

A PUBLICATION OF LAMAR UNIVERSITY

CADENCE

CARDINAL

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM™

VOL. 42, NO. 1 APRIL 2014

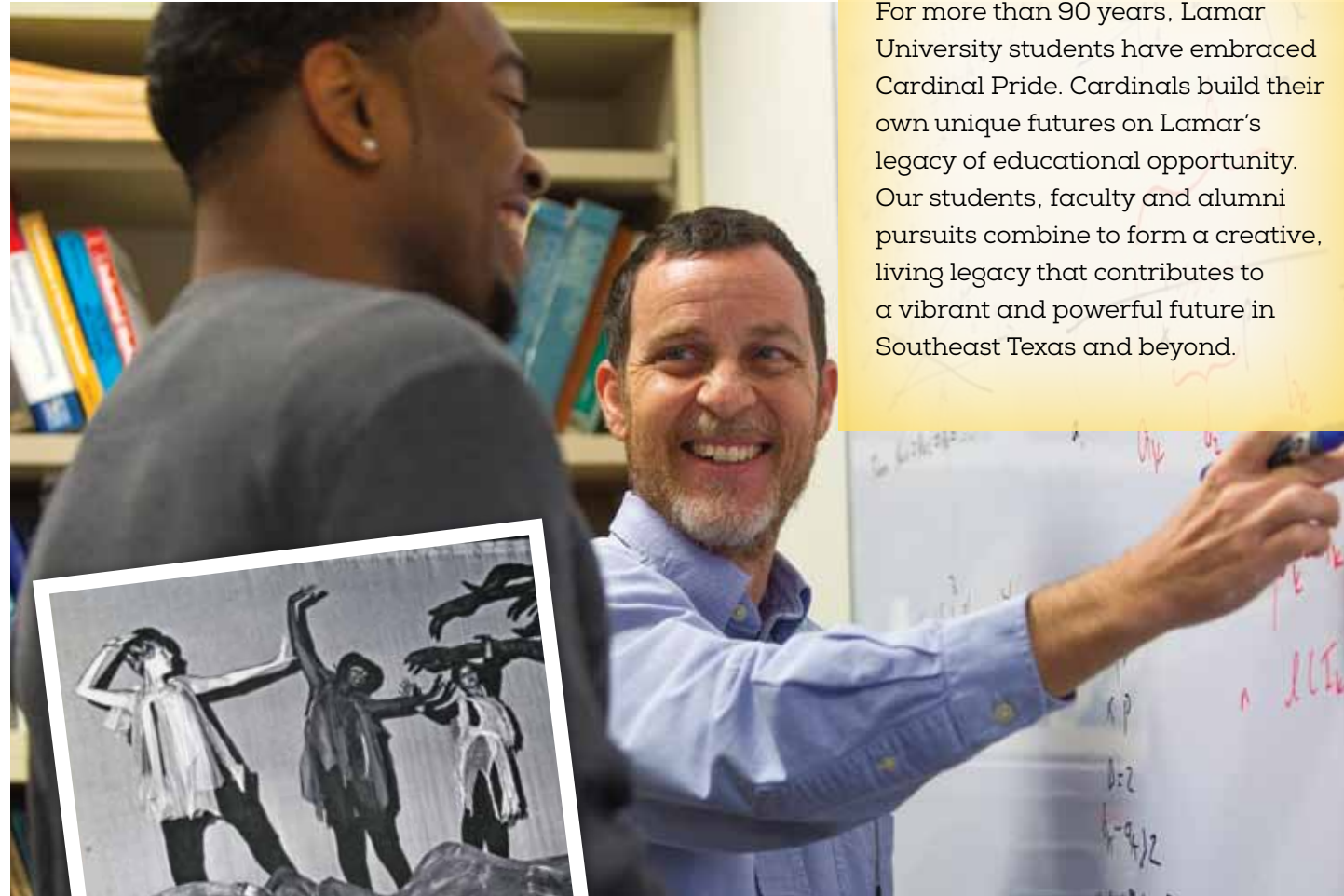
LIVING THE Legacy INVENTING THE Future

Goal surpassed
\$132 million raised

Nanoscopic research
Huge potential



For more than 90 years, Lamar University students have embraced Cardinal Pride. Cardinals build their own unique futures on Lamar's legacy of educational opportunity. Our students, faculty and alumni pursuits combine to form a creative, living legacy that contributes to a vibrant and powerful future in Southeast Texas and beyond.





Cardinal Cadence is published by the Division of University Advancement, Lamar University, a member of The Texas State University System and an affirmative action, equal opportunity educational institution.

Brian Sattler, Executive Editor, Director of Public Relations

Cynthia Hicks '89, '93, Editor, Publication Specialist

Larry Acker '10, Assistant Director, Writer

Daniel McLemore '09, Marketing Specialist

Frances Simpson '95, Senior Administrative Associate

CONTRIBUTORS

Writing | Julie Aimé, Cathleen Cole, Beth Gallaspy, Molly Porter, Cheryl Rose, Kara Timberlake

Photography | Julie Aimé, Gary Christopher, Evie Clifton, Caity Colvard, fj Gaylor, Brandon Gouthier

Circulation includes 72,000 copies distributed to alumni, faculty, staff and friends of Lamar University. If you have received more than one copy of this publication, please let us know.

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

DIVISION OF UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

Camille Mouton, Vice President

Juan J. Zabala '07, Associate Vice President

Floyd F. McSpadden Jr., Director of Planned Giving

Tracie Craig, Director of University Reception Centers

Shannon Copeland '02, '03, '07, Director of
Advancement Services

Mark Osborne, Director of Spindletop-Gladys City
Boomtown Museum

Charla Pate, University Web Editor

P.O. Box 10011
Beaumont, Texas 77710
(409) 880-8419 or fax (409) 880-8409

LAMAR UNIVERSITY ALUMNI OFFICE

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

Linda LeBlanc '75, Director of Alumni Affairs
LU Alumni Office
P.O. Box 10005
Beaumont, Texas 77710
(409) 880-8921, or (800) 298-4839
E-mail: alumni@lamar.edu
www.lamar.edu/alumni

LAMAR UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

Juan J. Zabala '07, Executive Director
Karen Nichols '83, Director
P.O. Box 11500
Beaumont, Texas 77710
(409) 880-2117
E-mail: Foundation@lamar.edu
www.lamar.edu/foundation

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

6 President's Letter

LIVING THE LEGACY

7 \$132 million raised
Campaign surpasses goal * Campaign wrap-up

14 Profiles
Eager to start a business * Exploring possibilities

16 Innovation Fund Inspires
Leland Best's legacy remembered

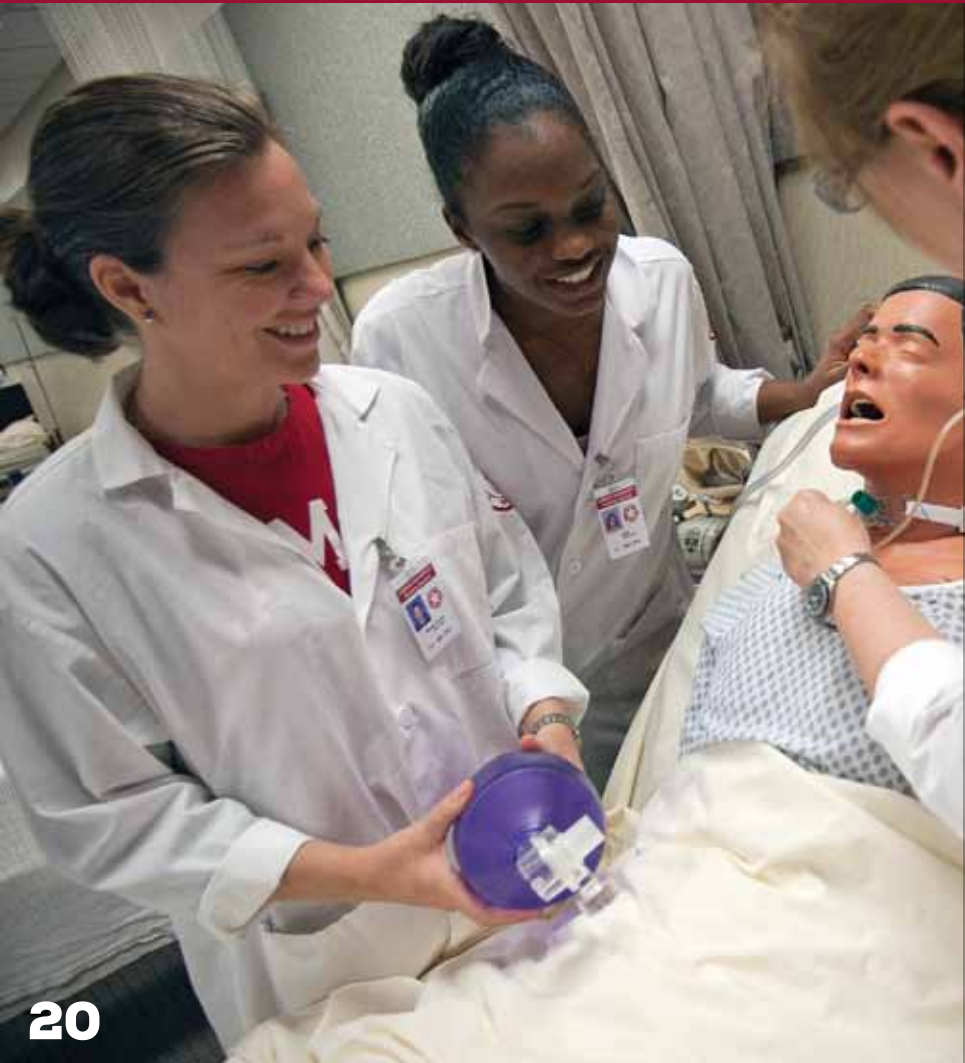
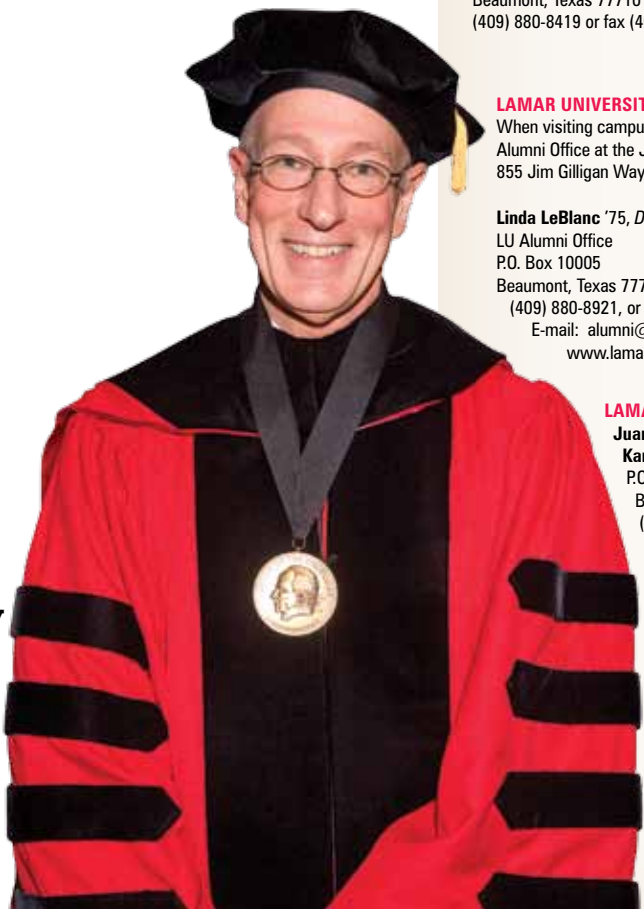
18 A Visionary Leader
Herman Iles Building dedicated

20 Supporting Students in Health Care
Orange Memorial gift continues tradition

22 Honors Celebrates Golden Anniversary

26 Distinguished Alumni
Bost, Nejad and Clark honored

28 Memories in pictures



LIVING THE LEGACY,
INVENTING THE FUTURE

32 The Investiture of
Dr. Kenneth R. Evans

INVENTING THE FUTURE

36 Innovation-based Eco System
New building will house commercialization
center

39 Nanoscopic
Professor thinks small. Very small.

42 Transforming
From contaminant to commodity

44 Innovations in health care
Planned gift strengthens EE

47 Optical Illusions
Stealth painting banishes blemishes

50 Diversity Celebrated

51 Good Advice
Undergraduate Advising Center
fosters success

53 Springboard to LU
Academy offers early excellence

54 Embracing LU opportunities

55 Diagnosis – determination

56 Passion for learning



10 Cardinal Views

12 Dream Makers

57 Class Notes

THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS

Brian McCall, Chancellor | Plano
Donna N. Williams, Chairman | Arlington
Ron Mitchell, Vice Chairman | Horseshoe Bay
Charlie Amato | San Antonio
Jaime Garza | San Antonio
Kevin J. Lilly | Houston

David Montagne | Beaumont
Vernon Reaser III | Bellaire
Rossanna Salazar | Austin
William F. Scott | Nederland
Matthew Russell, Student Regent | San Marcos



Welcome to this edition of *Cadence*. We celebrate the completion of Lamar University's first comprehensive campaign with a total of gifts and pledges of \$132 million. This amazing outpouring of generosity from alumni, friends, faculty and staff, foundations and businesses, to name but a few, will have transformational implications for LU.

While Lamar University has benefited from the support received through this campaign, it is also cultivating the next generation of community service leaders among our student population. As you read the many profiles of the diverse community of exceptional students we are highlighting in this issue, one constant is their active, and often leadership, roles in various philanthropic initiatives (in many cases consisting of international engagement). We are proud of these students and celebrate their accomplishments both in and outside of the classroom.

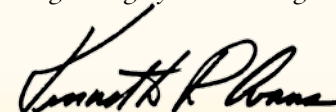
The university has a long history of very prominent alumni and supporters, some of whose stories are told in this issue of *Cadence*. We honored three highly deserving

alumni, Brent Bost, Rena Clark and Sina Nejad, with this year's Distinguished Alumni Award. All have made outstanding contributions to not only Lamar University but to the community. Additionally, J.C. Corrent is making a very creative contribution to visual effects on oil and gas facilities. Who would have ever thought of stealth painting—J.C. did and the results are astounding. We recognize Herman Iles for his leadership in establishing Lamar University. The Orange Memorial Hospital Corp. gift dedicated to supporting students seeking careers in the healthcare professions is also recognized. We celebrate teaching excellence through Randy Best's gift in memory of his mother, lifelong educator LeLand Best. Finally, Larry Lawson, who was a recipient of an honorary doctorate from Lamar in December of 2012, is recognized for his support of biomedical and engineering research as well as for his successful career in both music and as a healthcare entrepreneur.

Lamar is fortunate to have a remarkably talented community of faculty and staff. While space does not permit us to identify each of them in this issue, we do draw your attention to the groundbreaking research of

Tracy Benson and John Guo. Tracy's work on capturing petro chemical emissions has potentially significant implications both financially and environmentally. John's innovative research on nanocomposites holds promise in a wide array of applications including the maritime industry and information technology. Forward-thinking research will find traction on its way to becoming the processes and products of tomorrow in the New Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship that will soon be under construction on our campus. Lastly, Lamar's new Undergraduate Advising Center provides valuable support for students across an array of services. Lamar is committed to student success and this new advising center provides us the ability to enhance our student support.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *Cadence*. As always we are interested in your feedback. Thank you for your interest and support of Lamar University. We are committed to "*Living the Legacy and Inventing the Future*."


Kenneth Evans, President

Campaign surpasses goal, \$132 million raised

by Brian Sattler

Gifts from thousands of loyal Cardinals and friends contributed to a historic campaign, significant because it allowed Lamar University to take transformational strides toward a bigger, brighter future.

Lamar University's first-ever comprehensive campaign has surpassed its goal by raising more than \$132 million. In June, members of the campaign cabinet and Spindletop Society, donors of \$1 million or more, joined in a celebration of the successful campaign. Of the total raised, \$72 million is for academic support, \$40 million for scholarships, and \$20 million for athletics.

Seven years ago, with a desire to ensure a superior university experience for generations to come, dedicated alumni and friends formed a campaign cabinet and joined with President Emeritus James M. Simmons, the LU Foundation and a talented advancement staff led by Vice President for Advancement Camille Mouton to launch Lamar's first-ever comprehensive campaign.

That launch took place in March 2006 with an original goal of raising \$50 million. At the end of the silent phase of the campaign in May 2008, the goal was raised to \$100 million. In January 2012, the campaign cabinet raised the goal once again to \$125 million in response to the enthusiasm amid donors on the future of Lamar University. The campaign has seen incredible success despite an uncertain economy, Mouton said.



From left, Camille Mouton, vice president for University Advancement; James Simmons, president emeritus; Chancellor Brian McCall, The Texas State University System; Greg Thompson, campaign co-chair; and Elvis Mason, honorary chair. Not pictured: Mike Aldredge, campaign co-chair

"When the campaign began, it would have been hard for anyone to imagine the response. We flew past the original goal and surpassed the final goal by a significant amount," Mouton said.

The journey has been the result of pride in the university near and far. Remarkably, 70 percent of Lamar employees—easily the highest percentage of participation at any university—made their own philanthropic investment in the future of Lamar. That pride extended to alumni, friends, as well as corporations and foundations throughout Texas. Nearly half, 46 percent, of gifts in the campaign came from beyond Southeast Texas. During the campaign, 34,193 gifts were made.

The success at Lamar is even more remarkable given the extremely small staff that made it happen, said Kathy Costello, who gave valuable counsel as a consultant to the campaign. "This limited staff, and a remarkable

group of volunteers on the foundation board and campaign cabinet, has done something I have never seen accomplished by so few, yet done so well," she said.

"I also compliment the integrity and true philanthropic spirit exhibited by all of the donors. It is amazing that Lamar only had to write off .06 percent of pledges where the norm is 1 to 4 percent," Costello said. "That is a clear indicator of the integrity and loyalty of Lamar's donors. A more generous and giving group could not be found: a tribute to leadership at Lamar and the quality of the people."

Today, as a result of the campaign, the lives of Lamar's students are being transformed through enhanced campus life, new study and research opportunities, energized and engaged faculty, and state-of-the-art facilities, laboratories and equipment.

"Nearly half of the campaign gifts came from Lamar alumni and that's good. But it is also very impressive that nearly a fifth came from friends of the university, individuals who have come to cherish Lamar University. The balance of the gifts came from corporations and foundations that recognized the impact they could have on the future by supporting our university." – **GREG THOMPSON**, Campaign Co-Chair, Beaumont, Texas

"The tremendous success of Lamar University's first-ever comprehensive campaign illustrates the broad base of support of its alumni and friends as well as the participation of corporations and foundations. Lamar has experienced a period of growth and development and through this campaign is positioned for even greater accomplishment. This campaign has provided an opportunity for many donors to create a personal legacy that will help Lamar invent its future. These are exciting times for Lamar University and Southeast Texas." – **BRIAN MCCALL**, Chancellor, The Texas State University System

“

"There is no better place to make a difference in our world than through higher education. "Through the campaign, those who love Lamar were able to create personal legacies. Their transformational gifts will impact the lives of students for generations to come." – **JAMES M. SIMMONS**, President Emeritus

"From the smallest to the largest gift, each person's generosity has helped us build a better campus and enrich the lives of our students. "We are a far stronger university today and are positioned for even greater accomplishments because of the campaign." – **CAMILLE MOUTON**, Vice President for Advancement

"The outstanding success of Lamar's inaugural campaign is a testament to strong leadership and the dedication of alumni and friends. "That legacy is an incredible foundation to build on as we look to the future of our great university." – **KEN EVANS**, President

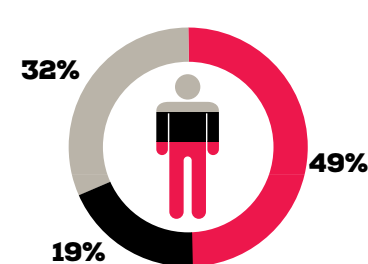
"One of the enduring successes of the campaign is the \$36 million in gifts that will be realized in the future. These deferred gifts, the result of decisions today, will continue to make a difference at Lamar for decades to come." – **MIKE ALDREDGE** '65, Campaign Co-Chair, Bellville, Texas

"I have been both surprised and grateful for the tremendous outpouring of financial support for Lamar from across the nation. This response from beyond the region shows the respect the university holds among alumni and friends who have not forgotten their alma mater." – **ELVIS MASON** '59, Honorary Campaign Chair, Dallas, Texas

“

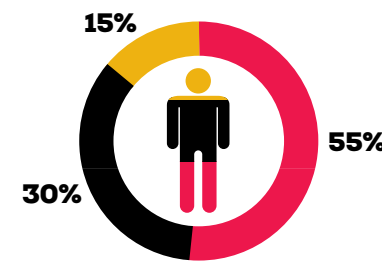
Hallmarks of Success

- ▶ Today, Lamar has four named departments—the JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing, the Phillip M. Drayer Department of Electrical Engineering, the Dan F. Smith Department of Chemical Engineering, and the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music.
- ▶ More than \$40 million has been raised in scholarship endowments, including support for the highly successful Mirabeau Presidential Scholars program, the Valero Scholarship in Engineering, the Legends of Southeast Texas Scholarships, the Larry and Cynthia Norwood Chemical Engineering Scholarship, the Gena and Albert E. Reaud Scholarship, the Jerry Rudd Memorial Scholarship, the Orange Memorial Hospital Corporation Scholarship, the Garrett Scholars, and the DeWayne Layfield-Texas State University System Foundation Scholarship.
- ▶ 246 new privately funded scholarship endowments, ranging from \$15,000 to \$2.5 million, were established during the campaign, bringing the total number of privately funded scholarships to 601.
- ▶ Gifts totaling \$72 million have been committed to faculty and academic support, including the establishment of many faculty enhancement/innovation funds, the Reese Construction Management Program, the David J. Beck Fellowships, the Steinhagen Global Fellows, the Ben Rogers Chair in Business, the Leland Best Innovation Fund in Education, the Byron and Connie Dyer Geosciences Innovation Fund, the Larry Lawson Research Fund in Electrical Engineering, the Don and Mary Ann Lyle Endowment in Engineering, and the Bart and Martye Simmons Endowment in Business.



Who Gave

- Alumni
- Friends
- Corporations/Foundations



Where It's Working

- Academic Support
- Scholarships
- Athletics

- ▶ Contributions totaling \$20 million to athletics enabled the return of football and benefited LU's athletics programs through improvements in facilities, including the Vernon Glass Field of Champions, Provost Umphrey Stadium, the Dan F. and Sandra A. Smith Press Box, the Morgan Suites, W.S. "Bud" Leonard Field, the Education First Federal Credit Union scoreboard, the Beaumont Bone and Joint Sports Medicine Facility, the John Payton Academic Success Center, the Emma and H.D. "Tex" Strait Baseball Training Center and the Thompson Family Tennis Center.
- ▶ The campaign has helped Lamar renovate existing facilities, like the Herman Iles Building, and build entirely new ones like the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center, the Charles and Eleanor Garrett Engineering Center and the Dauphin Athletic Complex.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN CABINET

ELVIS MASON '59
HONORARY CHAIR, Dallas
MICHAEL E. ALDREDGE '65
CO-CHAIR, Bellville
GREGORY M. THOMPSON
CO-CHAIR, Beaumont
DAVID J. BECK '61, Houston
TAMERLA D. CHAVIS, M.D. '83, Beaumont
WILLIAM C. CHILDS '62, Kerrville
TODD D. CHRISTOPHER, Deceased
WILL B. CRENSHAW, Beaumont
PHILLIP M. DRAYER '67, Dallas
TYRELL L. GARTH, Beaumont
D. MICHAEL GRIMES '60, Houston
DAN S. HALLMARK '65, Beaumont
DON M. LYLE '06 (HD), La Jolla, Calif.
CHARLES E. MASON JR. '72, Beaumont
DOUGLAS W. MATTHEWS '74, Galveston
WILLIAM B. MITCHELL '58, Dripping Springs
RAY M. MOORE '50 Beaumont
J. PAT PARSONS '71, Beaumont
JORDAN W. REESE III '66, Houston
REGINA J. ROGERS, Beaumont
WILLIAM E. SCOTT '70, Nederland
DAN F. SMITH '69, Houston
ROY N. STEINHAGEN, Beaumont





1



2



3



4

1 Susan (Williams) '68, '13 DA, and Jimmy Simmons 2 From left, Regent David Montagne '74, President Kenneth Evans, and Regent Bill Scott '70, '13 DA
3 From left, Wayne Reaud '71, '06 DA, Greg Thompson, Glen Morgan '75 4 From left, Mike Grimes, Judy and David Beck '61, '99 DA, '12 HD,
Martha Grimes 5 From left, Elvis '59, '82 HD, and Joan (Baker) Mason, Mark and Janie Steinhagen, George '49
and Judy Dishman 6 Phil '67, '06 DA, and Karen Drayer 7 From left, W.S. "Bud" Leonard '50, '53, '76, '00 DA; Doug '74, '94 DA, and
Janis (Frank) Matthews '77; Charlene (Matthews) Leonard -55 8 Chuck '72 and Becky (Dickson) Mason '71 9 Sheila and Walter Umphrey



5



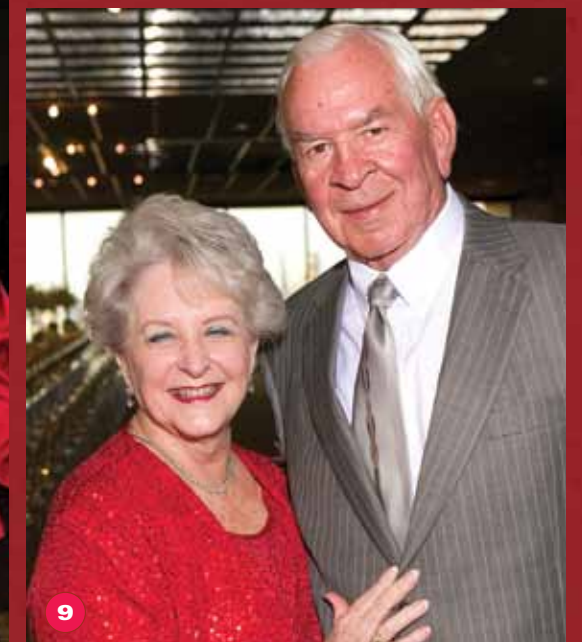
6



8



7



9

Investing in the Future

THE CAMPAIGN FOR LAMAR UNIVERSITY

The Investing in the Future Campaign Cabinet, along with members of the Spindletop Society and other LU donors integral to the success of the Investing in the Future comprehensive campaign gathered for a dinner to celebrate this landmark achievement.

Investing In The Future
THE CAMPAIGN FOR LAMAR UNIVERSITY

DreamMakers

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

The **Mike and Pat Aldredge Athletic Scholarship** is available to a student majoring in an academic area leading to a bachelor's degree and who is a member of a Lamar University intercollegiate athletics team. Mike '65 and Pat (Peterson) '61 are Lamar alumni and have been long-time supporters of the university. Mike was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus in 1999. He is a trustee and past president of the Lamar University Foundation, a past president of the Alumni Advisory Board, is a member of the College of Engineering and the Industrial Engineering Department advisory councils and served as co-chair of the Investing in the Future Campaign cabinet. This is one of four endowments the Aldredges have generously given to Lamar.

A gift from the Helen Caldwell Locke & Curtis Blakey Locke Charitable Trust endowed the **Ann Locke Cobb and Charles David Locke Presidential Scholarship in Business**. Ann attended Lamar University and retired after a career with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. David graduated from Lamar in 1976 with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management and is currently president of MidSouth Bank in Beaumont.

Laura Weber Cook '61 established the **Bernie and Michael Cook Presidential Scholarship in Business** in memory of her husband and son. Laura and her husband, Bernie '58,

attended Lamar. He was on a football scholarship and lettered in football wearing number 44. Bernie retired from Lamar University after a 28-year career as a property manager and inventory specialist. He served as a director of the Lamar University Ex-Students Association. Their son, Michael, attended Forest Park High School where he was an outstanding athlete. In football, he wore number 44—the same number his father wore while playing for Lamar.

Lamar alumni Grady '64 and Michael Ann (Agee) Crawford '64 established the **William Clay Crawford Regents Scholarship in Construction Management** in memory of their son, Clay, and as a testament to their family's belief in the value of an education. While William Clay Crawford was only 17 at the time of his death, he made a lasting impression on those who knew him well. Michael Ann received a degree in education, and Grady graduated with a business degree. Grady has served on the College of Business Board of Advisors since 2005 and has served as a judge for the MBA program's participation in the Aspen Institute's competition. In 2010, he joined the Lamar University Foundation Board of Trustees.

Freddy '72 and Julie (Hawkins) Dreyer '73, '00, along with ExxonMobil, endowed the **Dreyer Family Scholarship** for aspiring mechanical

engineering students. Freddy earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, then went to work for Mobil Oil Refinery and retired after 33 years. Julie graduated with a bachelor of arts in English and a master's degree in education. She taught school for 21 years and served as an assistant principal for nine years. Freddy and Julie have two children—Scott, who graduated from Lamar with a degree in finance in 2000, and Leslie, who graduated with honors in fine arts from the University of Texas but also attended summer school at Lamar.

Vernon '04 and Johnnie Durden '00 endowed the **Vernon and Johnnie Durden Scholarship** for students admitted to the Educator Preparation Program. They are lifelong residents of Beaumont and both worked in local industries. Johnnie attended Lamar while working, earned a bachelor's degree in 2000 and retired soon thereafter with 27 years of service. Vernon, who was named a Distinguished Alumnus in 2011, dedicated 34 years to ExxonMobil before retiring in 2003. He also continued his education while working and earned his bachelor's degree in 2004. Vernon is the current president of the Lamar Alumni Advisory Board and is also active serving as a mentor to Lamar students. The Durdens continue to be very active in the community.

William Fitzgerald established the **Meredith Kathryn Berryhill Fitzgerald Scholarship in Education** in memory of his wife of 68 years. Meredith was a retired teacher from South Park school district and a charter faculty member of Regina Howell and C.W. Bingham elementary schools. She spent the last 14 years of her teaching career at Lamar University where she helped develop the kindergarten curriculum degree program. Meredith was a great influence in the lives of her students—both young and college age.

Family and friends established the **Holtzclaw Memorial Scholarship** in memory of Alyssa Ann Patterson Holtzclaw and her son, Jacob Tucker. Alyssa was a wonderful and loving mother who was dedicated to her family. She touched the hearts of everyone she met. Jacob Tucker was a gentle baby boy with the sweetest grin and was loved and adored by his family. Both are survived by a multitude of family and friends that will forever love and cherish them. It is in that spirit that this scholarship was created to make a positive impact on others forever in their memory.

The **Dolores Jones Memorial Scholarship in Nursing** was endowed with a donation from Mrs. Jones' daughter and son, Myra Jones Schmitt and Gregory Mac Jones, along with additional gifts from family and friends. Dolores (Clearman) '78 was born a caregiver, and nursing was her passion. She served as head nurse at St. Therese Hospital in Beaumont and was a nursing instructor at Beaumont's Hotel Dieu School of Nursing. Dolores' career at Lamar began in 1962 in the LVN program, and she retired as director of the Student Health Center in 1994.

The **Carolyn J. Keating Scholarship in English** was established with the intent of "paying it forward." As an English major, Carolyn (Johnson) Keating '67 feels she received an excel-

lent education that allowed her to compete with colleagues from "big-name academic institutions." Having benefitted from receiving a scholarship while she was in school, Carolyn feels she owes a debt of gratitude to Lamar and to those who helped her along the way.

Alan '64 and Peggy (O'Pry) Plummer '65 established the **Alan H. Plummer, Jr. Environmental Engineering Scholarship**. Alan graduated with a bachelor of science in civil engineering and met his wife, Peggy, who worked as a student secretary in the Civil Engineering Department while attending Lamar. Peggy graduated with a bachelor of arts in English. Alan and Peggy opened their own company, Alan Plummer Associates Inc. in 1978. Alan was an early advocate of using innovative methods as part of developing a sustainable water supply in Texas. His leadership has drawn the recognition of his peers, resulting in numerous awards and honors for his contributions to engineering. Alan is a member of Lamar's College of Engineering Advisory Council and was named a Distinguished Alumnus in 1975.

The **Ron and Mary Robins Award for Academic Excellence in Chemical Engineering** is awarded annually to the senior-level chemical engineering student who has maintained the highest overall grade point average. A similar award was given to Ron as the ranking senior chemical engineering student at Lamar. Ron '66 and Mary (Balawajder) Robins '66 established the fund in appreciation of the high-quality, low-cost education they received at Lamar.

The Lamar University Foundation Board of Trustees established the **Janice Trammell Scholarship** upon her retirement and in honor of her commitment and dedication as executive director from 2001 to 2013. During those same years, Janice served concurrently as the director of development for the Lamar

University Office of Advancement. Janice earned a B.B.A. in marketing in 1985 and a master of science in speech in 1992 from Lamar. During those years, she also joined the Lamar staff in Continuing Education and served as adjunct faculty for the Department of Communication. Janice's 36 years of higher education experience make this scholarship very special to her as she has seen how higher education propelled her own career and opened doors of possibility.

Planned Gifts

Through provisions in their wills, Rita '80 and Barry Davis will establish the **Rita and Barry Davis Scholarship in Nursing**. Rita was in the second class admitted to the RN program at Lamar University and graduated with a bachelor of science in nursing. Dr. Barry Davis also attended Lamar University and retired from private practice at Texas State Optical of Port Arthur after serving his profession for 47 years. Barry and Rita are long-time supporters of Lamar. Barry has served as an officer of the Lamar University Foundation Board and continues to serve as a trustee.

Arthur Geers will increase the value of the **Dorothy Pierce (Stafford) Geers Memorial Scholarship in Family & Consumer Sciences** through a provision in his will. Arthur established this scholarship in memory of his wife for students with an interest in teaching. Dorothy '53 received a degree in home economics as a member of the first graduating class of Lamar State College of Technology. She received her master of science degree in elementary education in 1970 and earned a professional supervisor certificate in 1977. She received numerous volunteer acknowledgments, including being a participating teacher in Lamar's student-teacher program and mentoring one who later became a Beaumont school district superintendent.

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



Accounting major eager to start a business

After graduating as valedictorian of her senior class at Memorial High School in Port Arthur, accounting major **Kristeen Reynolds** planned to attend Lamar University for one year and then transfer to the University of Texas on a full scholarship. After her first year, however, she knew that Lamar was where she belonged.

“I chose to stay here for a year because Lamar is small and close to my family,” Reynolds said. “Once I got here, though, I fell in love with the faculty.”

Since Reynolds has chosen to stay at Lamar, she has received the Wilfred Long, Sr. Memorial Scholarship in Business. She also receives the Gates Millennium Scholarship and the Southeast Texas Legends Scholarship. “Because of the scholarships I have received, it’s not an absolute necessity for me to work, so I have more time to help other people,” Reynolds said. “Lamar has really taught me to give back.”

While at Lamar, Reynolds has become involved with many student organizations. She is the president of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA); the vice president

of the Student Advisory Council to the dean of the College of Business; the secretary of Beta Alpha Psi, an honors accounting society; a member of the Accounting Society; a Lamar Ambassador; and a member of the Lamar Honors program.

“Professional organizations are a great way to help the people who are coming in and don’t know what to do, and they’re a good way of giving back,” Reynolds said. “They also help me network with other students and with professionals that visit campus, and networking is key.”

As the NABA president, Reynolds attended the 34th Annual Southwest Western Region Student Conference in Houston in October. Reynolds’ favorite part of the conference was helping her fellow members prepare for interviews, and she was thrilled when they received calls back for job offers. “I just felt so much joy knowing the people I had helped had received calls back,” Reynolds said. “It is truly better to give than to receive.”

Reynolds feels that her experiences with accounting organizations have helped her to cultivate a sense of professionalism and become more fully involved with Lamar’s accounting program. Reynolds, who loves crunching numbers, says her favorite class is Accounting 2301 with Clare Burns, an instructor and director of the master of science in accounting. Her favorite thing about the accounting program, though, is not the numbers but the faculty.

“I love the accounting faculty. They have a lot of real-world experience, and it really shines through in the classroom,” Reynolds said.

Reynolds is also interested in entrepreneurship and is taking advantage of the many entrepreneurship courses Lamar offers. She said her interest in accounting and entrepreneurship began when she was six years old and opened a frozen Kool-Aid stand in her front yard. She knew at that moment that she wanted to own her own business someday.

Her interest grew, and in the summer of her ninth-grade year, Reynolds discovered a potential business opportunity she wanted to pursue. Reynolds found a wholesale producer of Shutter Shades, a type of sunglasses popularized by Kanye West, which were not available in the Golden Triangle. Reynolds created a

business plan and presented it to her mother, who became her investor. She then ordered the sunglasses and marketed them, selling them to her peers.

“I went from the beginning stage of getting an investor to ordering the product, marketing it, selling it, and having the profit to use how I wanted,” Reynolds said. “The whole experience was great, and I knew then that I was very interested in entrepreneurship.”

Reynolds, who is working on her bachelor’s degree, would like to pursue a master of business administration and work in accounting to support her dream of starting a business.

While Reynolds is not entirely sure what type of business she wants to start yet, she does have one definite goal: to own a sports team. This dream was bolstered when she met Texas State University System Regent Charles Amato at a reception for a Lamar presidential finalist, which she attended with Lamar Ambassadors.

“He has ownership interest in the San Antonio Spurs, so it was just amazing that, at 19, I got to meet someone who has accomplished one of my dreams,” Reynolds said.

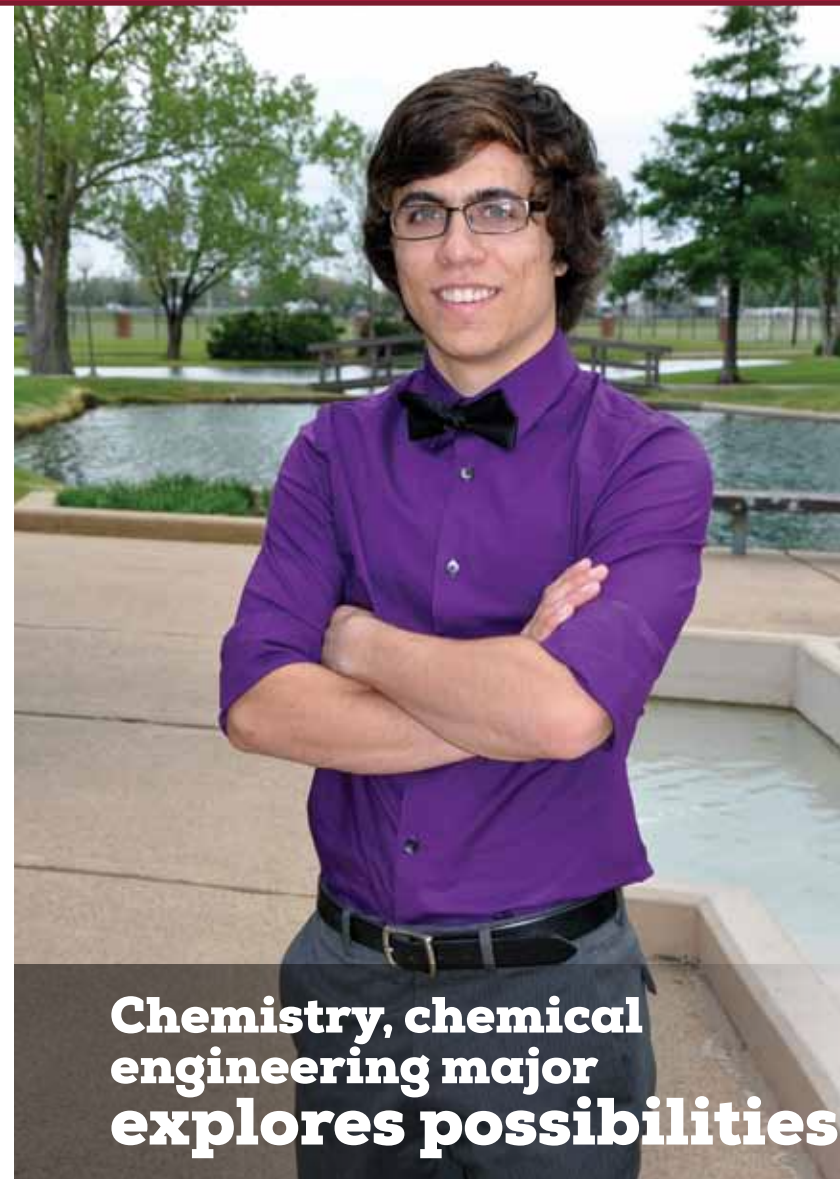
Reynolds’ biggest inspiration, though, has been her family. Her mother is an accountant, and she frequently took Reynolds to work with her when Reynolds was younger to teach her the basics. “My mom is successful, optimistic, loving, determined and driven,” Reynolds said. “She has a good career, and she embodies what I’ve always wanted to be.”

Reynolds has also been encouraged by the legacy of her grandparents. After her grandmother completed college, she and Reynolds’ grandfather started their own business and eventually became very successful.

“I am blessed to have grown up in a family in which everyone went to college and got jobs, but they also took time to spend with each other and love each other,” Reynolds said.

The biggest lesson that Reynolds has learned from her family and applied to her experiences at Lamar is to never give up.

“Get involved, set goals and persevere until you achieve your goals,” Reynolds said. “Once you achieve your goal, set another, and never give up on achieving your dreams.” —MP



Chemistry, chemical engineering major explores possibilities

For chemistry and chemical engineering major **Zach Holt**, chemistry is a passion that led to his choice of attending Lamar University.

“Ever since I can remember, I have always liked chemistry,” Holt said. “If you can understand chemistry, you can understand anything in the world because everything is chemistry. When I discovered that Lamar had a great engineering school and was ranked nationally as a top school, I knew that Lamar was the right choice for me.”

Cementing the Baytown native’s decision to attend Lamar, Holt received the McMaster Honors Scholarship and the Don M. Lyle Regents’ Scholarship in Engineering.

“Receiving these scholarships definitely solidified my choice to attend Lamar,” Holt said. “With the rising cost of school, I couldn’t turn down such an excellent offer.

“The more classes I take at Lamar, the more I understand what each career entails,” Holt said. “Most majors translate into a job, whereas chemistry offers a variety of fields. There are so many possibilities with a chemistry or chemical engineering major.”

Holt said that along his journey certain professors have had a profound impact on helping him determine his professional options. “My chemistry professor, Dr. José Andino, had a lot of insightful knowledge that he shared with me,” Holt said. “Not only was he a professor, but he felt like a friend as well.”

While at Lamar, Holt has seized opportunities to be involved on campus, becoming a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, a member of the Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society, vice president of the Lamar Sailing Club, a Lamar Ambassador, a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and chair of campus involvement for the Honors Student Association.

“Serving as a Lamar Ambassador offers a multitude of unique opportunities to network in the academic and local community,” Holt said. “During my time as a Lamar Ambassador, I hope to promote university pride and, by doing this, unite the campus as a whole.”

In addition to his involvement in campus

organizations, Holt works at Outdoor Pursuits in the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center where he is a rock wall facilitator.

“One of the reasons I decided to work at the rock wall is because I spent so much time there already,” Holt said. “This way I get paid to do something I love. I would not have developed into as serious of a climber if I hadn’t climbed the wall at Lamar.”

At Lamar, Holt has enjoyed several camping and climbing trips with Outdoor Pursuits and participated in other activities such as crate stacking, s’mores, yard games, and Project Chill, an event inviting students to relax in hammocks outside the library.

“My job has allowed me to expand my social circle and deepen friendships,” Holt said. “Also, I have learned patience and how to maintain efficiency under pressure. Just by attending meetings and being involved, you meet people who can give you guidance from previous experiences. Socializing and being around people is always beneficial. It allows you not to stay holed up in a dorm room.”

This past December, Holt traveled to Nicaragua with VIDA, a volunteer travel program focused on helping those lacking medical resources, an organization that he learned about through a fellow Lamar Ambassador as well as through his participation in LU’s chapter of the American Medical Student Association.

“This was a medical trip in which we worked on bilingual medicine, learned technical skills and provided free healthcare for those who wouldn’t usually have the opportunity,” Holt said.

While at Lamar, Holt looks forward to participating in research opportunities and study abroad. “I’m hoping to go to Germany for a semester or longer,” Holt said. “Germany has always been on the forefront of science and engineering, and I would love to study chemistry while over there.”

Holt said his Lamar experience has enriched his life. “Before I came to Lamar, I was not fully comfortable with being myself all of the time,” Holt said. “Taking a step away from home and serving in leadership roles forced me out of my comfort zone and made me into a more confident person.” —KT



Educator's legacy remembered **Leland Best Innovation Fund in Education inspires**

The legacy of lifelong Beaumont public school educator Leland Best will be remembered in perpetuity thanks to the creation of the Leland Best Innovation Fund in Education in Lamar University's College of Education and Human Development. The endowment was established with a \$1 million commitment from the Nancy and Randy Best Foundation in memory of Randy's mother, Leland Best, who served in Beaumont schools for more than 50 years.

As an English teacher at Beaumont

High School, Leland Best shaped the lives of countless community leaders in Beaumont. Through her counsel and teaching, she also helped shape the future of Beaumont by instilling in many of her students a passion to volunteer and serve their community.

"Looking back on all the wonderful teachers I had in the Beaumont Independent School District, I look at her as being absolutely outstanding," said former student Joe Bob Kinsel Jr. "There was an air about her that commanded respect. Of course her knowledge of the subject matter was excellent and she taught us a great deal. She was so dignified and presented such a wonderful presence. I thought the world of her. She was a great lady."

"Mrs. Best was a gifted teacher and her students were always challenged to reach their full potential," said family friend Jerry Reese '66. "Her students all had very positive comments and felt they were much better prepared for their future after completing her course. I regret not having had a class from Mrs. Best, but I know her and her positive influence on Randy and her students is reflected in their daily lives."

President Emeritus James Simmons, who taught with Leland Best at Beaumont High School before beginning his career at Lamar University calls her "a much beloved and respected colleague!"

"I remember Mrs. Best well, both as a teacher and as a role model," said Linda

Bullard. "She was an outstanding educator. She inspired her students to do their best. I also remember her from First Methodist Church. I am so glad that Randy has honored her. I wish we had more educators like her teaching today."

The innovation fund may be used by the College of Education and Human Development to support teaching, research, service and professional development activities of faculty, as well as funding for new programs or for enhancement of existing programs. The fund may also be used for undergraduate and graduate student scholarships or to assist with other student activities.

"I am most grateful to Nancy and Randy Best for their generosity," said Hollis Lowery-Moore, dean of the College of Education and Human Development. "Funds such as this meet a critical need in the college as they allow us to support the research and teaching activities that add excellence to our terrific educational offerings."

"These funds also allow the college to provide active and collaborative engagement opportunities between faculty and students to enrich the

educational experience of our educators," Lowery-Moore said. "This is truly a wonderful gift that will enable us to shape the future of the college in profound ways."

To honor her devotion to her community, to the arts and to her church, the Leland Best Council for the Arts of First United Methodist Church of Beaumont was established in 1985 following her death. Lamar faculty members and student performance groups have participated in the council for many years in joint productions of concerts and events.

Randy Best discovered his passion for entrepreneurship at Lamar, establishing and building seven businesses prior to his graduation in 1967 with the Bachelor of Science degree in government. His formal education at Lamar and his familial influences served him well in the public sector as the founder of numerous business enterprises. His entrepreneurial prowess led to a new paradigm in higher education delivery that he forged at Lamar University resulting in the vastly successful Academic Partnerships program.



Nancy and Randy Best '67

Randy Best

An entrepreneur's entrepreneur, Randy Best '67 began his business career while a student at Lamar University where he started seven businesses and at one point had 42 other LU students in his employ. Among his ventures were publishing companies and Collegiate Diamond, an endeavor selling engagement rings at a time when "about 28 percent of all college students got engaged or married each year." At 25, Best sold the company for around \$10 million and has gone on to found or acquire more than 100 privately or publicly held companies in a broad range of fields including healthcare, defense and aerospace, publishing, agriculture, food, oil and gas, real estate and education.

When he moved into the second half of his career, Best focused on business initiatives with a social mission that could have an enduring, positive impact. This commitment resulted in a focus on education and the welfare of children.

Best's own challenges with dyslexia made him passionate about reading and its critical impact on a student's education and life. He founded a national initiative that annually helps more than three million children, mostly inner-city, learn to read.

In 2005, Best turned to higher education and founded a company to help state universities increase access for underserved high-need populations. Lamar University was the first to partner with Best in delivering two graduate education programs, growing enrollment from 226 to more than 4,100. He also founded an international higher education company focused on bringing a high-quality, very low-cost college education to students in the developing countries of Latin America. Today, Academic Partnerships delivers online programs in all 50 states and 37 foreign countries.

Lamar honors visionary leader

Herman Iles building dedicated

by Larry Acker

According to the Center for Visionary Leadership, visionary leaders are the builders of a new dawn, working with imagination, insight and boldness. They present a challenge that calls forth the best in people and brings them together around a shared sense of purpose. Their eyes are on the horizon, not just on the near at hand. They are social innovators and change agents, seeing the big picture and thinking strategically. This definition aptly describes Herman Iles, the visionary leader who was instrumental in advancing Lamar University to the premiere doctoral research institution it is today.

To honor his legacy, Lamar University officials formally dedicated the Herman Iles Building at the John Gray Center complex. The naming ceremony honored the many contributions by Iles in the early days of Lamar University as he, and others, championed the effort to expand Lamar College, as South Park Junior College had become known, to a larger, junior college district. Their collective vision eventually included moving Lamar from its junior college status to a four-year college—a feat that had never before been accomplished in Texas history. The ceremony also formally recognized a \$1 million gift by the Iles family to renovate the Dr. Richard L. Price Auditorium inside the Herman Iles Building and establish the Iles Family Faculty Enhancement Fund.

“The family is very grateful and appreciative that Lamar would want to name a building for Herman,” Mary Ann Iles, his daughter-in-law, said. “Our family always has supported Lamar University because it is such a great asset to the community and to Southeast Texas.”

By 1938, it was obvious that further expansion of Lamar College would impose an unsustainable financial burden on the South Park school district, where the college was originally housed. Given a choice of finding a wider financial base for the college or curtailing what appeared to be a bright future, college and community leaders turned to the idea of an enlarged junior college district. The South Park Civic League met to discuss the possibility. John Gray, then dean of men at Lamar College, and Herman Iles, president of the

was emerging from the Great Depression.

That same year, voters approved the creation of a Lamar Union Junior College District and the election of trustees to govern the college. By the spring of 1942, sufficient buildings had been completed for classes to be held for the first time on the new campus. As a member of the board of trustees, Iles was influential in hiring John Gray as the first president of the new Lamar College. In 1943, Lamar College “graduated 68 in the first class of the greater institution dedicating the new \$1 million plant to the ‘youths of tomorrow who will perpetuate the democratic principles for which our boys are now giving their lives,’ said Judge J.M. Combs, president of the board of trustees and commencement speaker,” according to a clipping from the collection.

“Our family always has supported Lamar University because it is such a great asset to the community and to Southeast Texas.”

civic league and second vice president of the Young Men’s Business League, spoke in favor of the proposed expansion.

Iles, who was also one of seven candidates for membership on the board of trustees, said the proposed college could be “built on a site already owned near its present location,” according to a newspaper clipping from the Herman Iles papers, a special collection of the Lamar University archives. The South Park board purchased a 58-acre tract in 1938, three blocks to the east of what is now the Lamar campus. The tract was most unattractive, having been used as a tank farm for oil storage by the Texaco Co., but the company was willing to sell it for \$18,000. Iles was involved in garnering support for the passage of a \$2 million Lamar bond issue in 1940, a difficult undertaking because it required raising taxes at a time when the country

“There were many people working for Lamar who were on salary, but Herman did so much for Lamar while working as an executive for Magnolia Petroleum Co., the forerunner to ExxonMobil,” said Mary Ann Iles. “Herman and Delma Lea had a close and lasting friendship with Mary and John Gray. The friendship between our families remains even today.”

Interestingly, according to Mary Ann Iles’ recollection, although Herman had a background in accounting, he was initially employed at Magnolia because of his prowess on the basketball court rather than his business acumen. In those days, companies had basketball leagues that were obviously very competitive. He also led charitable organizations such as the YMCA, Chamber of Commerce and the Jefferson County North County Relief organization where he established the first

food relief program in the county.

Early in the legislative session of 1947, a bill to make Lamar a state-supported senior college was introduced in the Texas House by Rep. Jack Brooks, a former Lamar student. Iles, then in his second term as a trustee, was elected to head the board. Although the bill initially passed, funding was unavailable. The planners returned to the Legislature the following session, and, on June 14, 1949, the bill was signed creating Lamar State College of Technology. Herman Iles, one of the primary architects of that vision, died Dec. 27, 1954, after a lengthy illness. Herman and Delma Iles had three sons: Herman Reginald, Larry Gene and Clint Blanchard.

The Iles family commitment to Lamar University and the Beaumont community has continued through Iles’ son Reggie and his wife Mary Ann. Throughout his professional dental career, the younger Iles has followed his father’s example of community service by giving his time and talents to the efforts of many boards and committees throughout Southeast Texas. Mary Ann has for many years demonstrated her devotion to and love for music both as a student and teacher. The couple’s allegiance to their church is well documented and exceptional. While Reggie has served in nearly every leadership capacity in the church, Mary Ann served for decades as organist and has been honored with the title Organist Emeritus at Calder Baptist Church.

Distributions from the Iles Family Faculty Enhancement Fund will be used to strengthen the university’s ability to recruit and retain the most able faculty and build excellence in its nationally recognized curriculum. Recruiting nationally recognized faculty will allow Lamar to recruit and retain the very best and brightest students. The fund will support the program, teaching, research and professional development activities of the university faculty.



Major gift continues tradition of supporting students pursuing health-care careers

by Brian Sattler

Students from Orange County, Texas, who are pursuing nursing, pre-medical or pre-dental studies at Lamar University will benefit from a new endowment thanks to the generosity of the Orange Memorial Hospital Corp.

In February 2013, the board of directors voted to dissolve the non-profit corporation and gift \$2.5 million of its assets to the LU Foundation to continue its scholarship program that had helped hundreds of students from Orange County pursue degrees and ultimately provide a

better level of care for Orange County residents. An additional \$1 million gift to LSC-Orange will benefit the college's associate's program in nursing.

The scholarships at Lamar will be available to current residents of Orange County, Texas, or former residents who graduated from an Orange County public or private high school.

"We are grateful to Jim Graves and his fellow board members of the Orange Memorial Hospital Corp. for entrusting Lamar University with this extraordinary gift as a way to continue its tradition of supporting the education of Orange County citizens who are pursuing careers

in the health sciences," said Joe Nordgren, director of Lamar's Pre-professional Advisory Committee for the health professions.

"With more than a thousand students from Orange County enrolled at Lamar, including 114 nursing majors, 15 pre-med majors and seven pre-dental majors, there are ample opportunities for this generous scholarship to impact the lives of our students and by extension the citizens of Orange County," Nordgren said.

"Students from Orange County admitted into our nursing program will benefit from this excellent scholarship," said Eileen Curl, chair of the JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing. "Our

bachelor's and master's programs continue to be ranked highly, including our online Master of Science in Nursing that was ranked second in the nation by U.S. News and World Report. Support from donors like this makes a profound difference in our ability to provide the best possible education for our students. These students, in turn, deliver excellent health care to the people of Southeast Texas."

Formed in the mid-'50s, the non-profit Orange Memorial Hospital Corp. was created after the Orange County Commissioner's Court passed a bond issue and built the Orange Memorial Hospital.

"They approached industry and several of the prominent families in the county and asked for their help to raise funds to furnish the hospital and to form a non-profit corporation to operate it," said Jim Graves, president of the corporation.

A nine-member board was formed. "They started operating the hospital as a non-profit, completely break even, and did that very successfully for many years," Graves said.

"In the mid-'80s, there was a revolution in the hospital industry, and the Commissioner's Court started getting approached by different for-profit groups, or 'non-profit' groups that would compensate the county for the use of the hospital," Graves said.

Eventually, the Commissioner's Court leased the hospital to a group called Hospital Equities Inc.; however, the financial strain of indigent care and lack of the strong financial base provided by the community and industry led the Commissioner's Court to lease the hospital to Baptist Hospital Orange, Graves said. The sale of assets and equipment left more than \$7 million in the corporation.

"At that point, we had no hospital to operate, but we were still trying to solve some other problems," Graves said. Chief among them was the ongoing shortage of skilled nurses. Hiring nurses from abroad only partially met the shortfall.

"We decided in the meantime we would try to develop local assets," Graves said. The corporation played a key role in helping Lamar establish a nursing program at what

is now Lamar State College-Orange, helping equip the nursing lab there with a gift of \$100,000.

"But also we decided to go ahead and take our earnings and issue scholarships for Orange County students," Graves said. The corporation began by awarding two scholarships at each of the seven private and public high schools in Orange County for students starting out in pre-medicine. These generous scholarships paid full tuition, books and more, wherever the students chose to attend college.

"Our idea was that if you educate them, chances are you are going to get some to come back to Orange and sure enough, they did," Graves said.

"We spent several million dollars on scholarships putting people through school, and it was a very successful program," Graves said. During nearly three decades, the corporation has helped more than 250 students with scholarships, more than 110 of whom graduated, including several M.D.s, two with dual Ph.D.-M.D. degrees, six M.S.R.N.s and

one Ph.D. biologist.

The corporation's investments suffered in 2008, and continuing losses in assisting Orange County's non-profit ambulance service forced a substantial cut back in scholarships.

Time, too, was taking its toll. "We wound up at that point only having about five or six life members, and so we decided that we really needed to do something more permanent," Graves said.

"We also found that the institution we were funding more than anyone else was Lamar University," Graves said. "That's where most were going to pre-med."

"Because of our close affiliation with Lamar University, we decided to continue the scholarships by asking Lamar to do it. It would continue what our original charter had required us to do and that is to benefit Orange County in the health field," Graves said. "It was the best way we could think of to continue the goals and the program that we had and benefit the people from Orange County."

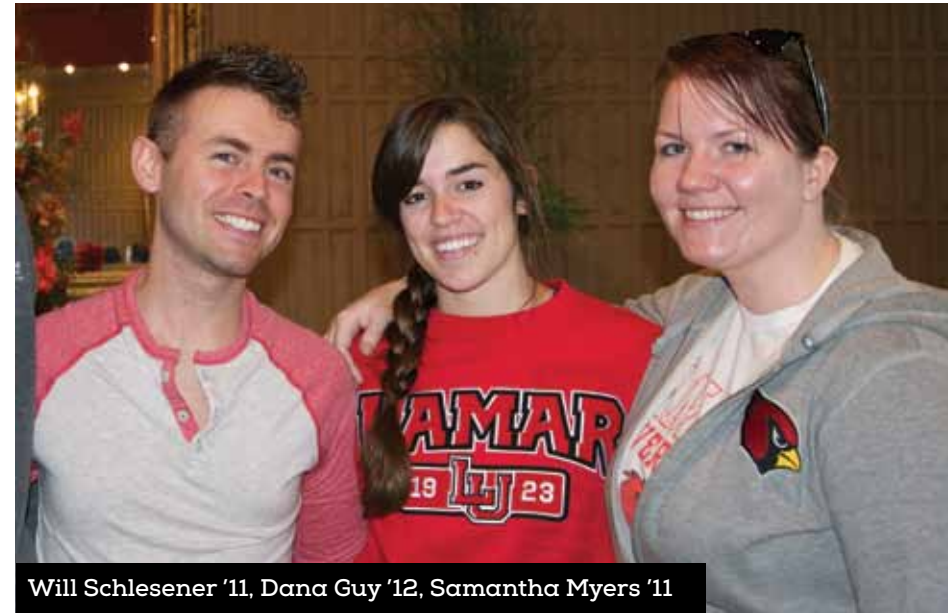




Dr. Kenneth Evans, Bethany Aiena '11



Sophia Gawu, Kahdeadrah Stone, Shannon Copeland '02, '03, '07



Will Schlesener '11, Dana Guy '12, Samantha Myers '11



Carlos Caballero, Elisabeth Maxwell '13

50th anniversary marks success of Honors Program students

As Lamar University celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2013, it also celebrated the 50th anniversary of its Honors Program. The program launched in the fall 1963 semester with 20 students from a variety of academic disciplines who took core classes together and enjoyed challenging each other intellectually. Today, the program is home to more than 300 of Lamar's brightest, most intellectually curious undergraduate students.

A Homecoming reception on campus

in October for Honors Program alumni drew former Honors students from across the country, spanning the decades from recent graduates to members of that founding class from 1963.

"When you talk about honors programs, you really talk about an opportunity for students to engage in conversation that stretches you, that takes you beyond the limits of whatever might be the defined domain that you operate in and gets you to a sense of the broader scope of what it means to be a scholar, what it means to

be a student of any material and what it means to be a citizen in a broader sense," LU President Kenneth Evans said during the reception.

"This is an exciting time for the program as it transitions into an Honors College. We have a huge commitment to making the mosaic of the undergraduate experience a very rich one," Evans said.

A national search began in the fall of 2013 for a dean of Lamar's new Honors College.

Walter Magee '67 chemistry (original 1963 class)
Retired from chemical industry
Ann Arbor, Mich.

"I think the program prepared us well. The philosophy class was very challenging for me because I was a technical person, but I think that class had a bigger impact on me than any other class I've ever taken because I just never would



have taken it if it wouldn't have been for the Honors Program, and it really changed me. Whenever we had a test, we would all assemble. It was those study sessions more than anything else that I think were memories to me."

Wesley Smith '11 chemistry
Medical student at University of North Texas

"The program provided me with a home away from home. It was a nice place to have friends and camaraderie outside of

class, then take it even into class. It was a little community that moved everywhere with you. We had all our classes together, lived in the dorms together, hung out together, but we didn't get sick of each other. Now we're all over the country in graduate school. It's a nice network post-graduation with people in all different fields, all different areas of expertise, that I think is going to be really cool in a couple of years."



T.J. Geiger '05 English and history
Assistant professor of English and modern languages, Lamar University

"It gave me a way to experience a lot of opportunities that I might not otherwise have. I got to go to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Washington Center's programs around the Democratic National Convention. I had an opportunity to see politics in action and reflect on that and connect civic education with my learning as a humanist as an English major and a history major. I had opportunities



to talk with students doing amazing things across the disciplines that I wouldn't have had the chance to do later in my career because you begin to specialize and take just English classes and just history classes, but because of the Honors Program, I got to talk with engineers and math folks and scientists and to understand the connections across disciplines in ways that I might not otherwise have had."

Danny Chand '02 communication
Assistant professor of government at New Mexico State University

"I benefited in a number of ways from being in the Honors Program, mostly from being able to have really close relationships with people like Dr. (Donna) Birdwell and Dr.



(Kevin) Dodson. I was able to get direct advisement from them that helped me figure out what I wanted to do with my life. I knew I wanted to travel. I knew I wanted to see the world. I kind of figured

I wanted to go into this academia thing at some point. I actually went to a conference in Washington, D.C., on media and politics, and I got to meet all sorts of people like Sam Donaldson, Clarence Page, Ted Koppel. It was a really wonderful experience, and I would have never gotten to do something like that if I wasn't in the Honors Program."

Daniel Grooms '02 chemical engineering
Senior process engineering, Invista in Orange

"When I got into the Honors Program, we were really starting to bring in a lot more of the Honors classes, which was great. Being part of the Student Advisory Council was a lot of fun, getting to develop leadership and work with the administration on the program and activities we were going to offer. Just getting to know the professors more than in the regular classes and getting to know the work that they did and the interests that they had was really valuable."



Jenny Achilles '03 communication
Program officer at TG in Round Rock

"The Lamar Honors Program defined a significant portion of my experience at Lamar. It formed my first major social network at the university and introduced me to other groups that helped then form my wider social circle. It also helped develop the intellectual trajectory I took in college that then moved me forward in life and brought me to where I am today."



Jolie Franzen '05 accounting
Stay-at-home mom, part-time editing and project management for test preparation materials

"I really enjoyed the Honors Program. It gave me a larger group of people that I felt like I belonged to that had similar interests. The Honors curriculum challenged me and gave me another level to my college experience rather than just coasting through. I met a lot of really nice people and got to go to conferences and do community service that I wouldn't have done on my own."





Linda Grooms, Donna Birdwell, Daniel Grooms '02



Jed Franzen '92, Jolie (Leger) Franzen '05, Jenny Achilles '03, Ahmen Bilal Hakeem



Walter Magee '67, Betty (Coerver) Gay '67, Linda Cansler '66, Kathy Young '67, Dale Priest '71

Bethany Aiena '11 psychology
Ph.D. student in clinical psychology at
University of Mississippi

“It was everything to my education. Obviously, the psychology staff were wonderful, but any other enriching classes that I took—from rock and roll to Islam—to extremist literature—really broadened my educational experience. I would not have gotten to take that if I wasn't in the Honors Program.”



Kathy Johnson Young '67 English
(original 1963 class)
Teacher for concealed carry/shooting classes in Holly Springs, N.C., after retiring from teaching career in middle school, community college and prisons



The 20 of us were a rowdy bunch. We just constantly got into mischief and studied hard. As I've always told my kids, you can go to a number of schools and get a good education. What you need is the competition and the exchange of ideas. If you don't have that, then you're missing a huge part of your education. We had that. We never shut up. It was fun to argue about things, and it was OK to do so. It was an exciting time.”

Linda Cansler '66
English and mathematics
(original 1963 class)
Attorney in Beaumont

“After I graduated from Lamar, I joined the Peace Corps and ended up at a boys boarding school in Uganda teaching math way out in the bush. Then I lived in Egypt. When I came back to the United States, I taught at Lamar for a year before I went off to law school. Being in the honors program, I felt set apart and special. We studied with prime professors. We got the benefit of having that experience.”



Betty Coerver Gay '67 chemistry
(original 1963 class)
Retired, Salem, N.H.



“It was a wonderful experience. Those were the friends I made. Besides my roommates, they were the most important people. It's wonderful to be in a classroom where people are from many different disciplines, and they're all really bright, too. We would have very lively discussions.”

Rebekah Maxwell '11 business
Education foundation and communications facilitator at Better Business Bureau of Southeast Texas

“If I hadn't been involved in the Honors Program, I don't think I would have gone

on to as many extracurricular activities. I don't think I would have achieved as much if I hadn't been involved. In the Honors Program, Dr. (Kevin) Dodson inspired me to get involved in Rotaract, which is part of Rotary International. I did service work not only locally but internationally in Belize and applied for the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship, which took me to Glasgow, Scotland, to study international marketing and complete my master's. It was a wonderful experience, and I probably wouldn't have even thought about it if I hadn't been involved with the Honors Program and involved with so many students and faculty members who motivated you and encouraged you to reach beyond what you thought you could achieve, not only encouraged you but challenged you to achieve more and go further.”



Kayleigh Romero '13 math education
Teacher (3-5 grade) at Ehrhart School in Beaumont



“The Honors Program really allowed me to get involved in the university, to upgrade my experience. You really got to know your professors and other students. The Honors Program taught me how to schedule myself and be committed to my time schedule. You really need that as a teacher.”



Josh Daspit '04
political science
Assistant professor of management at Mississippi State University

“Being in the Honors Program really completely shifted my career trajectory. Before I was in the Honors Program, I didn't know much about research and wasn't really sure what life in a university would be like as a professional. We had a group of students that did some research and presented at the National Collegiate Honors Council. That was my first exposure to research in academic life, and now that's what I do. Without the Honors Program, I probably wouldn't have had that experience before going into graduate school and taking that plunge.”

Dale Priest '71 English
(original 1963 class)
Professor of English and modern languages at Lamar University

“The Honors Program was actually life changing. When I entered the Honors Program as a freshman in 1963, I was a physics major, and I wanted to be an astronomer. We had an English literature class from Robert Olsen, who turned out to be my favorite professor and the most influential on me. His enthusiasm for literature, his love of literature and his way of presenting it really spoke to me. I switched



my allegiance you might say from science to the humanities and specifically to literature. I have not regretted it.”

Sallye Sheppard
Honors Program director
'92-'94
Retired professor of English and modern languages

“I think the Honors Program is a crucial part of Lamar and always has been. The people who have been working with the Honors Program have done a marvelous job. I just cannot conceive of a university without a good, strong Honors Program. It's been a process. I think it's been a healthy growth. I hope they're able to continue that. It makes me want to come back and be in the Honors Program.”

Donna Birdwell
Honors Program director, '99 to '08
Retired professor of anthropology

“Personally it was a privilege to be director of the Honors Program and to work cooperatively with many wonderful faculty and administrative people at Lamar to create what I feel with no modesty whatsoever is one of the best Honors experiences in the state of Texas. Seeing former students who now have Ph.D.s and faculty appointments or medical careers or law careers, it's



just wonderful seeing where students have gone from Lamar University with some of them coming from very modest small high schools and discovering what they can do in the world. I look forward to seeing a lot more amazing things happening with honors students and Mirabeau scholars and honors faculty and the Honors College at Lamar.”

Kevin Dodson
Honors professor and Honors Program director, '08-present

“I have the best job at Lamar University. I actually really believe that. I think there's no better job. Every day when I come to work, I'm coming to work with Honors students, the brightest, the most engaged, the most intellectually curious and challenging students on campus. And it's a joy to work with them. It's been a real privilege for me to work with the Honors Program for 20 years now.”

Fernando Mejia dietetics (pre-med) major
President, Honors Student Association

“Being part of the Honors Program challenged me to want and expect more out of myself during my college years. I could've easily been swept into the college doldrums that so many students fall into but the Honors Program constantly keeps you on your toes. I found myself constantly probing and asking, 'What's next, what else can I do, what more can I accomplish?'”



LU salutes exceptional Cardinals

One of the Best Doctors in America, a private-equity executive and a founding member of the Architectural Engineering Institute are the 2014 Distinguished Alumni of Lamar University.

Brent Bost, Rena Clark and Sina Nejad received the honor—the most prestigious awarded an LU alumnus—during a dinner Feb. 21, 2014.

The Lamar University Alumni Advisory Board's Distinguished Alumni Awards Committee selects the annual recipients from nominations by LU alumni based on criteria that identify graduates who have made notable accomplishments in their chosen professions. The recipients must also display integrity and character that inspire pride in the university and its alumni and have demonstrated recognition of the importance of Lamar in their career, deeds and actions.



Brent W. Bost

B.S. chemistry, B.S. biology, 1978; B.B.A. accounting, 1992; M.B.A., 1996; B.B.A. economics, 1997

- co-founder and vice president of Southeast Texas OB/GYN Associates, PA.; M.D. '81, Baylor College of Medicine; specialty training, obstetrics and gynecology, Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas
- named one of the *Best Doctors in America* by his colleagues, Bost has published papers in obstetrics, gynecologic surgery, health care financing and Social Security reform.
- author of two books, *The Hurried Woman* and *The Hurried Woman Syndrome*; founder and president of Pathfinder Management Systems, a company that offers management and personal financial planning
- medical staff president at Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital; board member, CordTrack Corp. and Beaumont Community Players; assistant clinical professor of Ob/Gyn, University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston
- past president, LU Alumni Advisory Board; served on executive committee, Lamar University Foundation; member, College of Business Advisory Board; adjunct instructor, College of Business.
- licenses and certifications including Certified Public Accountant (CPA); Personal Financial Specialist (PFS); Certified Specialist in Retirement Planning (CSRP); Certified Life Underwriter (CLU); Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC); Certified Medical Practice Executive (CMPE); Fellow, American College of Medical Practice Executives (FACMPE); Certified Specialist in Management Consulting (CSMC)

“My decision to come to Lamar is what got me into medical school. And, after serving on the Admissions Committee at Baylor College of Medicine, I'm convinced that this is true. Lamar gave me the foundation I needed to succeed in medicine and has provided an invaluable resource to continue my education—in many fields—through the years. If I had it to do all over again, I would choose Lamar University in a heartbeat.”



Sina Nejad

B.S. civil engineering, 1980; M.E. civil engineering, 1981

- founder and president of Sigma Engineers Inc.
- first engineer from Southeast Texas appointed to the Texas Board of Professional Engineers, one of only 22 engineers in Texas approved to engage in the practice of architecture by the state board of architecture
- charter member, Structural Engineering Institute; founding member, Architectural Engineering Institute; member, numerous Texas and national professional societies, including the Texas Board of Professional Engineers; past president, Sabine Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers; named Engineer of the Year by the Sabine Chapter, 2008
- chairman, Planning and Zoning Commission and Building Code Board of Adjustment & Appeals, city of Beaumont
- advisory board member, Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital; member and past president, Symphony of Southeast Texas; past president and member, Anayat House; member and former board member, Beaumont Chamber of Commerce; Small Business Person of the Year, 2004, Beaumont chamber
- member, Lamar University Civil Engineering Advisory Council; board of directors, Lamar University Foundation; host, A Dinner & 12 Strangers and A Dinner & Conversation for Lamar University engineering students, sharing insight and career advice with future engineers; board member, Friends of the Arts; member, Mirabeau Society
- designer, replica “gusher” oil derrick, Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum

“Lamar University has a special place in my heart,” said Nejad. “When I graduated with my engineering degree, I started work immediately and had absolutely no deficiency in performing my work as a young engineer. I knew all my duties and designs as I had learned them at Lamar, a tribute to the great training I received from the engineering professors. Men like Prof. Luther Beale and Dr. Morgan molded us into forward-thinking and practical engineers. Those of us who graduated from Lamar were well ahead of young graduates from other schools.”



Rena Clark

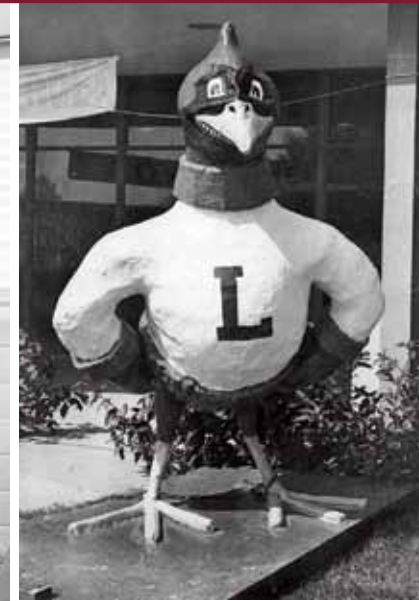
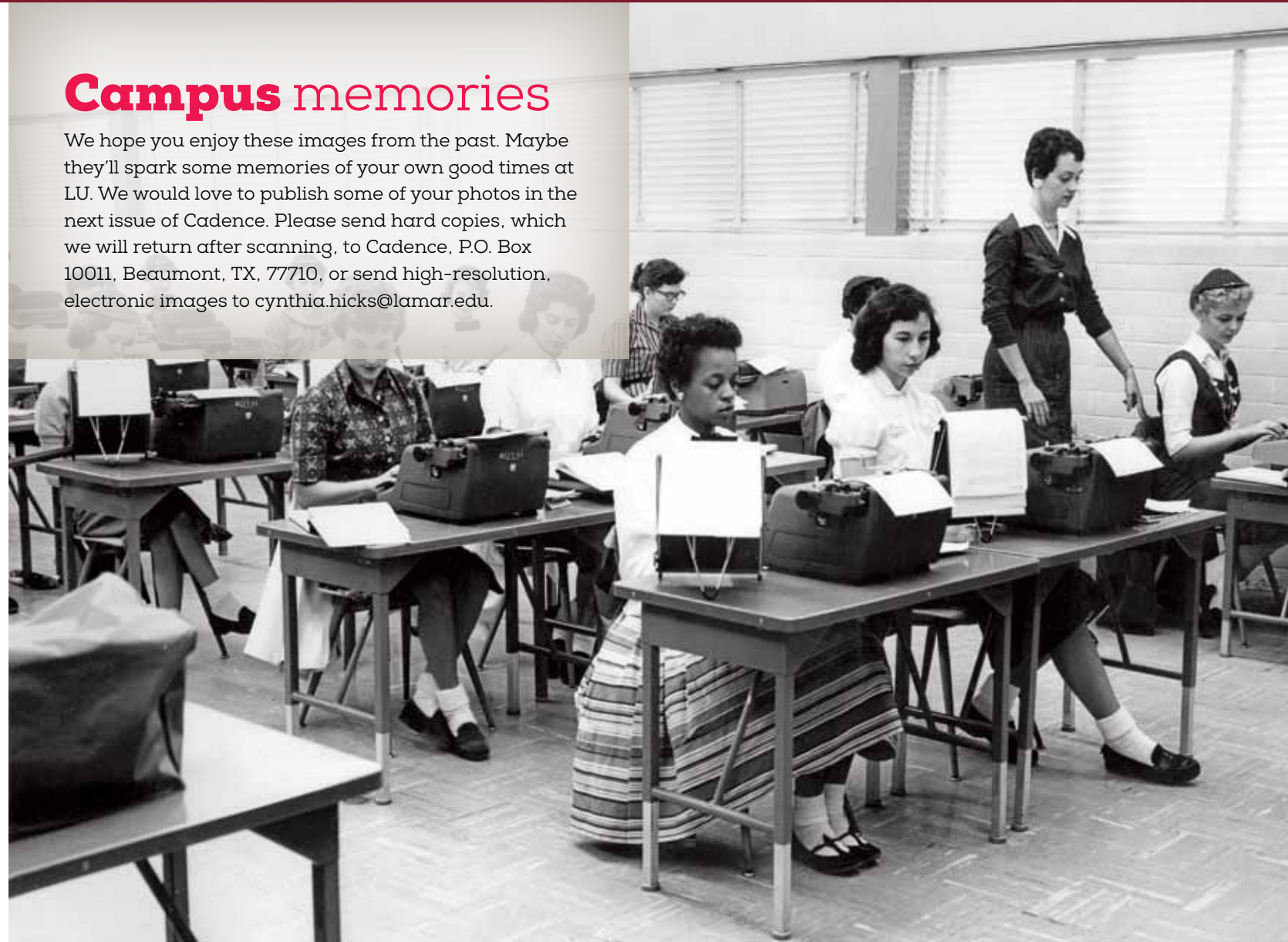
B.S. mechanical engineering, 1984

- On campus—math and engineering tutor; president and vice president, Lamar chapter, National Society of Black Engineers; College of Engineering co-op: Texaco Chemical, Union 76
- MBA, 1990, Harvard Business School
- former director and chief operating officer, MBA program, Harvard Business School
- 1995, chief executive officer, private-equity portfolio company; led a large distressed commercial printing company's successful turnaround; from 1999-2001, led a division of a large international corporation in the specialty chemicals sector and created a profitable stand-alone operating company
- 2003, vice president of philanthropy and community affairs, The Kraft Group, owners of a group of industrial companies and the National Football League's New England Patriots
- currently—partner concentrated on deal sourcing, transaction execution, portfolio company performance and fundraising, GenNx360 Capital Partners, a private equity firm focused on investing in companies engaged in the industrial sector
- has served as trustee or overseer for a number of non-profit organizations in and around Boston, including the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Museum of Science and the New England Aquarium; overseer for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston and a trustee at the Chestnut Hill School and Lasell College; chair, board of GenNx360 Charitable Foundation

“I am eternally grateful for my time at Lamar and to all of the folks there who played a role in shaping an incredible educational experience. From Dr. Richard Price, who I have known since I was nine years old and who recruited me to Lamar and whose classroom I had the honor of experiencing, to Dr. Otto Brown, Dean Fred Young, Eugene Martinez and others. As a result of all of their influences, I left Lamar with not only the confidence instilled in me by my parents that I could BE anything I could imagine but a profound sense that I was prepared for anything.”

Campus memories

We hope you enjoy these images from the past. Maybe they'll spark some memories of your own good times at LU. We would love to publish some of your photos in the next issue of Cadence. Please send hard copies, which we will return after scanning, to Cadence, P.O. Box 10011, Beaumont, TX, 77710, or send high-resolution, electronic images to cynthia.hicks@lamar.edu.

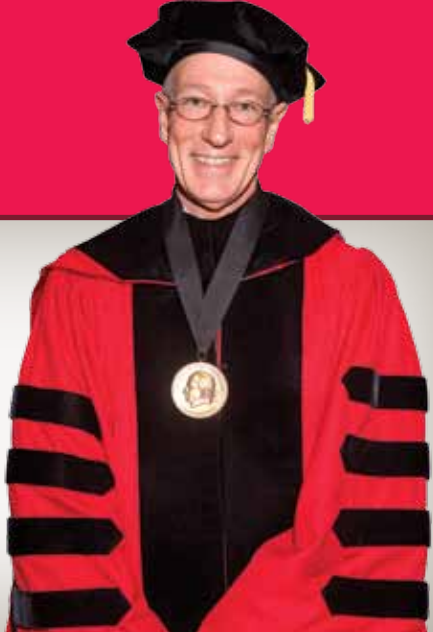




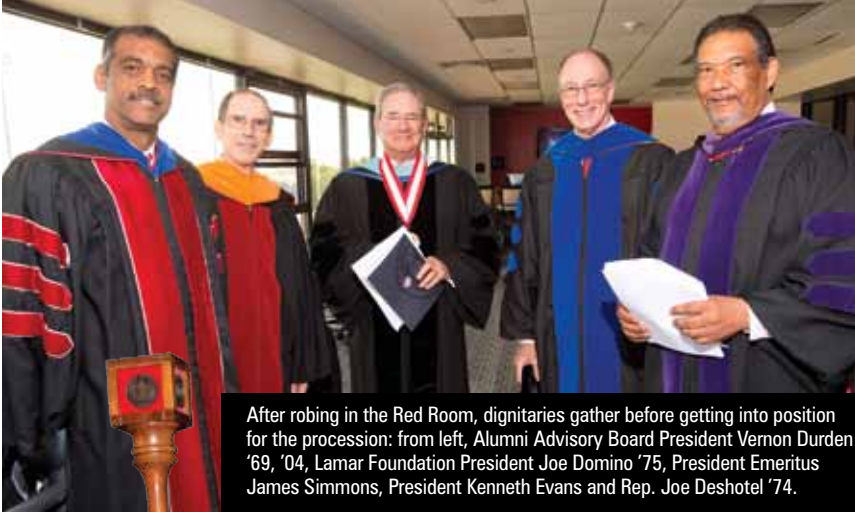
The Investiture of
Dr. Kenneth R. Evans

November 7, 2013

Alumni, friends, well-wishers and dignitaries gathered Nov. 7 to witness the investiture of Lamar University's President Kenneth Evans.



Regent David Montagne '74 helps President Evans don his new red robe.



After robing in the Red Room, dignitaries gather before getting into position for the procession: from left, Alumni Advisory Board President Vernon Durden '69, '04, Lamar Foundation President Joe Domino '75, President Emeritus James Simmons, President Kenneth Evans and Rep. Joe Deshotel '74.



Student Ambassadors, from left, Jessica Pospisil, a nursing major from Manvel; Elisabeth Maxwell, biology, Beaumont; Patty Stephens, biology, Port Neches; Yanni Thomas, nursing, Deer Park; Jeremy Allen, management information systems, Beaumont; and Kristeen Reynolds, accounting, Port Arthur.



President Emeritus James Simmons presents President Kenneth Evans with the presidential medallion.



President Kenneth Evans presented a portion of his address in American Sign Language, interpreted on his left by American Sign Language major A.J. Webb, a senior from Duncanville.

To the right: Barbara Hernandez, professor of health and kinesiology, carries the Lamar University mace to the stage. The use of a mace in academic ceremonies dates to the fourteenth century, tracing its roots to both the medieval battle mace and the royal scepter.

Below: TSUS Chairman Donna N. Williams carries the presidential medallion to the stage during the procession.



KVLU 91.3's Byron Balentine '79 speaks with Alumni Director Linda LeBlanc '75 during live coverage of the investiture ceremony.



Scott Deppe directs the Lamar University Wind Ensemble and Choir as they performed special music for the investiture ceremony.



From left, President Emeritus James Simmons and President Kenneth Evans with Texas State University System Chancellor Brian McCall before the ceremony.



Regent William F. Scott '70 congratulates President Kenneth Evans after presenting him with the LU ceremonial mace.



First lady Nancy Evans pauses before the ceremony with Big Red and Lu.



Nancy Evans, left, and President Ken Evans with Hyattie Simmons '79



TSUS Regents Chairman Donna Williams and TSUS Chancellor Brian McCall



Lewis Hoffer, left, with Joy (Hopkins) '69 and Will Crenshaw '67



President Ken Evans, left, and President Emeritus Jimmy Simmons



President Ken Evans and Nancy Evans flanked by Lamar University Ambassadors



Joe Domino '75, Wayne Reaud '71, Terry Garth



Kim and Roy Steinhagen, left, with Nancy and Larry Beaulieu '77



Alan Sampson '68, Ambassador Jeremy Allen, Norma (Roddy) Sampson '75



Rodney and Mayor Becky Ames, left, with President Ken Evans



Terry and Lee Ann (Dean) Garth '79



From left, J.D. Roberts, Johnnie (Criton) Durden '00, Delores Allen, Ambassador Kristeen Reynolds, Vernon Durden '69, '04, and Carol and Gerald Eddins



TSUS Regent Vernon Reaser III, TSUS Regent David Montagne '74, TSUS Regents Vice Chairman Ron Mitchell



Nancy and President Ken Evans, left, with Paul '92 and Alberta Jones



Linda and Joe Domino '75, left, with Dan '65 and Jan (Caldwell) Hallmark '83



Sherrie (Booker) Branick '81, left, and Kathleen Jackson



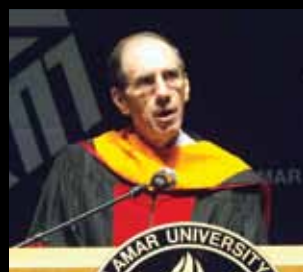
Tim '80, '85, '92 and Lisa Sudela, left, with Connie and Paul Szuch



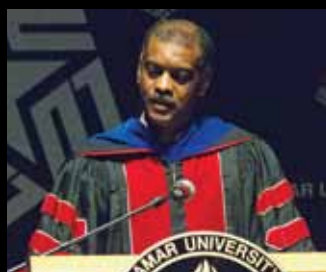
Charlene (Matthews) '53 and W.S. "Bud" Leonard '50, '53, '76



Levi Duncan, music major



Joe Domino '75



Vernon Durden '69, '04



Charity Ogbeide, corporate communications major



Mayor Becky Ames



Regent William F. Scott '70



Chancellor Brian McCall



Rep. Joe Deshotel '74



Regent David Montagne '74



President Ken Evans, left, and President Emeritus James Simmons



Creating an **innovation-based** ecosystem

by Brian Sattler

In the coming months a new building will rise on the northeast corner of Rolfe Christopher Drive and Jim Gilligan Way to house the Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship at Lamar University (CICE).

A catalyst for bringing ideas to the marketplace through innovation and commercialization, the Center will bring together resources to boost economic development throughout the region. Built with disaster recovery funds from Hurricane Ike, the CICE will be an investment in economic development.

The \$9 million Center will build on Lamar's recognized expertise in engineering and science and the burgeoning entrepreneurial spirit in the region. It will play a key role in inventing the future at Lamar and Southeast Texas.

The mission of the Center is to "leverage the technology, expertise, and infrastructure of Lamar University's research centers and business resources to establish new innovation-based businesses and create synergies with established industries" said Center Director Paul Latiolais.

The new 27,000-square-foot building provides a place to carry out the mission and will become an incubator across the region for technology startups, industry and university collaboration centers and several wet labs to encourage product development and business launches.

The Center provides several functions including an interface between industry and the university, an environment for bringing ideas to the marketplace, a place for student and faculty interaction, and a home for Innovation Centers and Centers of Excellence. One strategy uniquely advantageous to the region is to allow larger out-of-region companies to test-run operations through the center as a precursor to locating major initiatives in Southeast Texas. This "soft landing" strategy creates an attractive incentive for companies to invest in the expanding market of the region and

leverages the assets of Lamar to make companies feel welcome. In time, the Center will set up Innovation Hubs to help create industry clusters in energy, advanced materials, electronics and information technology.

Concurrently, the Center will help address the labor needs of businesses and industry in the region through outreach to the surrounding community that will provide skills assessment, testing and counseling, and workforce training to equip individuals for jobs. These programs help empower individuals, and thereby the communities they live in, toward recovery from the lasting impacts of hurricanes on the region.

A unique aspect of the Center is a dedicated student idea center where students from all disciplines can gather to work together on new





“Lamar University is playing an important role in promoting our local and regional economies by cultivating an innovation-based ecosystem. This plays a vital role in the economic diversification and strengthening in Southeast Texas”
—PAUL LATIOLAIS

ventures. The space becomes a “living lab” to experiment in bringing new ideas to market in an encouraging environment. The ideas, and learning by doing in a fast-paced setting, will help students better understand the new economy of rapid innovation and market adoption.

It takes more than great science or engineering to bring a product to market, Latiolais said. It takes business acumen, marketing know-how, intellectual property strategies, and access to capital—essential elements of commercialization and entrepreneurship. The Center will create, through collaborative research and education between science, engineering and business, a unique culture of innovation to bring technology to market, Latiolais said.

The creation of the CICE is an entrepreneurial endeavor in itself and illustrative of the perseverance entrepreneurship requires. It was 2004 when economic development consultants pointed to Lamar University as a catalyst for future economic growth. That report called for an expansion of LU’s capabilities for research and commercialization of new technologies. Among the recommendations in the 2004 study was a call for the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce to create a committee, Advancing New Technologies at Lamar, to explore ways the university could accelerate economic development. The



LU wins coveted EDA-University Center Award.

Lamar University has received a five-year Investment Award valued at \$1 million from the federal Economic Development Administration’s University Center Economic Development Program.

committee formulated the idea of an innovation and commercialization center at Lamar University. Hurricanes Rita and Ike significantly impacted progress, but ultimately it was recovery dollars

from Hurricane Ike that spurred the development of a center dedicated to industry development and economic enhancement.

“We live in a rapidly changing world in which businesses we know today will be obsolete in the not too distant future,” wrote Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce President Jim Rich in The Beaumont Business Journal. New ones are being created and many young people find

entrepreneurship as their pathway to a career.

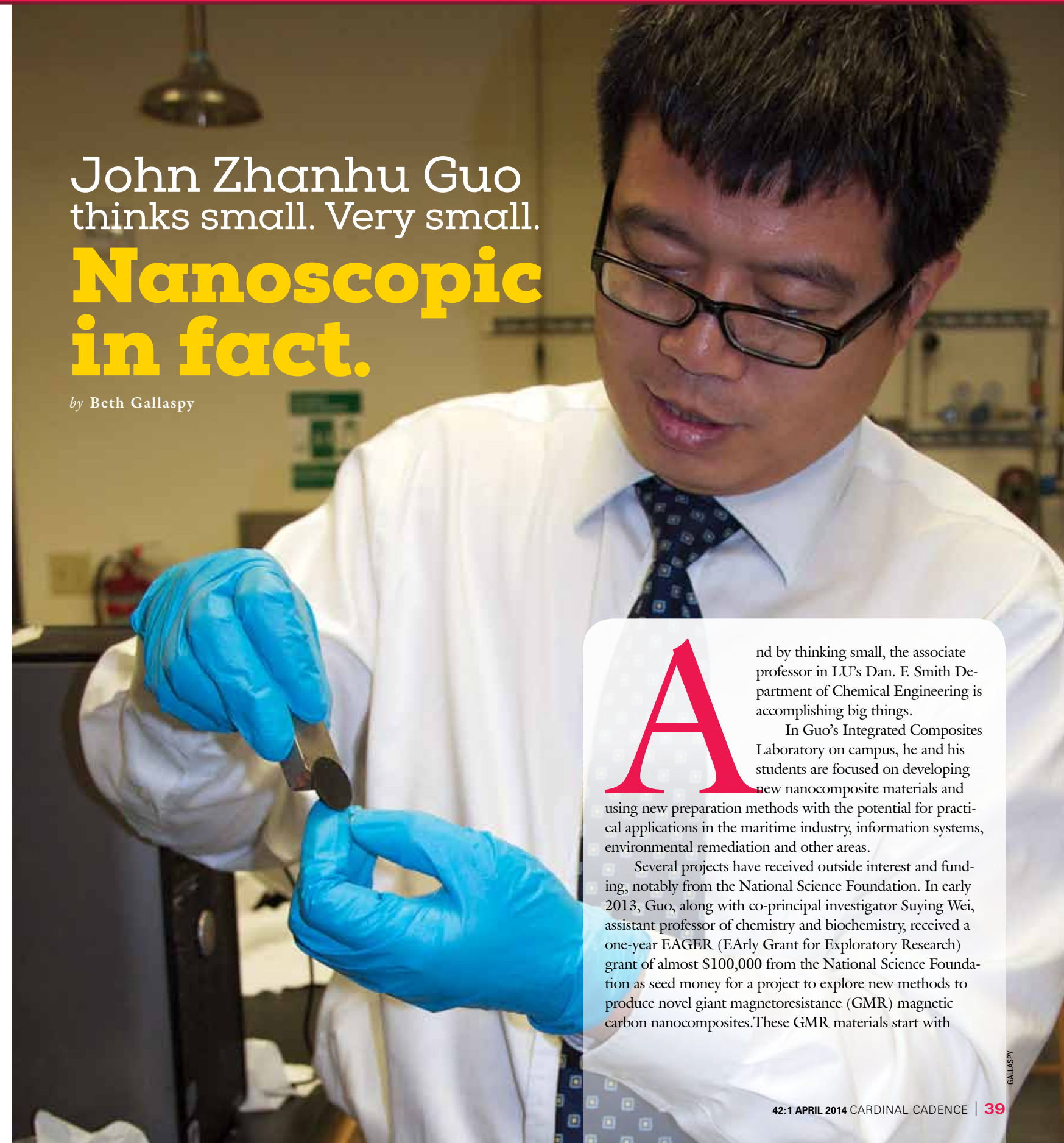
Rich continued: “I am confident that the future of economic development is the capacity to attract talented people to our university and for the university to nurture entrepreneurship ... We see the results everywhere such initiatives have been tried and strong regional partnerships are sustained.”

The new building will include four wet labs for energy technology and materials development, an electronics and instrumentation lab, a student incubation center, a training and computer center, network of conference rooms, welcome area and offices.

The university plans to break ground on the building this summer with completion anticipated for summer 2015.

John Zhanhu Guo thinks small. Very small. **Nanoscopic in fact.**

by Beth Gallaspy



And by thinking small, the associate professor in LU’s Dan. F. Smith Department of Chemical Engineering is accomplishing big things. In Guo’s Integrated Composites Laboratory on campus, he and his students are focused on developing new nanocomposite materials and using new preparation methods with the potential for practical applications in the maritime industry, information systems, environmental remediation and other areas.

Several projects have received outside interest and funding, notably from the National Science Foundation. In early 2013, Guo, along with co-principal investigator Suying Wei, assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry, received a one-year EAGER (EARly Grant for Exploratory Research) grant of almost \$100,000 from the National Science Foundation as seed money for a project to explore new methods to produce novel giant magnetoresistance (GMR) magnetic carbon nanocomposites. These GMR materials start with

a carbon matrix embedded with nanoparticles of iron. A polymer is applied to the conductive carbon at high temperature to create the magnetic carbon nanocomposites. One innovative aspect of Guo's method involves the use of a solid polymer, rather than a gaseous precursor, to produce carbon. This allows the process to take place at lower temperatures, conserving energy. The inclusion of iron nanoparticles in the carbon matrix also is significant. Iron makes the material strong, conductive and ready to have a magnetic field applied. The carbon keeps it lightweight and resistant to corrosion in harsh environments such as exposure to acids.

"We are at the first stage to optimize the production conditions," Guo said. "We use a high-temperature furnace to compare the temperature effects on the product. What temperature should we use to obtain a better product? The National Science Foundation funding gives us the foundation to study further in this direction."

At this stage in the research, Guo and his students are working to perfect the "thin film structure." Inside his lab in the Charles and Eleanor Garrett Engineering Center on campus, Guo demonstrated some of the results so far. One sample produced in the lab is about the size and shape of a quarter and the weight of a tiny scrap of paper. That small piece of magnetic carbon nanocomposite displayed strong magnetic force as it jumped from Guo's fingertips to a nearby bar magnet.

The next stage for the project will be producing a fiber structure more like a cable. Guo described the desired end

result as being able to produce single fibers on the submicron scale of electromagnetic materials encased in protective carbon.

"This can be used for biomedical applications and information systems like a computer," Guo said.

"The technology also shows promise for maritime and aerospace applications. For example, the nanomaterial could be used to fabricate components in a ship or aircraft. Testing the conductivity of the material could then aid in

detecting any defects or damages to those components." Depending on the desired uses, different types of nanoparticles could be incorporated to produce nanocomposite materials with more or less conductivity.

The GMR project is just one of Guo's many ongoing investigations into the development of new nanocomposites for a variety of applications. In 2011, he received another NSF EAGER grant for a project to develop novel carbon nanocomposite nanoadsorbents to remove heavy metals from polluted waters. "We can treat the polluted water by removing the heavy metal very quickly and more efficiently," he said. "Nanostructure materials have a high specific surface area. You can see that the surface area is large. So this material can adsorb more heavy metals than other adsorbents at the same weight. Meanwhile, we can recycle this material – adsorbents and

the heavy metals – very easily by applying a magnet."

This line of research already has potential for use in applications such as environmental cleanup; however, Guo hopes to gain funding for similar research leading to different applications. The carbon fabric that serves as the filter in these nanomaterials can be treated with different polymers to yield different results, Guo said. "They can selectively adsorb or react with different heavy metal ions. This means we will have a continuous water filtration system. The water will pass through the filter and be purified."

Guo said he has had some interest from industry in nanocomposites he has created to clean polluted water, including the potential to use similar technology

“I want more students to get involved in the research. My focus is on training students, not making money.”

to remove mercury from flue stack gases. Perhaps that line of research will come later. "We have to focus on one technique and become more expert. Then we will consider alternatives," he said. "I want more students to get involved in the research. My focus is on training students, not making money."

Currently, Guo has 12 students in his lab who are seeking Ph.D.s in chemical engineering. He also has several master's and undergraduate students working as research assistants.

To attract additional students who

bring diverse perspectives to Lamar, Guo has nurtured international collaborations since joining the faculty in 2008. In December, he returned from a trip to China that included leading seminars and meeting with colleagues at Beijing Forestry University and at Harbin Institute of Technology, the home institutions of two current LU exchange students working in Guo's lab. A native of China who earned bachelor's and master's degrees in chemical engineering

at Chinese universities, Guo completed his Ph.D. at Louisiana State University.

"We're trying to build collaborations all over with the top universities and the top programs," he said. "That's very important to attract the top graduate students."

Once those students arrive, they have the opportunity to assist in finding new ways to create materials that could transform several industries in the future.



Transforming a contaminant into a commodity

by Beth Gallaspy

For anyone who has spent much time in Southeast Texas, plumes rising from refinery flues on the horizon are a familiar sight. Research under way in the Dan F. Smith Department of Chemical Engineering could turn those potential pollutants into additional profit streams for industry in the future.

Tracy Benson, assistant professor of chemical engineering, became interested in the potential to transform waste products into something useful during graduate school at Mississippi State University, where his research focused on deriving fuels from municipal wastewater treatment plants. When he joined the Lamar faculty in 2009, he immediately recognized the importance of petroleum refineries to the region and saw a way he could contribute.

"I thought that trying to reduce our carbon dioxide emissions was the right path," Benson said. "We're taking this waste stream and making it into a commodity, into something valuable. By doing that we're able to extend our carbon resources."

One of Benson's ongoing research projects has focused on the development of catalyst powders to promote the conversion of carbon dioxide and steam into carbon monoxide and hydrogen, which is also known as synthesis gas or syngas. Additional processes can then upgrade syngas into usable, profitable products such as diesel fuels or alcohols like methanol or ethanol.

To the naked eye, the catalyst powders look something like colored dust from sidewalk chalk, but on a microscopic or nanoscopic level, they are much more complex. Benson

and his research assistants "decorate" the surface of the powders with specific metals to promote specific chemical reactions. The powder, or support, used in the process is titanium dioxide, which is frequently used in the pigment industry, making it readily available and relatively inexpensive. The best metal to promote the desired reactions is platinum, but because of its expense, Benson's team has focused instead on tin and nickel combinations that mimic the properties of platinum.

"We've identified the right family of catalysts, but we're trying to narrow the search down a little bit," Benson said. Along with carbon dioxide, flue stack gases can contain other waste products such as hydrogen sulfide, which could react with certain catalysts in troublesome ways. "We're still in catalyst development. In a new research project, you deal with the most ideal situation. Then you slowly start adding in these curve balls. 'What contaminant can I think of that would be a problem?' Then you work through that problem."

Joining Benson in his chemical engineering lab are two Ph.D. students, five master's students and one undergraduate. "They're getting a lot of hands-on experience setting up experiments, running experiments, analyzing data, turning the data into results and drawing conclusions from those results. These students come from very diverse backgrounds," he said, noting that some may not have ever seen a refinery while others already have a wealth of knowledge about the industry. "The art of organizing and running a group like that is trying to marry an individual's skills with the needs of the project."

Even students who do not have the opportunity to work in Benson's lab are able to benefit from his research. Benson said he tries to bring lessons from the laboratory into the classroom. "They are not just learning what we've been doing for 100 years or 30 years but right now, today. It brings it home to them. Sometimes with

“The art of organizing and running a group like that is trying to marry an individual's skills with the needs of the project.”

a small enough class, you can take them into the laboratory and show them on a very small microscopic level the results you're getting. Then you take that back into the classroom, so they have it set in their mind what's going on. That really helps with different learning styles."

Benson has secured financial support for his projects from the Texas Hazardous Waste Research Center and has gained industry assistance in the form of information to help guide his research. Industry leaders in Southeast Texas have also expressed interest in working with Benson on testing when the research is further along and ready for initial implementation, which he estimates is still a few years away.

Implementing this developing technology could have significant impacts on the petrochemical industry, both financially and environmentally. Petroleum refining in the U.S. creates approximately 20 million tons of carbon dioxide per year during the production of a variety of fuels and chemicals derived from fossil fuels. Concerns about the impact of that carbon dioxide on the environment as a greenhouse gas has prompted much discussion about carbon sequestration, which is capturing and storing the waste product far below ground to keep it from affecting the atmosphere. "If we can convert it to useful fuels and chemicals very economically and very efficiently, then we have something that we can sell to the public," Benson said. "If we can use it to extend our carbon resources, that's a benefit to both the industry and to our society at large. Industries want to be good stewards of the environment, but we have to do that in a very economical way."

The ideas behind Benson's research are not entirely new. A research group at

another university did initial work on the topic a decade or more ago, Benson said, but did not pursue it to a commercially viable end; however, both Benson and his industry partners see practical potential in this technology.

Converting carbon dioxide into syngas uses a process known as tri-reforming, which is endothermic, requiring the addition of heat. Upgrading the intermediate product syngas into desirable products like alcohols and diesel fuels uses exothermic processes, which give off heat. "By using a series of heat exchangers, we can move heat around from the part of the process that gives off heat to the part that needs it. We're making it so much more energy efficient and conserving energy," he said. That approach is taking place in Benson's lab now with the potential for scale up to the industrial level in the future.

His lab is working on the second stage of the technology as well by converting syngas to alcohols. Researchers at the University of Texas at El Paso are developing catalysts for that part of the process. Benson's lab then uses those catalysts in reactions, product development and process design.

Benson and his assistants have published multiple papers on their ongoing research and made presentations to several national organizations. "We've had a good reception," Benson said. "People are always interested in how we can take waste gases and convert those into commodity chemicals."

Within the next decade, the developments coming from this Lamar University lab could translate to industrial improvements that are better for the environment and for the bottom line of the companies that embrace them.

Innovations in health care through engineering

by Brian Sattler

PLANNED GIFT

Lamar alumnus Larry Lawson is helping ensure Lamar University can invent the future through a planned gift to benefit the Phillip M. Drayer Department of Electrical Engineering.

Lawson, who is chairman, president and chief executive officer of eCardio Diagnostics, received LU's honorary doctorate in December 2012. Founded in 2004, eCardio is the leading arrhythmia-monitoring company in America, providing flexible, fast and accurate diagnoses to physicians and patients worldwide, specializing in atrial fibrillation detection and analysis.

The \$1 million deferred gift that is part of Lawson's estate plan will one day support the intersection of electrical engineering and biomedical research at Lamar University in the creation of devices that enhance care, improve monitoring, and provide better diagnostics and insight into human health.

"The department will receive these monies to support pioneering research in biomedical devices, especially where we see electronic devices enhancing health care," said Harley Myler, William B. and Mary G. Mitchell Endowed Chair in Telecommunications and chair of the department.

"Devices are becoming cheaper and more effective through better engineering, and that trend will continue," Myler said. "When you look at what eCardio does and what we're already doing on campus, this is a very good fit."

Research by LU's electrical engineering faculty is exploring ways to improve health care technology. Assistant professor Gleb Tchesslavski (pronounced chez-lav-ski) earned his Ph.D.

from Virginia Tech and joined Lamar's faculty in 2007. His research interests include biomedical signal and image processing, and he is actively advising graduate students in research projects related to electroencephalograms or EEGs.

"Through this gift, we will be able to support continuing research into these exciting areas," Myler said.

After attending Lamar in the 1960s and switching careers from music to health care 42 years ago, Lawson founded eCardio Diagnostics. Today, the company has been ranked as one of the 50 fastest-growing technology companies in the Houston-Gulf Coast area and in the INC. 500/5000 as one of the Top 500 fastest-growing companies in America from 2009 through 2012. Ernst & Young honored Lawson as its Health Science Entrepreneur of the Year in 2009.

Lawson divides his time between Jonestown, near Austin, and Houston, the corporate headquarters of eCardio Diagnostics. He is active nationally in the American Heart Association, American College of Cardiology and Heart Rhythm Society.

Attending Lamar from 1963 through 1967, he was elected cheerleader, played trumpet with jazz and marching bands and performed throughout Southeast Texas. He grew up in Bridge City, where he learned to play piano at age 5, wrote music and copyrighted his first songs at 13, met Johnny and Edgar Winter and performed with them through high school. He extended his repertoire to clarinet and trumpet, playing lead trumpet in the Bridge City High School Band when he was recruited to Lamar.

By his junior year at LU,

GLEB TCHESLAVSKI

Studying the body as an electrical machine

"The human body is actually an electrical machine and our brain acts like a computer, sending electrical pulses to our limbs and organs," Tchesslavski said. "We study the human body and human brain from an electrical perspective—that is what electroencephalography is. The study of electrical activity of the human brain is a perfect topic (for an electrical engineer) because we are talking about electrical signals and how to process them."

"The state of our bodies, state of our mind, if you wish, will be reflected in the brain's electrical activity," Tchesslavski said. "If you feel tired, sleepy or catch the flu for instance, that may show up in electrical activity. So, if we study electrical activity, hopefully, we may see what happens to that person whether he experiences specific emotions, or is affected by disorders, for instance."

Tchesslavski is interested in EEG-based diagnostics, the comparison of an individual EEG against EEGs from a group known to have a specific condition. Tchesslavski is at work on a paper demonstrating "that it is possible to detect alcohol dependence using an EEG where accuracy is particularly high, above 98 percent."

"I am not a physiologist," he said. "I cannot state why patterns are changed and what kind of inceptors are affected. I am just comparing two groups of signals, saying, 'Ah, here is a difference.'" Tchesslavski sees EEG-based diagnostics as a valuable preliminary diagnostic tool, potentially freeing time on significantly more costly diagnostic equipment, like MRIs.

Another major area of research internationally is referred to as brain computer interface or BCI, where intercepted signals are interpreted and sent to an external device, like a robotic arm or other application. "This is what brings a lot of students to the field because they look at BCI and that sounds so cool," Tchesslavski said.

"They discover very quickly that the problem is really, really, really complicated," he said. "But it is a perfect fit for electrical engineers because this is



Lawson was so active on the music scene that he decided to devote all his time to his bands and their success. That led to a career in music, including The Clique—which opened for most of the top bands of the era and was honored in 2008 with induction into the Museum of the Gulf Coast’s Music Hall of Fame. The Clique sold more than 5 million records.

Lawson began his health care career with Johnson & Johnson, excelling at every sales, sales management and marketing level with J&J and other companies. In 1980, he founded Mesco Inc., an international sales and marketing firm specializing in sales for American and European medical manufacturers, developing markets throughout Latin America, Europe and Mid-

East countries. In 1983, he founded LifeMed Technologies Inc., building the business to more than \$7 million annually in less than six years. Changing his focus to cardiac arrhythmia monitoring services in 2000, Lawson founded Diagnostic Monitoring Associates.

an engineering problem to find some specific patterns, signals and extract those patterns.”

One of his undergraduate researchers, Bryan Deagle, was awarded first place in the IEEE Region 5 Student Paper Competition for his paper, “An Overview of Ocular Artifact Removal in Electroencephalograms.” Deagle graduated in May 2013 with degrees in mathematics and electrical engineering and is now employed by National Instruments in Austin.

Tcheslavski also supervised William Ware, a 2012 graduate and Plummer Award winner. Ware was an IEEE Eastern Area Student Paper Competition winner with his paper, “A Primer for Digital Signal Processing Techniques in Brain Computer Interface Applications,” and is now a doctoral student in electrical engineering at Purdue.

In the graduate program, Tcheslavski is supervising Logan Porter, who is studying for his doctorate, in a project that is investigating the use of optical sensors to estimate blood pressure. Previous research has shown an estimation of blood pressure using Electrocardiography (ECG) and Photoplethysmogram (PPG) sensors, and Porter believes that it may be possible to use two optical sensors instead of an ECG, therefore making a device that is less cumbersome.



GALLASPY



by Cheryl Rose

Stealth painting

Optical illusion murals hide utility eyesores

The lonely desert mountains of the Book Cliffs in Utah are one of the true wilderness places left in America. Bison, bighorn sheep and mountain lions inhabit the gorgeously spare landscape. This land is far from any cell phone coverage or residential neighborhood, but not from the presence of man—not when fossil fuels are needed.



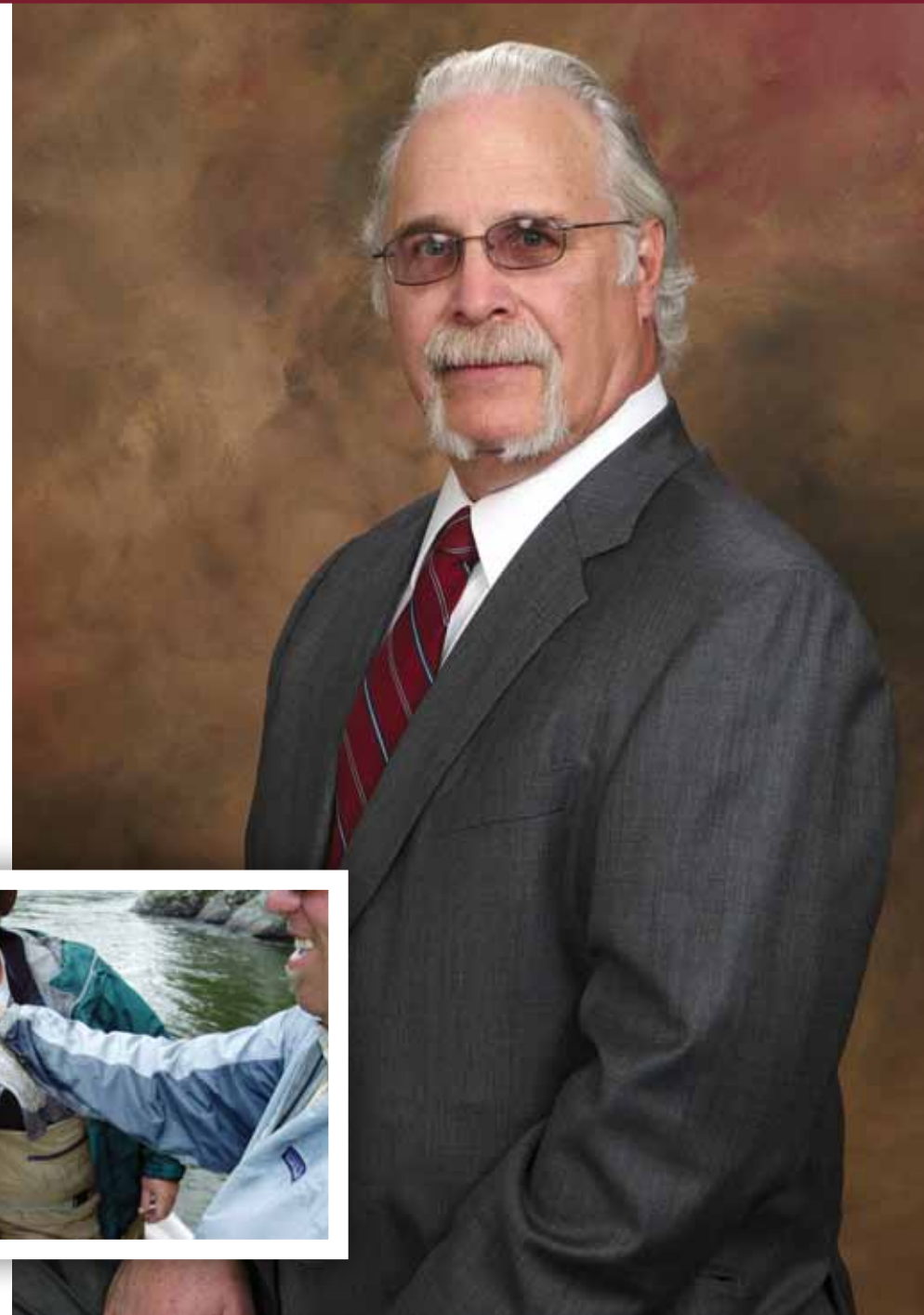
W

hen Pioneer Natural Resources installed a compressor station with five sheds, miscellaneous piping and a tank battery on state trust land near the Book Cliffs, they hired a company founded by an LU alumnus to paint the buildings in a newly invented, creative style that makes them fade into the natural scenery. This form of “stealth painting” was the brainchild of John Edward “J.C.” Corrent ’72.

Corrent, who lives outside Salt Lake City, loves the Rocky Mountains and spending time outdoors in nature. However, he’s also realistic about the country’s need for energy, having worked in the oil and gas industry for 28 years before retiring to open his own consulting business. One day when he was on a job in Colorado, he noticed a new energy facility close to a residential area.

“This once sleepy little community of ranchettes was now turned into roads, storage tanks and basically an oil boom,” he said. “Though the Bureau of Land Management does have some rules that are called ‘Visual Resource Management (VRM)’ regulations, they aren’t very artistic. You can paint it green, tan, brown or some shade of these basic colors. The problem is that if you paint a storage tank or building a solid color—I don’t care what color—it’s still going to stand out like a sore thumb. Nothing in nature has right angles; nature is chaos. Every time I would look at this I would think, ‘There has to be a better way.’”

Corrent linked up with fellow Utah resident J. Chad Davis, a muralist and



scenic artist with a long résumé of theater, TV and movie-set experience. Using computer simulations, they discovered they could design an effect on industrial pieces to make them fade into the background. Corrent calls his company Structural Illusions. In 10 days in 2007, Corrent, Davis and one additional helper transformed 31,000 square feet of surface area on the Pioneer Natural Resources station.

With each new project, this technology becomes a more integral component of property security and eco-preservation.

Although the before vs. after appearance is remarkable, not everyone is sold on the concept. Corrent said the energy industry has been reluctant to set a precedent that could become a requirement, and environmentalists have taken him to task as well.

BEFORE



AFTER



“I’ve had people with environmental groups take issue with me because they say this concept takes away one of their arguments for not putting in the equipment in the first place,” Corrent said. “The reality is that development of these resources is going to continue. Being able to improve or reduce the visual impact of facilities is going to be a major consideration in coming years. Energy companies are moving into areas that are environmentally sensitive and have scenic qualities. If you can blend this equipment into those backgrounds, it’s going to go a long way to allowing us to develop areas we wouldn’t be able to get into otherwise.”

underwater vehicles), bouncing around the world to remote locations in places such as Venezuela, Surinam and the North Sea. He was in the industry just as the offshore market was coming alive and robotic technology was becoming available. “All this equipment you see on TV with James Cameron and National Geographic with the sophisticated robots—back then it was just coming out. It was all new,” he remembered.

He traded the peripatetic lifestyle for a steady career with Questar Pipeline Co. in Utah,

“You have to have the right artist to do the work, and they are not easy to come by.”

Corrent is currently negotiating a job in Colorado that would stealth paint 21 storage tanks that are within view of the town’s high school. At this time, he has no competitors. “We are the only people who have proposed this idea,” he said. “You have to have the right artist to do the work, and they are not easy to come by.”

Corrent views his business as a service to keep cherished lands enjoyable, while recognizing the future realities of energy exploration. He began his career searching for oil in another harsh climate—undersea. It’s ironic that this landlocked Utah resident came all the way from New Jersey to attend Lamar to graduate with a degree in oceanographic technology.

Corrent’s degree got him started on eight years of offshore work. He worked with manned submersibles and ROVs (remotely operated

working for 20 years as an engineer and project manager. He accepted an early retirement offer and opened his own consulting business, Bronte Consulting, named after his grandfather’s hometown in Italy.

Corrent met his wife of 36 years, Pam (Taylor), in the Lamar library. Their son, Colin, has a doctorate in biochemistry and works in oncology research in Seattle, Wash. Their daughter, Megan, works for a consulting firm in Salt Lake City and is expecting the Corrents’ first grandchild this spring.

For leisure, Corrent loves fishing and skiing. “I never spent much time indoors,” he said. “I enjoy the Rocky Mountains. I’ve had offers to move to Houston or elsewhere, but I’m not going to leave the Rockies ever.”



Culture shared

Lamar's diversity ranks high as do graduation rates

With more than 14,000 students enrolled, Lamar University is committed to preparing students to thrive in a culturally diverse and global society. It is one of the most ethnically and economically diverse universities in the country, according to *U.S. News and World Report*.

Vernice Monroe, LU liaison for multicultural enhancement, said the concept of diversity encompasses the presence and participation of individuals who differ by race, ethnicity, color, national origin, age, gender, religion, disability status, socio-economic status, and other cultural affiliations.

"The terms diversity and multicultural are used interchangeably, both implying efforts to remove barriers which prevent cultural inclusion," said Monroe. "In order to move to a culturally inclusive campus, there is the need to examine the challenges experienced by those who represent diverse populations. For many years, Lamar has been acknowledged, nationally, as a diverse school."

The most recent recognition was bestowed in July 2013 at the "Every Student Can" Developmental Education Course Redesign Summit in Austin. Lamar was recognized for excellence in the field of minority education innovation by the P-20 Initiatives for African American Student Success.

"I think recognitions like this present Lamar in a very positive light to those outside the campus," said Oney Fitzpatrick, associate provost for student retention. "For those who may be looking at an institution of higher education to further their studies and want to be a part of a diverse community, Lamar certainly fits the bill."

According to the Lamar University Office of Institutional Research and Reporting, in the last four years, black ethnicity has increased by 5.5 percent, the Hispanic population by 35.6 percent and Asian enrollment by 2.3 percent.



PHOTO: T. GAYLOR

In fall 2013, the most recent data available, 51 percent of the students enrolled were white, 26 percent African American, 12 percent Hispanic, three percent Asian and eight percent other, which includes American Indian, Alaska Native, multiracial and unknown.

"These numbers certainly confirm facts we are very proud of at Lamar University," said Kevin Smith, senior associate provost. "We are a very diverse campus and our far-reaching distance learning programs reflect that diversity as well."

Last year, Lamar was ranked No. 1 in the nation for graduating Hispanic master's degree students in education for the second consecutive year by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*, the leading national education magazine devoted to issues concerning minorities in higher education.

The magazine also ranked Lamar among the Top 10 universities nationwide in six additional categories, including fifth for total number of minority graduate students in education, fifth for the most Asian-American master's graduates in physical sciences and sixth in the nation for the most Asian-American master's graduates in communication disorders. The annual rankings also recognized Lamar as the seventh-highest institution for graduating the most African-American master's degree students in education, ninth for Hispanic master's graduates in all disciplines and ninth nationwide for Native American graduate students in education.

In spring 2013, Lamar awarded 142 bachelor's degrees and 139 master's degrees to African-American students. LU is one of the top universities in Texas for the percentage of degrees conferred to African-Americans.

"Students told me that they were thankful for the kind of diversity we have on campus," Fitzpatrick said. "This makes the learning environment and educational experience better for all involved as each of us share a bit of our world."

Lamar offers various programs to increase retention rates and cultural diversity. One such program is the African-American Male Program (AAMP) that provides professional networking, mentoring, goal setting and leadership skills to male African Americans enrolled at Lamar University.

"This mentoring program is intended to expose students to other more mature men who could impart wisdom and be life coaches," said Lamar alumnus Vernon Durden, who has been an active mentor in the program. "Over the years, it has evolved to include men who have achieved success in various fields and who have demonstrated the discipline to excel. These men are also able to mentor after graduation."

In her position as liaison for multicultural enhancement for Lamar University, Monroe is proud to affirm the university's progress toward adherence to one of its most important core values; a commitment to diversity in ideas, people, and access. —JA



PHOTO: T. GAYLOR

Somebody to lean on

Freshmen and sophomore students find more than just class-scheduling help at the new Undergraduate Advising Center

by Cathleen Cole

She's a freshman, a first-generation college student and this is her first time away from home. To her, the university is a big, intimidating place. She's overwhelmed trying to navigate the system to find the right classes, the best choice of major and where to get information on academic resources and extra-curricular activities. She needs help. She needs a friendly face. She needs somebody who cares about her successful academic future and has the know-how to help her achieve it. Luckily for her and all the freshmen and sophomore students at Lamar University, there's the new Undergraduate Advising Center.

Not alone

For Destiny Jackson, a freshman from Houston majoring in psychology, it was a relief to talk with an adviser who took the time to help with more than just scheduling classes. "I was getting personal attention," she said of her adviser, Jenna Powell. "It's a caring relationship."

Powell updates Jackson regularly with important information regarding her degree plan and suggestions for other activities including membership in the Psychology Association of

Lamar Students. "She keeps me in the loop," Jackson said.

Jackson's goal is to become a high school counselor. "I told her I would strive one day to be like her with my students," Jackson said about Powell.

The adviser knows how daunting a university can seem to young students and is there to help. "We really want to set them up for success," Powell said. "We really care about their future."

Some students get homesick, so steering them toward campus organizations and activities is important. "I want them to get involved," Powell said. "I want them to feel like this is their second home."

The university has an official mentoring program, and Powell encourages students to take advantage of all the resources Lamar has to offer. But she wants them to know that they can seek guidance from her as well. "I'm their mentor too," she said. "My door is always open." Her message to students: "You're not alone."

Enhancing students' success

The Undergraduate Advising Center opened in January in the Parker Building under the direction of Daniel Bartlett. There are 25



full-time advisers who specialize in specific majors, and they know and understand the degree plans of the departments with which they work. Freshman and sophomore students can make an appointment or just walk in to get individualized attention.

Helping students register for classes is a big component of the advising center, Bartlett confirmed, but tracking and following up with students is also a large part of the job. Advisers

“It’s enhancing students’ success. We facilitate getting students involved in other activities for a total university experience. It’s giving them a good connection with Lamar.”

keep an eye on students’ progress and get them to other resources they might need. “It’s enhancing the level of involvement,” he said. “It’s enhancing students’ success. We facilitate getting students involved in other activities for a total university experience. It’s giving them a good connection with Lamar.”

Lamar has a lot of first-generation college students, Bartlett noted. “This is a big transition,” he said. “They still need help making that transition. Advisers help students learn how to navigate.”

Relationship building

Jordan Walker, a freshman from Beaumont majoring in pre-nursing, transferred to Lamar from another Texas university. “I felt much

more comfortable,” Walker said of her Lamar advising experience as opposed to her encounters with her previous university’s advisers. “She sat down and picked out my schedule,” Walker said about her adviser, Dawn Short. “I had no idea how to do any of that.”

Short also told Walker about taking a placement exam for college algebra that, if she scored well enough, would let her skip taking a college-readiness math course. She took the exam and passed. “I had no idea,” Walker said. “Her advising saved me time and money.”

It’s all about relationship building, Short believes. “We’re striving to make relationships with students,” she said.

Recently, a student came to Short and wanted to drop a class. The adviser directed the

young woman to a tutoring resource, recommending that she try that first. “She felt so alone,” Short remembered. “She doesn’t have to do this on her own. She has all this support.”

There’s a strategy behind the center. “It’s knowing the students on a more individual basis,” Short stressed, “and connecting them with those resources that will help them be successful.”

The strategy is working, according to Josie Leblanc, a freshman from Iowa, La., majoring in pre-nursing who has Short as an adviser. “She keeps me encouraged, and I really appreciate it,” Leblanc said. “She’s not like any adviser I’ve ever had.”



Tyler Doiron finds springboard to LU through TALH program

When Tyler Doiron enrolled at Lamar University through the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities (TALH) program, she knew it would be a unique experience.

TALH is one of only two residential programs in Texas that gives high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to start college early and earn 60 or more hours of college credit.

“This program was very enriching,” Doiron said. “I would definitely recommend it to students who are looking for a fulfilling experience.”

The Vidor native moved to Buna, Texas, at age 10 and completed her freshman, sophomore and the first half of her junior year at Buna High School before coming to Lamar University. “I first heard about TALH when one of my friends told me she wanted to go,” Doiron said. “I thought it was a great opportunity so I submitted my application and the TALH director told me I could go ahead and get in one semester sooner.”

“My parents supported me because they realized it’d be good for me,” she said. “I was taking my required courses through a college

class instead of a high school class, but it taught me how to take more responsibility.”

Now Doiron is a full-time college student at Lamar, with a double major in electrical engineering and mathematics. “I chose to stay at Lamar University for so many reasons,” she said. “Lamar is just a wonderful school. The teachers and programs are great, especially within the College of Engineering. And the classes are smaller. You often have multiple courses with the same people for several semesters. This creates a close-knit group of acquaintances and friends.”

Doiron said that she is grateful to have been selected as a Mirabeau Presidential Scholar, but that the financial assistance did not influence her decision to attend Lamar. “I knew I wanted to complete my education here,” she said.

Doiron is involved on campus as a tutor for the LU Student Advising and Retention Services (STARS). She mainly tutors mathematics, physics and chemistry. She said that she has learned a lot about the different ways students learn and how she can use her learning style to succeed.

Additionally, Doiron plans to get involved next semester in research into Brain Computer Interface with the electrical engineering department.

“It would be a great opportunity to get serious about this research,” she said. “It has many real-world applications. And since it is at its beginning stages, it would be awesome to have the chance to make groundbreaking discoveries in that area of research.”

Doiron dedicates a lot of her time to volunteering for nonprofit organizations such as the Humane Society of Southeast Texas and Stable Spirit, which provides equine-assisted therapy in Rose City. She began volunteering with those organizations through TALH, where she also did volunteer work at an elementary school to teach English as a Second Language (ESL).

“Looking back, I wouldn’t have changed anything,” she said. “TALH is not only about college classes; it is about getting involved and learning to successfully interact with people that are different than you in so many ways.”

Doiron met people from all over the world with contrasting beliefs and views. “TALH’s slogan was right; it truly developed my heart and mind,” she said.

Doiron graduated from TALH in May and anticipates graduating from Lamar in May 2016. “Hopefully, it will take me three years to get my college degree,” she said.

She said the best advice she ever received was, “Enjoy life. Enjoy what you do. Life should be fun. This encompasses your job, your hobbies, your studies, how you spend your free-time and who you spend it with. But also do what you feel is important.”

Her dream job would be to work for the space program, with either NASA or Boeing. She would love to travel into space. Doiron said she is interested in learning more about opportunities at Lamar to participate in research and experiments related to space, including possibly flying in a reduced-gravity aircraft.

But for now, Doiron seems to be following her friend’s advice and enjoying her life at Lamar. “My plans for the future are up for grabs,” she said. “I’m going anywhere life takes me.”—JA





SGA president embraces LU as second chance

GALLASPY

▶ When Charity Ogbeide enrolled at Lamar University, he knew that college was a second chance and an opportunity for him to reinvent himself.

“In high school, I wasn’t involved in any of the organizations,” Ogbeide said. “I always tell people the only thing I was ever part of was winning class clown my senior year. So coming to college, I wanted to take advantage of everything.”

Elected as Lamar University Student Government Association president for 2013-2014, the Missouri City native decided to seize every opportunity he found to be involved. He is a member of LUTV, a member of Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity, has been on the executive board for the African Student Association, a member of the Professional Communication Association and has been elected Homecoming Lord.

“Being part of ASA definitely helped me stay connected to my African heritage,” Ogbeide said. “Both of my parents were born in Nigeria and came to America in the 1970s. They pushed me to strive for excellence and made it clear that failure wasn’t an option.”

A corporate communication major, Ogbeide said that his communication classes played a monumental role in his college education, teaching him concepts of professionalism. He said that his public speaking classes

taught him that perception is reality and how to incorporate this knowledge into his dream of becoming a lawyer.

With the mentoring of his communication professors, Ogbeide said that he has gained the confidence and knowledge to be a successful advocate in representing others, a necessary ingredient that will aid him in his goal of attending law school. “After I graduate law school, I want to work in the field of human rights, serving others who are poverty stricken and lack education,” he said.

Through LU’s Student Support Services, Ogbeide discovered an internship opportunity last summer at Suffolk University Law School in Boston. After being one of 20 students chosen nationwide, Ogbeide completed the internship and became a pre-law undergraduate scholar through the Law School Admission Council.

“I had the privilege to participate in an internship that taught me what it takes to become a law student and a lawyer,” he said. “We studied various forms of law and went to different courthouses to watch actual court cases.”

This summer, Ogbeide took the opportunity to participate in an internship at Agape Development Ministries, the mission of which is to bring transformation to Houston’s Third Ward through economic, emotional and spiritual empowerment. “We worked with under-

privileged teenagers, teaching them professionalism and how to become closer to God.”

Harnessing his love for serving, Ogbeide was recently accepted to be a Child Ambassador for World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization designed to tackle the causes of poverty and injustice. “Currently, I sponsor a child in Ethiopia, and now I have the opportunity to go into training to help people sponsor more children,” he said.

Ogbeide wants to utilize this passion and employ it as SGA president. “Our plan is to get the students involved,” he said. “I hope to create more events that bring students together that normally wouldn’t get to know one another, uniting the campus as a whole.”

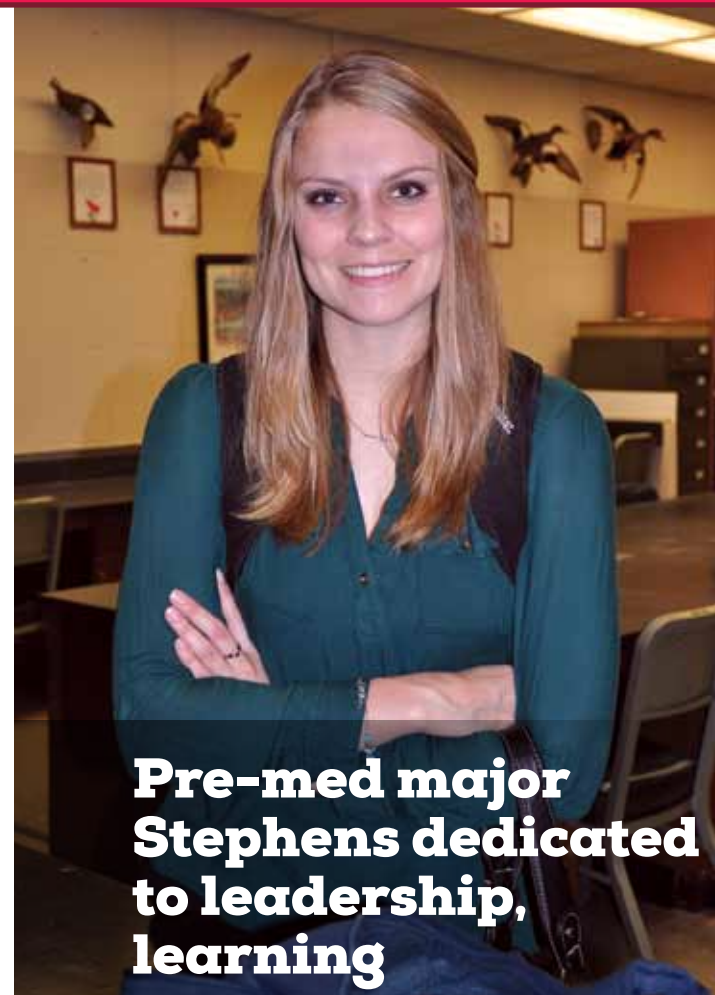
Serving as elected secretary/treasurer last year proved to be a stepping stone for Ogbeide, who believes his experiences and motives make him a good fit for president. “Being SGA president, you learn a lot about yourself, others, leadership, success, failure and life,” he said. “I want people to know that SGA doors are always open for everyone. I want us to grow together as Cardinals.”

Ogbeide almost missed the extraordinary opportunities Lamar has to offer.

“Originally, the day of Lamar orientation I planned on going to another college orientation, but at the last second I decided to see what Lamar had to offer,” he said. “Now, I think that must have been God. I came to Lamar and fell in love with the campus and the vast array of student organizations. Choosing Lamar has been one decision that I have never regretted.”

With the financial assistance of the Charles and Susan Gordon and Julia Gordon Gray Memorial Scholarship, Ogbeide feels as if his decision to attend Lamar has been blessed. Through his participation in organizations such as Release, Baptist Student Ministry, and being a Young Life leader, Ogbeide said that he has grown not only mentally but also spiritually.

Attending Lamar has provided Ogbeide invaluable experiences and helped him flourish as an individual. “In high school, I only thought about now, today,” he said. “Being at Lamar has helped me think about tomorrow, how I can improve and help others improve. Being at Lamar has changed my life.”—KT



Pre-med major Stephens dedicated to leadership, learning

GALLASPY

▶ Small classes and the chance to develop strong relationships with professors first attracted Patty Stephens to Lamar University. Since enrolling, she has taken advantage of multiple opportunities that reinforced her choice.

“It’s the best decision I’ve made. I’ve established myself at the university by being involved; my academics are good; and I’ve made great friends,” said the biology/pre-med major.

Going to college was not always an obvious choice for Stephens. Born in Prague, Czech Republic, she moved to the Netherlands as a young child and then spent several years in Aruba, a Dutch island in the Caribbean Sea. At 16, she and her family relocated to Port Neches, where she finished high school.

“High expectations are not really set in Aruba. Most people don’t even go to college. I wasn’t exactly sure it was feasible for me,” she said. “When I came to Lamar University, I started seeing that I actually really enjoyed school and learning. Medical school seemed very appealing to me. I always enjoyed helping people.”

Stephens started college as a psychology major then changed to nursing. After becoming a pre-med/biology

major, she found even more ways to get involved on campus. She joined the Lamar chapter of the American Medical Students Association and starts her second year as the organization’s president this fall. Stephens and a few of her fellow members have even attended national AMSA conferences for the past two years.

“I absolutely love it,” Stephens said. “We’re making it grow, and all the members are so dedicated. I’ve learned what it means to be a leader.”

Both Stephens and the organization were honored this spring at Lamar’s 2013 Toast to Leadership Banquet. Stephens won the Ann Shaw Leadership Award, which recognizes a student who makes significant contributions to Lamar, fosters teamwork and excellent leadership, and exhibits exemplary personal ethics and integrity. The Lamar AMSA chapter was named the university’s most-improved student organization.

Through AMSA and other campus organizations, such as Lamar Ambassadors, Stephens has enjoyed volunteering in Southeast Texas in a variety of ways, from events for the Julie Rogers “Gift of Life” Program to beach cleanups. She especially loved volunteering in the nursery at Baptist Hospital for two years, but her schedule no longer permits it. Along with classes and campus involvement, she now balances a part-time job in a psychologist’s office as well. Previously, she worked on campus as a supplemental instructor for STARS (Student Advising and Retention Services), working with chemistry and anatomy and physiology classes, and then as a student director in the Office of Civic Engagement. She also

served as a peer advisor working with incoming students and their parents.

Now well on her way to achieving her goal of becoming a doctor, Stephens acknowledges that her transition a few years ago to a new school in a new country was a little tricky.

“Most people say when they go abroad, it’s a culture shock. For me, it was moving to Texas,” she said. “It wasn’t until I started college where I began standing on my own two feet that I started to feel comfortable calling this place my home. Lamar University did that for me.”

An international upbringing has its advantages, though. Stephens speaks five languages—Czech, Dutch, Papiamentu (a language of Aruba and other nearby islands), Spanish and English, which she did not start learning until age 12.

“I think learning all these other languages when you’re younger helps when you’re older with absorbing new information and knowledge,” she said.

Stephens continues to remain open to the new information and new opportunities she finds at Lamar. Last summer, she participated in a study abroad program in Belize offered through the biology department. She also makes use of the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center regularly, having participated in indoor intramural soccer and climbing the rock wall frequently.

“It’s amazing how you can improve so fast at it as long as you keep doing it. That’s really true with anything.”

She still has a few more semesters before graduation, but Stephens already reached one important milestone during her tenure at Lamar. She became a naturalized U.S. citizen, as did her mother and sister. Two of Stephens’ three sisters (two were born U.S. citizens) also are Lamar students. Although they have different majors and are involved in different activities on campus, it is nice to run into each other on campus sometimes, she said. For all of them, the experience at Lamar has been good.

“Lamar has opened my eyes to everything, especially to volunteering and being involved,” she said. “It’s built my character and personality. I’ve become a leader at Lamar and will take that with me wherever I go.”—BG



Nursing major pursues passion for learning, helping others

PORTER

“Even though I didn’t know a lot, she felt comfortable with me being there, like everything was going to be okay. I want to pass that on to my patients,” Pospisil said. “It’s such a good feeling knowing that you made a small difference.”

“The patients are your focus. When I’m in clinicals or volunteering and I walk next to the nurses, they know all of the patients’ stories and want to carry on conversations with them,” she said. “You really get to know not just the patients but their families as well. It’s just amazing.”

Pospisil’s experiences at clinicals, during which nursing students get hands-on experience by shadowing nurses at hospitals, will always be her favorite part of the Lamar nursing program. She also enjoys using Lamar’s state-of-the-art simulation labs, which are set up as functioning hospital rooms and feature lifelike mannequins that can talk and display vital signs. Her favorite class is pharmacology, and the professors in the JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing make learning truly enjoyable. “It seems like all the teachers and instructors here are really there to help you,” she said. Although she likes all of the Lamar nursing faculty, Pospisil’s favorite instructor is Gina Hale.

“Mrs. Hale is very energetic when she teaches,” Pospisil said. “She’s like a little cheerleader cheering you on, and I love that because I want to have that same passion.”

Pospisil has received several scholarships from Lamar, including the Mary Frances Dishman Sherlock Endowed Nursing Scholarship and the Tom F. and Ann D. Jones Honors Scholarship. Outside of school, Pospisil enjoys reading, gardening, running, and climbing the rock wall at the recreational center. She has also participated in many volunteer activities while attending Lamar, such as working with the Adopt-A-Beach Program and Triangle AIDS Network. She volunteers regularly at Baptist Hospital in Beaumont and teaches Vacation Bible School as well. For Pospisil, it all comes down to a constant willingness to learn.

“As a nurse, you are responsible for continuing to learn,” Pospisil said. “You will never stop learning in the nursing field. There will always be new research, and that’s amazing.”—MP

communicate, and work well with others,” Pospisil said. “It has also helped me to develop more of a professional identity for myself.”

Pospisil is the president of the May 2014 graduating class of students receiving a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and she is a member of the Lamar University Texas Student Nursing Association (LUTSNA), which she served as secretary in her junior year. These positions have helped her to realize and prepare for her goal of becoming a nurse practitioner. Beforehand, however, Pospisil hopes to gain experience by working in a hospital on a general surgical floor or a cardiac floor.

“I love the heart—the structure, not necessarily the emotional side of it. But I love it,” Pospisil said.

Pospisil has known for quite some time that she wanted to be a nurse. It started in health class in her sophomore year of high school when she saw a motivational poster advocating the nursing profession on the wall.

Her biggest motivator, however, has been her family. Pospisil first considered entering the medical field when her twin brother, Martin, had surgery for sports injuries. She wanted to help him, but she had no experience. When her grandmother later became very sick and was admitted to the hospital, Pospisil realized that she felt very strongly about starting a career in medicine.

Even while working in the Grand Canyon with the Partners in the Parks Program earlier this year, Jessica Pospisil of Manvel, La. couldn’t forget her nursing roots.

“I loved it, but I still went back to thinking about nursing,” Pospisil said. “When you’re in the Grand Canyon in summertime, you’re on limited water, and you need to put on sunscreen and navigate hiking climbs and trails carefully.”

Pospisil first learned about the Partners in the Parks Program when a representative came to discuss the experiential learning opportunity with the National Parks Service during a Lamar Honors Program meeting. During her time with the Partners in the Parks Program, which is sponsored by the National Collegiate Honors Council, Pospisil researched the local fauna and flora, participated in a beautification program of Grand Canyon National Park and visited a local Native American reservation.

Partners in the Parks is just one of the many rewarding programs and organizations that Pospisil, a nursing major, has been involved with. In her time at Lamar, Pospisil has participated in many student events and organizations. Pospisil is an LU Ambassador and a member of the Lamar Honors Program, which she served as president in her junior year.

“My involvement with organizations has helped me learn how to deal with people,

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.**

50s

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

60s

Don Moseley ’61, B.S. mechanical engineering, completed the City of Santa Fe Triathlon. His wife, Mary Jane, and son Hayden also participated in the activities.

Pike Powers ’62, B.A. government, earned a law degree from the University of Texas. In June 2013, the Pike Powers Laboratory and Center for Commercialization opened in Austin, named in honor of Powers’ economic development efforts during the past four decades. He lives in Austin.

Larry Badgett ’63, B.S. mathematics, ’64, B.S. electrical engineering, retired and lives in Huntington Beach, Calif.

Rod Barry ’63, B.B.A. economics, retired and lives in Houston with his wife, Kathy.

Joe Chenella ’63, B.S. secondary education, and his wife, **Nancy** ’70, B.S. graphic design, ’76, M.Ed. counseling and development, both retired from the Bridge City school district. They live in College Station.

Barbara (Watson) D’Angelo ’63, B.S. elementary education, earned a master’s degree in educational media and technology from East Texas State University. She is retired and lives in Highland Village.

Kay (Clark) Havard ’63, B.S. physical education, retired and lives in Houston with her husband, Ardis.

John Hunsucker ’63, B.S. mathematics, is president and chief executive officer for National Aquatic Safety Co. He earned a master’s degree in industrial engineering from Texas A&M and a master’s and doctoral degree in math from Louisiana State University. He lives in Dickinson.

William Jacobs ’63, B.S. speech, is retired from a career in communication that included being a radio announcer for KPNG in Port Neches and an instructor at Lamar University. He lives in Beaumont.

Tamara (Mount) Kaupp ’63, B.A. English, ’64, M.A. English, earned a master’s degree in education from University of Houston-Clear Lake and retired as a language skills professor from San Jacinto College. She lives in Friendswood with her husband, Henry.

David Keene ’63, B.S. electrical engineering, is a registered professional engineer and retired. He lives in Bonham.

Ken King ’63, B.S. history, earned a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Oklahoma. He is retired and lives in Flower Mound with his wife, Dorothy.

John McManus Jr. ’63, B.S. electrical engineering, retired and lives in Dallas with his wife, Brenda.

Herman Wilson Jr. ’63, B.B.A. accounting, is a certified public accountant and president of Services Inc. He lives in Houston with his wife, Bobbie.

Douglass Norvell ’64, B.S. history, went to Cuba after Hurricane Sandy to help Caritas Cubana and the Catholic News Service by chronicling their efforts working with the 20,000 people left homeless by the storm. He lives in Nauvoo, Ill., with his wife, Mary.

Wofford Plott ’64, B.S. physical education, earned a master’s degree in education from Texas State University-San Marcos as well as an administration certification from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. He retired after a 32-year career as a teacher and coach and lives in Friendswood.

Michael Grimes ’65, B.S. sociology, earned a master’s and doctoral degree from the University of Texas. He retired from a 40-year career as a member of the faculty of the Department of Sociology at Louisiana State University. He was awarded the rank of professor emeritus. He lives in Mandeville, La.

Bill Hodges ’65, B.S. biology, has been married to his wife, Colleen, for more than 48 years. They have four daughters and eight grandchildren and live in Colleyville.

Nancy (Salvaggio) Nicholas ’65, B.A. English, retired as an educator for Bishop Byrne High School in Port Arthur. She lives in Groves.

Mary Jane (Moss) Plott ’65, B.S. elementary education, retired from teaching in the Pasadena school district. She lives in Pearland.

Linda Cansler ’66, B.A. English, earned a law degree from the University of Texas and practices in Beaumont, where she lives.

Lawrence Farr ’66, B.S. electrical engineering, earned a master’s degree in business from the University of Detroit. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) awarded him the Elihu Thomson Electrotechnology Medal for his exceptional contributions to the field of electrotechnology standardization on a national and international level. He lives in Asheville, N.C.

Reggie Elner ’67, B.S. mechanical engineering, retired from Dupont and has done private consulting for Roger Milliken and Co. He has worked in Asia-Pacific, Europe and the Middle East. He is serving on the city council in Aiken, S.C., where he lives.

Samuel Low ’67, B.S. biology, earned a dental degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. He has been elected to the board of directors for Biolase, Inc. He is professor emeritus of the

Past Presidents’ Lunch

Past presidents of the Alumni Advisory Board gather for lunch to assess progress and look to the future.

Back Row: Jake Tortorice ’76, Gene Feigelson ’65, Bert Rogers ’56, Mike Aldredge ’65, Clayton Lau ’69, Bud Leonard ’50, ’53, ’76, President Ken Evans, Jimmy Booker ’55, Dan Hallmark ’65, Trent Devenzio ’90, Henry Strait ’74, Gilbert Adams ’64 **Front Row:** Bo Crawford ’65, ’73, Paula (Tate) O’Neal ’69, ’79, Laurie (House) Ritchel ’85, Ellen (Walker) Rienstra ’62, ’80, Frank Messina ’71

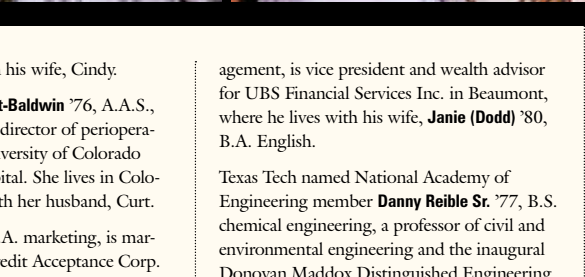


GOUTHER

Jazz Night

A full house of Mid-County, Port Arthur and Beaumont-area alumni enjoy good music and good food during the Alumni Jazz Night at Rao's Nederland.

1. Sue (Lynd) Groff '93, Becky Fussell '82, Rebekah Foster '97 2. Sina Nejad '80, '81, Shirley (Caballero) De La Cruz '89, '07, Pete De La Cruz '83, Soheila Nejad 3. Phyllis (Lacey) Baker '63, Gail (Ford) Castille '77, Van (Lacey) Green '64, '83 4. Ellen (Walker) Rienstra '62, '80, Carol Cuccio '10, Allen Rienstra '10 5. Mike Jenkins '72, Jo Beth Jenkins



Department of Periodontology at the University of Florida's College of Dentistry. He lives in Palm Coast, Fla.

Carolyn (Benford) Henderson '68, B.A. history, celebrated her 93rd birthday and lives in Katy.

Marvin Davenport '69, B.S. secondary education, teaches at LeTourneau University in Longview. He and his wife, Melanie, live in Diana.

Robert Fischer '69, B.A. sociology, served in the Navy for two years and had a 31-year career with the Texas Department of Health. He is retired and lives in Houston.

70s

Rose (Sedgwick) Ashabranner '70, B.A. sociology, retired as dean of admissions at Monsignor Kelly High School. She lives in Beaumont.

Daryl (Chris) Borel '70, B.S. mathematics, '83, M.Ed. supervision, '13, Ed.D. educational leadership, is executive director of grant administration for the Beaumont Foundation. She lives in Nome with her husband, Michael.

Mary Welborn '70, B.S. graphic design, is a fine art painter and lives in Burnet.

Michael Hoke '71, B.S. secondary education, '74, M.S. biology, retired as managing director of Shangri La Botanical Gardens. He lives in Orange.

Donna McInnis '71, B.S. elementary education, is care coordinator for Texas Health Resources.

She lives in Hico.

Larry Crocker '72, B.B.A. management, is president of Jefferson County Title Co. He lives in Lumberton with his wife, Dorothy.

John Simmons '73, B.B.A. accounting, is chief executive officer for Stewart and Stevenson LLC. He lives in Montgomery.

Dr. Martin Gordes III '74, B.S. biology, earned a doctoral degree in anatomy from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. He was the 2013 UTMB Distinguished Alumnus for the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and is professor and department chair at the New York Institute of Technology. He lives in Oyster Bay, N.Y.

Nick Harper '74, B.S. industrial engineering, was chair of the Dallas Veterans Day Parade and is president-elect for the White Rock Rotary Club in Dallas, where he lives.

Joe Prihoda '74, B.S. industrial engineering, and Debbie (Kea) '74, B.S. health and physical education, celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary in April. They have two daughters, Lynne (Prihoda) Jones '02, B.B.A. accounting, and Leslie (Prihoda) Wilde '04, B.M. music, '09, M.M.E. music education. Joe and Debbie live in Beaumont.

Woody Bishop '75, A.A.S. business data processing, is senior programmer and analyst for The Jupiter Group. He lives in Terrell with his wife, Sheila.

William Bryan Jr. '75, B.B.A. accounting, retired from Christus Health IT department

and lives in Spring with his wife, Cindy.

Susan (Heatley) Almquist-Baldwin '76, A.A.S., '83, B.S. psychology, is director of perioperative services for the University of Colorado Health-Memorial Hospital. She lives in Colorado Springs, Colo., with her husband, Curt.

Robert Lacy Jr. '76, B.B.A. marketing, is market area manager for Credit Acceptance Corp. He lives in Corpus Christi with his wife, Janet.

Rocky Martino '76, B.S. art education, has a watercolor and ink painting in the Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg of the U.S.S. Arizona hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor. It is signed by 103 Pearl Harbor survivors. He lives in Dickinson.

Rundy Patterson '76, B.S. biology, '93 B.S. nursing, earned a master's degree from the University of Texas and is owner and chief executive officer of Anesthesia Service Corp. in Oklahoma, where he lives with his wife, Kathy. Rundy was one of the original lettermen from Lamar's swimteam in the '70s.

Janeane Stephens '76, B.S. communication disorders, '78, M.S. speech-language pathology, is a speech pathologist for Krist Samaritan Center in Houston, where she lives.

Bob Callahan Jr. '77, B.S. electrical engineering, earned a master's degree from Southern Methodist University and a master's degree in business from Baylor University. He is director of quality technology for Hewlett Packard. He lives in Dallas with his wife, Mary Beth.

Chuck Heare '77, B.S. energy resources man-

agement, is vice president and wealth advisor for UBS Financial Services Inc. in Beaumont, where he lives with his wife, Janie (Dodd) '80, B.A. English.

Texas Tech named National Academy of Engineering member Danny Reible Sr. '77, B.S. chemical engineering, a professor of civil and environmental engineering and the inaugural Donovan Maddox Distinguished Engineering Chair. He lives in Austin.

Julie (May) Boyett '78, B.S. elementary education, retired after a 33-year teaching career. She lives in Vidor.

Thomas Henry '78, B.S. chemical engineering, is manager of finance and business systems for TOTAL Petrochemicals and Refining USA. He lives in Orange with his wife, Rebecca.

Brenda (Goats) Duhon '79, B.B.A. office administration, '85, M.Ed. educational leadership, '10, Ed.D. educational leadership, is assistant superintendent for the Port Neches-Groves school district, where she lives with her husband, Robert.

80s

Wanis El-Ruemi '80, B.S. geology, is a joint venture manager for Eni. He lives in Tripoli, Libya.

Viola (Bush) Jackson '80, B.S. industrial technology, '97, M.Ed. school administration, teaches in the Beaumont school district. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Rousseau.



Patricia (Swain) Hiller '82, B.B.A. management, earned master's and doctoral degrees from Texas State University as well as a master's in business from St. Edwards University. She received her doctoral degree in philosophy in 2013 at the age of 64. She is a certified business teacher for the Austin school district, where she lives.

Jim Leiferman '82, B.B.A. accounting, is president of the Orlando division of Orlando Mattamy Homes, where he lives.

Cathy (Broussard) Frioux '83, B.S. elementary education, retired from the Port Neches-Groves school district after a 25-year career in education. She and her husband, Ron, live in Bertram.

Kendall Garrison '83, B.B.A. finance, is senior vice president for Amplify Federal Credit Union in Austin, where he lives with his wife, Mariana.

Jo-Nathan Arrington '84, B.S. communication, retired from broadcasting at Fox4 News in Dallas and is facility manager at One Community Church in Plano, where he lives with his wife, Katrina. They have four adult children.

Annette Beard '84, B.S. criminal justice, is judicial services liaison for Smart Start Inc. She lives in Houston.

Sharlena (Goodyear) Duhon '84, B.S. kinesiology, is a teacher and coach in the Nederland school district. She lives in Orange with her husband, Todd '80, A.A.S. electricity.

Belinda (Blake) Perez '84, B.B.A. office administration, is municipal judge for Albany, where she lives with her husband, Xavier.

John Suttle '84, B.S. communication, earned a master's degree in journalism from Marshall University and is senior vice president of international business development for BAE Systems Inc.

Gayle Butaud '85, M.Ed. supervision, is a director/instructor for the field experience office in the College of Education and Human Development at Lamar University. She lives in Nederland.

Troy Fontenote '85, B.B.A. marketing, is sales director for the institutional retirement distribution team for Lincoln Financial Group's retirement plan services. He lives in Sugar Land.

Connie (Bennight) Lovelace '85, A.S. education, retired from the Little Cypress school district. She and her husband, Tolly, live in Woodville.

Lisa (Tramel) Asi '86, B.S. elementary education, teaches in the Houston school district, where she lives with her husband, Jafar '90, B.B.A. finance. He owns Enterprise Limousine Co.

Kelly (Comstock) Bigham '86, B.B.A. marketing is a court reporter for CSR Inc. in Beaumont. She lives in Port Neches.

CUNA Brokerage Services Inc. awarded Marioreen (Smith) Gibson '86, B.B.A. marketing, the 2013 Women of Distinction award. She is a financial advisor at Neches Federal Credit Union and has more than 24 years in the financial services industry. She lives in Beaumont.

Natalie (Lester) Hayes '86, B.S. mechanical engineering, retired from Dupont and lives in Westlake, La., with her husband, Michael '75, B.S. environmental science. He is a public relations and governmental affairs manager with Sasol North America.

Betty (Douglas) Lyles '86, B.S. music-piano, has been teaching for more than 20 years in the Houston school district, where she lives with her husband, Maurice. They have three children.

Beverly (Richard) Robinson '86, B.S. home economics, earned a master's degree in educational leadership from the American College of Education. She is assistant principal at West Orange-Stark Elementary and lives in Orange with her husband, Frederick.

Abby (Goldstein) Kumpel '87, B.S. theatre, is general manager of WYEP-FM radio. She lives in Pittsburgh, Penn., with her husband, Jason.

Robert Hobbs '87, B.S. criminal justice, earned a law degree from the South Texas College of Law and has been nominated to be the U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Texas. He currently serves as deputy chief of the criminal division and as the attorney in charge of the Beaumont and Lufkin divisions. He lives in Gilchrist.

Christy (Grady) Townsend '87, B.S.W. social work, is a substance abuse program leader for the Arkansas Department of Corrections. She lives in Little Rock.

Steve Huffman '88, M.Ed. school administration, retired from a career in education. He and his wife, Kerrie, live in Azle.

Jessica (Ford) Johnson is superintendent of the Dayton school district, where she lives. She received a master's degree from the University of Houston Clear Lake and her doctoral degree from Nova-Fort Lauderdale.

Don Pumphrey '88, B.S. communication, retired as customer service manager for the Port Arthur district of Entergy Texas Inc. He lives in Beaumont.

Michele (Yennie) Smith '88, B.B.A. accounting, was named executive vice president of the Texas Association of Defense Counsel for 2012-2013 and will serve as president for the 2014-2015 term. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Mitch.

Rockwall Climb The Alumni Office extended an invitation to alumni to pit their skills against the rock wall in the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center, and some rose to the challenge, scaling the 40-ft high wall.

1. Pam Cauthen, Tim Cauthen '92, Lindsey (Cauthen) Minter'07 2. Christine Zabala '13, Elisabeth Maxwell '13, Kayleigh Romero '13 3. Nancy (Landry) Dickey '82

Lisa (Davis) Baker '89, B.F.A. graphic design, is a legal aid and owner of the Law Offices of Phil Baker and Assoc. and Diamond L Ranch. She lives in Fayetteville.

Laurie (Salles) Hayes '89, B.S. elementary education, '91, M.Ed. elementary education, and her husband, **David** '88, A.A.S. computer electronics and robotics, A.A.S industrial electricity, B.S. industrial technology, have two daughters, Hilary and Alexandra, attending Lamar. They live in Silsbee.

Elizabeth (Damers) Lee '89, B.S.W. social work, '89, B.A. psychology, earned a master's degree in agency counseling from Southern Arkansas University. She is a social worker for the Medical Center of South Arkansas. She lives in Magnolia, Ark.

Rebecca Woodland '89, M.A. history, is convention sales agent at the Beaumont Convention and Visitors Bureau. She teaches group fitness and ballroom dance classes for the Wellness Center, as well as private ballroom lessons. She lives in Beaumont.

90s

DeMonica Gladney '90, A.A.S. law enforcement, '90, B.S. criminal justice, earned a law degree from the University of Houston. Alpha Kappa Alpha awarded her the 2013 Silver Star

for her 25 years of service—a membership that began with her initiation in 1988 while at Lamar. At the 2013 Top 50 Black Attorney Houston Awards Ceremony, she was named Super Attorney and the Who's Who in Black Houston honoree. She was also selected as one of Houston's favorite authors for her latest book, *Identity Theft: Discovering the Real You*. She lives in Pearland.

Mike Kunst '90, B.A. history, is city manager for Vidor, where he lives.

Mark Baird '91, B.S. political science, is regional marketing manager for Progressive Insurance. He lives in League City with his wife, Laurie.

Dr. Howard Lomax '91, B.S. psychology, is a dentist in Humble, where he lives.

Mary Roberts '91, A.S. law enforcement, '92, B.S. criminal justice, is a dispatcher for Houston Transtar-Safe Clear in Houston where she lives.

Andrew Saldana '91, B.S. biology, is a microbiologist for Harris Health in Houston, where he lives with his wife, Monique.

Gail (Barrington) Jones '92, B.M. music education, teaches in the Port Neches-Groves school district, where she lives with her husband, Brad.

Valerie (Wachtel) Kahlie '92, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, teaches in the Clear Creek school district, where she lives.

Mary (Aguilar) Lugo '93, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, has been teaching in the Port Arthur school district for more than 20 years. She lives in Port Arthur with her husband, Eduardo.

Jeff McKinnon '93, B.A. history and Spanish, '00, M.Ed. counseling and development, is student data manager for the Nederland school district, where he lives with his wife, Brooke.

Harry Schoppe '93, B.B.A. accounting, is a financial analyst for Jefferson County. He lives in Groves.

Byron Terrier '93, B.S. kinesiology, '03, M.Ed. school administration, '10, Ed.D. educational leadership, is superintendent of the Pilot Point school district. He lives in Houston.

Jon Williams '93, B.B.A. general business, is a financial advisor for Morgan Stanley Wealth Management. He and his wife, **Jill (Benoit)** '81, B.S. nursing, live in Nederland. She earned a master's degree in nursing from the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in Houston and is a surgical nurse at The Medical Center of Southeast Texas. Their daughter, Brittini '10, B.S. communication, lives in Baton Rouge.

LaVonne (Huston) Valcin '94, B.A.A.S. applied

arts and sciences, '00, M.Ed. elementary education, is assistant principal in the Spring Branch school district. She lives in Katy with her husband, Randy.

James Ware '94, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a reporter for KFDM/Fox 4 and lives in Port Neches with his wife, **Paisley (Welch)** '08, B.S. interdisciplinary studies.

Candis Zimmerman '94, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '99, M.Ed. counseling and development, is a chorister for the New Orleans Opera Association. She lives in Beaumont.

Stacy (Hernandez) Menard '95, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, '00, M.B.A. business administration, is director of company development for Rifco Ltd. in Vidor. She lives in Buna.

Mary (Tatum) Harrison '96, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches in the Spring school district. She lives in Porter with her husband, Jack.

Edith (Neff) Mendoza '96, A.A.S. nursing, earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. She is a real estate consultant for Keller Williams and lives in Keller with her husband, David.

Benny Soileau '96, B.S. criminal justice, '00, M.Ed. school administration, earned a doctoral

degree from Texas A&M University. He is superintendent of schools in the Huffman school district where he lives.

Charlotte Jungen '97, B.B.A. accounting, is a client service manager for Goodman Financial in Houston where she lives.

Jimmy Neale '97, B.B.A. general business, '98, B.B.A. management information systems, is recreation superintendent for the city of Beaumont and head basketball coach for Monsignor Kelly Catholic High School. He and his wife, Tiffany, have two children and live in Beaumont.

Joseph Pace '97, B.S. political science, '98, B.S. sociology, '04, M.P.A. public administration, is director of parks and recreation for the city of Copperas Cove. He lives in Belton with his wife, Lori.

Brian Savoy '97, B.B.A. accounting, is vice president, controller and chief financial officer for Duke Energy. He is a certified public accountant as well. He and his wife, Sabrina, live in Charlotte, N.C.

Tracy (Watford) Ludewig '98, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, earned a master's degree from Texas A&M University and lives in Livingston.

Terrie (Brown) Nagy '98, B.S. political science, earned a master's degree in public administra-

tion from the University of Phoenix. She lives in Alliance, Ohio.

Jason Brack '99, B.S. chemical engineering, is global technology manager for BASE He lives in Lumberton.

00s

Leslie Little '00, B.S. nursing, '04, M.S. nursing education, earned a post-master's family nurse practitioner certification from the University of Texas-Health Science Center in Houston. She is employee health director for Jefferson County and lives in Port Neches. Her daughter, Hayley Ann English, is a Lamar University student.

Jennifer Robinson '00, B.A. history, is a payroll specialist for Southwest Business Corp. and has two children. She lives in San Antonio.

Adrian Braun '01, B.B.A. management information systems, earned a master's degree in business and lives in Arlington, Va.

Gabe Crosby '01, B.A. history, '03, M.A. history, '08, M.Ed. supervision, is associate director of MBA admissions for Texas A&M. He lives in Houston.

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

and counseling from Prairie View A&M University. He is principal of South Park Middle School in the Beaumont school district, where he lives.

John Robichau Jr. '01, B.B.A. marketing, is manager of Robichau's Jewelry in Conroe, where he lives with his wife, Alysia.

Carmen (Soto) Segura '01, B.G.S. general studies, is a claims representative for the Social Security Administration. She lives in Saint Augustine, Fla.

Faran Bagley '02, A.A.S. nursing, '11, B.S. nursing, is a registered nurse in neonatal transport for Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston, where he lives with his wife, Jamie.

Lynne (Prihoda) Jones '02, B.B.A. accounting, is a certified public accountant at Lott Vernon CPA office in Copperas Cove. She and her husband, Josh, have identical twin sons.

Jerrilyn Miller '02, B.S. communication, was chosen by the Holocaust Museum in Houston to participate in a study abroad scholarship program which will take her to Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic. She teaches at the Memorial Ninth Grade campus in the Port Arthur school district. She lives in Bridge City.

Narayanan Ranganathan '02, M.S. computer

science, is a consulting manager for Emtec. He lives in San Mateo, Calif.

Angela (Farmer) Khalil '03, B.B.A. management, is account manager for HT Staffing. She lives in Silsbee.

Jennifer (Chaddrick) Lyman '03, B.S. communication disorders, '05, M.S. speech and language pathology, is a speech pathologist for the Mansfield school district, where she lives.

Matt May '03, B.B.A. management, is a store manager for Walgreens and lives in Houston.

Najam Mirza '03, M.E. civil engineering, is a structural engineer for Kinder Morgan in Houston, where he lives with his wife, Madiha.

Ethel (Means) Rogers '03, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a specialist IV for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. She lives in Spurger with her husband, Curtis.

Bobby Siler '03, B.S. nursing, earned a master's degree in nurse anesthesia from the Louisiana State University Health Science Center in New Orleans and is a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

Bobby Smith '03, B.B.A. accounting, is a certified public accountant and is accounting integration manager for M/A/R/C Inc. He lives in Dallas with his wife, Carolyn.

Deep Ellum Brewing Co. Alumni Tour

Dallas-area alumni interested in craft beer take the opportunity to tour a craft brewery and compare flavors during a beer tasting.

- 1. Nicholas Bonrepos, Mary (Villarreal) Bonrepos '79
- 2. Mike Sedtal '88, Michelle (LeBlanc) Sedtal -'93, Lucie (Aldridge) Fralicks '86, '87, Kevin Fralicks
- 3. Bill Nylin '65, Libbie (Moss) Nylin '64, '65, President Ken Evans
- 4. Veronica (Duplantier) Babino '86, Joseph Babino '85, Derrick LeBlanc '98, Jo (Mendoza) LeBlanc '05, Cheryl Pumphrey, Clifford Pumphrey '70
- 5. Faith (Brookins) Slusher '97, '02, Beth Yelverton '04, Josh Daspit '04



PHOTOS COLVARD



PHOTOS GOUTHER

Golden Circle

Golden Circle 50-year graduates from 1924-1963 enjoyed a luncheon before attending a Cardinal football game this past fall.

- 1. B.J. Rogas -51, Coach Dan Rogas '70
- 2. Dixie (Dowden) '61 and Walter Tucker '78
- 3. Karl Lemke '63, Roy Culver '55, Dixie (Dowden) Tucker '61, Virginia Culver
- 4. Jane Shook, Wallace Shook '43, Bob Madden, Sue Harrigan, Pat Harrigan, J.D. Feigelson '63
- 5. Loretta (McDonald) Matthews -59, Blackie Matthews '60, Ann Courtney, Harley M. Courtney '55
- 6. Natalie Picazo, Alice Sibert, Claud Sibert '59, '72, Martha (Richards) Washington '60



Class of 1963 Reunion

Reminiscences from the early '60s and the many changes that have taken place since then dominated the conversations of alumni who attended the Class of 1963 reunion this past November.

1. Margie (Mearlon) Hill '63, Martha (Richards) Washington '60, Sandra Mearlon Geter '80 2. Allen Bradley '63, Marie Bradley, Bill Manthei '63, Rena (D'Orazio) Manthei '65 3. Lindley King '63, Linda King 4. Velma (Dailey) Martin '63, '77, Sally (McDonald) House '59, '67 5. Laurie (House) Ritchel '85, Brenda Van Dyke, Dick Cantella '63 6. Don Warren '63, Judith Johnston 7. Marcel H. Elissalde '63 8. Tom Cunningham '63, Sue Burrows 9. Linda Kimbrough, Mack Kimbrough '63, Margaret (Proft) Bray '63 10. Margo Johnson, Bob Morgan '63 11. Linda (Schmucker) Elissalde '63, Jerry Ebanks '63 12. Blake McKaskle '63, Connie McKaskle 13. Class of 1963 14. John Harries, Margaret (Shipp) Harries '63 15. Emma (Victor) Joubert '63 16. Rachel Trackey, Sammie (Hodnett) Phelps '63, Nancy (Saunders) Becker '63, Cathy (Saunders) Eikenhorst '68



Diane (Lewis) Davis '04, B.G.S. general studies, teaches social studies in the Beaumont school district. She lives in Port Arthur with her husband, Marvin.

Leatha (Hughes) Hallmark '04, B.S. mechanical engineering, is an engineering superintendent for Marathon Petroleum. She lives in League City with her husband, Kevin.

Beth (Soileau) Lanning '04, B.G.S. general studies, is a manager for Federal Express in Beaumont. She and her husband, Nick '12, B.S. mathematics, B.S. physics, live in Beaumont.

Kasi Malla '04, M.E. electric engineering, is a project manager for Hewlett Packard. He lives in Arlington with his wife, Srilakshmi.

Brian Melancon '04, B.S. psychology, is a professional mixed martial arts fighter and made his debut July 6th in Las Vegas. He won his first fight, with a first-round knock out. He lives in Houston.

Trey Moore '04, B.B.A. marketing, is an agent for Morgan Insurance in Lufkin. He lives in Pollok.

Cody Plake '04, B.S. kinesiology, earned a master's degree in education administration and special education. He is dean of students in the Wylie school district, where he lives with his wife, **Shana (Neal)** '05, M.Ed. counseling and development. Their daughter, McKinley, is a Lamar student.

Mark Sokolow '04, M.P.A. public administration, earned a law degree from the University of Houston Law Center and is in private practice in Houston. He lives in Webster.

Summer (Schwerner) Thompson '04, B.B.A. management information systems, '05, M.B.A. business administration, is media buyer for e.Sullivan Advertising. She lives in Port Neches with her husband, **Randy** '03, B.B.A. management information systems. He works for Jason's Deli as a support technician.

Rachel (VonDerAu) Turner '04, B.S. family and consumer sciences-interior design, is a designer for Furniture Marketing Group Inc. in Houston, where she lives with her husband, Jason.

Leslie (Prihoda) Wilde '04, B.M. music, '09, M.M.E. music education, teaches choir in the Tomball school district. She and her husband, **Travis** '11, B.S. nursing, have two children. Travis works for a heart catheterization lab in Conroe.

Sara (Thrallkille) Anderson '05, B.S. communication, is a marketing director for MetLife. She lives in Calif.

Prashob Prabhakaran '05, M.E. industrial engineering, is a business analyst for Monsanto. He lives in St. Louis, Mo.

Tina (Corfield) Bunnell '06, B.B.A. accounting, is a certified public accountant and finance director for the city of San Angelo, where she lives.

Subash Gautam '06, M.E.M. engineering management, is a senior electrical engineer for MWH Global in Bellevue, Wash. He lives in Issaquah, Wash.

Mollie Goodell '06, B.G.S. general studies, earned a master's degree in library science from the University of North Texas. She is a librarian at the

PHOTOS COURTESY

Homecoming Tailgate

Many alumni got a head start on celebrating homecoming at the Pregame Alumni Tailgate Party last fall before finding their seats in the stadium to watch the Cards take on Central Arkansas.

1. Cayleigh Lott, Kimberly Gilbert, Sharlene Hatch '00, Barbara Hatch **2.** Amy Lovoi '13, Paula (Russian) Lovoi '68 **3.** Satracya Jefferson '06, Josh Daspit '04, Yvetta Williams **4.** Jessica Byerly '09, Catie Byerly '11, John Miller '08 **5.** Lambda Tau Reunion group, Back row: Debbie (Kucera) Overstreet '75, Lee (Nabors) Brenner '78, Delores (Rollo) Wilber '78, Middle row: Sherry Simmons '75, Amy (Gauthier) Walla '76, Front row: Tommy Dearing '73 '78, Mona (Brunet) Dearing '78, Mark Rouse '75 **6.** Glenn Foreman, Shane Foreman, Jacque (Broussard) Foreman '80 **7.** Christine Zabala '13, Charlene (Matthews) Leonard -55, Bud Leonard '50, '53, '76 **8.** Front row: Nina (Lopez) Baker '07, Samantha Skinner '00, Nolan Gouthier, Kim Gouthier Back row: Harold "Casper" Baker '82, Curtis Rogers, Ethel (Means) Rogers '03

First Colony Branch in Sugar Land. She lives in Houston.

Tonya (Toups) Powers '06, B.B.A. management, is an insurance service representative for Texas Farm Bureau Insurance in Beaumont. She lives in Port Neches.

Rachel (Martinez) Sexton '06, B.S. kinesiology, taught and coached for seven years and is now a stay-at-home mom. She lives in Nederland with her husband, Cody and son.

Kevin Smith '06, B.S. chemical engineering, earned a medical degree from University of Texas Medical Branch and is in residency for orthopedic surgery at Methodist Hospital in Houston, where he lives.

Scott Whitman '06, B.B.A. human resource management, is a sales representative for Daiichi Sankyo. He lives in League City.

Patrick Bergeron '07, B.S. electrical engineering, earned a master's degree in finance from the University of California and is senior financial analyst for Xilinx. He lives in San Jose.

Ryan Bevel '07, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, works for Star Cooling Towers in sales. He lives in Baytown.

R.K. Chippa '07, M.S. computer science, is a software engineer for System Soft Technologies and lives in Fort Worth with his wife, Reepitika.

William Fuller '07, B.S. communication, is a wine sales representative for Republic National Distributing Co. He lives in Houston with his wife, **Arian (Wildberger)** '06, B.S. nursing. She is a nurse at The Methodist Hospital in Houston.

Jose Perales III '08, B.A. history, '13, M.Ed. school administration, teaches in the Beaumont school district, where he lives with his wife, **Kristen** '08, B.G.S. general studies.

Brandi Vandiver '08, B.S.W. social work, works for Some Other Place and lives in Nederland with her husband, Daniel.

Chad Helton '09, B.S. civil engineering, is a project engineer for Bell Engineering Inc. and lives in Orange with his wife, Ashleigh.

Megan (Duhon) Pratt '09, B.G.S. general studies, is a teller for 5Point Credit Union. She lives in Lumberton and has two daughters.

Janai Sanders '09, B.S. criminal justice, is a deputy for the Galveston County Sheriff Office. She lives in Houston.

Blake Trahan '09, B.B.A. accounting, works for Ernst and Young and lives in League City with his wife, **Olivia (Harrington)** '08, B.S. nursing.

Kristin (King) Winzer '09, B.S. communication, is director of operations for Edison Plaza Partners in Beaumont. She lives in Lumberton with her husband, Eric.

Howell Wright Jr. '09, Ed.D. educational leadership, is assistant superintendent for curriculum, instruction and accountability for the San Marcos school district, where he lives.

Dinner & Conversation

Students from each academic college enjoyed the opportunity to engage with LU alumni professionals in their chosen fields during Dinner & Conversation Feb. 4. Hosts meet students at their table during dinner, and students get a chance to discuss real-world application of the skills they are building in and out of class.

1. Maureen (Wiggins) Winchell -73 hosted nursing students. **2.** Hermann Ortega '67, '72, hosted engineering students. **3.** Carol (Patterson) Hebert '89, '90, back row center, hosted speech/language pathology and American Sign Language students. **4.** Carmen (Angelle) Jordan '90 hosted finance and business students. **5.** Mike Oszczakiewicz '79 hosted pre-med students. **6.** Tommy Kendrick '72 hosted theatre and communications students.



10s

Ashley Cain '10, B.G.S. general studies, is studying at the South Texas College of Law in Houston, where she lives.

Kendal Clayton '10, B.B.A. marketing, is student pastor for the First Baptist Church in Bridgeport, where he lives.

Jennie (Muse) Good '10, M.Ed. administra-tion, is curriculum director for Kilgore school district, where she lives.

Jillian Granger '10, B.B.A. management infor-mation systems, is systems manager for the Beaumont school district, where she lives.

Kyle Keith '10, B.B.A. general business, is a digital marketing specialist for Spark Energy in Houston, where he lives with his wife, **Amanda (Jones)** '11, B.B.A. human resource manage-ment. She is employed by Fifth Business as an office administrator.

Joshua Mullins '10, B.S. communication, is an IT recruiter for Reutax Inc. in Los Angeles, Calif. He lives in West Hollywood.

Jared Owen '10, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, is a physical therapy assistant for the Medical Center of Southeast Texas. He lives in Port Neches.

Umesh Pandit '10, M.E. engineering, is a telecom engineer for Samsung Telecommuni-cations America. He lives in Bellevue, Wash.

Amit Ranjan '10, M.E. electrical engineering, works for Alliant Energy and lives in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Reid Thomas '10, B.M. music, is director of bands for the Louise school district. He lives in Wharton.

Julie Arizmendi '11, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, is a bilingual fitness assistant and medical assistant for Lawndale Christian Health Center in Chicago, Ill., where she lives.

Kristen (Still) Davidson '11, B.B.A. manage-ment, is a branch manager for Capital One. She lives in Beaumont.

Cleota Epps '11, M.Ed. administration, is coordinator of human resources for the Little Elm school district. She lives in Celina.

Christin Franks '11, B.B.A. management information systems, is a business transaction analyst for Centerpoint Energy. He lives in Shepherd.

Amanda Lilley '11, B.A. political science, is attending law school at the Oklahoma City University School of Law. She is an assistant in the office of the Oklahoma County district attorney's office and had an article entitled The Right to have a fool for a Client: Oklahoma's Standard for Self-Representation as Applied in Mathis v. State published in the spring edition of the Review. She lives in Oklahoma City.

Reena Mishra '11, M.E. industrial engineering, is an SAP-ABAP application developer for

SilverXis Inc. She lives in Miami, Fla.

Divya Movva '11, M.E. electrical engineering, is a software engineer for Aditya Birla Minacs Worldwide Ltd. She lives in India.

Nancy Shipley '11, M.Ed. administration, is assistant superintendent for the Krum school district, where she lives.

Christine (Sanders) Thomas '11, M.Ed. admin-istration, teaches in Sulphur Springs school district, where she lives.

Katy Thrailkille '11, B.A. sociology, earned a master's degree from the University of Hous-ton. She lives in Orange.

Yolanda Wallace '11, M.Ed. Administration, is principal of Prairie View Elementary in the Northwest school district. She lives in Justin.

Brittany (Porter) Bellair '12, B.S. communica-tion, is an associate analyst for Southwest Airlines. She and her husband, Austin, live in Irving.

Madison Davis '12, B.A. history and political science, is attending the University of Alabama School of Law. She lives in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Yang Han '12, B.S. mechanical engineering, B.S. mathematics, is a research and develop-ment engineer for Flowserve. He lives in Bethlehem, Penn.

Stacy (Holland) Harbour '12, M.Ed. administra-tion, works for the Beaumont school district where she lives.

Ryan Jones '12, B.A. history, is offensive line coach for the Burnet school district. He lives in Kirbyville.

Kaitlan Ortego '12, B.S. nursing, is the circulat-ing nurse for the Willis Knighton PIERremont Health Center. She lives in Shreveport, La.

Manahil Riaz '12, M.Ed. counseling and development, is a mental health case manager for University of Texas Medical Branch Cor-rectional Managed Care. She lives in Orange.

Yuko Sugiura '12, Ed.D. deaf studies/deaf education, is an elementary teacher of the deaf for the T. H. Rogers School in the Houston school district where she has been teaching for 12 years. The Houston Area Association for Bilingual Education chose her as the 2012-2013 T.H. Rogers Teacher of the Year. She has three young children and lives in Richmond with her husband, James Baldwin.

LeSo Gallery in Toledo, Ohio, hosted clarinet-ist **Andrew Kier** '13, B.M. music, in a concert showcasing innovative works for unaccompa-nied clarinet last November. He lives in Jasper.

Jennifer (Doughtie) Lunsford '13, M.Ed. school counseling, is a school counselor for the Hun-tington school district. She lives in Lufkin.

Kristi (Lasseigne) Premeaux '13, B.B.A. finance, is director of finance for the SETX Council of Alcohol and Drug Abuse. She and her husband, Jeremy, live in Nederland.

We will miss...

ALUMNI

Lucile (Garrett) Plane '34, A.A. general studies, died May 11, 2013.

Belle Wylie '35, A.A. general studies, died June 5, 2013.

Lucille Roach '37, A.A. general studies, died July 23, 2013.

Floyd Mize '40, A.A. general studies, '58, B.B.A. management, died Aug. 7, 2013.

Jeanette (deVilleneuve) Nicks '40, A.A. general studies, died June 22, 2013.

Marilyn (Ramsey) Clemmons '41, A.A. general studies, died Sept. 25, 2013.

Robert Campbell Jr. '42, A.A. general studies, died Sept. 22, 2013.

Rosalie (Halbouty) Maye '42, A.A. general studies, died Oct. 27, 2013.

Lelia (Heartfield) Holton '44, A.A. general studies, died May 22, 2013.

Aubrey Dickson '46, A.A. general studies, died April 26, 2013.

Joye (Williams) Eckols '46, A.A. general studies, died Nov. 9, 2013.

Robert Brown Jr. '47, A.A. general studies, died April 23, 2013.

Arnold Hall '47, A.A. general studies, died May 24, 2013.

Ralyn Parkhill '47, A.A. general studies, died Aug. 3, 2013.

Morgan Talbot '47, A.A. general studies, died May 29, 2013.

Jane (Ming) Ellis '48, A.A. general studies, died Nov. 11, 2013.

Bum Phillips -48, died, Oct. 18, 2013.

Elbert Walters '48, A.A. general studies, died May 5, 2013.

Leonard Davis '50, A.A. general studies, died June 3, 2013.

Charles Etheridge '54, B.S. physical education, died May 19, 2013.

F. Larry George '54, B.S. chemical engineering, died Aug. 27, 2013.

Everette Browning Sr. '55, B.B.A. accounting, died Feb. 18, 2013.

Charles Netterville '55, B.B.A. general business, died Aug. 2, 2013.

Raymond Depwe '56, B.S. civil engineering, died Aug. 21, 2013.

Janice (Davies) Woosley '56, B.S. mathematics, died Aug. 23, 2013.

R.E. Adams Jr. '57, B.B.A. management, '61, B.S. industrial engineering, died Oct. 24, 2013.

Lynn (Felder) Wright '57, B.B.A. secretarial science, died May 31, 2013.

Howard Owens '58, B.S. civil engineering, died Oct. 2, 2013.

Benjamin Thomas '58, B.S. electrical engineer-ing, died June 1, 2013.

Janice (Rodemacher) Moore '59, B.S. elemen-tary education, died May 26, 2013.

Edward Hanna '60, B.S. mechanical engineer-ing, died April 26, 2013.

Mary (Kinnebrew) Boyd '61, B.A. English, died May 13, 2013.

Robert Hall '61, B.S. geology, died Aug. 19, 2013.

Janet (Jones) Long '61, B.S. home economics, died May 6, 2013.

Barbara (Remsen) Smith '61, B.S. speech, died July 29, 2013.

Anthony Augustine '62, B.S. industrial engineering, died May 07, 2013.

Thomas Gray '62, B.S. geology, died May 29, 2013.

Dorothy (Gibbs) Jones '62, B.S. elementary education, '79, M.Ed. elementary education, died Aug. 7, 2013.

James Gatewood '63, B.S. industrial engineer-ing, '65, B.S. mechanical engineering, died Oct. 20, 2013.

Janet (Crowder) Girolamo '63, B.S. home economics, died Oct. 15, 2013.

Bertie Childress '64, B.A. political science, '76, M.Ed. counseling and development, died April 20, 2013.

Lynn Matthews '64, B.S. speech, died Sept. 9, 2013.

Sandra (Smith) Vandervoort '64, B.S. English, '68, B.B.A. secretarial science, died May 21, 2013.

Larry Paine '65, B.A. political science, died May 20, 2013.

Mary (Martin) Bradley '66, B.S. elementary education, died May 3, 2013.

Betty (Watts) Carter '66, B.S. elementary educa-tion, '73, M.Ed. elementary education, died June 7, 2013.

Jeanne (Anderson) Copp '66, M.A. history, died May 24, 2013.

Joseph Flanigan '66, B.B.A. management, died Sept. 28, 2013.

James McCallon Jr. '66, B.S. secondary educa-tion, died May 6, 2013.

Nancy (Richardson) McKinney '66, A.A.S., nurs-ing, '83, A.A.S. nursing, died Sept. 28, 2013.

Albert McMicken '66, B.S. mechanical engi-neering, died June 16, 2013.

John Cone '67, B.B.A. management, died May 21, 2013.

Lela (Sheffield) Lawlis '67, B.S. speech, '70, M.Ed. special education, died May 27, 2013.

Howard Bracht '68, B.S. government, died Oct. 22, 2013.

Joyce (Lewis) Albritton '69, B.S. elementary education, died Sept. 11, 2013.

Lee Hamilton '69, B.B.A. management, died Sept. 15, 2013.

Kenneth Thompson '69, B.S. physical education, died July 5, 2013.

Howard Bourgeois Jr. '70, B.S. chemical engineering, '73, M.E.S. engineering science, died June 29, 2013.

Leland Comeaux '70, B.B.A. marketing, died Aug. 11, 2013.

Vivian (Church) Hayes '70, B.A. English, '74, M.Ed. counseling and development, died Oct. 24, 2013.

Kay (Williford) Lovett '70, B.A. economics, died June 2, 2013.

Bob McCrary '70, B.B.A. accounting, died Oct. 2, 2013.

Catherine (Neumann) Randazzo '70, M.A. English, died Sept. 15, 2013.

Frances (Karlson) Russell '70, certif. vocational nursing, '76, A.A.S. nursing, died May 1, 2013.

Charles Simmons '70, M.Ed. secondary education, died June 12, 2013.

Ronald Somerville '70, B.S. electrical engineering, died Aug. 04, 2013.

Rosemary (Carter) Stagg '70, M.S. audiology/ speech-language pathology, died Aug. 27, 2013.

Nancy (Belt) Vincent '70, M.Ed. elementary education, died Oct. 20, 2013.

Martha (Buchanan) Bitner '71, B.S. elementary education, died Sept. 2, 2013.

Stade Erwin '71, B.A. economics, '75, M.A. history, died Sept. 2, 2013.

Arlene (Hildabridle) Hanlon '71, B.A. English, died Sept. 18, 2013.

Robert Kirkland '71, B.S. electrical engineering and mathematics, died March 14, 2013.

Robert Placetate '71, B.B.A. accounting, died Aug. 26, 2013.

Harry Rupp III '71, B.S. sociology, died Sept. 2, 2013.

Thomas Sachitano '71, B.B.A. management, died Nov. 4, 2013.

Pierce Hendon II '72, B.S. music-instrumental, died Oct. 20, 2013.

Suzanne (Long) Huber '72, B.A. English, died July 13, 2013.

Lolita Ramos -72, died Oct. 13, 2013.

Ronald Thomas '72, B.B.A. accounting, died June 1, 2013.

Thomas Lowrance '73, B.B.A. accounting, died April 28, 2013.

Dr. John Schmidt '73, B.B.A. marketing, '80, B.S. biology, died June 26, 2013.

Dr. Walter Sykes '73, B.A. psychology, died Oct. 4, 2013.

Milburn Amy Jr. '74, B.S. music, died Nov. 11, 2013.

Jill (McCarthy) Avery '74, B.S. elementary education, '87, M.Ed. special education, died Oct. 8, 2013.

Mary Jane (Mullican) White '74, B.S. elemen-tary education, '80 M.Ed. counseling and development, died Oct. 7, 2013.

Carolyn (Eaves) Morgan '74, A.A.S. mid-management, died June 6, 2013.

Joseph Wilson Jr. '74, B.B.A. marketing, died May 31, 2013.

Wilma (Durbin) Young '74, M.Ed. guidance and counseling, died July 27, 2013.

Rose Ann (Worden) Jordan '75, B.S. elementary education, '85, M.Ed. counseling and develop-ment, died May 15, 2013.

Earle LaFeau '75, B.S. industrial engineering, died Aug. 12, 2013.

Mary LeNormand '75, B.A. psychology, died April 20, 2013.

David Stuart '75, B.B.A. marketing, '91, M.B.A. business administration, died May 5, 2013.

Oli Abshire Jr. '76, B.B.A. accounting, died May 4, 2013.

Sharon (Sistrunk) Caples '77, B.S. medical technology, died June 20, 2013.

Frances (Bowles) Gallow '77, A.A.S. nursing, '87, B.S. nursing.

Norman LaFleur '77, B.B.A. management, died Aug. 16, 2013.

John Mauer '77, B.B.A. accounting, died June 28, 2013.

Lon McDougle '77, B.S. secondary education, '82, M.Ed. secondary education, died May 21, 2013.

Weslyn (Jacob) Monroe '77, M.A. English, died Aug. 18, 2013.

Richard Hamric Jr. '78, B.A. political science, died June 26, 2013.

Dolores (Clearman) Jones '78, B.S. nursing, died April 19, 2013. Memorials may be made to the Dolores Jones Memorial Scholarship in Nursing, Lamar University Foundation, P.O. Box 11500, Beaumont, Texas, 77710.

Gay (Petzold) Mallett '78, B.A. sociology, died July 28, 2013.

Mike Sheffield '78, B.S. geology, died Aug. 2, 2013.

Winifred (Columbus) Frelow '79, M.Ed. school administration, died Aug. 20, 2013.

Cynthia Johnson '79, B.S. criminal justice, died Oct. 24, 2013.

Betty (Simmons) Kilcrease '79, B.S. elementary education, died Aug. 8, 2013.

Susan Whitmire '72, B.A. history, '79, M.Ed. elementary education, died Oct. 24, 2013.

Milam Daniel Jr. '80, A.A.S. industrial electric-ity, died Oct. 24, 2013.

Jackie Arthur '81, B.A. political science, died June 26, 2013.

Russell Deshotels '81, B.S. health and physical education, died June 14, 2013.

Dr. John Wade III '82, B.S. biology, died May 12, 2013.

Kevin Zimmermann '82, B.S. computer science, died Sept. 20, 2013.

Charlie Davis '83, B.S. health and physical education, died June 24, 2013.

Dwight Larson '83, B.B.A. general business-advertising, died October 23, 2013.

Beatrice Simpson '83, B.S.W. social work, died Aug. 30, 2013.

Paula Bagley '85, B.S. elementary education, died May 24, 2013.

Tom Crocker '85, B.B.A. management, died Sept. 27, 2013.

Bea (Delahoussaye) Dorsey '85, A.A.S. property tax administration, died Oct. 22, 2013.

Vincent Dimiceli '86, B.S. mechanical engineer-ing, died June 9, 2013.

Frank Galiano Jr. '86, B.B.A. finance, '90, B.B.A. accounting, died July 18, 2013.

Lynn (Grinnell) Jesko '86, B.S. secondary educa-tion, died Sept. 4, 2013.

Charles Smith '86, B.S. civil engineering, died April 19, 2013.

Jerry Wimberley '86, A.A.S. fire protection technology, died June 27, 2013.

Michele (Krout) George '87, B.S. elementary education, died May 8, 2013.

Edward Washington '88, M.M. music educa-tion, died July 4, 2013.

Trice Taylor '96, B.S. computer science and mathematics, died Aug. 16, 2013.

Ronald DeBlanc '97, B.S. chemistry, died June 13, 2013.

Jamie Doggette '97, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, died July 31, 2013.

Dr. Michael Hyde '98, B.S. biology, died Oct. 20, 2013.

Lee Brown '99, B.S. political science, died April 21, 2013.

Michael Lightfoot Sr. '99, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, died June 30, 2013.

Melynda (Smith) Fisher '03, B.G.S. general studies, died Sept. 1, 2013.

Ashutosh Jain '11, M.S. computer science, died May 21, 2013.

RETIREES AND FRIENDS...

Sally Bundy died Oct. 18, 2013.

Eugene Carpenter, retiree, died Sept. 14, 2013.

Jimmie Cokinos died Nov. 5, 2013. Memorial contributions may be made to Lamar Univer-sity Foundation, Jimmie P. Cokinos Endowed Scholarship for Equality in Education, P.O. Box 11500, Beaumont, Texas, 77710.

Dennis Crow, retiree, died July 25, 2013.

Meredith (Berryhill) Fitzgerald, retiree, died Aug. 3, 2013. Memorial donations may be made to the Meredith Kathryn Berryhill Fitzgerald Scholarship in Early Childhood Education, La-mar University Foundation, P.O. Box 11500, Beaumont, Texas, 77710.

Tom Harken died July 10, 2013.

Lloyd Hebert, retiree, died July 31, 2013.

Robert Kinnear Sr. died Sept. 11, 2013.

Charles Lauffer, retiree, died May 2, 2013.

P.J. Paine died June 5, 2013.

Patricia Sculley died July 15, 2013. Memorial contributions may be made to the Patricia and George Sculley Scholarship, Lamar University Foundation, P.O. Box 11500, Beaumont, Texas, 77710.

Rosalie (Kanter) Shaw died July 9, 2013.

John Wells Jr., retiree, died April 24, 2013.

Leonard Yates, retiree, died Oct. 7, 2013.



LAMAR UNIVERSITY

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM™

P.O. BOX 10011
BEAUMONT, TX 77710

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 502
BEAUMONT, TX

LAMAR UNIVERSITY President's Circle

Donors often choose to support the strategic priorities that are most meaningful to them, and, as a result, they make a significant commitment to the success of Lamar and its students. In order to honor and recognize these individuals, the university's 15th president, Kenneth R. Evans, has established the Lamar University President's Circle.

Regardless of where individuals choose to dedicate their President's Circle gifts, their support provides crucial resources that are a vital part of what is being achieved at Lamar every day. There are limitless opportunities available to make a difference.

Donors are touching lives with gifts that support academics, scholarships, research, internships and more. Members of the President's Circle are taking the lead among Lamar's most influential supporters with their generous commitment.

The President's Circle establishes a valuable network of supporters who will be greatly valued by the president of Lamar University. In gratitude for President's Circle members' commitments, they will be afforded privileges, which include communications, preferred seating at some university events, invitations to special activities and unique opportunities to interact with students.

Membership is open to individual alumni and friends of Lamar University based on varying contribution levels. Each membership level may be met through a single contribution (qualifies for that level membership for a five-year period) or through a pledge of five annual payments. Gifts received beginning June 1, 2013, may be included towards any membership level.

Spindletop	\$1,000,000
Diamond	\$250,000
Ruby	\$100,000
Platinum	\$50,000
Gold	\$25,000
Silver	\$12,500
Silver (Young Alumni)	\$6,250*

*Alumni within 10 years of their graduation date may become members by pledging \$1250/year for five years.

To become a member of the President's Circle or to receive more information, please contact us at (409) 880-8422 or development@lamar.edu.

