a little girl. England's history, culture and literary legacy have always fascinated me. My love of literature began early. When I was younger, my father would take my sister and me to Waldenbooks every weekend. We could each pick out one book, and it was such a treat.

My passion for reading and interest in British literary history and culture made majoring in English an easy choice. I love learning not just about the literature but also

about the cultural and historical contexts that inform the texts. Victorian literature in particular has become a passion. The period saw many dynamic changes due to the effects of industrialization, urbanization and imperialism, and it's fascinating to me to examine how this is reflected in Victorian culture.

I'm currently looking more deeply into Victorian studies with my honors thesis. I'm writing about Alfred, Lord Tennyson's poems "Ulysses" and "The Lotos-Eaters" and examining how the character of Odysseus is presented in the poems. Odysseus seems to have transformed into a Victorian hero rather than a Greek one, and I hope to examine why this change has occurred and how a Victorian background alters

the character.

My travels have benefited me greatly in helping me to understand the Victorian mindset. It was my interest in Victorian litera-



ture that ultimately led me to the British Studies Program. When I began looking for ways to expand my honors thesis research and my knowledge base, I was intrigued by the concept of studying abroad.

One day, I visited Lamar's study abroad website and discovered the British Studies Program. I was elated to find that it offers a course in Victorian studies. Although USM was the host school, LU is in the consortium group, so I was eligible to attend.

The application process was a little more extensive, but that wasn't a problem for me. Lamar's study abroad office was very helpful throughout the process of completing all of the necessary paperwork. Despite the extra steps, everything went smoothly.

Ultimately, studying abroad in London was the trip of a lifetime. I was able to do so many things in the course of the month that I've always wanted to do, like visit Platform 9 ¾ at King's Cross Station from the "Harry Potter" series and travel to Stonehenge.

The trip was more amazing for me because of my love of literature. I visited the former homes of John Keats, the Brontë sisters and Charles Dickens. I saw many wonderful plays, including Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest" and a performance of "Julius Caesar" at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. I visited Canterbury Cathedral, Westminster Abbey and the British Library.

My class in London was based at the Waterloo campus of King's College London. The location was perfect. We were just around the corner from Waterloo Station, and we were on the south bank of the River Thames, within a few minutes' walk of anywhere we wanted to go.

It was in the heart of London that the city's Victorian roots were laid bare. It was especially fascinating being able to read and analyze the course texts while I was staying in the city. Suddenly, I could visualize the places the characters had been—I had been there myself. It really brought the stories to life in ways I never would have imagined.

While I was abroad, I also had the opportunity to travel to Edinburgh, Scotland, and Dublin, Ireland. In Edinburgh, I sampled haggis, climbed a mountain called "Arthur's Seat," visited Edinburgh Castle and took a literary tour of the city. In Dublin, I visited Trinity College, took a James Joyce walking tour and saw Oscar Wilde's birthplace. My only regret is that I didn't have more time to explore each city.

My experiences abroad will be a great help to me as I move forward with my honors thesis. This trip has illuminated Victorian culture for me and given me an entirely new perspective on the era. I'm looking forward to applying all that I've learned to my analysis of Tennyson's poems.

2014 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

The Lamar University Office of Alumni Affairs proudly presents these four outstanding men and women as the 2014 Distinguished Alumni. Their dedication to their professions, service to their communities and loyalty to their alma mater epitomizes the Lamar University spirit.



DAVID E. BERNSEN '73 is a trial attorney who has represented clients in multiple types of litigation for nearly 40 years. He is the founder of The Bernsen Law Firm and became the first Southeast Texan and first LU graduate to serve on the Texas Highway Commission (now TXDOT), with his appointment by Gov. Ann Richards in 1991. Bernsen earned a bachelor's degree in management from Lamar University in 1973 and his law degree from St. Mary's University School of Law in 1976.

- established hurricane evacuation routes along the Texas Gulf Coast
- served in the Texas Senate—the first LU graduate to do so—representing District 4
- named "Legislator of the Year" by Keep Texas Beautiful and the Sierra Club
- selected to the Cardinal Hall of Honor in 1984, the first baseball player so honored
- founder of the Lamar University Baseball Players Association
- Citizen of the Year awards: City of Beaumont, Neches River Festival and Bolivar Peninsula Chamber of Commerce

"Lamar University was instrumental in my life because I received a good education and also learned leadership skills. I had the good fortune to be Student Government Association president while John Gray was the university president. My interactions with him had a profound effect on my life and career, and I'm humbled to be so recognized by an institution that means so much to me."



GEORGE A. DISHMAN JR. '49 is a lifelong resident of Beaumont with deep ties to the community and to Lamar University. He graduated from LU in 1949 with an associate of arts degree and later earned a bachelor of business administration from Texas A&M in 1952. In that same year, he married his wife, JoAnne (Judy).

- served as a 1st Lieutenant in the Air Force, stationed in Wiesbaden, Germany
- co-founded Prudential Drilling Co.; served as president from 1976 until 1980
- served on the board of directors for First Security National Bank, InterFirst Bank Houston, Port Neches Bancshares, and Community Bank and was a 25-year board member of Conn Appliances Inc.
- elected to the Beaumont City Council for a two-year term in 1972
- appointed to the Lamar University Board of Regents in 1982 for one six-year term
- created an endowment for the LU nursing department, known today as the JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing

"Looking back, I think earning my degree at Lamar was really the starting point for me," Dishman said. "Furthering my education gave me the foundation for my success, and it created in me a desire for lifelong learning, something I'm very grateful for."



ROOSEVELT PETRY JR. '82, '96, earned an associate's degree in drafting and a bachelor's degree in industrial technology from Lamar University. A few years later, he founded GP Industrial Contractors Inc., a company specializing in building refineries and petrochemical plants. The company's services include piping, steel fabrication, engineering, project management, CADD, field services, maintenance, janitorial, hole watch/fire watch, warehousing, labor and carpentry.

- taught AutoCAD, surveying and drafting as an LU instructor
- received the Top 50 Black Professionals & Entrepreneurs Award
- received the Outstanding Texan Award from the Texas Legislative Black Caucus
- received the President's Award from Lamar State College-Port Arthur
- honored by the State of Texas House of Representatives in recognition of his many contributions to local communities
- hosts the Roosevelt Petry Jr. Business Hour radio program on KSAP 107.1
- serves the community on numerous boards, committees and commissions

"Being selected as a Distinguished Alumnus gives me a glorious memory of a very proud and happy time in my life; a memory I am sure to reflect upon for years to come. I will do my best to represent Lamar University according to the standards this award represents."



SANDRA FRENCH CLARK '76 is an attorney in Beaumont and Houston, as well as a shareholder and member of the Management Committee of MehaffyWeber P.C. She earned a master's degree in English from Lamar University and her law degree from The University of Houston Law Center, where she was a member of Law Review and Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity. She joined MehaffyWeber in 1980.

- repeatedly recognized by her peers in Best Lawyers in America for the last 15 years
- recognized in Texas Monthly Magazine as a Super Lawyer for ten consecutive years
- named a Top 50 Female Super Lawyer in the State of Texas and in the Top 100 Attorneys in the Houston area
- received the President's Citation from the State Bar of Texas
- served on the Lamar Foundation Board, the advisory council for Fine Arts and Communication, Friends of the Arts and as a former chair of Le Grand Bal
- endowed the Sandra French Clark Scholarship in Choral Music at LU
- serves as a member of the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel and of the DuPont Legal Leadership Council

"In the 70s, Lamar was well known for its science and engineering programs, but I found a somewhat hidden treasure there in the English department. The professors were inspiring and first class and challenged the students in the master's program beyond what I would have ever expected."

ClassNotes

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:

**Cardinal Cadence,
P.O. Box 10011
Beaumont, TX 77710**

**e-mail alumni@lamar.edu
or call (409) 880-8921.**

30s

Mildred (Bogan) Blair '32, A.A. general studies, celebrated her 100th birthday in August 2014. She lives in Houston.

50s

Douglas Erwin '56, B.S. chemical engineering, authored the book, *Industrial Chemical Process Design*. He lives in Richmond.

60s

Nancy (Hawthorne) Benson '60, B.A. English, earned a master's degree from the University of North Texas. She retired from the Corpus Christi school district and lives in Austin with her husband, Bruce.

Annette (Valentino) Clark '61, B.S. graphic design, earned a master's degree in art education from the University of Nevada. Her work was displayed in the Butler Longhorn Museum in League City in May. She lives in Kemah.

JoAnn (Pasak) Baker '62, B.S. elementary education, retired after a 35-year career in education and lives in LaGrange.

Nolan Campbell '63, B.B.A. accounting, retired and lives in Kissimmee, Fla., with his wife, Sybil.

Gloria (Chambliss) Russell '63, B.S. elementary education, '64, M.Ed. elementary education, is a retired educator from the Corona-Norco school district. She and her husband, James, live in Jurupa Valley, Calif.

Gilbert Adams Jr. '64, B.S. government, earned a law degree and is an attorney for the Law Office of Gilbert T. Adams in Beaumont, where he lives with his wife, Marilyn.

Karen (Kirkpatrick) Baird '64, B.A. English, is a retired educator and lives in Kerrville.

Jane (Urey) Barrett '64, B.A. English, is a retired educator and lives in Magnolia with her husband, Ellis.

Dick Brand '64, B.A. history, retired from a career as teacher and coach and lives in Fort Lupton, Colo., with his wife, Gail.

Jeanette (Havard) Coffield '64, B.B.A. marketing, is executive director for Lakes Area Hospice in Jasper, where she lives.

Robert Couch '64, B.S. civil engineering, and his wife, **Carolyn (McCormick)** '63, B.S.

home economics, are retired and live in Richmond.

Jerry Cozby '64, B.B.A. marketing, retired as a professional golfer and lives in Bartlesville, Okla., with his wife, Karole.

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

H. Stephen Grace Jr. '64, B.S. industrial engineering, earned a master's degree from the University of Chicago and a doctorate from the University of Houston. He is president of H.S. Grace and Co. in Houston. He lives in Bellaire.

Ronn Haddox '64, B.B.A. management, earned a law degree from South Texas College of Law and lives in Baytown, where he is an attorney. His wife, **Anna Lee (Dunn)** '64, B.S. home economics, teaches in the Goose Creek school district.

Don Hannegan '64, B.S. industrial engineering, is director of strategic drilling technology for Weatherford International. He lives in Fort Smith, Ark.

VJ Harper '64, B.B.A. general business, is an independent adjuster working for Wardlaw Claims Service. He lives in Port Arthur with his wife, Cheryl.

Bill Haynes '64, B.B.A. management, retired as a tax analyst from Exxon and lives in Crossville, Tenn., with his wife, **Sandy (Nicks)** '64, B.S. home economics.

Sena (Walters) Kerns '64, B.A. English, lives in Kingwood with her husband, William.

Linda (Concienne) Lynch '64, B.S. biology, earned a master's degree in psychology and counseling from Columbia Pacific University. She lives in Prescott, Ariz., with her husband, Patrick.

Jim McDaniel '64, B.S. physical education, retired after a 41-year career as a teacher, coach and administrator. He lives in DeSoto with his wife, Pamela.

Tom Muehlenbeck '64, B.A. political science, earned a master's degree in public administration from the University of Kansas and lives in Corinth with his wife, Myrtle.

Wofford Plott '64, B.S. physical education, earned a master's degree in education from Texas State University-San Marcos. He retired and lives in Friendswood.

James Ricks '64, B.S. mechanical engineering, earned a master's degree in business. He retired and lives in Japan with his wife, Masako.

Ronald Turner '64, B.B.A. accounting, retired and lives in Houston with his wife, Ann.

Jeanette (Hirsch) Tyler '64, B.S. medical technology, retired and lives in Katy, with her husband, **Norris** '64, B.S. chemistry.

Wally Watson '64, B.B.A. marketing, is chief executive officer for Tanglewood Homes. He lives in Fort Worth.

Herman Weber '64, B.S. government, earned a master's degree in public administration from Cornell University and retired as director of personnel at the city of Pasadena, where he and his wife, Loretta, live.

Robert Schrimsher '66, B.A. sociology, earned a master's degree from the University of Alabama and a doctorate in education from Catholic University of America. He retired from Samford University as a professor of pharmacy practice and pharmacy librarian and was awarded the rank of professor emeritus. A retired Army aviator who served in Vietnam, he lives in Birmingham, Ala.

Carole (Cobble) Wills '66, B.B.A. secretarial science, is head of school for The Briarwood School in Houston, where she lives with her husband, **Jim** '66, B.S. mathematics, '68, M.S. mathematics. He retired from Chevron after a 42-year career.

Samuel Low '67, B.S. biology, earned a medical degree in dentistry and a certification in periodontics from the University of Texas-Health Science Center at Houston.

He was elected to the board of directors of Biolase and is professor emeritus of the periodontology department at the University of Florida's College of Dentistry. He lives in Palm Coast, Fla.

Kathy (Johnson) Young '67, B.A. English, earned a master's degree in mathematics from the University of Florida. She lives in Holly Springs, N.C.

Jack Wilson '68, B.S. government, lives in Lago Vista with his wife, Helen.

Doug Boone '69, B.S. physical education, earned a master's degree from Texas Southern University. He retired and lives in Canyon Lake with his wife, **Joan (Fieselman)** '67, certif. secretarial science.

70s

Doug Galloway '70, certif. diesel mechanics, '70, B.S. secondary education, earned a master's degree in educational administration and supervision. He retired and lives in Kingwood.

Colleen (Clough) Hickman '70, B.A. political science, '82, M.B.A. business administration, retired as a certified professional accountant. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, **Arthur** '70, B.A. sociology.

Nannette (Devoti) Samson '70, B.S. elementary

education, published a textbook for special education teachers, Ten Critical Components for Success in the Special Education Classroom. She lives in Friendswood with her husband, **Tom** '73, B.S. environmental science.

Margaret (Delahoussaye) Anzaldúa '71, B.S. home economics, earned a master's degree from Stephen F. Austin State University and teaches in the Garrison school district. She lives in Timpson.

Doug Simpson '71, B.S. biology, '73, M.S. biology, is chief executive officer, director and president of Corgenix Medical. He lives in Boulder, Colo.

Mike De Nero '72, B.B.A. marketing, is president of California Sunations Inc. and lives in Rancho Belago, Calif.

Gary Jaetzold '72, B.B.A. marketing, retired from W.R. Grace and lives in Bryan with his wife, **Linda (Schaefer)** '71, B.S. health and physical education.

Sister Paulette Shaunfield '72, medical technology, retired from the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. She lives in Houston.

The Texas Society of Certified Professional Accountants awarded **Nathan Cross** '73, B.B.A. accounting, its Distinguished Public Service Award. He lives in Beaumont.



Nutrition and Services for Seniors

Several alumni volunteers helped assemble Easter meals and delivered them to area seniors April 5.

1. Elaine (Norman) Shellenberger '74
2. Cardinal Alumni
3. LU Ambassadors, alumni and friends
4. Jean (Hebert) Ornelas '71 and Eddy Crain

Jazz Night

Alumni shared good sounds, good food and good times as they listened to Jimmy Simmons & Friends featuring Sharon Montgomery during Jazz Night at Rao's on Dowlen in Beaumont July 24.

1. Cathy (Bebeau) '78 and Frank Zummo 2. Jake Tortorice '76, left, Bishop Curtis Guillory and President Ken Evans 3. Dean Terrebonne '11, left, with Beverly (Davis) '77 and Fred Escamilla 4. Antionette Kelly '91 and Tom Sigee '91 5. From left, Eric Rose '13, Gary Janecek '95, Ramon Ramos '96, Greg Rose and Rowena Rose 6. Ina and Jude Messina '76



Alumni Night @ the Basketball Game

Alumni gathered for a pre-game reception Feb. 1 in the Cardinal Club Room before the tip-off between the Cards and Texas A&M Corpus Christi.

1. Dwight and Kayla Richard, left, with Jana (Hicks) Richard '01 2. Jonathon and Kristin (Bradford) Bolser '05 with family 3. Linda (Embs) LeBlanc '75, left, with Johnnie (Criton) '00 and Vernon Durden '69, '04 4. Janet (Lynch) '01 and Rob Ellison '02 with family 5. Sherri Fitzgerald '00

Gary Phillips '73, B.B.A. general business, is procurement manager for Chevron USA. He lives in Houston with his wife, Sandra.

Randall Rice '73, B.B.A. accounting, is county auditor for Galveston County, where he lives with his wife, **Deborah (Reynolds)** '82, B.B.A. office administration.

Barry Evans '74, B.S. biology, is a staff chemist for Motiva Enterprises. He lives in Groves with his wife, Linda.

Naomi (Perkins) Gardner '74, B.B.A. office administration, retired from East Chambers school district and lives in Winnie with her husband, **Dudley** '75, B.S. oceanographic technology.

Michael Thompson '74, B.S. biology, earned master's degrees in science, business administration and health administration from the University of Houston. He is chief executive officer of the Frio Regional Hospital in Pearsall and lives in San Antonio with his wife, Maria.

Ida Duplechin '75, B.A. arts, '11, M.Ed. counseling and development, owns Life Skills Management and Counseling in Beaumont, where she lives.

Vicki (Hale) McCown '75, B.S. elementary education, teaches at Westbrook High School in the Beaumont school district, where she lives with her husband, Nathan.

Vivian (Reynolds) Toups '75, B.A. sociology, lives in the United Kingdom with her husband, **John** '75, B.S. oceanographic technology. He is a laboratory manager for BP Amoco Foundation.

Daryl Attaway '76, B.S. chemical engineering, is a senior consultant for Turner, Mason and Co. in Dallas. He and his wife, Denise, live in Pottsboro.

John Carrens '76, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a projects manager for TOTAL Petrochemicals USA. He lives in Georgetown with his wife, Valerie.

Jim Denney '77, B.S. oceanographic technology, earned a master's degree from Stephen F. Austin State University. He is a geologist for W. B. Osborn Oil and Gas Operations and lives in Houston with his wife, Robin.

Charles Jehlen Jr. '77, B.A. history, '87, M.A. history, is completing his 37th year in public education and is principal of Central Middle School in Nederland. He is president-elect of the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals. He works for KBTX Fox 4 as the play-by-play telecaster for Lamar University football and baseball and telecasts high school football with Sheffield Productions for the Friday Night Experience. He lives in Groves with his wife, Sheri.

Fannie Turner '77, B.S. communication, '94, M.S. audiology/speech-language pathology, is an audiologist for Northeast Texas Hearing in Paris, where he lives.

Homecoming 2014

Alumni, students, friends and community members wore their red during Homecoming Week Oct. 27-Nov. 1 in celebration of the ties that bind. On Oct. 14, Mayor Becky Ames proclaimed Nov. 1, 2014, "Lamar University Homecoming Day," leading up to the week-long celebration. An 11 a.m. parade of student organization floats, corvettes ferrying LU luminaries, high school bands and LU's own award-winning band, the Showcase of Southeast Texas, waved to onlookers as the prelude to tailgating before the Cardinals hosted the Huskies of Houston Baptist University on the W.S. "Bud" Leonard field Nov. 1.



Mark Alsop '78, A.A.S. drafting technology, works for Lanier and Associates as a senior mechanical process designer. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, **Kathleen (Boehm)** '80, B.S. environmental science. She works for RPS Group as a senior consultant.

Harvey Criswell Jr. '79, B.S. secondary education, works for Criswell Sprinkler Systems. He lives in Dickinson.

Gary Cruse '79, B.S. electrical engineering, is a global category manager for Shell in Houston. He lives in Lakeway.

Paul Kendall '79, B.S. mathematics, '79, B.S. computer science, earned a master's degree in business from the University of North Texas and a doctorate degree from Warren National University. He serves on the Computer Science Advisory Council. He was inducted into the Computer Science Hall of Fame in 2009 and co-advised Richland College in the development of a new associate of applied sciences degree in digital forensics. He lives in Fort Worth.

Judy (Dupuy) Lewis '79, B.S.W. social work, received the 2014 Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award from Kingwood College. She and her husband, Greg, live in Humble.

Timothy Magnuson '79, B.S. computer science, earned a master's degree from the University of Texas-Tyler. He lives in Round Rock.

Stephanie (Prejean) Wright '79, earned a master's degree in counseling from Prairie View A&M University. She retired from a career in education and lives in Beaumont.

Ray Taylor '79, B.B.A. management, earned a master's degree in management and public administration from Webster University. He retired after a 31-year career as a special agent with the U.S. drug enforcement agency and as a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserves after serving 32 years. He lives in Humble.

Michael Turpin '79, B.S. music, earned a master's degree in music education from the University of South Carolina and a doctorate of philosophy from Texas A&M University. He is vice president of instruction at Kilgore College. He lives in Longview.

80s

Alan Coleman '80, B.S. biology, received the 2014 It's Time Texas Summit Award from the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce in honor of his commitment to build healthy communities in Texas. He is a city councilman and dentist in Beaumont, where he lives.

Will Leonard '80, B.B.A. marketing, is president for BBVA Compass Bank in Beaumont, where he lives.

Mason Panahi '80, B.S. mechanical engineering, '83, M.E. engineering, is

an engineer for Supreme Source Energy Services. He and his wife, **Kristi (Jordan)** '82, B.S. communication, live in Katy. She is an administrator at Stokan Jaggers and Associates.

Stephanie Pitts '80, B.S. home economics, teaches family and consumer science in the Rochelle school district. She lives in Brady.

Tommy Fulton '81, B.S. civil engineering, is senior project manager for Dewberry and is responsible for the Florida transportation group. He lives in Tampa, Fla.

Connie (Huebner) Huch '81, B.S. home economics, is a production analyst for Freeport McMoRan Oil and Gas in Houston, where she lives with her husband, **Nicholas** '79, B.S. energy resources management.

Donna (Simon) Laverne '81, B.S. elementary education, earned a master's degree from Texas Southern University. She is an administrator for the Port Arthur school district, where she lives.

Jake LeMaster '81, B.B.A. marketing, is a service manager for Xerox State and Local Government Solutions in Carrollton. He lives in Keller with his wife, **Kathy (Williamson)** '09, M.Ed. administration, who teaches music in the Eagle Mountain-Saginaw school district.

John Danna '82, B.S. chemical engineering, is a consulting engineer and lives in Prosect, Ky., with his wife, Linda.

Jim Leiferman '82, B.B.A. business administration, is president of Mattamy Homes. He lives in Orlando, Fla.

Michael McEachern '82, B.B.A. personnel administration, is interim chief executive officer for Bowie Memorial Hospital. He lives in Montgomery.

Terry Welch '82, B.S. electrical engineering, earned an executive master's degree in business from Northwood University. He is vice president of upstream operations for BP Corp. N.A. Inc. He lives in Anchorage, Alaska, with his wife, Janelle.

Van Wigginton '82, B.S. government, '84, M.P.A. public administration, earned a law degree from the University of Houston. He is provost of San Jacinto College and a member of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee. He lives in Houston.

Terrie (Fontenot) Breeden '83, B.S. elementary education, '85, M.Ed. special education, is program specialist and Section 619 coordinator for the Texas Education Agency. She lives in Wimberly.

Jennifer (Barry) Gill '83, B.B.A. accounting, is a certified professional accountant in Lake Charles, where she lives.

Billy Pattarozi '83, A.A.S. drafting technology, '83, industrial technology, '13, M.B.A. business administration, is a procurement

Humane Society Project

Pet-loving alumni volunteered to walk dogs and play with cats Oct. 18 at the Humane Society of Southeast Texas as part of a community service project sponsored by the Office of Alumni Affairs.

1. Tony Landry '94 2. Christopher '13 and Tracy Ward 3. Karla '14 and Shawnee Hyatt 4. Sara Kelley '85 5. Rebekah Maxwell '11 6. Sherri (Horn) DelMage '01, '03



2014 Homecoming Tailgate

LU vs. Houston Baptist was the backdrop Nov. 1 for the Alumni Tailgate Party.

1. Charlotte Jungen '97 and Jose Maldonado '01 2. Linda (Embs) LeBlanc '75, left, with Lillie (Gilford) '71 and Ken Lloyd '73 3. Roger Dimick '76, '91, '02, left, Judy Hammond '72, '82, and Becky Zikes 4. From left, Angali, Julianne, Avani, Nathan and Raju Srirama '93 5. Randy '80 and Maridale (Adams) Still '79, '12, left, with Brandon '06, Jena (Verrill) Still '06 6. Ryan '11 and Lindsey (Street) Prasek '10, left, with Mandy (Anderson) '10 and Garrett Street '10 7. Leroy and Margaret (Pugh) Bostic '64, '75 8. The Stuberfields from left: Ted '91, '00, '08, Margaret (Owens) '94, '03, Halle, Willie and Nicholas



Saturday Morning @ the **Umphrey Center**

During Saturday Morning at the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center June 21, alumni experienced a number of workout opportunities, from cardio equipment and a yoga session to the indoor track and bouldering, before enjoying fruity smoothies.

1. Ronnie Turner '07 2. Michelle (Castillo) Bellot '95 and Kara Monceaux
3. Butch Henderson '88 and Rachel Gilford '03, '10 4. Paul Rizk '14
5. Vernon '69, '04, and Johnnie (Criton) Durden '00



Golden Circle Luncheon

More than 170 graduates from the years 1924 through 1964 enjoyed a Golden Circle luncheon Sept. 20.

1. Stephen Grace '64, left, Industrial Engineering Department Chair Brian Craig, Mike Aldredge '65, Gary Friedman '64 and President Ken Evans 2. Bill and Grace (Davis) England '55 3. Linda (Embs) LeBlanc '75, left, Jane (Siros) Connelly '62 and Ernst Siros '71 4. Laurie (House) Ritchel '85, left, with Charles '61 and Martha Jo (Phillips) Starcke '61 5. Lou Ella (Beard) McDonald '64, left, Billy Cogswell, Dot (Tudor) Cogswell '59, '90, and Sally (McDonald) House '59, '67 6. Mary Joubert, left, and Martha (Richards) Washington '60 7. Gilbert Adams Jr. '64, left, Juan Zabala '07 and Marilyn (Thornton) Adams -94 8. Sarah (Sims) Matheny '61, left, Dixie (Dowden) Tucker '61 and Jane (Sims) Moore '59

manager for Baker Hughes. He lives in Houston with his wife, **Amy (Barker) '05**, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, '12, B. S. nursing. She works for Christus St. Elizabeth Beaumont.

Don Rollins '83, B.B.M. music education, is now director of fine arts for the Vidor school district after a career as a singer/songwriter and best known for co-writing "It's Five O'clock Somewhere," recorded by Alan Jackson and Jimmy Buffett. He lives in Orange.

Nydia Thomas '83, B.S. government, earned a law degree from Howard University and is deputy general counsel for the Texas Juvenile Commission in Austin. She lives in Pflugerville.

Janet (Meloncon) Kemons '84, A.A.S. nursing, '99, B.S.N. nursing, '05, M.S.N. nursing, is an upward mobility nursing instructor for Lamar State College-Orange. She lives in Groves.

Connie Simon '84, B.S. sociology, '93, A.A.S. nursing, is a school nurse in the Dallas school district. She lives in Frisco.

Andrew Sunderman '84, B.B.A. accounting, is chief financial officer for Direct Energy. He lives in Cypress.

Richelle Brewster '85, A.A.S. mid-management, earned bachelor degrees in criminal justice and accounting from the University of Houston-Downtown. She is a revenue agent reviewer for the Internal Revenue Service in Houston, where she lives.

Kittie (Nelson) Elrod '85, B.S. nursing, lives in Hope Mills, N.C., with her husband, Ron.

Sam Louis '85, B.B.A. business administration, earned a law degree from Texas Southern University and has joined Strasburger & Price LLP as partner in the Houston office. He served more than 21 years as a federal prosecutor and is former deputy criminal chief of the Program Fraud group for the Department of Justice in the Southern District of Texas. He recently served as the Health Care Fraud Coordinator for the Department of Justice Health and Human Services Medicare Fraud Strike Force. He lives in Pearland.

Craig Moore '85, B.S. kinesiology, teaches and coaches in the Conroe school district. He lives in Splendora with his wife, Sarah.

James Price '85, A.A.S. business data processing, is technical lead/business analyst for Hagemeyer North America. He lives in Prairie View with his wife, Veronica.

Johnny Spell '85, B.S. chemical engineering, is ventures manager for Flint Hills

Resources. He lives in Nederland.

Anthony Wingate '85, B.S. mechanical engineering, is manager of subsystems and component quality engineering for Sandia National Laboratories. He lives in Albuquerque, N.M., with his wife Kim.

Gregory Wolfford '85, A.A.S. electrical technology, '92, B.S. industrial technology, is vice president of engineering for Richard Industrial Group. He lives in Orange with his wife, **Staci '88**, A.A.S. dental hygiene.

Donna (Driver) Zwartkruis '85, B.S. sociology, earned a master's degree in public administration from Texas Southern University and a doctoral degree from Union Institute and University. She is teaching at the University of Amsterdam, where she lives with her husband, Peter.

Larry Cook '86, B.B.A. marketing, is managing partner for 5th Avenue Acquisitions and Venture Capitalists in Houston. He lives in Richmond.

Nancy (Phillips) Ervin '86, B.M. music, is the pastor's ministry assistant for Coggin Avenue Baptist Church in Brownwood, where she lives with her husband, James.

Linda (Savant) Lovelace '86, B.S. secondary education, '96, M.S. special education, is an educational diagnostician for the Port

Neches-Groves school district, where she lives with her husband, Charles.

John Via III '86, M.E.S. engineering science, retired from Alcon Laboratories following its acquisition by Novartis and is associate dean of Engineering for online programs and in the department of Engineering Management Studies at Drexel University in Philadelphia. He lives in Sinking Spring, Pa.

John Curtin '87, B.B.A. finance, is senior vice president for Citibank in New York, where he lives.

Elizabeth (Durso) Branch '87, B.A. history, earned a law degree from the University of Mississippi. She owns and is principal attorney for The Branch Law Firm in Rockwall. She and her husband, Jerry Stephenson, live in Mesquite.

Eric Heinlein '87, B.S. criminal justice, earned a master's degree from the University of Houston-Clear Lake and is the supervising U.S. probation officer for the Eastern Texas District Court. He lives in Nederland.

James Hwang '87, Eng.D. electrical engineering, is executive director of Far East Broadcast Company. He lives in Fullerton, Calif.

Gary Martel '87, B.S. kinesiology, earned a master's degree in education in mid-management and is superintendent of schools in Diboll, where he lives with his wife, Susie.

Karen (Colbert) Williams '87, B.S. communication, teaches in the Dallas school district, where she lives with her husband, Fred.

Tina (Davros) Kelly '88, B.S. family and consumer sciences-food and nutrition, is a registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator for Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center in Medford, Ore. She lives in Jacksonville, Ore.

Lori (Peschel) Likins '88, B.B.A. marketing, is inside sales representative for global accounts for National Oilwell Varco in Houston, where she lives with her husband, Ralph.

Rodney Anderson '89, M.Ed. special education, is principal of West Orange-Stark High School in the West Orange-Cove school district. He lives in Beaumont.

Sharwin (York) Black '89, B.S. elementary education, lives in Beaumont with her husband, **James '72**, B.S. government, '79, M.B.A. business administration.

Melissa (Custer) Boyett '89, B.S. elementary education, teaches at Pine Forest Elementary in the Vidor school district, where she

lives with her husband, Neil.

Clara (Brown) Cooper '89, B.S. sociology, earned a master's degree in business from LeTourneau University and is president and chief executive officer of Souper Bowl of Caring. She lives in Pearland.

Steven Floyd '89, B.B.A. finance, is senior trust officer and specialty assets manager for American Bank. He lives in Corpus Christi.

Jason Landry '89, B.B.A. accounting, is president and chief executive officer for Neches Federal Credit Union. He lives in Nederland.

Jennifer Penland '89, B.S. elementary education, '01, M.Ed. secondary education, '07, Ed.D. educational leadership, is assistant professor of education and indigenous scholar at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, W.V. She lives in Kingwood.

90s

Hazimi Baharum '90, B.S. civil engineering, is chief operating officer for Zelan Berhad, Malaysia's 25th-largest construction company by market capitalization. He lives in Kuala Lumpur.

Gwen Boyett '90, B.A. English, '99, M.Ed. school administration, is director of alternative education for the Silsbee school district, where she lives.

Rodney Cavness '90, B.S. kinesiology, '94, M.Ed. school administration, earned a doctorate degree from the University of Houston. He is superintendent of the Port Neches School district. He and his wife, Tanya, live in Port Neches.

Tracy Glende Sr. '90, B.S. electrical engineering, earned a master's degree in international business and marketing from Arizona State University. He is president and chief executive officer for Veritas Steel and lives in Naperville, Ill.

James Halbert Jr. '90, B.S. computer science, is a control systems analyst for CenterPoint Energy. He lives in Plantersville, with his wife, Cheryl.

The Texas Community College Instructional Administrators named **Pam (Quinn) '91**, B.S. kinesiology, the recipient of the 2014 Ray Williams Outstanding Leadership Award. She is provost of Dallas County Community College District and lives in Kirbyville.

Shawn Oubre '92, A.S. law enforcement, '93, B.A.A.S., applied arts and sciences, '02, M.P.A. public administration, earned

a doctoral degree in public policy and public administration. He is city manager in Orange.

Jill (Jenkins) Borque '93, B.B.A. office administration, is senior title examiner and team leader for Stewart Title. She lives in Sour Lake.

Derrick Jones '93, B.B.A. marketing, '00, M.B.A. business administration, is regional manager for the Houston office of Sealy & Co. He lives in The Woodlands.

Patrick Ryan '94, B.S. civil engineering, is director of construction for the Texas Department of Transportation in Beaumont. He lives in Fred.

Sheila Thibodeaux '94, B.S. chemical engineering, earned a master's degree in business from Our Lady of the Lake University. She is a strategic partner manager for Bayer Technology Services in Baytown. She lives in Houston.

Marlene (Captain) Petry '95, A.A.S. nursing, earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Texas-Medical Branch in Galveston and a master's degree in nursing from Regis University. She and her husband, Roosevelt, live in Port Arthur.

Jennifer Bensky '96, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, earned a master's degree from

Trinity University. She is director of courseware operations for FlightSafety International. She lives in Irving.

Raye Castro '96, A.A.S. nursing, was selected to be included in the publication World-wide Leaders in Healthcare. She currently is a correctional nurse working at John Sealy Correctional Center in the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and also serves on staff at Christus Hospital St. Elizabeth. She lives in Beaumont.

Dana (Anderson) Frazier '96, A.A.S. nursing, is a nurse with Texas Home Health and lives in Pineland with her husband, James.

The Society of Women Engineers – Houston Area Section and the Federation of Houston Professional Women named **Brandy Lang** '96, B.S. civil engineering, the 2014 Woman of Excellence. She is an engineer for Rinker Materials and a member of the Lamar University Civil Engineering Advisory Council. She lives in Cypress.

John Duff '97, B.S. communication, is associate director of the Longhorn Network in Austin, where he lives.

Andrea (White) Henry '97, B.S. sociology, is health care administrator for The Hampton Post Oak. She lives in Katy with her husband, **Kenneth** '97, B.A. psychology, who is assistant principal for the Cypress Fairbanks school district.

Brian East '98, B.M. music, '10, M.E. school administration, is principal of Curtis Elementary School in Beaumont, where he lives.

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

Vickie McGee '99, B.A. history, is a market human resources manager for Wal-Mart Stores Inc. She lives in Cypress.

Byron Miller '99, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, '99, B.A. English, '04, M.Ed. school administration, '12, Ed.D. educational leadership, is principal of Simsboro School in Lincoln Parish in Louisiana.

Earl Morrison Jr. '99, B.S. criminal justice, earned a master's degree from the University of Houston-Downtown and is chief of police for the Hutto Police Department. He lives in Deer Park.

00s

Arvind Gopal '00, M.S. computer science, is director for Etera Solutions Private Limited in India, where he lives.

Verna (Koleosho) Johnson '00, B.S. psychology, earned a master's degree in behavioral psychology from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. She is a service member of VetUs Staffing and lives in Fresno with her husband, Cedric.

Landon Rowe '00, B.S. communication, is a supply chain specialist for Clariant. He lives in Houston.

Jaclyn Scales '00, B.S. political science, '11, M.Ed. administration, teaches and coaches at Goose Creek Memorial High School in Baytown, where she lives.

Dr. Jason Flores '01, B.S. biology, '04, B.S. nursing, earned a dental degree from the University of Texas Health Sciences in Houston and a specialty in anesthesiology from the University of Pittsburgh in 2011. He is director of dental anesthesiology for the University of New Mexico. He and his wife, **Amy (Buffington)** '03, B.A. psychology, live in Rio Rancho, N.M.

Suresh Gudavalli '01, M.E. civil engineering, '06, Eng.D. civil engineering, is manager E&T for ATSER. He lives in Houston with his wife, Archana Gottipati.

Korey Kimball '01, B.B.A. finance, is senior project manager for The Bayou Companies. He lives in New Iberia with his wife, Suzanne.

Joshua Home '02, B.B.A. marketing, is a general manager for Cintas Corporation in San Antonio, where he lives.

Rachel (Lewis) Gifford '03, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '10, M.Ed. elementary education, teaches in the Beaumont school district, where she lives.

Joseph Haeggquist '03, B.G.S. general studies, earned a law degree from St. Mary's University and works for Brock Person Guerra Reyna P.C. in San Antonio, where he lives.

Hardik Parekh '03, M.S. environmental engineering, is senior engineer for H2M in N.Y., where he lives.

Judy (Cowan) Taylor '03, B.S. communication, earned a master's degree in liberal arts and sciences from Western Illinois University. She lives with her husband, Luis, in Quincy, Ill.

T.J. Donnell '04, B.S. communication, is an appraiser for Lone Star Appraisals & Realty Inc. in Cedar Park, where he lives.

Candace (Landry) Greer '04, B.S. criminal justice, is a security officer and substitute teacher for the Beaumont school district, where she lives.

Kelli Gunter '04, B.A. political science, earned a law degree from Texas Tech University. She is a litigation attorney for Kane Russell Coleman and Logan. She lives in Houston.

Wesley Mahon '04, B.B.A. management information systems, is a digital forensic examiner for the Army. He lives in Raeford, N.C., with his wife, Rachel.

Nicholas Mott '04, B.B.A. marketing, is construction manager for Tulsa Inspection Resources in Tulsa, Okla. He lives in Kountze.

College of Business Alumni Reception

Dallas alumni gathered in the Chaparral Ballroom of the Sheraton Dallas Hotel March 13 to catch up with fellow classmates in the Dallas area.

1. Beth Yelverton '04 and Josh Daspitt '04 **2.** Bart Simmons '78, '79, left, and Will Sennette **3.** Mary Aubry '93, left, Cindy Barnes and Joyce (Johnson) Scott '72 **4.** Wasim Akram '12, left, K.C. Sen and Eddie Shamp IV '07 **5.** Elvis Mason '59, '82HD, left, Fred Casteel '62, Randy Best '67 and Joan Mason



Craft Beer Tasting

At the inaugural Lamar University Alumni Craft Beer Pairings March 28, eight craft beers foamed to the music of Mad Maude & the Hatters while alumni sampled pours along with carefully chosen cheeses and sweets in the University Reception Center on the eighth floor of the Mary and John Gray Library.

1. Wayne Margolis, left, President Ken Evans and Susan (Hendrix) Margolis '79 **2.** Allison (Edwards) Brocato '85 and Lum Edwards III '89 **3.** Randa (Tooke) '97, '02, and Brian Hurtado '99 **4.** Lloyd '77 and Adrienne (Smith) Hebert '81 **5.** Tammy and Ted Booker '88, left, with Penelope (Stratiotis) '91, '94, and Carl Butler '91

Prashanth Srinivasan '04, M.E.S. mechanical engineering, is a senior specialist for Consolidated Edison Co. of New York. He lives in Plainview, N.Y.

Justin Henderson '05, B.S. family and consumer sciences-family studies, '07, M.Ed. counseling and development, is a licensed professional counselor and lives in Houston with his wife, Candise.

Michelle (Easter) Mitchell '05, B.S. nursing, lives in San Marcos with her husband, Billy.

Pranay Reguri '05, M.E. electrical engineering, is EAI analyst for CPS Energy in San Antonio. He lives in Helotes with his wife, Snigdha Boppidi.

Ashley Stone '05, B.G.S. general studies, is chapter development manager for the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners in Austin, where he lives.

Irish (Carter) Clark '06, B.S. health and kinesiology, '13, B.S. health promotion, is a program specialist for the Texas Department of State Health Services. She lives in Seagoville with her husband, Byron.

Megan (Ramos) Davidson '06, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '09, M.Ed. administration, teaches third grade in the Conroe school district. She lives in Spring with her husband, Jason.

Kimberly (Doucet) Sala '06, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, '14, M.Ed., educational technology leadership, is an academic advisor for Lamar University and lives in Beaumont with her husband, Vincent.

Bhavin Sanghavi '06, M.E. mechanical engineering, is a pipe stress engineer for Bechtel Corporation. He lives in Houston.

Scott Whitman '06, B.B.A. human resource management, is a sales representative for Daiichi-Sankyo Pharmaceuticals. He lives in Houston.

Jason Yeaman '06, B.S. kinesiology, '11, M.Ed. administration, is assistant principal in the Little Cypress Mauriceville school district. He lives in Bridge City with his wife, **Charlee (Lemons)** '06, M.Ed. school administration, who is principal at Highland Park Elementary in the Nederland school district.

Judy (Alvarado) Brodeur '07, B.S. health education, is a substitute teacher for the Friendswood school district, where she lives with her husband, **Norman** '07, B.S. industrial technology. He is global quality manager for Best Pump Works.

Jacob Cassity '07, B.E.A. graphic design, is marketing technology specialist for DuPont Goodrich Federal Credit Union. He and his wife, Jillian, live in Beaumont.

Dwayne Champagne '07, B.B.A. finance, is a financial advisor for Mobiloil Financial Group. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, **Jennifer (Way)** '07, B.B.A. finance.

James Harris '07, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, earned master's degrees in health care management and accounting. He is an EHR applications specialist for The Institute of Health Metrics and lives in Beaumont.

Tyrone Haynes '07, B.B.A. marketing, earned a law degree from Texas Southern University with magna cum laude honors. He served as a judicial law clerk for two federal judges and has joined Steele Law Group as an associate attorney. He lives in Houston with his wife, **Jasimi (Bankston)** '07, B.S. psychology, '13, M.Ed. school administration. She teaches in the Galena Park school district.

David Pickett '07, B.G.S. general studies, is a science teacher in the West Hardin school district. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Gloria.

South African, **Dawie Van Der Walt** '07, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, won the Nelson Mandela Championship in golf. The win came the day before the funeral of Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first black president. He lives in Kingwood.

Josh Yawn '07, B.S. communication, produced and hosted Southeast Texas's first and only family game show, Family Knows Best. The show has aired for two seasons on Fox 4. He lives in Beaumont.

James Carnley '08, B.S. computer science, '10, M.S. computer science, is a software engineer for Epic in Verona, Wis., where he lives with his wife, **Crystal (Wettingfield)** '09, B.S. computer and information sciences. She also works for Epic as an interface analyst.

Dr. Bobby Clay '08, B.G.S. general studies, earned a pharmacy degree from the University of Houston. He lives in Houston.

Jessica (Munson) Hill '08, M.B.A. business administration, is vice president of economic development for the Southeast Texas Economic Development Foundation. She and her husband, Zeke, live in Nederland.

Caitlin James '08, B.A. English, '11, M.A. English, is an instructor at Lamar State College-Port Arthur. She lives in Beaumont.

Anjib Mulepati '08, M.S. computer science, is a software engineer for Source Allies Inc. in Des Moines, Iowa. He and his wife, Kunjini Rajbhandari, live in Johnston, Iowa.

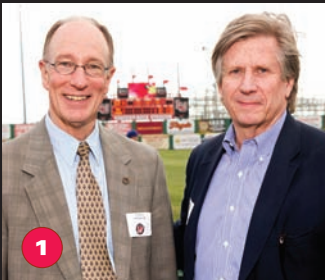
Priscilla Rosell '08, B.B.A. economics, is financial planning and analysis leader for GE Oil and Gas and lives in Nacogdoches.

Andrew See '08, B.S. chemical engineering, is a field engineer for Schlumberger in Houston, where he lives.

CO64
Reunion

More than 90 Class of 1964 alumni attended the reunion Sept. 20.

- 1. Beth (Dudley) Wheeler '94 and Corky Wheeler '64
- 2. Stephen Grace '64, left, and Claud Stanley '64
- 3. From left, Ellen (Goldin) King '64, Michael Ann (Agee) Crawford '64, Linda (Henriksen) Kmiecik '64, Susan (Terry) McLendon '64, Anna Lee (Dunn) Haddox '64, Bob McLendon '64
- 4. Ronn '64 and Anna Lee (Dunn) Haddox '6
- 5. Margaret (Pugh) Bostic '64, '75
- 6. President Ken Evans, left, with Carolyn (Honea) '64, '75, and Bo Crawford '65, '73



Baseball
Tailgate

Alumni enjoyed links, boudin and more at the April 11 Alumni Baseball Tailgate before watching the Cards take on New Orleans at Vincent-Beck Stadium.

- 1. President Ken Evans, left, and David Bernsen '73
- 2. Caitlin Kruger '09, left, and Christi Grudier '10
- 3. Claud '59, '72, and Alice Sibert
- 4. Daniel '93 and Karen (Gunn) Martinez '91, left, with Victoria Martinez
- 5. Shawn '00, '07, and Stephanie (Dollar) Molina '00, with Gabi, center, and Myah Molina
- 6. From left, Melinda McWherter, Olivia McWherter, guest Ace, Grant McWherter, guest Bryce, Jacob McWherter and Glenn McWherter '93

Josh Shenkir '08, B.S. electrical engineering, is a project engineer for Chevron Phillips Chemical in The Woodlands, where he lives with his wife, **Lauren** '05, B.S. interdisciplinary studies.

Aaron Wright '08, B.S. industrial engineering, is manager of projects for CDI Co. He lives in Orange.

Rio Grande Valley Texas Association of Bilingual Education selected **Perla (Montalvo) Alvarez** '09, M.Ed. administration, as bilingual teacher of the year. She lives in Edinburg.

Dustin Baxter '09, B.E.A. graphic design, is a graphic designer for Conn's. He lives in Tomball with his wife, Jaclyn.

Iris (Garcia) Beltran '09, B.S. computer science, is a front-end web developer for Clarity Ventures. She and her husband, Omar, live in Pflugerville.

Chalijua (Brown) Brooks '09, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a financial aid specialist at Lamar University. She lives in Beaumont.

Michelle (Bauer) Courmier '09, B.G.S. general studies, '11, M.A. history, teaches in the Little Cypress-Mauriceville school district. She lives in Vidor.

Cody Dishon '09, B.B.A. general business, earned a law degree from South Texas College of Law and works for Provost Umphrey Law Firm in Beaumont. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, **Julia (Tran)** '11, B.S. nursing. She is pursuing a doctorate in nurse anesthesia at Texas Christian University.

Boone Drummond '09, B.S. mechanical engineer, is a program consultant for CLEAResult Consulting. He lives in Duncanville.

Chad Helton '09, B.S. civil engineering, is a project engineer for Bell Engineering. He lives in Orange.

Erica (Sanchez) Lopez '09, B.B.A. management, works for ExxonMobil and lives in Beaumont.

Priscilla (Quinonez) Michel '09, M.Ed. administration, teaches in the Ysleta school district, where she lives with her husband, Adrian.

Justin Morris '09, B.B.A. marketing, works in sales for Andon Specialties. He lives in Tomball with his wife, Rachael.

Lindsey (Knauer) Pollock '09, M.E. administration, '13, Ed.D. educational leadership, recently returned from a two-week princi-

pal exchange in Brazil. She has completed the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards' principal certification pilot program and lives in Houston.

Brian Roberson II '09, B.S. communication, '10, M.Ed. educational technology leadership, teaches and coaches at a high school in the Cypress-Fairbanks school district. He lives in Houston.

Prerakkumar Shah '09, M.E. electrical engineering, is an electrical engineer for Braintree Tech Solutions. He lives in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Howell Wright '09, Ed.D. educational leadership, is assistant superintendent for the San Marcos school district, where he lives with his wife, **Dorothy** '89, B.S. secondary education, '00, M.Ed. school administration.

10s

Jennie (Muse) Good '10, M.Ed. administration, is curriculum director for the Kilgore school district, where she lives.

Kim (Sheppard) Heinze '10, M.B.A. business administration, is president and chief executive officer of River City Federal Credit Union in San Antonio, where she lives.

Sean Leamon '10, M.Ed. administration, is principal in the Sonora school district, where he lives with his wife, Dana.

Christopher Mayfield '10, M.Ed. administration, is principal at Lovejoy High School serving Fairview, Lucas and Allen. He lives in Wylie.

Jeff Moreau '10, B.S. electrical engineering, works for Dupont as an electrical engineer. He lives in Hope Mills, N.C.

Regina (Boulet) Peddy '10, A.A.S. nursing, works for the Vidor school district, where she lives with her husband, Danny.

Bill Posey '10, M.Ed. administration, is campus coordinator for state testing and career and technology education for the Joshua school district. He and his wife, Genell, live in Burselson.

Chris Simpson '10, M.Ed. administration, is principal at Wiley Middle School in the Leander school district. He lives in Round Rock.

Jessica Smith '10, B.S. family and consumer sciences, earned a master's degree in liberal arts from the University of St. Thomas. She works for Envoy Mortgage and lives in Houston with her husband, Melvin Roberts.

Murrell Stewart '10, M.Ed. school administration, is principal of Gentry Junior High School in the Goose Creek school district. He lives in Beaumont.

Dominic Barone '11, M.Ed. administration, is principal at Jefferson Elementary in Norman, Okla. He lives in Oklahoma City.

Dalene (York) Burns '11, M.Ed. educational technology leadership, is director of student services for the Dimmitt school district, where she lives.

Joshua Davis '11, B.S. criminal justice, is lead surgery scheduler for Altus Health in Beaumont, where he lives.

Anne (Bennett) Dickens '11, Ed.D. educational leadership, is a grant project director for Galveston College. She and her husband, **Durrell** '11, Ed.D. educational leadership, live in League City. He is an associate professor at Galveston College.

John Eubanks '11, M.Ed. administration, earned a master's degree in science education from the University of Texas-Arlington. He is head of sport and physical education at the Beacon Academy in Jakarta, Indonesia. His wife, **Margaret (Mangan)** '03, B.A. history, '11 M.Ed. administration, is deputy head of school at Beacon Academy.

April (Parnell) Hughes '11, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches in the Brookesmith school district. She lives in Brownwood with her husband, John.

Rachel Johnson '11, B.S. family and consumer sciences, is a preparation to adult living trainer and case manager for Buckner International. She lives in Port Arthur.

Adam Lack '11, B.B.A. general business, is a maintenance engineer for KMTEx chemical plant in Port Arthur. He lives in Nederland with his wife, Desirae.

Sara Madden '11, M.Ed. teacher leadership, is a social studies teacher in the Cypress-Fairbanks school district. She lives in Houston with her husband, Joseph.

Suni (Collier) Meeks '11, B.B.A. accounting, is customer service representative, for Cameron. She lives in Bryan.

Alan Peterson '11, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a reliability engineer for Odfjell in Seabrook. He lives in Houston.

Jennifer (Hamm) Veal '11, M.Ed. administration, is a teacher at the Pleasant Grove High School. She lives in Texarkana.

Jerry Boyd '12, M.Ed. educational technology leadership, teaches at Smith Middle

School in the Cypress-Fairbanks school district. He lives in Jersey Village with his wife, **Terry (Ullrich)** '11, M.Ed. administration. She teaches at Emery Elementary in the same district.

Jordan Champagne '12, B.S. family and consumer science-fashion retailing, is an independent beauty consultant for Mary Kay in Brazoria, where she lives.

Jeff Guelker '12, M.Ed. administration, is assistant principal in the Crane school district, where he lives.

Kelly Rivera '12, B.S. communication, is a tutor coordinator for Lamar University and lives in Beaumont.

Justin Slankard '12, B.B.A. management, is a sales representative for Glazer's Distributors. He lives in Beaumont.

William Ware '12, B.S. electrical engineering, '12, B.S. physics, earned a master's degree in electrical and computer engineering from Purdue University. He lives in Oxford, Ohio.

Isaiah Blanchard '13, B.A. English, is seafood representative at HEB in Beaumont. He lives in Kountze.

Lauren Bridwell '13, B.G.S. general studies, is a legal assistant for Strong Pipkin Bissell and Ledyard in Beaumont, where she lives.

James Feemster '13, B.G.S. general studies, is human resources training manager for Signature Industrial. He lives in Silsbee.

Natalie Fikac '13, Ed.D. educational leadership, is coordinator of guidance services for the Pearland school district. She lives in Baytown.

Lori Webb '13, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a clinical analyst for MD Buy-line and lives in Richardson.

Robert Martinez '14, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a data center analyst for Apache. He lives in Katy with his wife, Gloria.

Logan Porter '14, Eng.D. electrical engineering, is an engineer for National Instruments. He lives in Austin with his wife, Iris.

Crissie Vandehoef '14, B.S. chemistry, '14, B.S. biology, has been accepted into the Texas A&M combined training program that leads to both M.D. and Ph.D. degrees. She was a 2013 Beck Fellow and lives in College Station.

Thank a Donor Day²⁰¹⁴

Students from across campus gathered to thank generous alumni and friends who have made donations to Lamar University during the first-ever "Thank a Donor Day" Sept. 18. Staff and student volunteers wore "Gratitude Crew" t-shirts, and the phrase, "There is no LU without U," coined by one student became the popular sentiment written by many on thank you cards and posted on social media.



In a day packed with fun, laughter and friendship, students showed their appreciation to those who have helped make LU such a wonderful place to learn. In addition to written thank you notes, students posted their thanks on social media, filmed their own testimonials and more. If you visit campus, see if you can catch sight of a Thank a Donor Day t-shirt worn by this year's participants. We hope you might experience a little of the excitement of that day through these photos and quotes.



"First and foremost, I'd like to say "Thank you." I may never meet you, laugh with you or share any real memory with you, but I'm grateful for your contributions to the University. It's selfless acts like yours that make me proud to be alive and just honored to know there are people like you out there. It's because of you that I am able to pursue my dreams at such a wonderful university." —**Tyler**

"I just wanted to personally thank you for everything you've done for Lamar. I moved all the way from Portland, OR, to come study at this university, and without people like you my experience wouldn't be nearly as amazing. Your donations mean so much, so thank you!"
Your Lamar Cheerleader, —**Emmalee**

"Your donations help change the lives of all the students on campus. Next year, I will earn my bachelor's degree which will help create a bright future not only for me, but for my son as well. I love Lamar because it feels like its own world, where I am safe. Your help is doing more than you could ever imagine. Thank you!" —**Meagan**

"As a Cardinal both proud and true, I would like to take this moment to thank you. For all that you give and all that you do, I am forever grateful to you." —**Skylar**

"Thank you so much for your support of Lamar! I am a student in the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities Program. Not only do I get to start college at 16, but my tuition is covered by a scholarship. I know that this would not be possible without support from generous donors like you." —**Sydney**

"Thank you for donating to Lamar. I have a full academic scholarship. I know that without this scholarship you provided, I would not be in college. You have literally changed my life. Thank you!" —**Leela**





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